

Week One **Q** The Quest

THE QUEST

*A quest is a search for something of great value, an adventure in pursuit of a treasure.

*A quest is a longing that God has placed in our hearts, Ecclesiastes 3:11

***WHAT YOU BELIEVE AFFECTS THE CHOICES YOU MAKE. THE CHOICES YOU MAKE DETERMINE THE PATH YOU TAKE.**

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)
(11) He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

CHANGING WORLD

*We are living in a world and a time in history that is being impacted by dramatic change. Almost everything we have accepted in the past as 'normal' is now shifting beneath our feet.

***Technology**—10% of the world is on Facebook. Technology doesn't just give us information and connect us, it is a powerful tool that can be harnessed to bring about momentous and meaningful change. No longer do we need to wait for answers to your questions. But there is the danger as well, how do you know you're getting the truth? And can you trust the people you are connecting with?

***Economy**—In 2008 a financial tsunami hit the global markets and in a matter of months, trillions of dollars of stock market and real estate value were lost. Many people started to question the American dream and the promise of upward financial mobility. Forced us to rethink out priorities. It has forced us to put money in its proper perspective.

***Morality**—From the sexual revolution to the sexual freedom display in movies and TV it is simply displaying what is going on in our culture. In the last 50 years there has been a sharp decline in traditional marriage and a rise of new family forms. In 1960 66% of all 20-somethings were married, today just 25%. Less than 50% of all co-habitation couples are married.

***Spirituality**—a new kind of Spirituality – called Moralistic Therapeutic Deism:

- A God exists who created and orders the world and watches over human life on earth
- God wants people to be good, nice and fair to each other
- The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself
- God does not want to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to solve a problem.
- Good people go to heaven when they die.

"There is a God who is and the god we want, and they are not the same." Patrick Morley

WHAT KIND OF GOD ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

- Are you on a noble search for the god you want, who will make you feel good, not ask too much of you, be there when you need him, but otherwise will leave you alone?
- Are you searching for a God who is almighty, all-knowing, all-loving, all holy – the God who made you, knows you intimately, wants to have a dynamic daily relationship with you, and who won't leave you where you are but who wants to transform you into someone who reflects His love and mercy in the world?

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

WHAT WILL KEEP YOU FROM YOUR GOD QUEST?

*Some think religious questions are entirely matters of 'faith' understood as blindly believing something without evidence. There is evidence and there is things that must be accepted on faith.

*Some think that truth cannot be known. Which is funny in itself because they are actually claiming to know something about truth. How could someone KNOW that they can't KNOW truth?

*All of us are very busy. We make time for what is important and the Questions about God are too important not to entertain

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

WHAT YOU NEED ON YOUR QUEST

***An Open Mind.** The best tool you have to separate truth from error is your mind, which is capable of:

- Understanding God will – Ephesians 5:17
- Loving God – Mark 12:30
- Praising God – 1 Corinthians 14:15
- Being Renewed – Romans 12:2

***Having a Sincere Heart.** The heart is viewed as the human control center for emotions and deep desires. Your strongest and deepest desires come from your heart. Proverbs 4:23

***A Willing Soul.** The soul is eternal, the real you. It can be lost in a spiritual sense. Jesus talked about forfeiting the eternal soul in exchange for what this world has to offer. Matthew 16:26.

NOTES: