
sanctify the Lord
nd always be rea
to everyone wh
reason for the hope tha
kness and fear,

rforh*

reasonsforhope


ALOHA!

frankfigueroa@rforh.com



reasonsforhope*

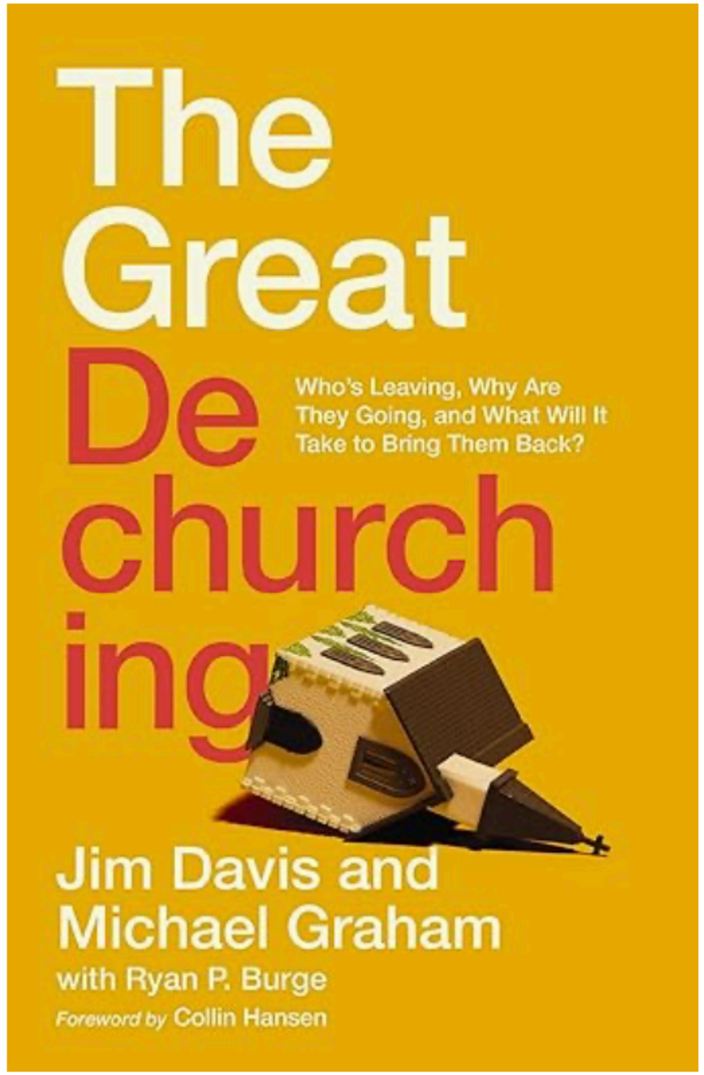
Deconversion



Frank L. Figueroa Jr.

1 John 5:11-13

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.



Roll over image to zoom in



The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back? Hardcover – August 22, 2023

by Jim Davis (Author), Michael Graham (Author), Ryan P. Burge (Author), & 1 more

4.3 ★★★★☆ 302 ratings

See all formats and edition

We are currently experiencing the largest and fastest religious shift in US history.

It is greater than the First and Second Great Awakening and every revival in our country combined...but in the opposite direction. Yet precious little rigorous study has been done on the broad phenomenon of dechurching in America. Jim Davis and Michael Graham have commissioned the largest and most comprehensive study of dechurching in America by renowned sociologists Dr. Ryan Burge and Dr. Paul Djupe.

The Great Dechurching takes the insights gleaned from this study to drill down on how exactly people are dechurching with respect to beliefs, behavior, and belonging.

This book gives the church in America its first ever deep dive into the dechurched phenomenon. You'll learn about the dechurched through a detailed sketch of demographics, size, core concerns, church off-ramps, historical roots, and the gravity of what is at stake. Then you'll explore what can be done to slow the bleed, engage the pertinent issues winsomely and wisely, and hopefully re-church some of the dechurched.

Read less

1994-2024

40,000,000 Americans have stopped attending regular church services.

78%

of teens raised in evangelical churches "leave the faith" between the ages of 16-22.

Reasons For Leaving…

- They no longer belong.
- The church no longer behaves.
- So they no longer believe.

FYI...
Not all who leave deconvert.

What is Deconversion?

Deconversion

A loss or deprivation of religious faith.
To disassociate with one's religion.

Oxford Dictionary



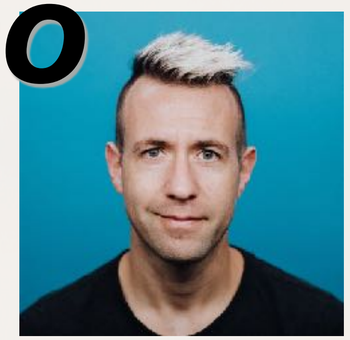
“Hello, my name is Kevin Max & I’m an exvangelical. I don't think the God that I believe in is just all the sudden going to ignore me because I don't believe every single thing that's written down somewhere.”



Kevin Max



"*After growing up in a Christian home, being a pastor's kid, playing and singing in a Christian band, and having the word 'Christian' in front of most of the things in my life — I am now finding that I no longer believe in God.*”



Jon Steingard



“I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. The popular phrase for this is “deconstruction,” the biblical phrase is “falling away.” By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian.”



Joshua Harris



“How many preachers fall? Many. No one talks about it. How many miracles happen? Not many. No one talks about it. Why is the Bible full of contradictions? No one talks about it…



Marty Sampson

…How can God be love yet send four billion people to a place, all 'coz they don't believe? No one talks about it. I am not in any more. I want genuine truth…



Marty Sampson

…Not the "I just believe it" kind of truth. Science keeps piercing the truth of every religion. Lots of things help people change their lives, not just one version of God."



Marty Sampson

SO LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!



Top 3 Reasons

THE PROBLEM OF DEATH & EVIL





SCIENTIFIC CONTRADICTIONS

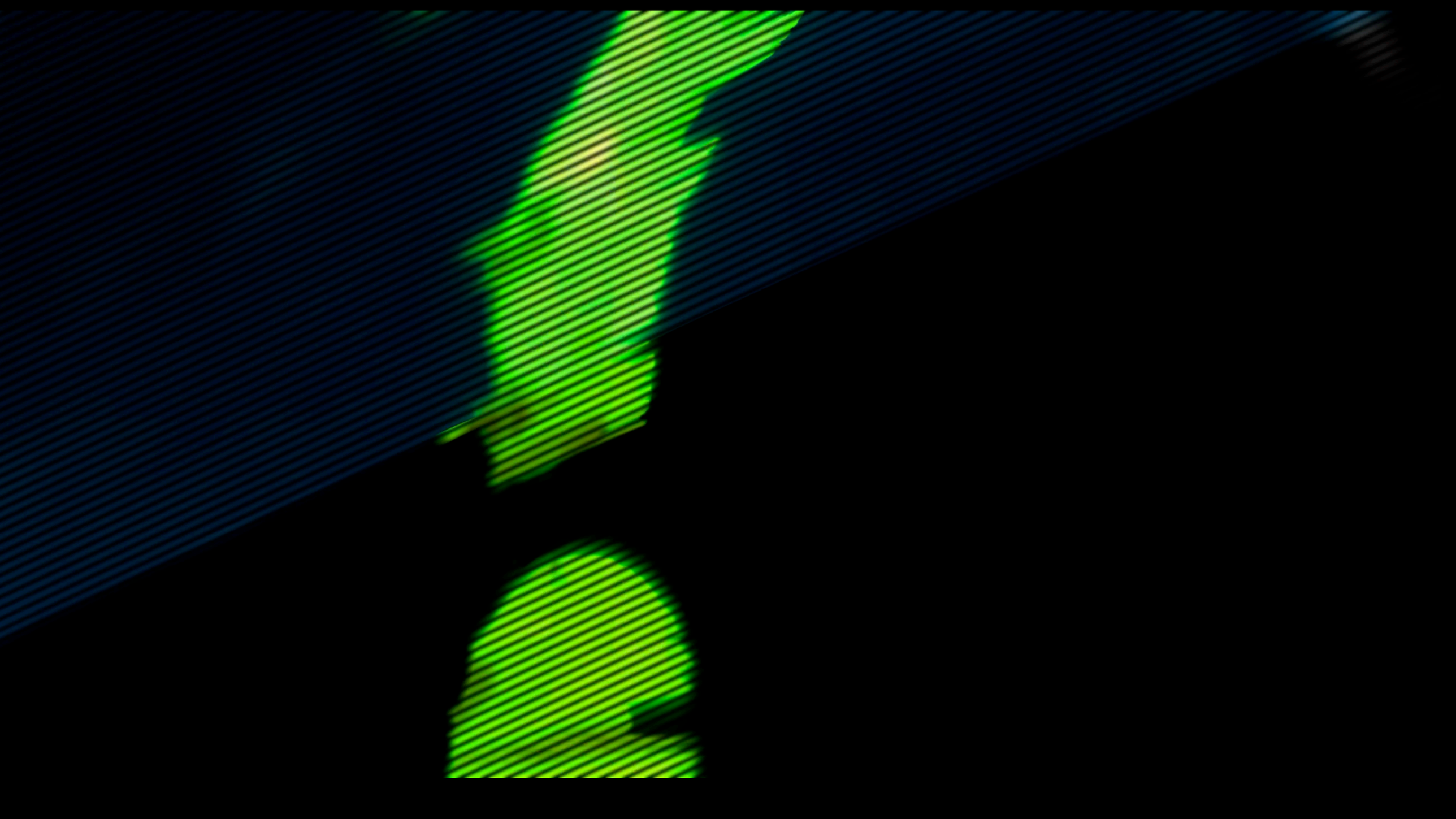




RATIONAL REASONING




LOVE
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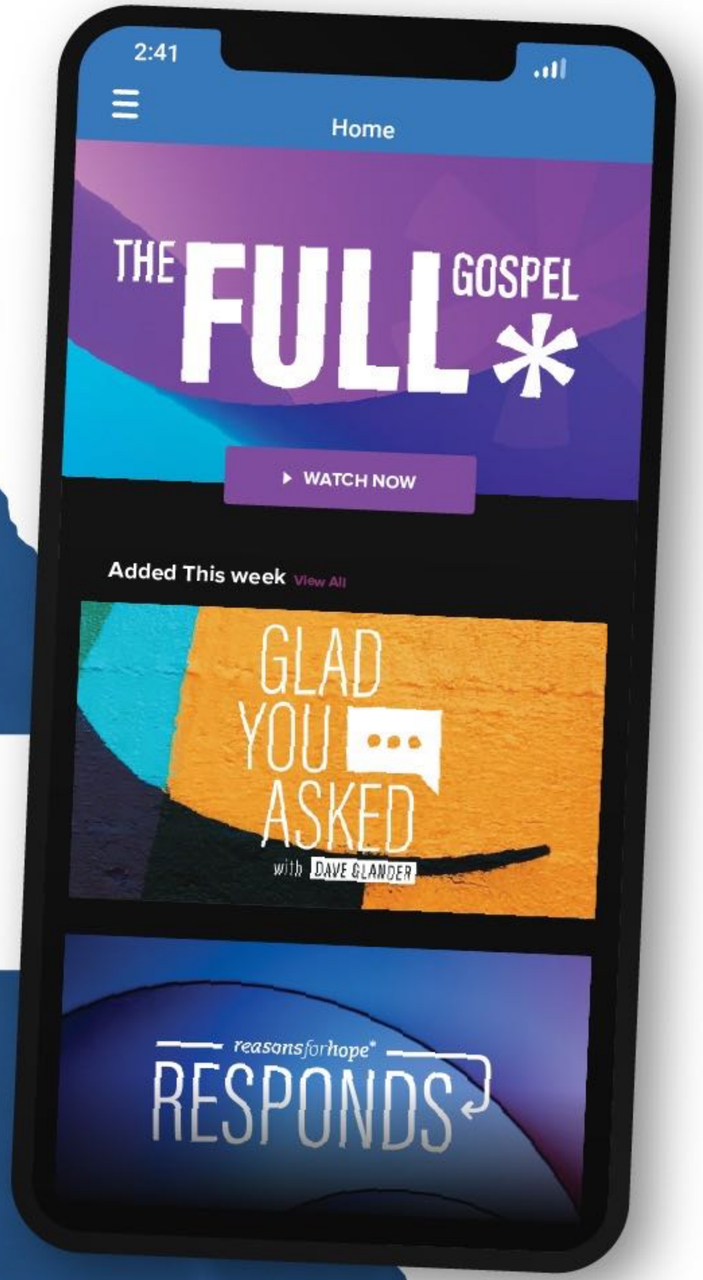
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Biblical Authority



What is the gospel?

