

Program No: 09:28
For Broadcast: 12th July 2009

TASTE AND SEE

Pastor Richard Mau

A teacher can prove that $2 + 2 = 4$ by producing two biros and adding two more and then counting them. A scientist can demonstrate that two parts of hydrogen combined with one part of oxygen will always produce water.

But where is the formula that proves to the weeping child that their mother loves them? Where is the equation that can remove the doubts of a disillusioned wife and convince her that her husband still loves her when she knows he has been unfaithful? Who can prove mathematically or through some experiment that there is love in the heart of a mother, beauty in a summer sky, or inspiration in a song? Some things can't be proven in classrooms or laboratories. They can only be experienced in the language of the heart.

It's very much the same with the Christian religion. If you're looking for a mathematical formula to prove the claims of the Christian faith, you're doomed to bitter disappointment. It lies in the very nature of the Christian message that the only way to prove it is to try it. A man trapped on the fifth story of a burning building who's been told to leap into the outstretched net below, can do one of two things. He can jump or stand there and ask questions. Is the net strong enough? Is the grip of the fire-fighters firm and strong? If he is to be saved, he will eventually have to leap. And even if every question is answered satisfactorily his leap will still be an act of faith, for he will never know for sure that the net is strong enough until he has tried it.

In a sense the Christian faith is a leap – not a leap into the dark, but a leap into the promises of God.

Jesus says, "Anyone who chooses to do God's will can test this teaching and know whether it's from God or whether I'm making it up." Not through an argument or a debate but a humble doing of God's will is the way to arrive at spiritual certainty.

Jesus left no doubt as to what was included in God's will. We read in the Bible that Jesus went into Galilee to preach the Good News from God. "Time's up", he said. "The kingdom of God is here. Change your life and believe the Good News."

Change your life. That is, acknowledge, be sorry for all you've done wrong in God's sight. And believe the Good News that God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son so that whoever believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.

There's a saying that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." In other words you only find out how good the food is when you have tasted it. The Bible also says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed are those who take refuge in him."

The truth is that millions have tasted and found that the Good News of Jesus Christ is the power of God. Through his death and resurrection they have found pardon for their sins, peace for their conscience, and the power to lead God pleasing lives. Every day we hear of testimonials to the power of Jesus in people's lives- not just a thousand years or a thousand miles away but right here and now, perhaps in our own families, neighbourhoods, or workplaces. They testify to the power of God and share what they have seen and heard, what they have tasted, tested and trusted.

A salesman says, "I firmly believe what the Bible teaches, that Jesus is the only saviour of humankind." We are only on this earth for one reason and that is to worship and glorify God

the Father Son and Holy Spirit. Well that has been my aim even though I must admit that I have achieved it only in a small way. At no time do I worry about anything, because I know that Jesus, my Saviour is always near. One little prayer to him can bring a host of angels to my side."

A surgeon writes, "Peace of mind can never be found in our accumulation of stocks and bonds and insurance policies. Neither can enduring peace be found in the psychiatrist's office. It can only be found in Jesus Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world, who gave his life that we might live. God knows that I have sinned, and I know it too. But in his mercy he has led me to the cross of Good Friday and to the empty tomb of Easter. There I have been assured of my forgiveness. With my hand in his I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

A teacher confesses, "The Christian life is not always easy. Nor have I always borne my crosses patiently. But this I know: with the blow comes God's strength to bear it; I am distressed but not despairing. Our risen Lord who himself was terribly alone in Gethsemane on the cross and in the tomb will never desert me. I do not always understand his ways. Thank God I'm not required to! I only need to believe!"

A retired army officer relates,
"Have you ever spent an eternity in the few moments that it takes for a careering car to stop following a head-on collision? I have. Or have you ever received the fateful notice that regrets to inform you of the death of your son? I have. Or have you ever stood speechless beside the bed of a loved one, when the doctor said, "There is no hope?" I have. I have experienced personally or I have witnessed at close range some of the most piercing pains of life. And I should like to take this opportunity to assure everyone within range of my voice that there is a power capable of overcoming even the severest blows of misfortune. We can access this power through a trusting faith in Jesus Christ.

Beneath the joy, peace and inner satisfaction that these people have experienced in spite of heartache and tragedy there lies a common thread. It is *faith in Jesus*. Each one has tasted and found that the Lord is good!

Indeed everyone, who in this life and the next puts their hope on the immovable assurance of peace in Jesus Christ, can experience God's rich blessings every day.