

Introduction

Our recorded history stretches back over thousands of years and there is much knowledge and wisdom that we can learn and understand. So what should we learn? What can lead us to a better understanding of life? Why should we be concerned with seeking answers for these questions?

Modern 21st century living in the western world can be an incredibly simple existence, despite the complexity of our society. If we were to analyze our lives we would see that on a personal level our activities are quite simple. We are born, educated, find our place in society, and fulfill our function. We work, raise children, who in turn repeat the same cycle and then we die. Some of us never question our existence or even ask 'what is the meaning of life?' or 'what is my purpose in life?' It seems that in the 21st century not many people particularly care. No one seems to ask the 'big questions' anymore. Some of the greatest philosophical minds in human history who have posed some of the most thought provoking questions of all time and ancient texts and knowledge, history and faith have been replaced by Television and a pleasure seeking lifestyle. Is this a personal choice of the individual? An indication of the state of society? Is it possible that our roles in society impact our ability to think and question our lives?

We are born into a world of systems, controls, and regulations. These have been designed over many years to allow society to function. As a result of this, society itself has a very large influence on our thoughts and behavioral patterns from a very early age. Questions that have driven some of the greatest minds in our history have been pushed aside for our pursuit of happiness, prosperity, material satisfaction and entertainment. Who has time to consider life's great questions when all we can think about is getting up for work the next day, or what examinations we must pass to be able to obtain the qualifications which are needed for us to progress our careers?

Has our society come to a stage in its development where we as people are more concerned with our own prosperity and development than anything else? If so then what is the consequence of this? After many years of education and work, when we have retired, where does this leave us? Can we, as people be content with simply living our lives according to a script written by society? Or do we need to discover some meaning or purpose, something less tangible than the goods which we own or the job roles which we fulfill each day? These are not easy questions to answer. People in general either wish to seek a deeper meaning to life or they are quite content just to live it. However it is the ability and desire to question that separate those who will find the truth from those who will never seek it.

One day I began to question. I looked past all the opinions and teachings I had simply absorbed, and began to search for the truth. I started to learn instead of just accepting what I was told and I discovered that underneath all we see and have experienced is a mystery to be understood, and a message so important and powerful it defines our very existence and future. In this book you will learn what I have discovered and you will understand the mystery of the faith.