

**TOPIC 3.3****CHRIST TAUGHT THAT ALL  
PEOPLE MUST CHOOSE A  
RELIGION. FACT OR FICTION?****Conversation Points**

- ★ People with strong opinions should keep those opinions to themselves! **AGREE or DISAGREE?**
- ★ People who have a lot should learn how to be generous and share it with others. **AGREE or DISAGREE?**
- ★ Because there is so much uncertainty in the world there is no point to saving our money. **AGREE or DISAGREE?**

**Reflection**

In 1940 a newborn baby, who would later be given the name, *David*, was abandoned in the hospital in which he had just been born. He was placed into an orphanage then later into the care of *Sedgley Boys Home*, Upper Hutt, New Zealand. Even though Sedgley would later be identified “as a site of child abuse” and closed, David Bussau would later tell a journalist that the only abuse he ever experienced was the normal occasional bullying that younger boy were always subject to by the older boys.



Sedgley Boys Home, Upper Hutt, NZ

As part of the Boys Home, David was required to attend Sunday School each Sunday where, he says, “[He] always believed that God was a father who loved him.” Sedgley was a working farm where the boys chipped in to help so that the Home was able to pay its bills. This early exposure to the reality of work,

business, and having to pay bills, had a curious impact on David. “At the age of 15, he rented a hot-dog stand, then rented hot-dog stands out to others. He always found it easy to make money and to organise others to work for him” (Piggin 2020, 439). Even as a teenager, David Bussau had a strong sense that God had created and called him to be an entrepreneur.



By early his early thirties he was married, a millionaire, and now living in Australia where he ran five businesses in the construction trade. Life was comfortable and life was great. In 1974 at the age of 35, he was deeply moved by what had happened to the city and people of Darwin after the devastation of cyclone Tracy.

He organised for a team of tradesmen to go to Darwin to help with its reconstructions efforts. David and his family also then chose to move to Darwin to help where they could. Shortly after this Bali was hit by an earthquake and David then mobilised some of his workforce to help the Indonesians to reconstruct many of their devastated villages. David and his family then moved to Bali so he could be closer to what needed to be done there.



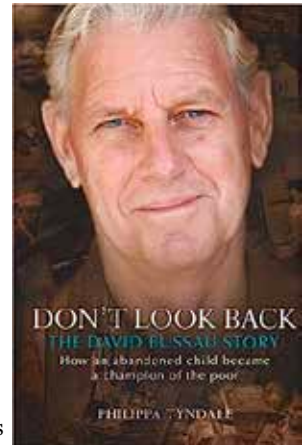
But his move to Bali, and his experience of seeing the abject poverty of these Indonesian villagers was a turning point for him. “He realised that for most, poverty was a matter of debt.” Many of these villagers were forced to “mortgage their own children to their money lenders” while they tried to pay off their mortgages. Bussau had seen how government foreign aid money had largely made matters worse for the poor. He reasoned that he could use his God-given gifts as an entrepreneur to help the poor. In 1979, David discussed with another businessman, a American friend, Al Whittaker, who was also an entrepreneur, how they could work together to help the poor of the world - not just in Indonesia. In 1980, they launched a microfinancing charity called, *Opportunity International*. By the year 2000 they had raised five million people out of poverty using microfinancing as a Christian mission.



Bussau became a big supporter of Christian missionaries

in various parts of the world and sponsored the formation of *the Oxford Centre for Missions Studies*. In 2003-04 he was even able to help North Korea address some of their most impoverished through the micro-loans initiatives program that had successfully been used in other parts of the world. In 2008 Bussau was made Senior Australian of the Year after he had already been awarded the title of Australian Entrepreneur of the Year and International Social Entrepreneur of the Year (Piggin, 440).

Bussau got to witness firsthand the role that certain religious beliefs played in keeping people poor. He had concluded that his own Christian faith was grounded in the belief that God can help people to change not just their lives but their circumstances as well. This, he discovered, was quite different to the predominant religious beliefs of those regions of the world where they believed that people's station in life was predetermined and unalterably fixed. He had also seen how even the godless worldviews of such countries as North Korea resulted in starkly different economic outcomes compared with their largely Christian neighbours to their south.



