

Have you run aground Like the Pasha Bulka?



The Pasha Bulka showed the world Newcastle. It is a very special place with a great coastline and beaches to relax and enjoy a swim with family or friends. The countryside is never far away and we can recharge our batteries with its natural beauty. We really do live in God's own country.

Then there's our lifestyle, which is the envy of the rest of the world. We love going for coffee and eating out, enjoying a cold beer or a glass of one of the Hunter's famous wines. At night we often like to cuddle up at home with a new release video. Sport too plays an important part of our great lifestyle; we give God like worship to our favourite team and sporting heroes like Andrew Johns.

Acquiring possessions helps make life feel easier, we call it "retail therapy." We strive to keep up with the Joneses and dream of building our castle or owning that luxury car we've been promising ourselves. But the cold reality is; life is made up not just of highs but also lows.

We still have to drag ourselves out of bed every morning to face the daily grind of work, and battle the traffic to help pay for this way of life. Or some of us wish we had work to go to.

On the way we hear a news report of some young life cut short in a horrific accident. Home after a hard day at work, the phone rings and a close friend or relative is sobbing because they've been diagnosed with inoperable cancer.

Our marriage collapses and ends in a painful divorce with distraught children and financial hardship. We become unemployed or lose a long awaited and much loved baby to SIDS. Our great city is rated the most unsafe place to be after dark of any Australian city. Since 9/11 and the Bali bombing we have real concerns for our safety and that of our family.

These things can take the wind out of our sails. We come to a dead stop and begin to reflect on our life. If we are honest in our quieter moments we all ask the big questions of life.

Why am I so unhappy with my life when I've filled it with things and a great career? How can I find real peace and forgiveness? Does God really exist? If He does, why does He allow so much suffering and evil in the world? What is He really like? Can I know this God? Does He send people to heaven or hell when they die?

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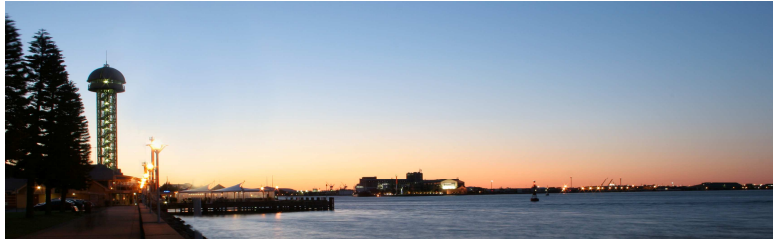
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Now we can't prove God exists, but the evidence is overwhelming. The awesome beauty and complexity of the world and nature points to a powerful creator. Then there's the evidence inside us. We can feel guilty when we lie or steal or have sex outside of marriage.

The problem is we are a nation of gamblers. Our apathy and arrogance towards this creator God causes us to gamble on the fact that He doesn't exist. But

deep down we know He does and we have lost the greatest gamble of all, by ignoring Him and living life with no reference to God or his Son Jesus.

When we live as if God doesn't exist we make the rules for our life, and sometimes we suffer the consequences of living this way. The main consequence is a broken relationship with God. Instead of being our loving father He seems far away from us.



Also instead of having loving relationships with others as we should so often we feel alone and empty. Then we get angry with God for being such an ogre when things go wrong in our lives or the world.

The reality is our life has run aground like the Pasha Bulka did. We can't rescue ourselves, but there is hope and it is f the message of the Bible. Simply; God made this world and us to worship Him, but instead we worship things or people. God calls this idolatry & it offends him so much He has made a way back to Himself and to worship Him. He did this by sending His son Jesus as the God man to bring us back to Himself and to pay for the consequences of living lives that ignore Him. When really what we deserve is for Him to ignore us back. His life and death satisfy God's anger. He promises to make us His children and make us new from the inside out. There is forgiveness and peace in knowing God through Jesus. Now that is a real life change.

"But it was our sins that did that to him,[Jesus] that ripped and tore and crushed him--our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed."

Prophet Isaiah predicting Jesus death...



Want to know more: Why not attend a "CHRISTINITY EXPORED" seminar? Over a number of weeks enjoy a meal and view the Video Series "Christianity Explored" in a relaxed non threatening home setting with others.

For more information speak to David on 9550051

Email: david.calderwood@gecn.org An Activity of Grace Evangelical Church, Newcastle - www.gecn.org