

NIETZSCHE vs. JESUS Course

Encouraging the pursuit of
Christlikeness in a postmodern culture



WELCOME to our two session course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



DALLAS WILLARD
MINISTRIES
Living in the kingdom now



JESUS COLLEGE

A good school

The Course VISION

To contrast a self-will worldview and a Jesus-will worldview for you and your world.

The Course INTENTION

- * Pursue truth and its freedom
- * Prompt thinking of what you believe is true and its source
- * Provide a community of encouragement & accountability

The Course MEANS

- * 2 interactive sessions with optional, extended Q&C
- * Study resources for learning and spiritual growth practices
- * A global Cadre of Christ



Format - 30 minutes

- Welcome, Focus & Review
 - Session Highlights
 - Your Q&C's
 - Summary & Blessing
- — —
- After: Optional more Q&C

Recorded sessions, slides,
& study guide in the
[Jesus College Library](#)

Your Worldview Coach

Doug Webster

- * Following Jesus for 50 years & working with Him since age 18.
- * Vanguard University & Fuller Seminary
- * Met the Jesus Dallas knew 17 years ago
- * Started Jesus College in 2015
- * “Nietzsche vs. Jesus” is our 29th webinar engaging over 2800 participants from 57 Countries.
- * Guiding Jesus College’s “Master’s in the Master” spiritual training
- * A Blessed Family of 16 1/2!



Nietzsche vs. Jesus

Session 1 - "A Nietzsche Worldview"

Video 0:00-35:25



We are grateful to veritas.org for hosting Dallas Willard at Stanford University in 2002 and making this presentation available to the world for free.

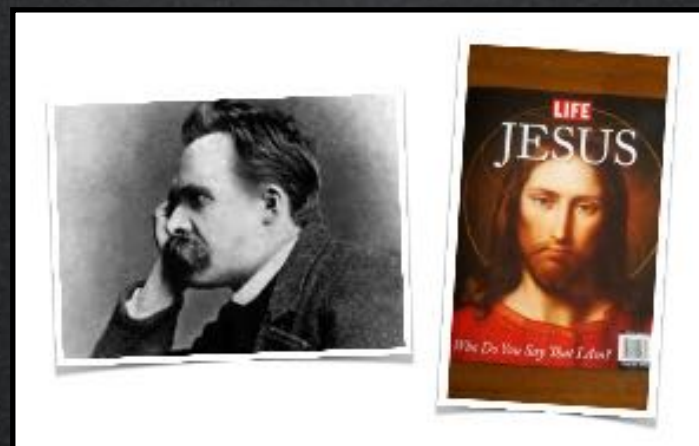
“See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.”

Colossians 2:8

Truth & Freedom

I'm not here tonight to attack Nietzsche, or for that matter, Jesus Christ, but rather to try to give them voice as it concerns fundamental matters for the contemporary world. This evening we're going to try to put a sympathetic face on both Nietzsche and Christ and try to hear what they had to say.

I am going to try to say things very simply and clearly about **truth** and **freedom** as they've come to meet one another in our contemporary world.



Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

The Setting — Nietzsche has become very important on the campus and in the culture today because he has come to stand for something that was coming to a head in his own day, though he himself did not see much of the success that was to come to him later. Really, he has become successful in culture generally only after the Second World War.

What was happening at that time was there was a great wave of reaction against the power of a Christian ideology that was without real spiritual vitality. The institutions in Christian society and government were, to a large degree, not based on what they professed.

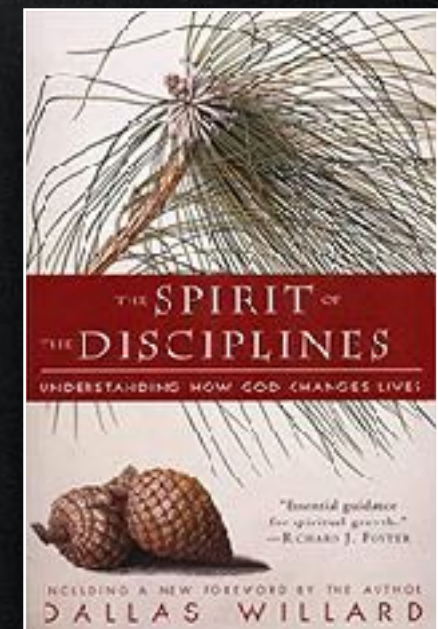
“Nietzsche caught a wave of reaction”.



Dallas in *The Spirit of the Disciplines*
“Radical Disease Requires Radical Treatment”

Generally speaking the church does not seem to be doing well in meeting the need at present. In first world countries, Christians simply do not advance very far into the health and strength of Christ. (235)

Can [the church] really present the world with a new humanity or is it only attractive for the moment because it seems to support certain traditional values that comfort a people bewildered and frightened about the future? (236)



God Expelled from Major Western Universities

“God is dead!”

