

Losing Our Religion
Because It's Untrue
July 30, 2017

PRE-SERVICE VIDEO

**Worship Songs – “Great God Who Saves” /
“Immortal, Invisible” / Prayer
Behind the Scenes – Video**

Feature – “Soldier” / Offering

Well, at this point in the service I am supposed to be onstage and beginning the message but, as you can see, I am not. The reason for that is ...

As most of you know, my mom is in the final stages of lung cancer and, in last week's message, I said it looked like she wasn't going to be with us much longer.

However, she proved to be even *more* stubborn than we all thought and this past week she rallied ... which is good news. The bad news is

that on Friday morning we learned that they were discharging her from the hospital *that afternoon* ... which meant we had to find somewhere for her to go. Quickly.

I'll spare you the gory details of that effort except to say that pretty much all of my time Friday and Saturday and, more importantly, pretty much all of my emotional, spiritual and intellectual energy was spent on that project.

As a result, my mom is in a really good place and we're all happy ... *now*. We were *not* on Friday night and Saturday morning.

However, because my habit (for almost 23 years) has been to write my message on Friday and Saturday, another result of that effort is that – for the first time in almost 23 years – I am not prepared to speak today. And even if I was, I just don't have the energy. I am out of gas.

But, since I am your pastor and I care about you

deeply and about this series of messages – *Losing Our Religion* – in which we are considering some of the major objections of those who are rejecting Christianity – I decided to show you a message given by a British pastor by the name of Andrew Wilsonⁱ that addresses a lot of what I had planned to talk about with respect to today’s topic: *the idea that the Christian faith is simply untrue because it’s based on a book full of fairy tales and crazy stories that shouldn’t be believed or trusted.*

I think you’ll find what he says to be engaging and informative. Plus it’s interesting to hear the perspective of a Christian leader in a place where they’re not just “*losing* their religion” (as we are); in Great Britain, they’ve already lost their Christian heritage. And who doesn’t enjoy listening to a really cool British accent for 28 minutes.

So that’s what we’re going to do. We’ll watch Andrew and then, I’ll come back (on video) and

give you a closing thought. Here we go ...

<VIDEO>

“The Bible is not the foundation of our belief as Christians. The foundation of our belief is the person of Jesus.”

I think that’s critical to understand because it’s absolutely true.

More importantly, if you’re a person who is investigating and evaluating Christianity, it means you start with Jesus:

- Was He really God in the flesh?
- Does what He taught make a difference?
- Did He really rise from the dead after dying on a Roman cross?
- Was He Israel’s true King and Savior of the World?

Of course, a skeptic would say “But, Rick, we know about Jesus *through* the Bible so this is a circular argument.”

To which I would say *it seems that way to us because of where we are in history*. WE know about Jesus through the Bible but THEY – the first Christians – did not. They knew about Jesus because they saw Him and lived with Him and experienced Him and then told others about Him.

And then they wrote it down in what we now know as the Bible.

The original “knowing” of Jesus wasn’t through the Bible ... which is why the Bible is not the foundation of our belief as Christians. The foundation of our belief is the person of Jesus. We wouldn’t *care* about what’s the Bible if it wasn’t for Jesus. It all starts with Him.

And today, in this service, it’s going to end with

Him as well.

We're going to sing a song together that reminds us that Christianity really is all about Jesus and not the Bible or anything else. So, would you please stand as we sing "In Christ Alone."

And just a quick reminder that if you need someone to talk with or pray with, you can come to the front when we're dismissed.

Ok, here we go ...

Worship Song – "In Christ Alone"

Endnotes

ⁱ See <http://kings.church/bigobjections.php>