The Gospel...

- “Gospel” means “good news” and is used 93 time exclusively in the New Testament.

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

The Gospel...

- “Gospel” means “good news” and is used 93 time exclusively in the New Testament.
- In order to understand the “good news” we must come to grips with the “bad news”.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

The Gospel...

- "Gospel" means "good news" and is used 93 time exclusively in the New Testament.
- In order to understand the "good news" we must come to grips with the "bad news".
- Jesus came to live a life that we didn't live and died a death that we should have died.

Romans 8:3-4

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

1 John 2:2

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

The Gospel...

- "Gospel" means "good news" and is used 93 time exclusively in the New Testament.
- In order to understand the "good news" we must come to grips with the "bad news".
- Jesus came to live a life that we didn't live and died a death that we should have died.
- Raising Himself from the grave, Jesus proved His power over death and provides salvation for all who believe.

Romans 4:23-25

Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

John 14:19

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

1 John 2:2

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

The gospel in a nutshell...

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,


THE
GOSPEL

What is it to be “saved” or “converted”?



John 3:14-21

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3:14-21 cont…

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

John 3:14-21 cont…

But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Who is responsible for conversion?



John 15:16

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

John 1:12-13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 6:37

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Romans 8:29-30

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Ephesians 1:4-6

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Ephesians 2:1-10 cont…

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:1-10 cont…

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Matthew 19:23-26

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 19:23-26 cont…

When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”
But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

What is our responsibility?



Acts 3:19

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Romans 10:8-13

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:8-13 cont…

For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

1 Peter 2:1-3

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Hebrews 5:9

And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Psalm 119:9-11

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

How long does salvation last?


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John 6:36-37

"But I said to you that you have seen Me and? yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

John 4:14

"but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 5:24

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 10:28

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

John 12:50

"And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Can a believer lose their salvation?



1 John 2:18-19

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

John 6:35-40

And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 6:35-40 cont…

This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

If You Can Lose Your Salvation…

- If Christ came to seek and save that which was lost, and yet we can somehow become unsaved--and therefore undo what Christ came to do--would it not be wise for God to take us to heaven the moment we are saved in order to ensure we make it? Isn't it unnecessarily risky to force us to stay here?

If You Can Lose Your Salvation…

- If our salvation is not secure, how could Jesus say about those to whom He gives eternal life, “and they shall never perish” (John 10:28)? If even one man or woman receives eternal life and then forfeits it through sin or apostasy, will they not perish? And by doing so do they not make Jesus’ words a lie?

If You Can Lose Your Salvation…

- What are we trusting in to get us into heaven? Is it Christ plus something? Or can we say with confidence that our hope and your trust are in Christ and Christ alone?

If You Can Lose Your Salvation…

- If God's holiness compels Him to take back the gift of eternal life from certain believers because of their sin, one of two things is true: Either God compromises His holiness for a time--through their small sins--or mans good works can meet God's requirements for holiness--at least for a short period of time. In that case Christ died needlessly.



CALVINIST





Who is more likely to deconvert?

Someone who struggles with authority



Someone who embraces novelties



Someone who is driven by pleasure



Those who convert for social reasons



Deconversions…

- Celebrity deconversions are a serious thing.

- However, just because people deconvert, does not mean Christianity is wrong.

- Being challenged early, and often, in our faith may be beneficial.

- A deconversion does not necessarily mean the end of the story.

Doubt

Uncertainty of belief or opinion. The state of being uncertain.

Websters Dictionary

Two Stories...

Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-31

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want…

Luke 15:11-31 cont…

…Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.
“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!…

Luke 15:11-31 cont…

…“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing…

Luke 15:11-31 cont…

…So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, “Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’
“But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him…

Luke 15:11-31 cont…

…So he answered and said to his father, “Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him’…

Luke 15:11-31 cont…

…“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

The Prodigal Son…

- Did he wander and stray away?
- Did he do sinful things?
- Did he come to his senses?
- Did he return to his father?

BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS A SON!

John the Baptizer

Luke 7:18-23

Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”
When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ ”

Luke 7:18-23 cont…

And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.
Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

Doubt pushed John towards Jesus...
Not away from Him!

Reasons For Doubt...

- Going through difficult circumstances.



Reasons For Doubt...

- Going through difficult circumstances.
- Not having complete revelation.



