

The Meaning of Life!

Intro Song: "Rise Up" by Chris Padgett

Intro Prayer:

For conversion of sinners

For unity of faithful

For seeking the lost

For repentance of sin

For a conversion of my selfish heart!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

- **Speaking Schedule:**

- JPFI Film Festival - Miami FL. - Feb. 18th
- Feast of St. Joseph - Phoenix, AZ - "Blood Money"
- Shalom Men's Retreat - Casper, WY - September

- **Have you seen:** The Genius Club

- "Seven geniuses, with IQs over 200, are plucked from their lives on Christmas Eve to try to solve the world's problems in one night."
- 2006 movie directed by Timothy Chey

- Staring:
 - [Tom Sizemore](#), [Stephen Baldwin](#) and [Carol Abney](#)
 - "A lunatic madman has placed a nuclear bomb 10 blocks from the White House. He enlists the President of the United States and a group of geniuses to try to solve the world's problems in one night. If they fail, the world will come to an end. The group attempt to solve world hunger, war, cancer, terrorism, rush hour traffic, jerks, and finally the meaning of life. By morning, the group finds redemption in themselves and quite possibly in the world... *Written by [Edward Bijan](#) "*

- **It's a set up!**

- It brings up MOST , not all, the evils of Man and asks the question... what can we do to fix the problems?
 - Capitalism seems to be evil and taking advantage of the worlds people and resources
 - Oil companies & media companies running wild!
 - Govt.'s avoiding real help due to the pursuit of \$
 - World hunger the cause of over population!
 - THERE IS NO GOD!
 - How can GOD allow bad things to happen to GOOD people?
 - War, disease, disasters, famine... where is

God?

- The defense of God - from one Seminarian
 - Personal relationship
 - awareness of personal sin
 - intelligent design & science!
 - Your suffering can lead you closer to God.... but how?
 - What is the meaning of life? LOVE... yes but how/why?
 - There is NO meaning outside of God! True but how/why?
- The movie is like a soft ball pitch but, it seems they failed to knock it out of the park!
 - Lacking real understanding on suffering!
 - If I could have made this movie.... what would I have done differently?
 - I would have dived deeper on Love & Suffering!
- **My daughters Appendix**
 - Back in December Mary Elizabeth, 5 yro, was sick and needed to have her appendix removed
 - She over heard the DR saying that if there was NO pain... she could leave...
 - She BEGGED us to take her home and NOT send her in there.
 - We held her down as she screamed and begged us to let her go... they sedated her and removed her appendix.
 - What kind of a Father will send their beloved child to be held, strapped down, and forced to endure so much pain, and anguish?
 - A heavenly Father!

- What kind of child would willingly undergo so much torment?
 - A heavenly Son!
- **We lack understanding of the power of suffering:**
 - We look at everything from a purely human perspective and fail to see the redemptive, remedial, power of suffering & penance!
 - What was Adam expected to do in Gen. 3 when Satan intruded?
 - Stand in the Gap... to lay down his life! To suffer for his bride & to remain in the Grace in which he was created!
 - What Adam failed to do... Isaac was ready to do... offer up HIS life in obedience to the Father, through Abraham!
 - But an Angel would stay his hand & God would provide HIMSELF a lamb for the sacrifice!
 - Why did God lead His first born son, Israel, out of the slavery of Egypt into the wilderness?
 - To suffer? To Die? To starve to death?
 - NO! But, the people "grumbled" and complained constantly thinking JUST that!
 - To PURGE them, to purify THEM ... to prepare them to cross through the waters and enter into the promised land... the KINGDOM which they were promised!
 - Why did God send Jonah to call the Assyrians to conversion?
 - Because he would need them to bring penance upon His first born son... Israel!
 - IF they would NOT go out and bring in all

others sons back to God...

- He would send them out through exile, through a conquering and subjection of a foreign invader!
- Why did he send his son Judah into exile & destroy the House of God,,, the dwelling place of the Name of God?
 - Because He desired to convert their hearts once more by sending them into the wilderness!
 - Through the remnant would come the Messiah who will bring about a NEW Exodus!
- Why did God send His only begotten to suffer, die, and be barred among thieves, and sinners?
 - Because he is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!
 - What Adam failed to do, and Isaac was willing to do, Jesus brings to perfection!
 - Standing in the Gap...
 - facing the Ancient Serpent
 - taking on the sins of all
 - allowing himself to become the perfect sacrifice as Priest & victim
 - being lifted up between heaven & earth so that all those who look upon him will find the TRUE remedy to the snake bite in the wilderness... the TRUE bread come down from heaven... the FLESH for the life of the world through the prophet even Moses said would come... one from among the people who would be greater than HE!
- Through Jesus' suffering we can find the answer to

the question...

