

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

SEARCHING FOR
SOMETHING MORE



GARETH EDWARDS

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

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EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

Have you ever felt like life has to be more than the endless pursuit of money, power, or happiness? Many people spend their lives chasing success, wealth, or pleasure, only to find that these pursuits leave them unfulfilled. If you've ever asked yourself, "*Is this all there is?*", you're not alone.

Christianity offers a totally different perspective: that true fulfillment comes from knowing God and embracing His purpose for your life. It isn't about following a set of religious rules and rituals; it's about enjoying a personal relationship with the Creator who loves you more than you can imagine.



This booklet is an invitation to explore the Christian faith. Through 10 short chapters, we'll tackle big questions, uncover profound truths, and introduce you to the "something more" you might be searching for.

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THE UNIVERSE: MORE THAN RANDOM CHANCE

The universe is not the result of an inexplicable accident - it is a masterpiece of design. It acts as a gigantic billboard, declaring daily the existence of an all-wise, all-powerful God who created us with meaning and purpose.

ITS DESIGN

The Bible announces, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1), and the universe is packed with evidence of this. Earth sits perfectly positioned from the sun, tilted at the ideal angle, rotating at the right speed, and wrapped in the perfect atmosphere to enable life.

The probability of all these factors aligning by chance is so low that many scientists compare it to the likelihood of a tornado assembling a fully functional Boeing 747 from scrap metal!

Inside us, intelligently-written genetic code known as DNA - over 10 billion miles in length - carries intricate instructions for life. Everywhere we look we see evidence of design - and design demands a Designer.

ITS DETAIL

Just as a painting reflects its artist, so creation reveals its Creator. The universe’s vastness showcases God’s majesty, while its wonderful variety demonstrates His imagination and artistry.

From the intricacies of a snowflake to the grandeur of galaxies, every detail points us towards a magnificent and awe-inspiring Creator.

ITS DECLARATION

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). God isn’t hiding from us - through creation He reveals Himself daily. Its wonder should awaken in us a desire to know Him.

Thankfully, we can! Through Jesus Christ we can enter into a life-transforming relationship with God today.



GOD: MORE THAN A DISTANT DEITY

Many imagine God as distant and detached, but the Bible reveals a God full of love for us. God is one, yet exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - this is the Trinity. While some aspects of His nature are beyond our understanding, God invites us to know Him personally today!



GOD IS GREAT

God's power is limitless. He created the whole universe (Genesis 1:1) and holds it together by His word (Hebrews 1:3). From the vastness of the cosmos to the intricate design of the human body, the universe bears God's fingerprints.

God didn't need to create the world, but chose to as a way of expressing the brilliance of His character.

But although He is eternal, self-sufficient, majestic, and worthy of all worship, praise, glory and honour, God is also near. Psalm 145:18 reminds us, *"The Lord is near to all who call on him."*

GOD IS GOOD

God is the only one who is completely good (Luke 18:19). He is holy - meaning He is uniquely perfect. His holiness sets the standard for how we should live, yet sadly we all fall short. While God's justice requires sin (our failure to live up to God's perfect standard) to be punished, His mercy led Him to provide a way for us to be forgiven.

GOD IS GRACIOUS

God's grace is amazing! Though we deserve nothing, He humbled Himself and came to earth as Jesus Christ to save us through His death on the cross. Ephesians 2:8 says, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith ... it is the gift of God."*

God is great, good, and gracious - and He wants you to know Him personally today!

THE BIBLE: MORE THAN A DUSTY OLD BOOK

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time and the primary way God speaks to us today. It is a unique book, divinely inspired and filled with timeless truth.



ITS COMPOSITION

The Bible consists of 66 books, written by around 40 authors, in 3 languages, over 1,500 years. These authors came from different backgrounds and wrote in various genres. Despite this diversity, the Bible contains a unified message because each writer was guided by God. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, *“All Scripture is breathed out by God.”*

The Bible’s perfect harmony, accuracy, durability, and fulfilled prophecy all attest to its divine inspiration.