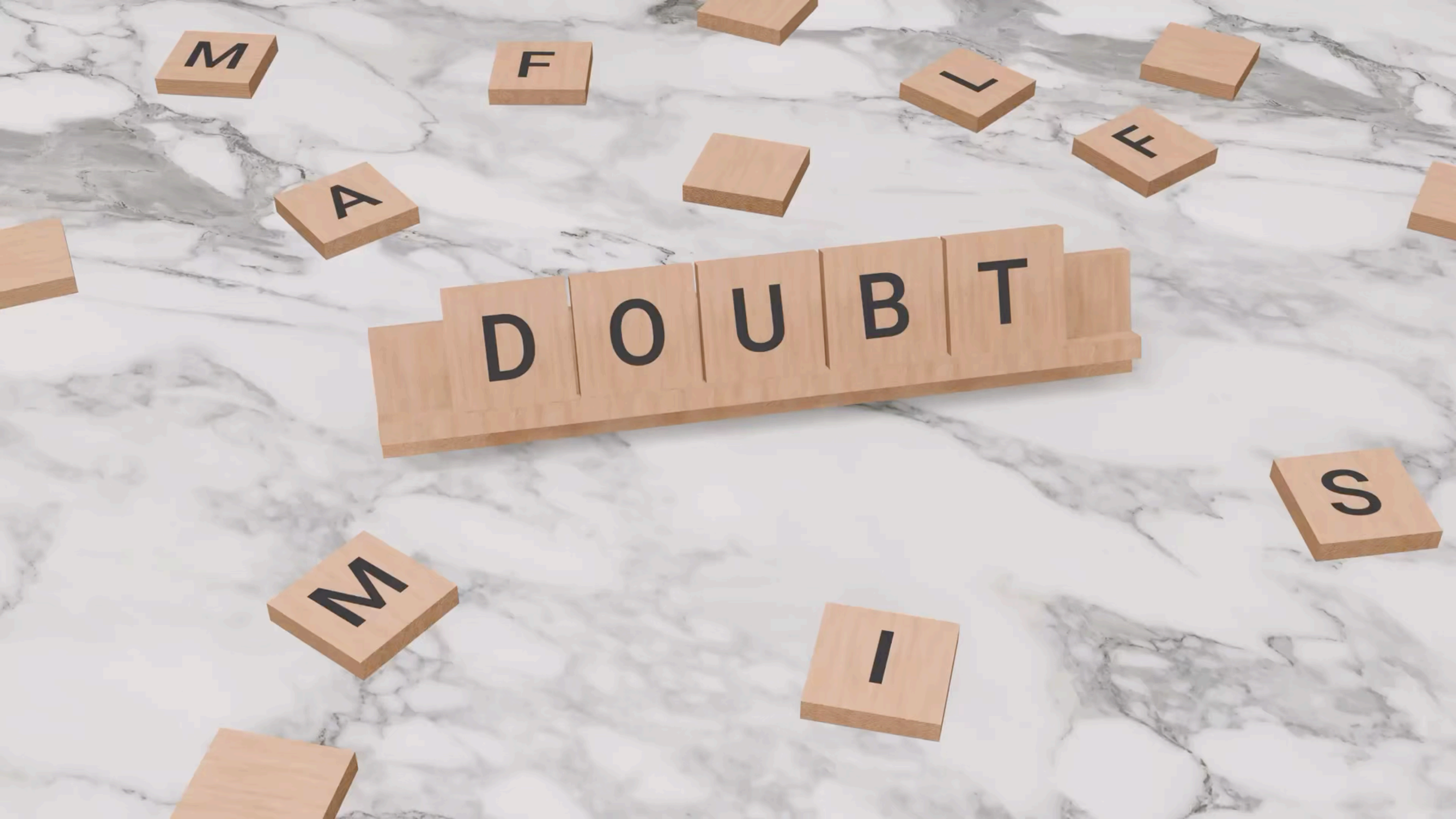
Reasons For Doubt...

- Going through difficult circumstances.
- Not having complete revelation.
- Being effected by worldly influence.

Reasons For Doubt...

- Going through difficult circumstances.
- Not having complete revelation.
- Being effected by worldly influence.
- Dealing with unfulfilled expectations.




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The antidote to doubt in not more faith...

RATHER IT IS BIBLICAL TRUTH

17

"ALL ROADS LEAD TO GOD"

