

Part 3, Paper 102, The Foundat...f Religious Faith, Melchizedek

📅 Thu, Oct 03, 2024 11:15AM 🕒 10:07

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

religious faith, materialistic worldview, humble act, perfection hunger, divine reality, scientific certainty, religious certainty, spirit program, true religion, grace, revelation, leap of faith, loving support, deeper understanding, faith journey

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

S Sarah 00:00

All right, jumping right in. We're doing a deep dive today on some pretty profound stuff, like, what makes religious faith tick. We've got excerpts you sent in from the Urantia Book. Paper, 102, specifically, and wow, it gets right to the big questions. Yeah, no

J John 00:15

kidding. This paper doesn't mess around. It puts a materialistic worldview right next to like, the perspective you get from religious faith, and the way it does it really paints a picture. Seriously,

S Sarah 00:24

you're telling me that part about the long and lonely night of eternal oblivion, that's some powerful imagery, right there. But then it shifts gears pretty quickly, doesn't? It doesn't stay in the gloom for

J John 00:34

long, that's right, yeah, it goes on to say that even a little like a humble act of faith that can be huge, like a way to break through all that darkness.

S Sarah 00:43

Okay, so let's dig into this whole faith thing, because let's be real. It gets a bad rap sometimes, right? Like this is just a blind belief. no questions asked. But this text. it seems to be saving

there's more to it than that. Oh,

J John 00:54

absolutely. It's not passive at all. This text presents faith as making a choice, you know, turning away from a limited view towards something way bigger,

S Sarah 01:04

like choosing to see everything in color instead of just like grayscale. It's a decision, right? You're committing to something exactly

J John 01:10

and where it comes from. This text calls it a perfection hunger, like humans are just wired to want more than just the material world, something beyond that. So

S Sarah 01:19

it's not about just saying you believe doctrines or whatever. It's like tapping into something deeper right within yourself, something that vibes with this whole idea of the Divine, of a divine reality.

J John 01:29

Exactly. Yeah, it's about getting yourself in line with this divine will. That's what the text calls it. And by doing that, you open up this different way of knowing things, a deeper understanding. And that's

S Sarah 01:43

interesting, because it's like it's saying understanding, in this sense, it's not just some brain puzzle to solve, right? It's bigger than just knowing a bunch of facts.

J John 01:50

You've got it. And here's where the text gets really interesting. It separates scientific certainty and religious certainty. It even says, and I'm paraphrasing a bit here, the more you get into science, the less sure you might become. But with religion, it's the opposite.

S Sarah 02:03

Whoa, hold on. That's quite the statement. How does the text? How does it square those two ideas? Because they seem like opposites. It's

J John 02:10

all about recognizing that science and religion, they're both important, but they're different paths. You know, they're for understanding different parts of reality, different ways of approaching how we know things different tools in

S Sarah 02:22

the toolbox. So it's not about saying one is right and the other is wrong, then not at all. They're

J John 02:25

not mutually exclusive. Those two, like the text, explains science. It needs your brain, right? Observation, analysis, you break things down to figure out how they work.

S Sarah 02:35

Okay? So it's all about what you can observe, measure, actually prove. What about religion? Then? How does that approach knowledge? The

J John 02:43

text says religion is about engaging with its spirit program of eternity. It's acknowledging that some truths, especially about, you know, the divine, you might not figure those out just through science alone. So

S Sarah 02:57

if science is all about observation, analysis, that kind of thing. What about religion? How do you even observe something like faith?

J John 03:06

Now, that is the question. And this text, it goes right for it. It's saying true religion. It shows up in how you live your life. Yeah, you know what you do, how you act, your whole vibe.

S Sarah 03:16

It's not just talking the talk. It's walking the

it's not just talking the talk. It's walking the

J John 03:17

walk. 100% the text, it describes people who are really religious, as I know they're already plugged into something eternal. There's a piece about them, you know, no fear, like they're totally in the moment. And people pick up on that.

S Sarah 03:32

It's like they're on a different level, almost, right? Like they've got this source of strength, this wisdom that's just bigger than everyday life. Nailed

J John 03:39

it. And the text says it's not just willpower or some positive thinking trick. It talks about grace being a big part of why they're like that

S Sarah 03:48

grace like something given to you, you don't earn it or anything Exactly.

J John 03:51

It's being open to receiving, to being touched by something bigger than yourself that lets you really grow in your faith bigger than just knowing a bunch of facts. It's like changing from the inside out,

S Sarah 04:04

so people can actually see this grace at work just by how someone lives. That's gotta be pretty convincing, right? If you're looking for proof, seeing is believing and all that

J John 04:13

for sure. And it ties into how the text says understanding isn't just a brain thing. It's your whole being. It says trying to figure out, like, the source of everything, just using your mind way too limiting, like

S Sarah 04:25

trying to understand the ocean by looking at one drop of water under a microscope, right? You

miss the whole picture how huge and connected

J John 04:32

it all is, exactly. And that's where this revelation thing comes in. The text, it says it's different from science, from philosophy, even from wisdom. It's like truth just unveiled. Okay, now we're

S Sarah 04:43

getting to the good part. How does this revelation happen? What's it look like? Think of