The Bible has two main sections; the Old Testament, pointing forward to the coming of Christ, and the New Testament, recording His arrival on earth.

ITS CONTENT

The Bible addresses life’s biggest questions: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going?

It records humanity’s relationship with God from creation to eternity and explains the way for individuals to have a personal connection with Him today as a result of Jesus’s sacrifice for sin on the cross.

For Christians (those who have entered into a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus), the Bible serves as a guide for living a life that pleases God. Psalm 119:105 says, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

ITS CHALLENGE

Everything God wants us to know is within its pages. But God doesn’t just want us to read the Bible - He wants us to respond to it!

The Bible isn’t just for our information. It’s for our transformation. To accept its message and follow its teaching is life-changing!

HUMANITY: MORE THAN FLESH AND BLOOD

Some claim that humans are just the product of millions of years of evolution. But the Bible tells a different story - one that reveals our true worth and purpose.

WE ARE SPECIAL

At the pinnacle of creation, God made human beings - not as mere animals, but uniquely in His own image (Genesis 1:27).

Our worth isn't determined by social status, wealth, or popularity. It comes from the fact that we are made in God's image.

You matter! Not because of what you have, or what you've achieved, but because of what you are. Each of us can say, "*I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*" (Psalm 139:14)

One of the outcomes of this is that we have the extraordinary capacity to experience and enjoy a personal relationship with our Creator.

From the beginning, God's design was for us to find peace, love, joy, meaning and purpose in Him.

WE ARE SEPARATED

Though we were created to live in harmony with God, humanity chose to rebel, bringing sin and separation from Him (Isaiah 59:2).

Being made in God's image means we are moral beings, accountable to God for how we live. It also means we are tri-part beings, comprising body, soul and spirit. Death is therefore not the end of our existence. While our body returns to dust, our soul (the person who lives inside the body) lives on forever, either with God in Heaven or separated from Him in Hell.

WE ARE SAVEABLE

Thankfully, God didn't leave us lost and helpless. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us (1 John 4:14). Through Him, we can be reconciled to God and enjoy the life-enhancing relationship we were created to have with Him.



SIN:

MORE THAN A MINOR MISTAKE

"Nobody's perfect" - we hear it all the time. But what if our faults and failures matter more than we think?

SIN'S SCOPE

Sin is more than just making mistakes or bad choices; it is rebellion against God. The Bible describes sin as missing the mark - falling short of God's perfect standard (Romans 3:23).

It is a condition of the heart, a deep-rooted desire to live independently of God. Sin manifests in selfishness, pride, and disobedience to God's law (summarised in the Ten Commandments). Its specific symptoms differ from person to person.

SIN'S SOURCE

Sin entered the world through the first humans, Adam and Eve, when they disobeyed God (Genesis 3). Ever since their rebellion, every person has been born with a sinful nature.

Sin affects all people, regardless of background, status, or intentions. It distorts our thinking, corrupts our desires, and leaves us incapable of living up to God's standards.

SIN'S SERIOUSNESS

Sin has many consequences.

It stains our character, leaving us guilty before a holy God.

It spoils our relationships, causing conflict, pain, and division.

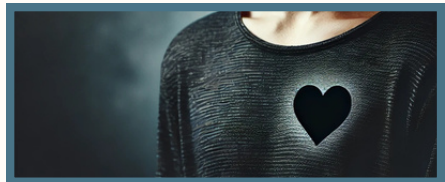
It separates us from God, making us spiritually dead and unable to reach Him on our own.

It stops us fulfilling our potential as human beings, preventing us from living the life of purpose and joy God designed for us.

It shuts us out of Heaven, because nothing impure can dwell in God's presence.

It sentences us to Hell, the deserved punishment for breaking God's law.

Our deepest need today isn't for self-improvement, but salvation from sin!