- What is the meaning to life?
 - LOVE
 - God is Love! - **1 John 4:8**
 - Jesus said **John 14: [15]** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
 - **John 13: [34]** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **[35]** By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
 - **John 15: [12]** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **[13]** Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **[14]** You are my friends if you do what I command you.
- Love requires you to sacrifice!
 - **Colossians 1:[24]** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, **[25]** of which I became a minister according to the divine office which was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,
 - Christ, the NEW Joshua, prepares us to cross from the wilderness, through the waters of Baptism, into the promised land... the Kingdom of God, which is Heaven & the beatific vision!
 - But...
 - Nothing unclean will enter it! Revelation 21!
 - So...

- We must be purified through fire! 1 Cor. 3
 - Like our Lord who willingly chose to be obedient to His Father... and drink the 4th cup! So must we be willing to accept the purifying desert of this life so we can look forward to an eternity in the next!
 - **John 18:[10]** Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. **[11]** Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?"
- - **St. Stephen** - **Acts 7: [54]** Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. **[55]** But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; **[56]** and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." **[57]** But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. **[58]** Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. **[59]** And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." **[60]** And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.
 - **St. Ignatius of Antioch:**
 - **Chapter 6. Ignatius is devoured by the beasts at Rome**
 - They pushed forth therefore from the place which is called Portus; and (the fame of all relating to the [holymartyr](#) being already spread abroad) we met the brethren full of [fear](#) and [joy](#); rejoicing indeed

because they were thought worthy to meet with [Theophorus](#), but struck with [fear](#) because so eminent a man was being led to death. Now he enjoined some to keep silence who, in their fervent [zeal](#), were saying that they would appease the people, so that they should not demand the destruction of this just one. He being immediately aware of this through the [Spirit](#), and having saluted them all, and begged of them to show a [true](#) affection towards him, and having dwelt [on this point] at greater length than in his Epistle, and having persuaded them not to [envy](#) him hastening to the Lord, he then, after he had, with all the brethren kneeling [beside him], entreated the [Son of God](#) in behalf of the [Churches](#), that a stop might be put to the [persecution](#), and that mutual [love](#) might continue among the brethren, was led with all haste into the amphitheatre. Then, being immediately thrown in, according to the command of Cæsar given some time ago, the public spectacles being just about to close (for it was then a solemn day, as they deemed it, being that which is called the thirteenth in the Roman tongue, on which the people were wont to assemble in more than ordinary numbers), he was thus cast to the wild beasts close beside the temple, that so by them the desire of the [holy martyr Ignatius](#) should be fulfilled, according to that which is written, "*The desire of the righteous is acceptable* [Proverbs 10:24](#) [to God]," to the effect that he might not be troublesome to any of the brethren by the gathering of his remains, even as he had in his Epistle expressed a wish beforehand that so his end

might be. For only the harder portions of his **holy** remains were left, which were conveyed to **Antioch** and wrapped in linen, as an inestimable treasure left to the **holy** Church by the **grace** which was in the **martyr**.

- **St. Polycarp :**

- CHAPTER XIV -- THE PRAYER OF POLYCARP.

- They did not nail him then, but simply bound him. And he, placing his hands behind him, and being bound like a distinguished ram [taken] out of a great flock for sacrifice, and prepared to be an acceptable burnt-offering unto God, looked up to heaven, and said, "O Lord God Almighty, the Father of thy beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the knowledge of Thee, the God of angels and powers, and of every creature, and of the whole race of the righteous who live before thee, I give Thee thanks that Thou hast counted me, worthy of this day and this hour, that I should have a part in the number of Thy martyrs, in the cup of thy Christ, to the resurrection of eternal life, both of soul and body, through the incorruption [imparted] by the Holy Ghost. Among whom may I be accepted this day before Thee as a fat and acceptable sacrifice, according as Thou, the ever-truthful God, hast fore-ordained, hast revealed beforehand to me, and now hast fulfilled. Wherefore also I praise Thee for all things, I bless Thee, I glorify Thee, along with the everlasting and heavenly Jesus Christ, Thy beloved Son, with whom, to Thee, and the Holy Ghost, be glory both now and to all coming ages. Amen."

- So... what is the meaning of life? to LOVE as God Loves...
 - which means you sacrifice...
 - you join your sufferings to Christ on the cross
 - You give ultimate meaning to your own suffering when you

see them in light of Calvary....

- Don't avoid pain, and discomfort... embrace it for it prepares you for heaven!