David Bussau came to see firsthand the difference between the worldviews of various religions (including atheistic North Korea). **What do you think the relationship between a society's religious views and its treatment of the poor is?**

*A foundational test for the truth of a worldview evaluates its coherence of logical consistency. Truth will always be wholly consistent within itself, displaying internal logical harmony. The coherence test stresses the crucial unity and relatedness of all truth. Therefore any logical inconsistency in the basic elements of a worldview is a mark of essential error.*

KENNETH SAMPLES

A World of Difference, p33.

189. Dr. Andrew Corbett

26 June 2023 at 5:15:30 pm  
John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

190. Dr. Andrew Corbett

22 July 2023 at 7:39:05 pm  
Christ clearly did not respect every religious view of these Jewish religious leaders.

191. Dr. Andrew Corbett

22 July 2023 at 7:51:34 pm  
Acts 2:5 ¶ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

192. Dr. Andrew Corbett

22 July 2023 at 7:58:50 pm  
Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

193. Dr. Andrew Corbett

22 July 2023 at 8:03:34 pm  
Acts 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand

194. Dr. Andrew Corbett

22 July 2023 at 8:05:40 pm  
The fact that Peter called all of these very religiously devout people to repent and to be baptized "in Jesus' Name" - who were then baptised following their repentance (despite already being quite religious, shows us that Peter did not think that Jesus merely wanted people to be religious!

195. Dr. Andrew Corbett

22 July 2023 at 8:18:28 pm  
Acts 4:1 ¶ And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, Acts 4:2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. Acts 4:3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. Acts 4:4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. Acts 4:5 ¶ On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, Acts 4:6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were

FACT OR FICTION

Section 3: Jesus Christ Was a Unique Religious Leader. Fact or fiction?

From the Bible

- 189 The Jewish opponents who disputed with Jesus were very religious and zealous. Based on John 8:44 what was level of respect that Jesus showed for their religious convictions?  
190
- 191 Note the description of those gathered in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost Acts 2:5. When the Apostle Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost many of these very religious people accepted what he said. What did Peter tell them to do now (Acts 2:38)? Based on Acts 2:41 did Peter thought that Jesus had come simply to encourage people to accept a religion of their choice -  
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- 195 3. Read the account in Acts 4:1-14 where Peter and John appear before the Annas (the High Priest Emeritus) and Caiaphas (the son-in-law of Annas and the current High Priest). If Peter had thought that Jesus had come to simply encourage people to be religious, in what way then does Acts 4:12 show that this was not how Peter had understood Jesus?  
196
- 197 4. What religious options did the Apostle Paul say existed for someone wanting to choose a religion based on First Timothy 2:5?  
199

Additional References

Childers, Alisa. 2022. *Live Your Truth and Other Lies. Exposing popular deceptions that make us anxious, exhausted, and self-obsessed.* Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.  
Samples, Kenneth R. 2007. *A World of Difference. Putting Christian truth-claims to the worldview test.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

of the high-priestly family.  
Acts 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"  
Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,  
Acts 4:9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,  
Acts 4:10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.  
Acts 4:11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.  
Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."  
Acts 4:13 ¶ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.  
Acts 4:14 But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing

**196. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

22 July 2023 at 8:28:26 pm  
Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

**197. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

22 July 2023 at 8:28:41 pm  
Peter had every opportunity to the Jewish leaders that their religion (Judaism) and the disciples' religion (Christianity) were equally true and acceptable to God - but he didn't - in fact, he said that there was salvation in "no other name" than Jesus Christ.

**198. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

22 July 2023 at 8:33:37 pm  
1Tim. 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

**199. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

22 July 2023 at 8:33:54 pm  
Faith Jesus (Christianity) is the only 'religious' option available to someone who want to be