JESUS: MORE THAN A HISTORICAL FIGURE

While secular historians like Tacitus, Pliny, and Josephus confirm His existence, Jesus Christ is much more than just a figure of history, or a good man of the past. He is the most significant person to ever walk the earth!

HIS PERSON

Jesus has always existed (John 1:1). He is God the Son, co-creator of the universe alongside the Father and the Holy Spirit. Around 2,000 years ago, He entered the world in a miraculous way - conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin in Bethlehem. He lived a perfect life, unlike anyone before or since.

HIS PURPOSE

Why did Jesus come?

To Reveal – He was God in human form, making the invisible God known to us.

To Relate – He experienced human struggles, suffering, and testing, enabling Him to empathise with us.

To Rescue – He took the penalty for our sins through His suffering and death on the cross, offering us salvation.

To Reconcile – He made it possible for our broken relationship with God to be mended by dealing with the issue of sin on the cross.



HIS PROMISE

Jesus promised to return some day, saying in John 14:3, *“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again.”*

First, He will return to the air to take His followers to be with Him in Heaven.

Later, He will return to the earth as King to reign, and every knee will bow before Him (Philippians 2:10-11).

In the meantime, He provides forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and the certainty of Heaven to all who place their trust in Him.

THE CROSS: MORE THAN A RELIGIOUS SYMBOL

The cross is everywhere - on memorials, jewellery, even tattoos. But beyond being a widely recognised Christian symbol and cultural emblem, it carries a message of unparalleled love, sacrifice, and redemption.

THE PLAN

At first glance, Jesus' death by crucifixion seems like a terrible injustice. Yet, it was actually God's plan from the beginning (1 Peter 1:20). Jesus' death was foretold hundreds of years earlier in the Old Testament - His hands would be pierced (Psalm 22:16), He would be forsaken (Psalm 22:1), and punished for our sins (Isaiah 53:5).

His sacrifice on the cross was the ultimate proof of God's love: *"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8)



THE PAIN

Crucifixion was designed to be brutal and humiliating - a slow, excruciating death and a deterrent to others. Jesus was mocked, scourged, and beaten beyond recognition. His back was shredded, His mouth was parched, His bones were dislocated and His face spat upon.

Yet, the deepest agony He faced wasn't physical - it was when, during three hours of darkness, He bore the punishment for our sin. *"Christ ... suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God."* (1 Peter 3:18)

Just before He died, with a loud cry, He declared: *"It is finished."* (John 19:30) The price of sin was paid in full.

THE PROVISION

Through the cross, Jesus opened the way for God to forgive sinners on a just basis. His sacrifice created an escape route from the judgment of God and made reconciliation with God possible - for now and for eternity. That's the power of the cross!

THE RESURRECTION: MORE THAN A GOOD STORY

Jesus' story didn't end with His death - He rose again on the third day, a miraculous event commonly known as "the resurrection."

IT WAS PREDICTED

The resurrection wasn't a sudden, unplanned, plot twist; it was pivotal in God's plan of salvation, prophesied in the Old Testament (Psalm 16:10) and predicted by Jesus Himself on multiple occasions.

IT WAS PROVEN

Sceptics and opponents, including Jewish religious leaders, couldn't disprove it. If Jesus' body remained, they would have certainly found it and displayed it to silence His followers' claims.

Instead, they bribed Roman soldiers to spread the 'fake news' that the disciples had stolen the body. However, at this stage, the disciples were actually hiding in fear, not planning a grave robbery.



Compellingly, more than 500 people claimed to have seen the risen Jesus. Many of these eyewitnesses faced persecution, imprisonment, and death for their claims - yet they didn't recant. Previously fearful followers became fearless preachers willing to die for their faith. Why? Because they had truly encountered the risen Christ.

IT WAS POWERFUL

Jesus' resurrection changes everything. It validates Scripture, proves His claim to be the Son of God, and confirms that His sacrifice for sin was accepted by God. It guarantees a future day of judgment and offers hope beyond death to those who believe in Him - because He lives, so will His followers.

Believing in the resurrection is essential for salvation: "*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*" (Romans 10:9)

The resurrection is not just a good story - it is a true story, and the foundation of the Christian faith.

FAITH

MORE THAN WISFUL THINKING

Faith isn't blind optimism or a vague hope that things will work out - it's complete confidence in Jesus Christ - trusting fully in who He is and what He has done.

ITS EXPLANATION

Faith can be summed up using the simple acrostic: Forsaking All, I Trust Him.

Saving faith is more than acknowledging the facts about Jesus. It's not merely accepting intellectually that He's the Son of God, that He died for our sins, and that He rose again on the third day. Rather, it's abandoning everything else we may be depending on, and relying on Him alone for salvation.

Faith is reaching out and grasping hold of the Lord Jesus Christ, just as a drowning man reaches out and clings desperately to a lifebelt to save him.



ITS EXPRESSION

In the same way as we may call the emergency services to rescue us from physical danger, we must call on the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. Romans 10:13 assures us that, *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

It isn't about saying a specific prayer, or repeating a set form of words - it's about realising that we need to be saved from our sins, recognising that Jesus alone can rescue us - and simply asking Him to do it!

ITS EVIDENCE

True faith transforms us. James 2:17 says, *“Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”* While good works don't save us, they do act as proof that our faith is real.

The evidence of genuine saving faith is seen in a change of behaviour and the gradual development of a Christlike character.

Salvation isn't a reward earned by what we **DO**, but a gift received by trusting in what Jesus has **DONE**.

SALVATION MORE THAN A TICKET TO HEAVEN

Trusting in Jesus isn't just about avoiding Hell or gaining entry to Heaven - it's about starting a new life in relationship with God! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

NEW FREEDOM

The moment we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us. He opens our eyes to God's truth, reshapes our character (Galatians 5:22-23), equips us with spiritual gifts to serve God, and empowers us to live holy lives.

We are no longer trapped by sin! With the Holy Spirit's help, we can overcome temptation and live the life God designed us for - one that brings Him glory.

NEW FAMILY

Salvation isn't just personal - it's relational. When we trust in Jesus, we are "*born again*" into God's family. We become His children, He becomes our Father, and fellow believers our brothers and sisters.

This spiritual family is a loving community of people who help and support one another as they worship and serve God and share the Gospel with others.

NEW FUTURE

Following Jesus does not mean life will be easy, but it does mean we're heading somewhere incredible. Jesus leads us off the "broad road" of destruction and onto the "narrow way" to eternal life.



He walks the journey of life with us and will one day welcome us into His Father's House, Heaven (John 14:2), where Revelation 21:4 says, "*Death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore.*"

Are you ready to place your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, receive this great salvation, and start your journey to something more today?

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

STUDY QUESTIONS

If you'd like to use this booklet as the basis of a group or one-to-one Bible study please contact us for a list of discussion questions.

FURTHER HELP...

If you have any questions from reading this booklet, or would like to discuss any of the subjects further, please feel free to get in touch.

CONTACT GARETH...



Website:

www.goodnewspertthshire.com



Email:

info@goodnewspertthshire.com



Text / Phone:

07584099498

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

**“SEEK THE LORD WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND;
CALL UPON HIM WHILE HE IS NEAR.”**

ISAIAH 55:6



EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

**“THERE’S GOT TO BE SOMETHING MORE
TO LIFE THAN THIS...”**

Exploring Christianity takes you on a journey to uncover the profound truths of the Christian faith which have transformed lives for centuries.

In just ten short chapters this booklet answers some of life’s biggest questions and introduces you to the **“something more”** you’ve been searching for!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Gareth Edwards is an evangelist based in Perth, Scotland. Having graduated from the University of St Andrews in 2005, he left a career in the energy industry to serve God on a full-time basis in 2016.