

WHY WE BELIEVE

Fallout – Part 1

ON TV: Jesus' most devout followers in the first century **never owned a Bible**.

ON TV: What did they **believe**? What did they know **that we don't know**? Why is it that some of us have been **tempted to walk away from faith** because of a book that didn't exist when Christianity began?

ON TV: People who were **nothing like Jesus, liked Jesus**.

ON TV: *"The problem is religion. The root of most evil is actually religion."*

ON TV: "Sola Scriptura" which means **Scripture alone**.

ON TV: The Pope isn't the final authority. Tradition isn't the final authority. Scripture is the final authority for the church, **Scripture alone**.

ON TV: There is a difference between something that is **seen as an authority for you live by** and something that is considered the **foundation of your faith**.

ON TV: That if all of it's not true, then none of it can be **trusted**.

ON TV: The message that our culture is embracing is not just that religion is wrong, but that **religion is bad**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the **whole time** the Lord Jesus was living among us, 22 beginning from **John's baptism** to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For **one of these** must become a **witness** with us of his **resurrection**." Acts 1:21-22*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"6 When **they** heard this sound, a **crowd** came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their **own language** being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking **Galileans**? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our **native language**?' 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had **too much wine**.' 14 Then **Peter** stood up **with the Eleven**, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me **explain** this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are **not drunk**, as you suppose. It's only **nine** in the morning! 22 **Jesus of Nazareth** was a man accredited by God **to you** by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did **among you** through him, as **you yourselves know**. 23 This man was handed over to **you** by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and **you**, with the help of wicked men, **put him to death** by nailing him to the **cross**. 24 But God **raised him from the dead**, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 32 God has **raised** this Jesus to life, and we are **all witnesses of it**.' 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, **what shall we do**?' 38 Peter replied, '**Repent** and be **baptized**.'" Acts 2:6-8, 13-15, 22-24, 32, 37-38*

ON TV/OUTLINE: Repent means: Change your **MIND**.

ON TV: The very first Christian sermon preached after the resurrection was not about what Jesus taught, it was about the **resurrection of Jesus**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"13 **You** handed him over to be killed, and **you** disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14 **You** disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15 **You** killed the author of life, but **God raised him from the dead**. We are **witnesses of this**." Acts 3:13-15*

ON TV: The foundation of their faith was not something they read. The foundation of their faith was **what they had seen**.

ON TV: If you're a Christ Follower, what should be the **foundation of your faith**?

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"1 The priests and the captain of the **temple** guard and the **Sadducees** came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 3 They **seized Peter** and **John** and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until*

the next day. 7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what **power** or what **name** did you do this?’ 8 ‘Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of **kindness** shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom **you crucified** but whom **God raised** from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.’ 13 When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John and realized that they were **unschooled, ordinary men**...” Acts 4:1, 3, 7-10, 13a

ON TV: Because when you lose your fear of death, **all fear is gone**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “13b...they were **astonished**, and they took note that these men had been with **Jesus**. 20 ‘As for us, we cannot help **speaking** about what we have **seen** and **heard**.’” Acts 4:13b, 20

ON TV: The foundation of our faith is not a story. The foundation of our faith is an **event**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: “**Peter** and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey **God** rather than **men**. 30 The God of our ancestors **raised Jesus** from the dead—whom **you killed** by hanging him on a cross...32 We are **witnesses** of these things.’ 33 When they heard this, they were **furiously** and wanted to put them to death. 40 They called the apostles in and had them **flogged**. 41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing** because they had been **counted worthy** of suffering disgrace for the **Name**. 42 Day after day, in the **temple courts** and from **house to house**, they **never stopped** teaching and proclaiming the good news that **Jesus** is the Messiah.” Acts 5:30, 32-33, 40-42

ON TV: Christianity stands on its own two nailed scarred resurrected feet. The foundation of your faith and mine is not a book. It is an **event**.

ON TV: “The God of the Old Testament is **arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction**; jealous and proud of it. A petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak. A vindictive bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser.” – Richard Dawkins

ON TV: “**It's time that we admitted that faith is nothing more than the license religious people give one another to keep believing when reasons fail**. To be fair, much of the Bible is not systematically evil. It's just plain weird. As you would expect a chaotically cobbled together anthology of disjointed documents, composed, revised, translated, distorted, and then improved by hundreds of anonymous authors, editors, and copyist's unknown to us, and mostly unknown to each other, spanning nine centuries. I mean of course the Bible's a mess. I mean, look at the background.” –Sam Harris