DeBunked

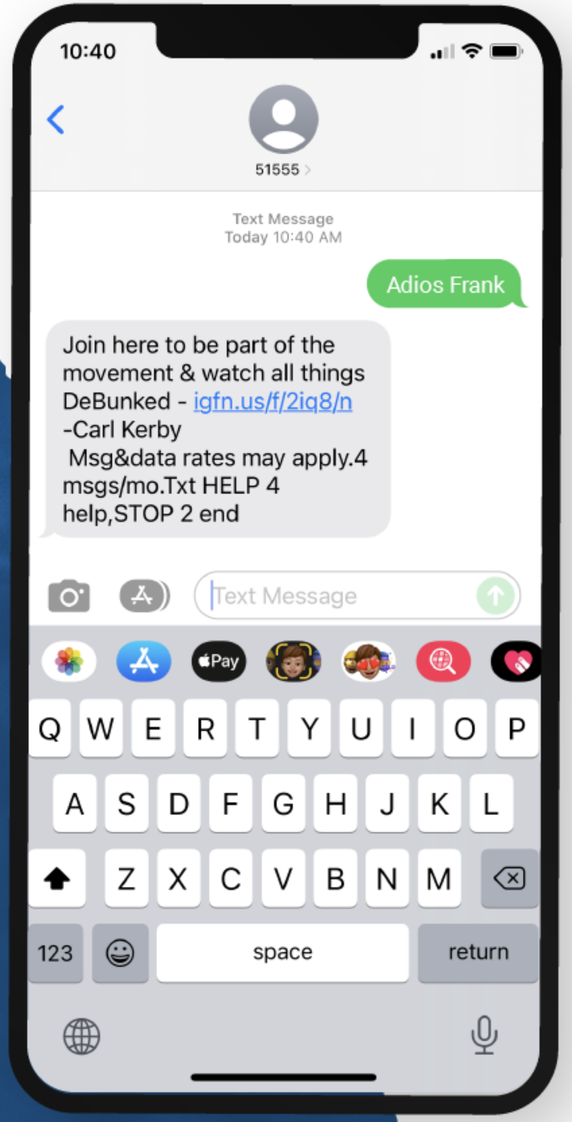
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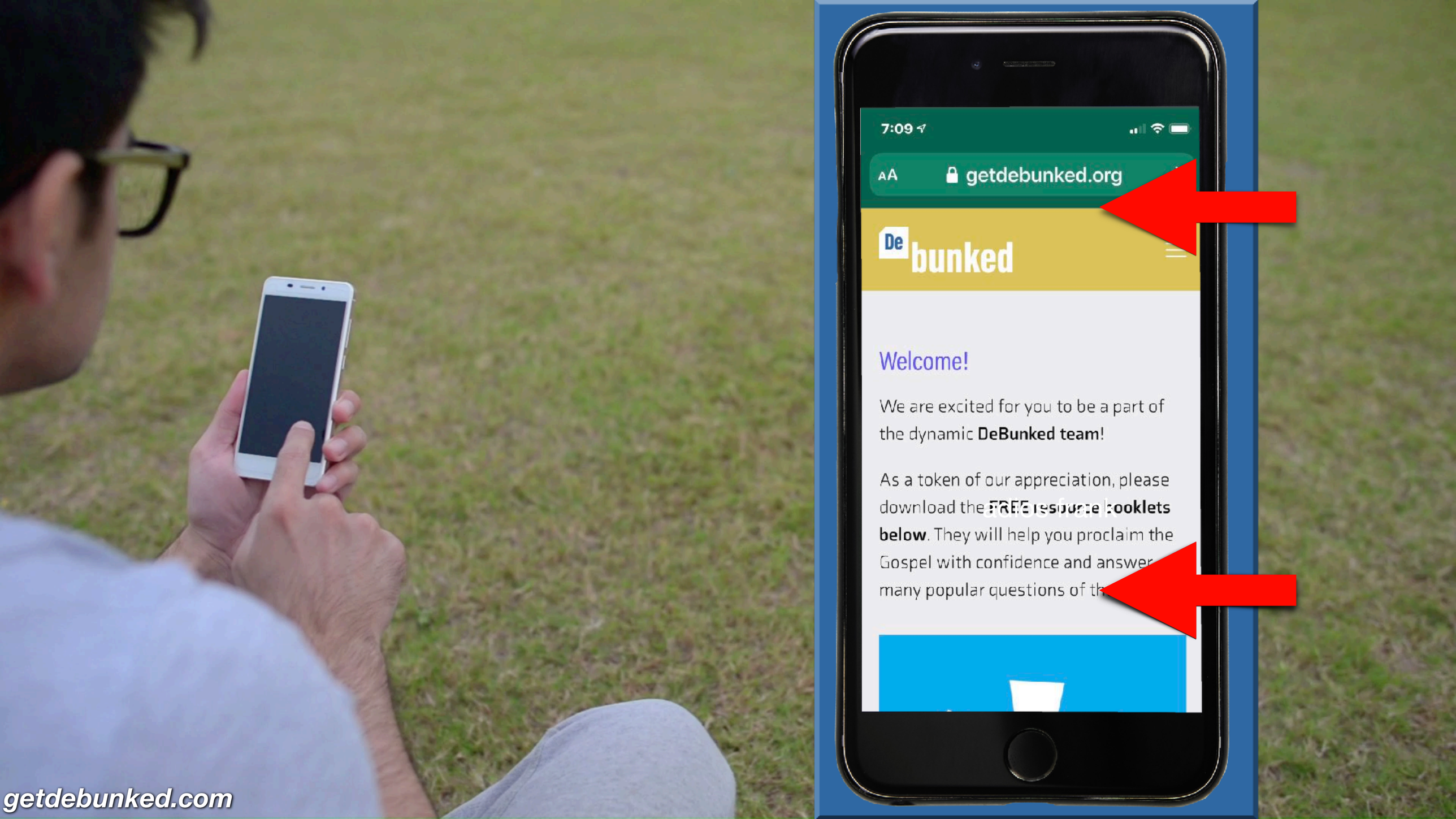
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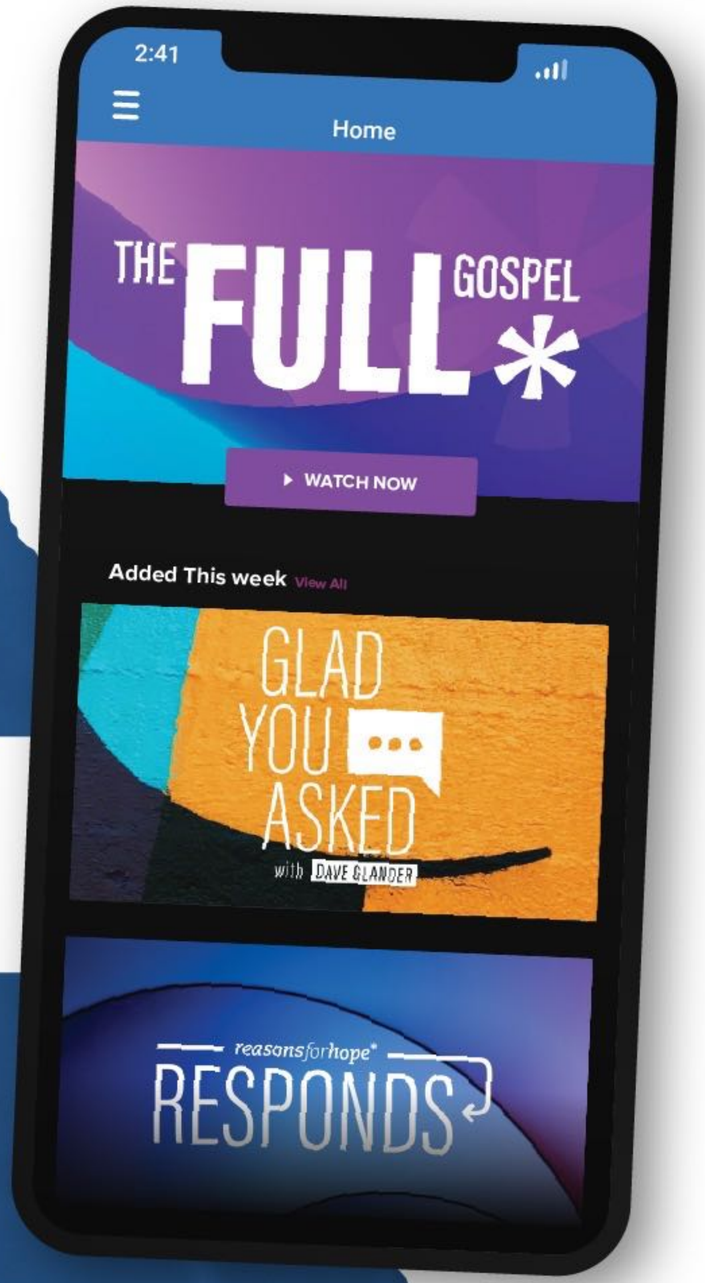
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DO YOU KNOW JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR?

