

Finding Life Video Series 2: The Light and Life

Video 2: The Message - Part 2

Hi and welcome back if you have watched any of the previous videos. My name is Tim Spiess and I am serving as a guide to help you find the answers to life's most important questions, like how should I live my life or how can my life be truly meaningful? The first video series called, 'Life's Most Important Journey', was preparation for this second series.

In the first video of this second series, entitled, The Message Part 1, we reviewed our previous themes and concepts from the first video series and then looked at what is widely claimed to be the Christian message or the good news or the gospel. This time, we will discover the message from the Designer's Messenger and then contrast it with the message of Christianity that we looked at last time.

So, let's begin...here is the Messenger's Message to mankind:

There is a Designer or Creator of the human race, what people call God. He sent his messenger to reveal who he is and what he wants...he sent him so that you could know your Father/Creator.

He wants us to grasp and understand that we have a problem with pride, fear and selfishness. He didn't cause these things in humans but this was the risk associated with his Design. He designed us as reasoning, autonomous, sentient beings who have a free will to choose what to believe and what to do with the life he gives us. He wants us to love him and each other and care for each other, and without a free choice, love would be meaningless. However, our pride, fear and selfishness prevents love and his truth

from guiding our life. We are not neutral beings, or stated another way, we have a predisposition to do what is wrong as he defines that. People hurt each other in billions of ways each day. People are eager to contend with, bicker with, take from, fight, use, hurt and harm each other. The pride, fear and selfishness trap people and cause us to be in metaphysical or spiritual darkness. That is why the Designer sent his Messenger - to be the Light for our souls and the Light of the world for mankind and to offer Life to all who will receive him.

The Designer or Creator wants you to think of him as a caring Father...a Father who both knows what is best for you as well as wants what is best for you. However, you will not be able to see him that way if you remain in pride...you have got to meet him half-way. You need to stop ignoring him and pretending he does not exist. You need to stop thinking that religion accurately represents him...you need to stop throwing the baby – the Messenger – out with the bath water – religion in his name. You need to stop ignoring his messenger and making up things – or adopting other's beliefs – in order to justify your ignoring him or the bad things you say or do to others or the good things you don't do for others. If you are involved with bible or Christian religion, you must turn away from that which is false and shallow, and instead turn to that which is true and meaningful...away from ritual and empty facts and emotional hits and instead practice loving and caring for each other and caring about what is true and right in all aspects of your life.

What is amazing is that your Father is not angry with you. At times disappointed in you, yes. At time, sad about the things you do or say that hurt him, others and yourself – yes. Sorry to see you waste your life or throw the life away he has given you, yes. Angry with you and eager to punish you, no...that is the god of religion which men create to control others by fear. You must turn away from that which is false in order to see and receive that which is true.

What is the core message that the messenger's Father – our Father – wants you to receive? It is this. Listen to and follow my Son, my model for mankind, The Light in a world of darkness made dark by humans. Make my Son your leader and do as he says.

The true good news is that your Designer and Creator has sent you a leader for your life...you never have to suffer the fear of being lost, for his Son is the Way to Life. You do not have to be as a lost sheep, not knowing where to go or what to do or how to treat people. You don't have to live and make decisions based on fear. You can know real hope and the purpose of your life. This is all attainable if you will receive the true good news...that a leader was sent to you that you need to embrace...you must humble yourself, see your need and make him the true leader and master of your life. Do this, and you will be forgiven for all the bad stuff you have said and done in your life – and all the good things you did not do - and you will enter into new life and the meaningful, purposeful and difficult journey will begin.

Is it not true that the best things...the most valuable things...the most meaningful things in life are often the most difficult to attain? This is also true of the Life that the Creator offers to us.

Can we boil the true good news that we just heard, down? Yes, we can. The Creator, who loves us, sent a leader both to mankind and to you individually so that we need not be lost. Turn away from our pride, fear and selfishness – a difficult thing to do - and actually trust in – have faith in – the one who called himself the Light of the world. If you make him your leader, and thus you do as he says, it will be difficult to follow him; you will be rejected and disliked and hated and suffer persecution from those who choose not to listen to him...you will need to learn how to lose your life in this world...

