



Religion today: tradition, modernity and change

Testimony to God

(Congregation sing 'To God be the glory' + musical accompaniment)

Speaker

Ok, it's time for the children to go out to their special time and what I'd like you to do is I would like you to just lay hands on the children that are near to you. Parents if you got children near lay your hands on them, and if you've got a child near you then lay your hands on them, and if there's ten people with their hands on one child Amen, ten times the blessing. We are looking for God's power this morning and in faith we are asking God to send his Holy Spirit on these young people this morning. The extended arm of faith that touches, the power of God this morning, and that's what we're about. Children God Bless you. Time for you to go out. It's your special time.

Hymn: *Shout to the Lord*

Daniel Crock

We're very excited about worship because it's something that wells up with you. It's a desire to speak out to God, exactly what's on your heart. It's like the love of Jesus that's in you. And I get very emotional about some of the things we sing because we can sing hymns and whatever but some of the lyrics like when the music fades or some of the stuff we've been doing today where it talks about what Jesus has done for us. And when you start to worship Jesus. When you start to lift your voice and to sing. If God's given you a gift to do it, do it. And I just can't help being welled up inside. There's something that says I just want to express my adoration for Him because He loves me. He died for me. He cares for me. He is my provision and this is the way I express it, in.. and I can't be like that. I have to express myself. I'm very expressive.

Song: *I Sing My Praises to Him*

Pastor Andy Forbes

God has two sides to his character. He is a Holy God, totally Holy. He cannot abide sin. He cannot look on sin. He cannot tolerate sin. But the other side of God is that he is incredibly loving. He knew he had a problem once man had begun to sin because he loved mankind. He loved everybody. Listen, just out of interest, how many people here this morning don't believe they came from a monkey, don't believe that. Okay, the majority. So this normal bunch of people actually go against the flow and the reason is because we think we were created. How can I believe I came from a monkey, because I don't, I really don't. If you did, Amen, but I don't believe it. I believe I'm made in the image of God. Right in the very beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He made them and he made them in his own image. When I went to India many beggars were coming to you and one of them had no legs and he was on a skateboard and it broke my heart and I thought this guy was made in the image of God and I didn't know what to do. I was young. I just did not know what to do. I thought God I am missing something. There's something I'm missing, but right at the beginning we were made in his image. Here's the problem, Adam sinned. Quick question, you can come into my library. There's five thousand books there. There isn't really and I don't have a library, but let's pretend there is. You can read any book you like except the one with the black spot on. I leave you there for half an hour. Which book do you want to read? The one with the black spot. Why? Because sin is in you. It's in there at birth and you want to do wrong. The good news of the gospel is that Christ, for God so loved the world he gave his one and only son that whosoever, whosoever, The child-abuser, yes; the homosexual, yes

the homosexual; the adulterer, yes the adulterer; the murderer, yes the murderer; the solicitor, yes the solicitor. Does he love trendy pop people like Charlene? Yes, he does doesn't he? Does he love guys that have got an earring in their eye? Yes, he does. He loves guys who have got an earring in their eye. Does he love Irish people? Does he Steve? He does. We're going to have some testimonies now because I want to put some life to this. I don't know who is going to go first here. Happily married couple. Very normal couple.

Patrick Moorhouse

Very normal. Basically when I was about ten years old, I think about that age, I read the Hobbit and I really wanted to explore and because I wanted to explore that I wanted to explore other things as well and this whole realm of fancy became a marvellous place for me; a reality, so I started to look at things like Buddhism. I started to look at spiritualism and really you can use these things to influence your life. If you get a book on spiritualism with all these wonderful white witches will say 'this is okay because it's all peace and love man, yeah, but there will be a little section in there 'but you can do all this stuff about putting curses, but we don't do that because we're white witches and we're very, very nice. I'll bet you nine out of ten they've actually done that. I did it. I was one of those wonderful white witch people and I put curses on people very actively, and so really from that I got my rewards. I'd wanted money for myself. That was what I really wanted. I wanted power for myself. I wanted power over other people as well and I wanted to really destroy my enemies. I wanted them to really pay for it. If somebody crossed me then bumpf, and down. Yeah, so I got all the cursing stuff and what did I get as a result of this? Well, I was bankrupt; my health wasn't great to be quite honest, and at the same time as being declared bankrupt my wife was going through a miscarriage, so it was absolutely dreadful. My job was teetering on the line. I'm a psychiatric nurse and I was really beginning to question whether I could care for people. Then I met a very, very normal quite run-of-the-mill type of person, Andy, I'm sure you can recognise him from that description, and we would go for walks together. We would do what we call river walking. This would entail walking in a river up to our necks in water, having chats about philosophy, life, the universe and everything. We used to get some strange looks. I don't know why! One day whilst we were walking I was asking another question. It want something like 'Andy..... And he said Patrick, you're always asking me these questions. Why don't you go somewhere where you're supposed, you can ask these questions until you're blue in the face'. I said 'What's that Andy? He said, 'Go on an alpha course', which I did. And I asked every single question, based from the point of view that I know everything. I've been through all this spiritual stuff. I've researched it all and I know everything there is to know. The only thing I didn't know, I found out whilst I was on the alpha course, was the truth, and that is that Jesus Christ did die on the cross for my sins, not, not for the sake of it. He did die for my sins. He died so that I may go to heaven. It's not something that Jesus did just for the sake of it. It's reality and it hit me full in the face. This is reality. Jesus Christ is and always will be the son of God and he died on the cross for me, to save my soul, so it wasn't very difficult to decide what to do then. The truth of the matter is I did become a Christian, not because it's the right thing to do: not because it's a good thing to do. Not because of any of those reasons; not because I get something out of it, but because it's the truth; the plain simple truth

Pastor Andy Forbes

Amen. Isn't God good. There is one answer to mankind and his name is Jesus Christ, the son of the most high God. And God does miracles and this morning we would like to pray for you. You don't need a world of knowledge. If you're ill we'll pray for you. Right if you don't know Jesus this morning and you'd like to, the good news is this Romans 3.23 All have sinned. The wages for that sin. The wage is what you get for what you do, is death ultimately, but the good news if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is God - 1 John verse 9 – if we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us them. Isn't it about time you got rid of some sin? Most of you may have done that this morning, but if you need to confess you can come and get prayed for this morning as well.

Congregation sing: Jesus, Lover of my Soul

Male

Worshipping God to me is just giving Him everything that's inside of me. He's done so much for me. So it's just kind of giving something back to Him. I just.. well I personally love worshipping God. It's just somewhere where you can do it on your knees in prayer. But also just actually to be able to sing your worship to God and tell Him exactly how you feel, from the depths of your heart. Is just exactly why I am a Christian. What it's all about for me.

Female

Well, the way it's done here, it's totally different here. I think it's fantastic. It's just amazing to be able to come to a place where you can just sing and praise God in such an open way. And just express how you feel, however that is. It's doesn't matter how that here. It's just completely open. There is no prejudice against anyway. You can sit quietly. You can join quiet hymns or you can jump up and down and have a great time. And it's just a fantastic relief to be able to come and praise God in this way.