

2024-03-22 Setting the outline for the Church Without Walls...

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Hi everyone, welcome to Church Without Walls. My name's Graeme Hood. If you're watching me speak at the moment, you've either logged on to our website, churchwithoutwalls. com. au, or you've actually logged on through one of the social media platforms. Either way, we're grateful to see you. Church Without Walls is a simple, step by step guide to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

I know we need simple because when I 53 years of atheism, I realized that my journey had to start at a basic simple premise. And although I heard a lot of people talking about scripture in ways that made me feel inadequate, I felt like I didn't know enough, that I wasn't good enough, I felt like that my past was too dark for me to even approach Jesus Christ, let alone have a relationship with him.

It soon became apparent when I understood the life of Jesus, that someone I'd never met had died on the cross 2,000 years ago. So, a filthy sinner like me could have another chance. And when I realized that, I was, I was taken. I was smitten. The journey that we're about to embark on is one that we'll do together.

I've been in my faith now for about 17 or 18 years. And my plan is to go back to the beginning with you. Because I know a lot of you who are watching this with me right now are feeling the same way I did when I started. It can be a harrowing journey to go from a life in the world to a life in Christ.

We know that we're in a battle between good and evil. That's been made very clear in the last four years. There's no doubt about that. We have lost faith and trust in all the institutions we used to hold dear, from governments through to corporate religions and corporate charities, banking systems, corporations.

Health, education, you name it, nobody knows who to trust anymore. And in this world of growing internet activity, who do we trust? The Bible talks about there'll be an explosion of knowledge and then the end will come. I've heard a lot of people talk about the knowledge that we have at the moment in glowing terms and also in scary terms.

Because let's face it, unless we have basic understandings, all the knowledge in the world is of no use to fools. So I want to start this journey with you as we come to know the character of God, the how you see him, the recipe for being a good person, to live into the image of God in which we're all created, to understand his basic laws and premises, and to move forward together, one on one, guided by the Holy Spirit, who will take us where we need to go as we study the Word of God and live through experiences of other people through testimony, talks of the miracles that they've seen since they started this journey.

I could write several books on the miracles that have happened in my life since I accepted Jesus. Where non denominational will be presenting programs each week. Every Saturday there'll be a new program appear on the social media platforms and the website. Those programs will consist of roughly an hour where we discuss aspects of the Bible.

We may talk about a certain piece of scripture. Or a certain issue in life, whether it be, uh, faith, whether it be forgiveness, whether it be grieving, whether it be finding peace in the simple things. All these things we'll talk about. But we'll go on this journey together. Once we start, we'll be introducing a whole bunch of people to you who, who will be giving their testimony about the glories and the, the joys and, and, uh, sometimes the sorrowful things that have happened to them in their journey to Christ.

But they'll be uplifting and they will guide you to a better place. As we go forward, you'll start to build a confidence in the Word of God. You'll start to feel good about standing in the light, having realized that this is a battle between good and evil. You'll start to rejoice in making the right choice and you'll be able to go into a

conversation with anybody about faith and perhaps even enter a church that's just down the street from you and participate without worrying that you're going to say or do the wrong things.

I know that when I came into my faith, I felt like a front row forward in a ballet school. And I want to help you go through that process. I want to help to give you confidence in your newfound relationship with Jesus Christ on a step by step, day by day basis. We'll also be introducing you to a form of healing that we've seen work in hundreds of cases amongst people who've attended the Recovery Road program.

We'll be taking lessons out of Recovery Road, a Christ centered 12 step recovery program developed by Michelle and I some 18 years ago. So we'll be introducing ways of healing to overcome anxiety, depression, or any hurt habit or hang up that you have, along with some good basic understandings of what the scriptures are talking about and what Jesus really wants from us.

I think we're at the beginning of an exciting journey. So I want to thank you for coming along. I want to thank you for participating. I encourage you to take advantage of all the things that we're offering you and bear with us as we build the content of our website up week by week. We hope to build an extensive library of video and audio material and some written daily devotionals as well, which we know will enhance your journey and build your confidence in your steps to Christ.

So with that said, I want to thank you all for watching. God bless you. I look forward to meeting some of you. Some of you will have been baptized by me already. And the last 18 months, Michelle and I baptized several hundred people, or I baptized several hundred people. And you know that we were planning to do this and you've come along to start your journey.

I encourage you to form little communities of faith, maybe in your street, in your town, who knows, maybe in the workplace, if not, you may want to go and visit a local community church. Do whatever you want to do, however you're led by the Holy Spirit. Don't get bogged down in the minutiae. We'll go through this together and the Holy Spirit will guide you where you need to go.

The things you've done in the past are irrelevant at this time. There is no judgment beyond this point. Now is the time to put all that behind us. Repent of our sins. and get to know what Christ is really like in the most loving and beautiful way. God bless you all. Thanks for joining us at Church Without Walls and we look forward to seeing you every week.

Bye for now.