Romans 5:6-11

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

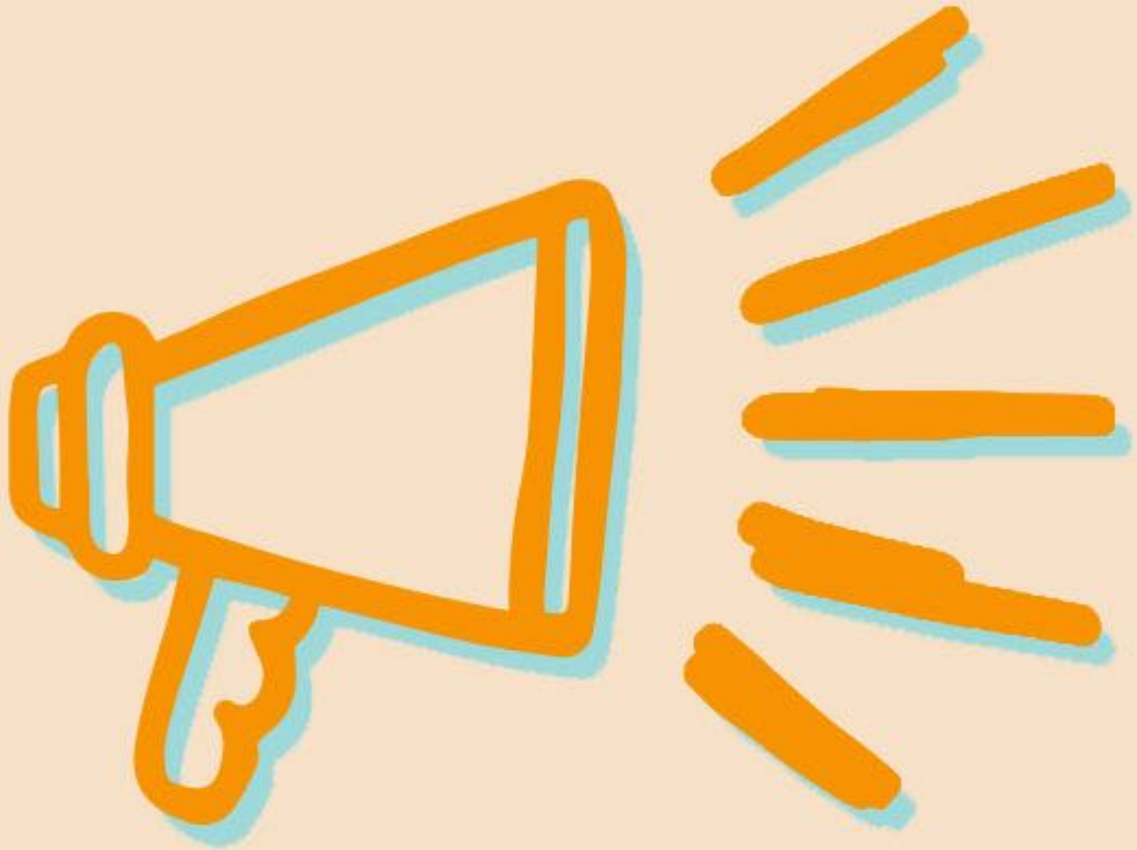
Romans 5:6-11 cont…

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

1 John 5:11-13

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.


THE NEWS
BAD
NEWS!



GOD'S GOOD NEWS



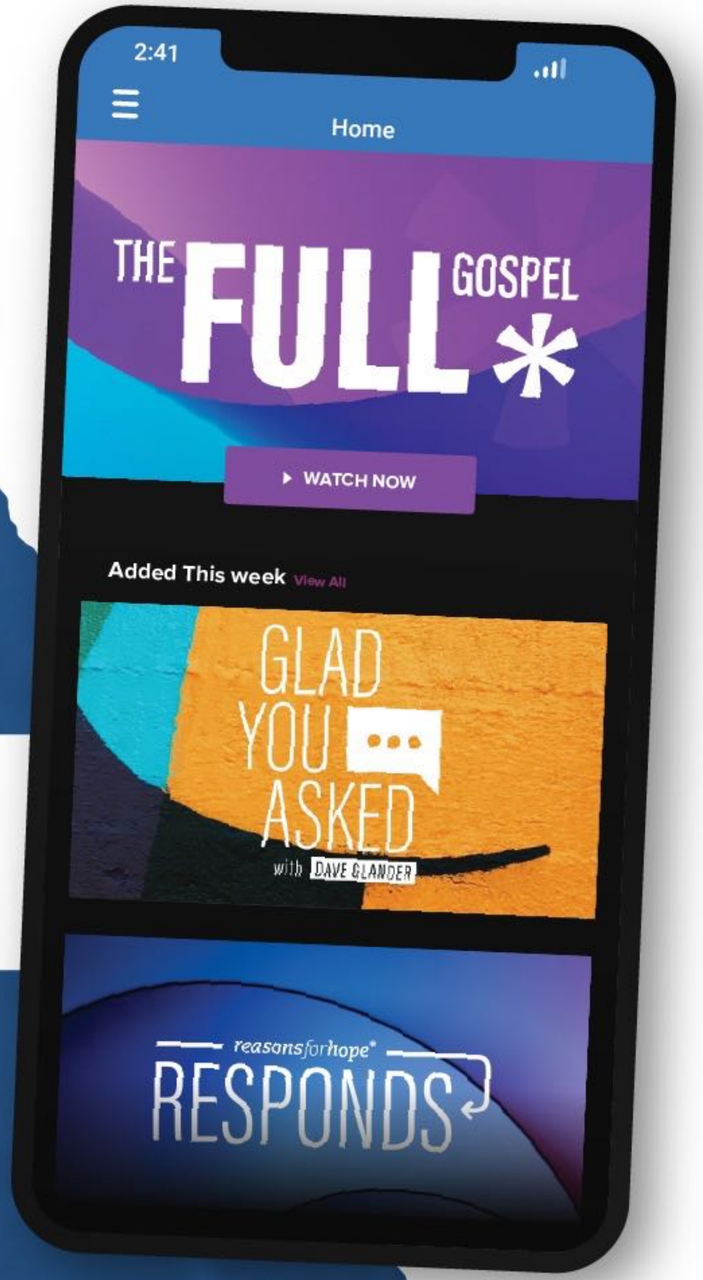
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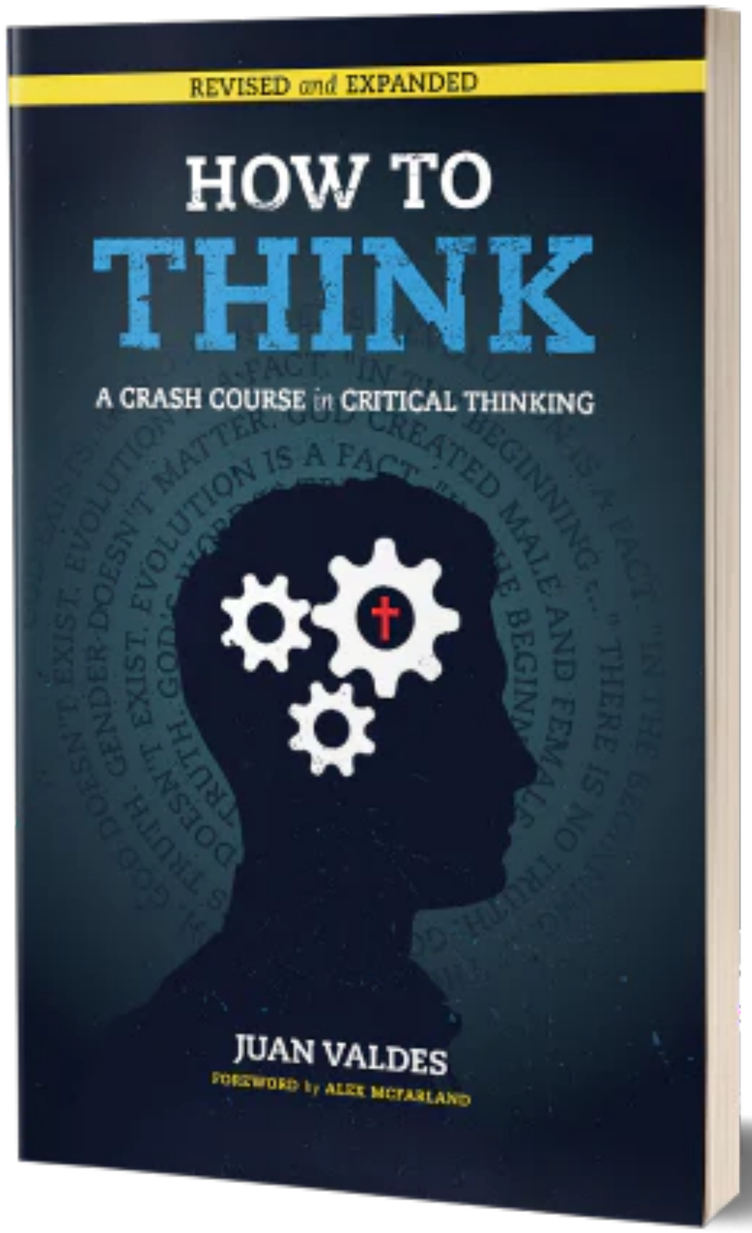
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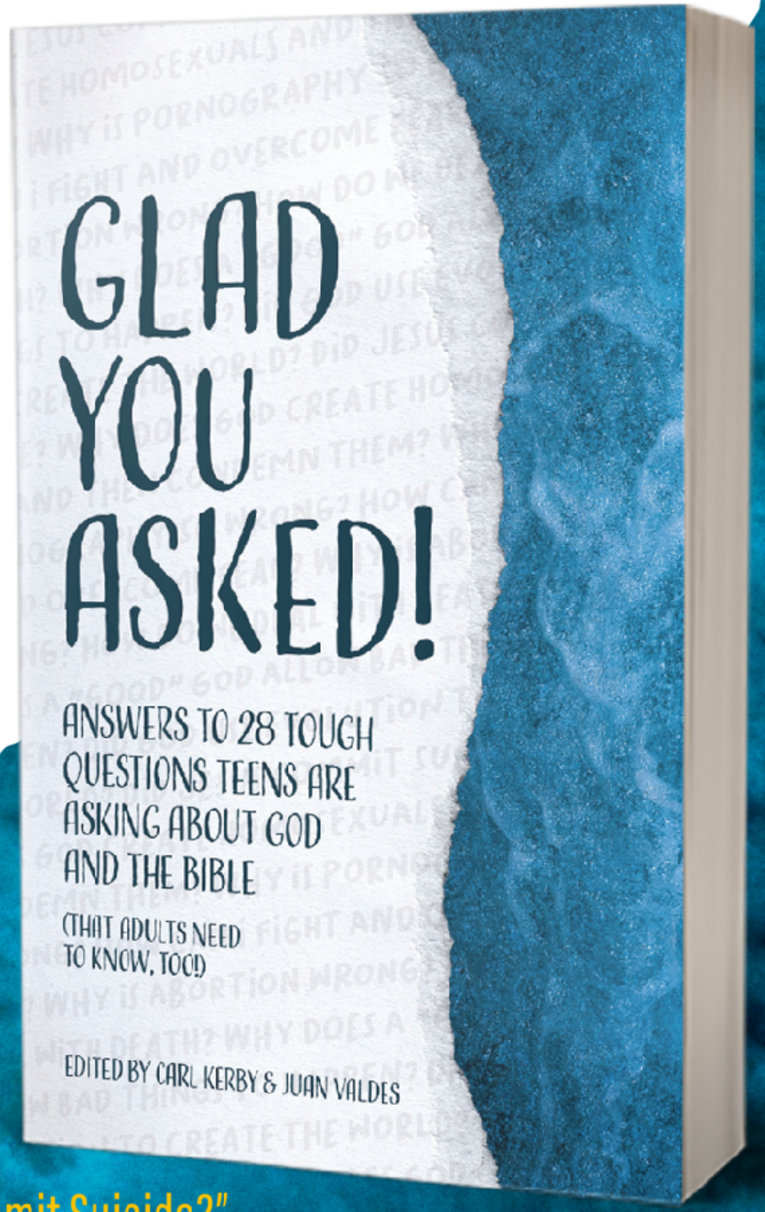
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LEARN THE TRUTH

