

Simply Put, What is a Christian?

Is There a Problem?

January 14, 2024

Matthew 26v31-41

31 Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

"I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

32 But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.' **33** Peter said to him, 'Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.' **34** Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' **35** Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples.

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' **37** He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. **38** Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' **39** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' **40** Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?' **41** Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

"These, then are the two points I wanted to make. First, that human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it. Secondly, that they do not in fact behave in that way.

They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in." _ C. S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity* (page 8)

"Humans are moral beings made in the image of God." _ John Lennox

Are they? Do you believe we are?

If you do conclude you're a broken, "prone to wander", moral being made in the image of God, then what?

How do you feel about Jesus' statement, "the spirit is indeed willing, the flesh is weak"?

What is the context?

What is the claim?

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

1. "The body is susceptible to exhaustion"
2. "One's best intentions cannot protect one in the time of most severe testing."

When else did Jesus offer warnings about physical weaknesses?

(Careful with Platonic thought...)

What's the most self-destructive temptation in your life right now?

What solution does Jesus offer?

Suggested *Mere Christianity* Reading:

Week 1 (January 14-20): Preface, Book I (3-32)
 Week 2 (January 21-27): Book II (35-68)
 Week 3 (January 28-Feb 3): Book III: Chapter 1 & 2 (pgs 69-81)
 Week 4 (February 4-10): Book III: Chapters 9-12 (pgs 129-152)
 Week 5 (February 11-17): Book IV: Chapters 8-11 (pgs 195-227)

What can we learn from Noah?

Mere Christianity Book Groups

HOSTS	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	LOCATION
Karin & Kyle Ball	Wednesdays	6 to 7:30pm	7045 Garden Valley Dr. 59602
Steph Morrison	Tuesdays	6 to 7:30pm	1123 Townsend Ave. Helena 59601
Paul & Lea Gorsuch	Thursdays (Jan 18, 25; Feb 1, 8); Mondays (Feb 12 & 19)	6 to 7:30pm	5339 Harbor Lane 59602 (runs parallel to York Rd. Brown condos on the Hauser Lake side of the road - at north end.
Steve & Trina Youde	Wednesdays	6 to 7:30pm	43 Greenwood Trail (Clancy)

^ beginning the week of January 15th!

Books: *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis; *Digital Minimalism* by Cal Newport
Songs: Good Good Father, Doxology, Take My Life and Let It Be, First Love, Come Holy Spirit Come, The Lord's Prayer
Podcast: Veritas Forum: Where is God in Suffering? - John Lennox (April 20, 2023)
Looking to Connect?: One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page.