J John 04:47

those aha moments, right? When something just clicks deep down. You feel it. It's not about more information. It's a total shift in how you understand. So

S Sarah 04:57

knowing something in your head versus really. Getting it, feeling it in your gut, is that what you mean? Bingo,

J John 05:02

and it goes even further this text. It says Revelation isn't just about knowing stuff. It's about freedom. It gets you unstuck from small thinking, from your own ego, and it shows you how you can, like, partner up with something way bigger than yourself. That's

S Sarah 05:16

a powerful thought, right there, but we gotta be real the text, it doesn't pretend religion's perfect, either, does it? I mean, it's been used for some messed up stuff throughout history, true? Yeah,

J John 05:25

it's honest about how religion is powerful, so it can be twisted, misinterpreted, used for selfish reasons, even to hurt people. So

S Sarah 05:33

how does it, I don't know. How does it balance that saying religion is valuable, but it can be so easily messed up, how can anyone trust it.

J John 05:40

I think the text is saying that true religion, the kind that makes things better in the long run. It has these markers, love, compassion, wanting to serve something beyond just yourself. It's about like getting your actions to match your best self.

S Sarah 05:56

So believing the right stuff isn't enough. You got to do the right stuff too, right? Exactly.

J John 05:59

That's where it gets super interesting. It separates religion from just morality, and it uses this great analogy. It says religion is to morality as love is to duty as sonship is to servitude as essence is to substance. Okay,

S Sarah 06:13

I like that, but break it down for me. What's that actually mean? Like, day to day? It's

J John 06:17

like this morality, it can be your guide, right, tells you what's right and wrong. But religion, real religion, it gives you the why, the heart behind it. It turns doing your duty into something joyful, an act of service from the heart. So

S Sarah 06:32

morality, it's like the framework in religion. That's where you build the actual thing that lasts right. It's doing the right thing, not because you have to, but because, like, deep down, you get it you wanna.

J John 06:41

Yeah, that's a great way to see it. And that takes us back to that whole thing about certainty. We were talking about this text is saying the kind of certainty Faith gives you. It's not about checking off boxes or memorizing a bunch of stuff. It's something you live you know, yeah, just deep down knowing bigger than logic or proof or whatever, which,

S Sarah 06:56

let's face it, that can be a tough one for people to swallow. I mean, how do you put this idea of certainty next to the fact that you can't, like, scientifically prove religious experiences the way you can prove I don't know gravity or something

J John 07:10

you're right. The text gets that push and pull between faith and reason. It doesn't shy away from the skeptical questions. Actually, there's a part where it just comes out and says it's like, how do you know that I don't know, like a reality check, reminding us that just because we can't grasp something doesn't mean it's not real. It's like

S Sarah 07:29

trying to explain color to someone who's never seen it, who is born blind. They have no clue, no way to even imagine exactly

J John 07:36

we've got reason logic. Those are good tools. But this text, it's saying those aren't the only tools. You know, some things, especially when it comes to the Divine, you got to approach them differently, not ditching

S Sarah 07:49

logic altogether, but admitting it's got its limits. Some stuff, you got to experience it to get

J John 07:54

it. And that's where that whole leap of faith comes in, right? But it's not jumping into the dark blindly. This text talks about how religious feelings, they kind of evolve. You move from being scared of the unknown to this deeper understanding, like there's this loving support of something in the universe,

S Sarah 08:10

like instead of God being some mean judge, it's more like God's there to help you along right

J John 08:14

100% and it says that change, it's tied to how much we can love, have compassion, see the good, even the divine, in each other. The more we grow that in ourselves, the more we can connect with a God who's all about that too. So it's

S Sarah 08:28
not just believing in God. It's like becoming more like God. You got

J John 08:32
it. And that connects back to potential. Remember, we touched on that. We're all works in progress, right? And just like anything else, our understanding of God that can grow too. It's

S Sarah 08:41
a journey, the whole thing. But how does that actually play out? You know, in a religious life, we were talking before about how religion's different from just morality. How do those two work together? Practically speaking,

J John 08:52
million dollar question, right? It's about going from gotta to wanna. The Text wants us to think about the difference between just following the rules versus acting from this deeper place from love. It's like

S Sarah 09:03
going through the motions of a ritual versus really feeling the meaning behind it. Right? Nailed

J John 09:08
it. And remember that analogy. It's other religion is to morality as love, is to duty as sonship is to servitude as essence, is to substance. It's like putting your heart into everything you do. So

S Sarah 09:19
it's not just the what, it's the why that matters and that, why that comes from inside, from connecting to something way bigger than just us exactly.

J John 09:28
And that's what religious faith can do. That's the power of it. It links us up to something that's bigger than our own egos, bigger than our limitations, and that gives our lives meaning. It makes you think you know the text leaves us with this. If having faith is all about taking that

leap of trust, opening ourselves up to what we can't even wrap our minds around the fact that we can even do that. What does that say about how real this all is?

S

Sarah 09:49

Makes you wonder, maybe, just maybe, there's more to all this than we can see right now, and those things faith love, that feeling of something beyond maybe those are clues. Pointing to something amazing at the heart of it all. And on that note, we'll leave you to ponder that. Thanks for joining us for this deep dive.