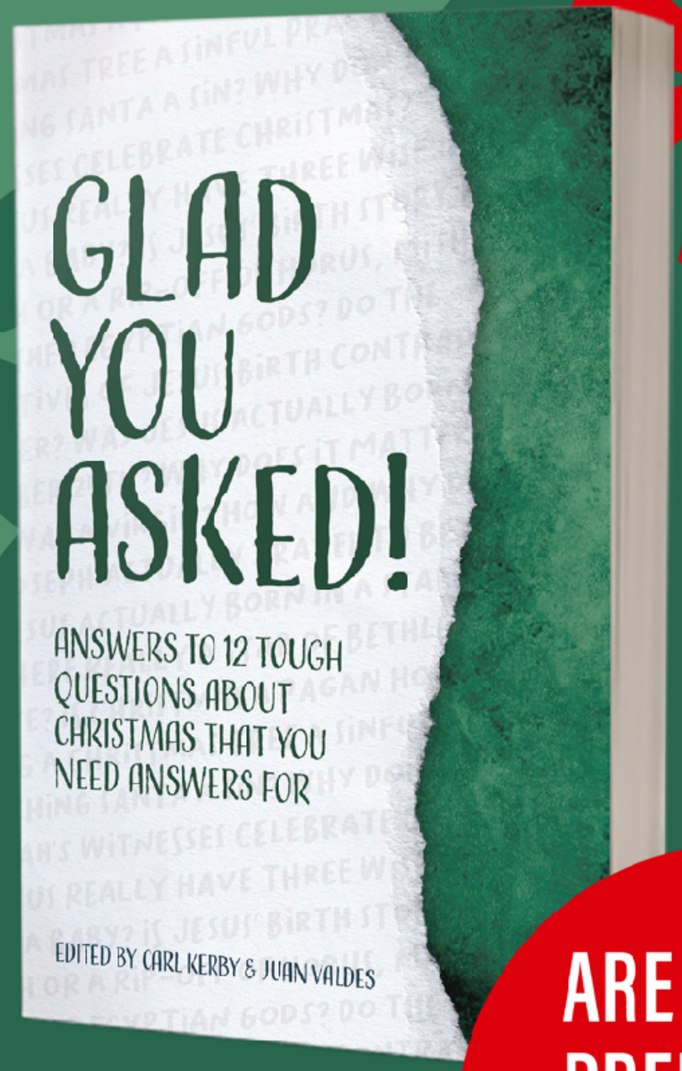
BEHIND YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS



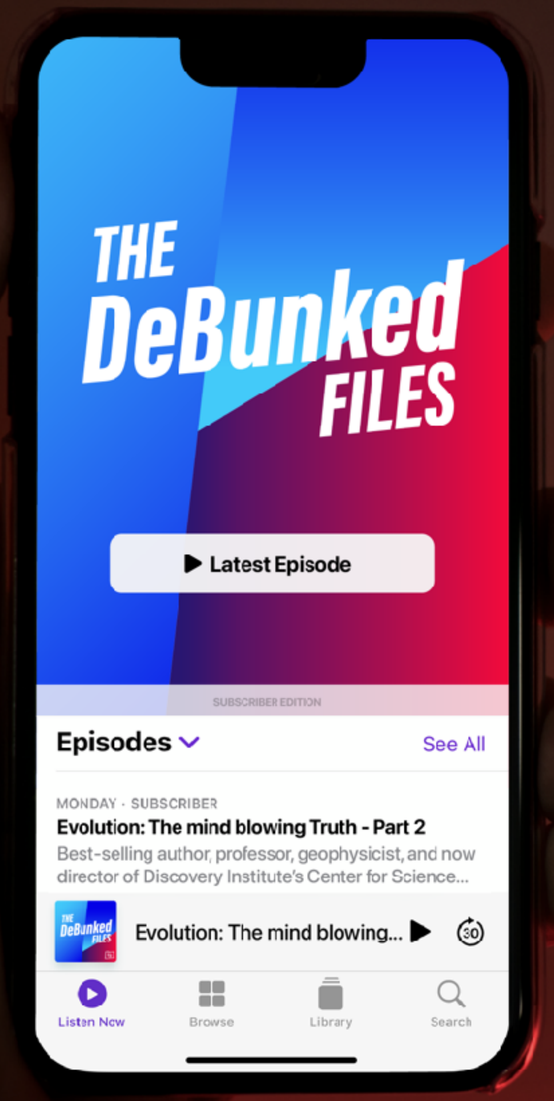
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ARE YOU PREPARED TO ANSWER?



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RESPONDS







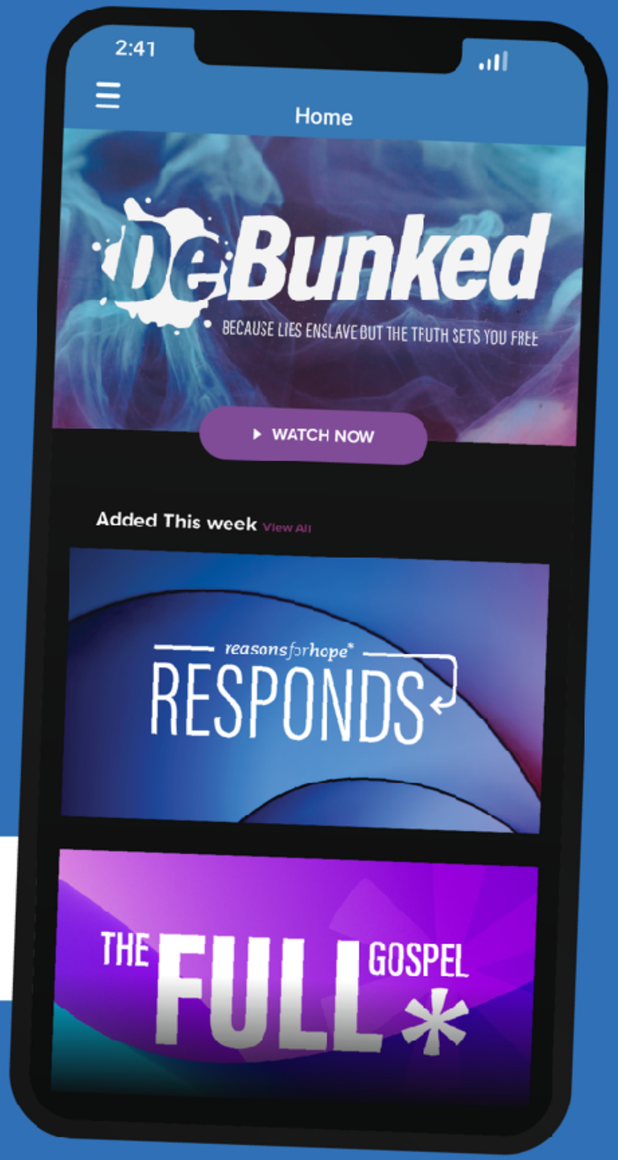
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