

CHANGING LANES

THE MEANING TO LIFE

**AND THE TRUTH
ABOUT GOD**

Changing Lanes: The meaning to life and the truth about God

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BEFORE YOU START

If you've ever asked the big questions about life and God, then prepare yourself for some great answers. If you've ever thought that Christianity was just another dull religion, then you are about to be surprised. If you're looking for a new start and a different direction, then there's some good news coming your way. We're going to set out on a journey of discovery in search of the meaning to life and the truth about God. This journey could change your life forever.

Before you go any further, though, there are a few things you might find helpful.

- Think of each chapter like a jigsaw piece; the nearer you get to the end of the book, the clearer the picture should be.
- Don't worry if you haven't got a Bible; you don't *need* one to read this book. Each chapter does, however, contain some quotes from the Bible. After some of those quotes you'll notice a reference, e.g. John 14:6. The Bible is a big book, so to help us find our way around, it has been divided into separate books, chapters and verses. So for the example above the book is John, the chapter is 14 and the verse is 6. You'll get used to it.

You'll also find in each of the chapters some other small numbers; they look like this – ². Just ignore them, unless they really interest you. If you want to follow up any of these references, then turn to the back of the book to find out more.

If you could imagine two roads, one wide and one narrow, both going in different directions, that would be helpful. Life according to Jesus is very simple; there are just two roads in life, and two destinations after death. The first road is wide, like a motorway; there are loads of people on it but its destination is destruction. The second road is more like a narrow path; only a few people find this road but it's the only road that leads to God and eternal life. As you read each chapter, keep asking yourself the question, 'Which of the two roads am I on?'

Finally, if you are reading this as part of The Changing Lanes Course you can find more information and help on the website: www.changinglanes.org.uk

Have a great journey!

CHAPTER 1

TAKEN FOR A RIDE

WHERE BEST TO START OUR SEARCH?

If you were to set off in search of the meaning to life and the truth about God, where would you begin? If you're thinking, 'I'd start with religion', you wouldn't be the first; millions of people all over the world and all through time have headed down that same road.

It seems obvious, doesn't it? If you want to get into God then you have to get into religion. Where else would you start? Personally, I couldn't think of a worse place! Religion's so incredibly boring, it's completely confusing and way too much effort. There has to be a better way and a more exciting place to begin.

Maybe I should come clean and start by telling you what I mean by 'religion'. I mean people trying really hard to get into God's good books: obeying rules, following long lists of 'dos and don'ts' and trying to get God on their side. I'm talking about people putting in serious amounts of effort in

an attempt to win God's approval. Sounds familiar? It's a bit like when you tidy your room or empty the dishwasher just before you ask your mum or dad if you can go out with your mates or invite a friend round for a sleepover. You know what I'm talking about!

WHY CAN'T WE STOP WORSHIPPING?

I've no idea why you've started to read this book or what you believe, but even if you are someone who denies the existence of God, one thing you can't deny is the existence of religion. It's a fact that wherever you go in the world, you'll always find people who worship someone or something. That's true if you climb a mountain in the Himalayas or cut your way through the deepest rainforest. Even in Britain

**DID YOU KNOW
THAT EVEN SOME
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ABOUT WHAT THEY
BELIEVE?**

there are people who wouldn't call themselves religious, but show all the signs that they worship the celebrities and football teams they fanatically follow. Did you know that even some atheists ('people who believe there is no god) can get religious about what they believe? Why would that be so? It's as if human beings can't help it; like it's part of who we are, of what makes us human. It seems to me that it's not a question of *if* we worship, but *what* we worship.

Maybe the existence of religion is a clue or a signpost that points towards the existence of a greater being we call God. Maybe the reason we can't stop worshipping is that there is a

God who is worthy of our praise; maybe worship is something we were created to do. Surely it's a possibility worth thinking about?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH RELIGION?

If we *were* created to worship, then why isn't religion the best place for us to start our search for the meaning to life and the truth about God?

Imagine you are lost – really lost. In order for you to get back home, there are three things you'll need to know: a) where you are, b) where you are going, and c) how to get there. The big problem you'll find with so many religions is that they can't agree on a), b) or c)! They do have some things in common, but it's their differences which make religion so confusing for someone who is lost. 'God's this way,' says one religion. 'No, he's this way,' says another. Confusion can't be a great place to start.

Have you ever thought about this before: It's possible for them all to be wrong, but it's impossible for them all to be right? It's not possible for all roads to lead to God, since they are going in different directions and heading towards different destinations. Imagine if you started your big search by choosing a religion and then devoted your whole life to the wrong one. Everything you believed to be right would turn out to be wrong. Every step you took would be a step in the wrong direction. Nobody wants to be misled, so surely there's a better way and a better place to begin our search than with religion.