...but if you do choose to follow him, you will begin to truly live and find his Life...you will be forgiven, you will be born from above and start a new life, you will become a new person of real love and a person who truly cares about what is true and right, you will change, you will become a light in the world, and you will enter into eternal life and you will be heading towards your Father, towards being with a Father who loves you more than you can know.

Can we boil the message down even further? Sure. *A Creator of the human race exists and he sent his son as his messenger to convey what he wants. If a person makes that*

messenger their leader and thus believes and does what he says, then they leave the darkness of being lost, enter into the Light of his life and truth and they begin a difficult but meaningful journey. If they continue to submit to the messenger as their leader throughout their life, they will realize the difficulty of the journey and the greater fulfillment of eternal life when their body dies and they meet their Creator and Father.

This is the good news of Joshua of Nazareth dear viewer. A message of truth, love, purpose, hope and life all possible through faith in his person.

Please, allow me to repeat the real and true good news for human beings...

OK. I hope you are taken a back a bit if you have been exposed to Christianity, for the real message from the Light is significantly different than what you have heard or been taught.

Let's compare the message of Joshua of Nazareth to the Christian gospel as articulated by Billy Graham. Please watch video 1 in this series to hear more detail about the Christian gospel as articulated by Billy Graham, or go to his web site to learn more.

The first step of the Christian gospel was given as, "God's purpose: peace and life". Like so many of their beliefs, this is a lesser truth which is substituted for the highest truth. God's highest purpose is NOT that we have peace and life...rather, God's purpose highest purpose, which Joshua makes abundantly clear, is that people listen to him and thus do what is right and love each another...let me say that again, that people do what is right and love one another! The highest purpose is selfless, that we love others and do what is right when we will be unpopular for doing so! If we try and love others and do what Joshua says is right, we will find his peace along that journey, but we will also find difficulty, rejection and persecution caused by our choice to follow him. The latter is conveniently left out of the Christian gospel, for difficulty, rejection and persecution are not very easy to sell...you won't fill up the membership roles and the money and power associated with that, with a message of difficulty and rejection. The Creator's purpose is

to have people living the way he knows is best...the way Joshua clearly taught and lived. This will happen when people love him back and listen to Joshua. The 'life' that the Christians often refer to is a misquote from Joshua about "abundant life". The Christians have wrongly made that phrase include a 'materialistically blessed life', which is NOT what Joshua meant in the context of John 10 where the phrase was taken from...please, read it yourself.

So, the first step is wrong...The Creator's purpose is that people listen to and do what his Messenger, Joshua says, which is to love one another and care about what is true and right. His purpose is NOT that we have peace, although that is something we will experience and that he wants for us if we fulfill his purpose which is to listen to and follow Joshua. His purpose is NOT that we enter into life, but we will experience that if we fulfill his purpose, which is to listen to and follow Joshua.

The second step of the Christian gospel was given as, "The Problem: Our Separation". The biblicians and Christians basically say here that if we humans do not live perfectly, we are separated from God...that the angry, vengeful, perfectionist god of the bible will not forgive or receive us based on our imperfection...that if we sincerely approach him in faith and ask for his forgiveness for our bad words and behavior, he will not forgive or receive us unless he received a sacrifice. This is a false view of God.

Joshua does teach that after humans become adults, we do leave the innocence of our youth and enter into a form of spiritual darkness where we justify the bad things we do and say due to our pride or fear or selfishness...at that point, we have separated ourselves from God which is entirely our fault. So there is truth in this step, but the most important part, the view of God that causes, or his nature makes necessary, the separation - is false.

The third step of the Christian gospel is given as, "God's bridge: The Cross". This part of their gospel has no truth in it whatsoever. The barbaric sacrificial system of the ancient Hebrews is used to justify this religious step. If you want one word to describe what the god of the bible wants, it would be blood. Yet, the biblicians or Christians

barely flinch about the fact that they have a blood-thirsty god who even demanded the blood of his beloved and innocent son. According to the bibilians, God took his innocent, beautiful, obedient son and had him tortured and killed as punishment for the wrongdoings of the rest of humanity. This is religion at its ugliest - barbaric, unjust and patently false according to the very one they hold up as their god! *It is an amazing fact that Joshua of Nazareth no where mentioned in his teachings regarding the meaning of his death – that his death would be a sacrifice to his Father. **Please allow me to repeat that incredible fact.***

In addressing the meaning of his death, Joshua clearly said that his death represented a ransom, not a sacrifice. Please listen to him:

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Again, Joshua no where teaches that his death would be some kind of a sacrifice, let alone that his Father demanded. No, rather, it was a ransom. A ransom is a payment made by a person or persons for the release of another innocent person – which person is being forcibly held against their will. It is a payment demanded by the party who is wrongfully holding the innocent person captive. Joshua elsewhere teaches that each adult on the earth is in a jail cell of their own making with a jail master who works to have the people believe they are not in a jail cell. Joshua paid the ransom to the jail master, which ransom allows the people to see they are in a jail cell and opens the door of the cell allowing them to walk out if they so choose.

In contrast to this element of the Christian gospel, Joshua teaches that his Father, the Creator, loves all people and that all who turn to him in remorse and faith and listen to and do what Joshua says will be received by him as beloved sons and daughters. No blood sacrifice is needed. No punishing the innocent for the guilty. No having to “believe” weird religious stuff that makes no sense. Rather, just a humble and remorseful heart that turns to our Father and Maker in faith and makes his Son the leader for our life. Joshua did pay a ransom that provides for the opportunity for us to

be set free...to live without being ruled by pride, fear or selfishness...he opened a cell, so to speak, that we are or were in, and due to this work of his, we now have a chance to walk out of the cell and enter into his life.

Step 4 of the Christian gospel is given as, “Our Response: Receive Christ”. Depending upon the bible or christian sect you listen to – and there are thousands – this step and phrase is truly unknowable and thus meaningless. What exactly does “receive Christ” mean? Truly, it mean’s nothing...just empty religious words for the masses to consume and get what they want...a free ticket into heaven. If you listen carefully to those preaching this message, what ‘receive christ’ essentially means is to show some emotion at their preaching, believe their message about God and attend and support a religious organization. This last step is what fills the pews and bank accounts of that which calls itself some version of ‘the church of jesus christ’.

In stark contrast, Joshua has a lot to say about what it takes to be his follower. To sum those saying up, it would be that to follow him is going to be difficult...to follow him will cause others to reject us and dislike or hate us. To follow him will mean that we need to give up others we care about who refuse to follow him...to follow him means to no longer pursue what the world considers valuable or important, and instead live for him and love and caring about what is true and right. We need to change, to become better human beings...we need to regularly look at ourselves in an honest way and seek to improve ourselves - and this is not easy. These simple truths are significantly different than ‘receive christ’ by responding emotionally at some event, believing the religious organization’s leaders and doctrine, and becoming a member of that particular religious social club.

OK, so we have heard the true message from the Creator’s messenger and we have taken a brief look at christianity’s substitute or counterfeit for the true message of the Creator’s messenger. It is true, the leaders of the ‘great religion’ of Christianity distort the messenger’s message in an effort to make the messenger and his message ineffective. In the place of the simple message of make the messenger your leader and thus listen to the messenger and do what he says - love one another and care about what is true and

do what is right – is the Christian message of believe some doctrine about our ‘christ’ – stuff like he died as a sacrifice to appease God’s wrath, or that God is three persons in one person - go to church; submit to your religious leaders; be a decent person compared to bad people; and you will go to heaven.

So what are you going to do with this information, dear viewer? The more we hear the more accountable we are for what we do with the information we hear. Are you going to truly make him your leader, or are you going to continue ignoring him or substituting empty Christian ritual and doctrine for the Life he offers? Are you going to continue to try and lead your life yourself, or make the horrible mistake of listening to the blind religious leaders instead of the Light?

Next time, we will take a closer look at the bible – the source or standard that bibilians and Christians use for their beliefs - and we will see why it is not what the paulians, bibilians, and many Christians say it is.

Until next time, be real, get past the shallowness and pretentiousness of typical American life and especially the American version of Christianity, and seek deeper, to find what you truly need.