The educational divorce - Knowledge v. Theology
Theology - the Queen of the sciences was dethroned.



“The reason the book has nothing to say about God is because God has nothing to do with the subject matter.”

Nietzsche sees it and calls it for what it is. Enter in
“Constructionism” – “The world as we know it is a
construction of the human mind, of language, of
social structures.”

The Will to Power

Not “A Pig’s Philosophy” - Hedonistic Utilitarianism

It’s not truth, it’s power.

It’s not happiness, it’s power.

It’s not holiness, it’s power.



Power constructs a world to exercise power.

According to Nietzsche, even weak people who were resentful and clever enough to dupe the strong people into thinking they were wicked because they were strong. And actually, you were better if you were weak.

“Blessed are the poor; Blessed are they that mourn...”

Biblical “slave morality”: poverty, obedience, celibacy

“Phenomenalism” — all there is that we can grasp consists of appearances, or Nietzsche likes to use the word “perspective” and our will to organize them in a certain way.

Once you have accepted the view that the mind is not capable of grasping a reality that exists independently of itself, and that is what came through the history before Nietzsche, then there is nothing left but some sort of internal principle to try to explain why we think the way as we do and why we live as we do.

All that is left is the perfection of the individual will.

Do I need to tell you Nietzsche won?



Self-Aggrandizement

Nietzsche Today

On Campus — The natural outcome of the picture of the enclosed mind and the “will” turned back on itself that naturally comes out of Nietzsche is the degree of personal success which you may have if you come and study with us.

In Culture — Nietzsche really comes into his own especially after the First World War because the first and second world wars were a revelation of a culture which Nietzsche had already decided was hopeless. His insights into that is something that we really do need to treasure.



Modernism

Modernism comes to stand for the rejection of the past as a guide to the present.

Knowledge of truth is a perspective or a phenomenon, not something tied to the past serving as a guide today.

Out with the Church, Bible, history of Jews & Christians. History was lost.

Religion was divisive so, set the history aside and instead think about the moral truths which the history was supposed to illustrate in one way or another, then there would no longer be divisiveness including the effort of Modernism to get out of the religious wars and strifes of Europe.



The Source of Truth?

Where do these universal truths come from?"

How can we say we have universals when we can't even escape our own mind?



The whole idea of **truths** upon which you can base your life **disappeared**. What's left? **Individual will**.

This is what I want to try to emphasize! The basis of practical reason is shifted to the point that **mere individual desire** is a reason for doing what you want.

We're apt to say, "*What else?*" That's how thoroughly we have been formed by this. Mere individual desire is thought to serve as a basis for action. That was not so until the period comes in modern thought where you have this artifact of the individual on their own.

Unvarnished Will to Power Truth is Another Passion

Today, **Truth** is _____ .

(You fill in the blank.)

If you say “truth” in most places on the campuses I’m familiar with, people will immediately say,
“Whose truth?”

And Nietzsche won the first round.



Truth is lost. There is no accessible body of moral knowledge that currently functions in our culture.

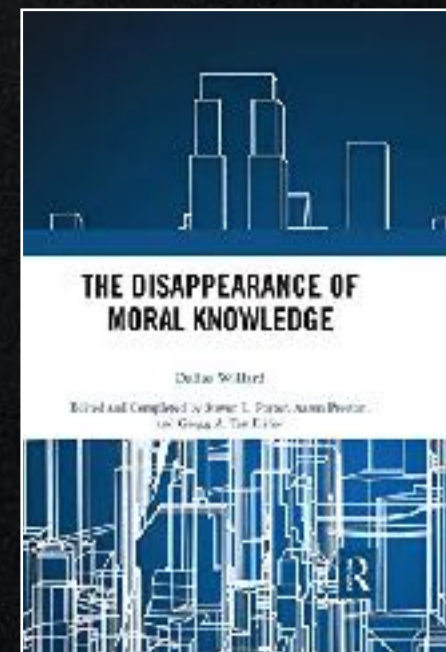


BECOMING DALLAS WILLARD BIOGRAPHY

Ideas that Matter for Time & Eternity

Dallas hoped *The Disappearance of Moral Knowledge* would fire the same type of shot across the bow for the university that *The Divine Conspiracy* sounded for the church. (224)

By the end of the first decade of the new millennium the impact of the ideas and concerns that drove Dallas' teaching and writing continued to cause significant ripples across the church and academy.
(226)



What is a good person? How do I become a good person?



If someone wants to know, where do you send them?

Stanford? I hope you won't send them to USC.

I just want that to soak in a moment. This is where Nietzsche comes in. Because if there is no body of moral knowledge, then all that is left is “will”, all that is left is impulse.

The burden of the past is off-loaded.
Religion is symbolism not knowledge.



What would happen if knowledge of electricity disappeared?



The heart of the issue here really is truth.

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



Q&A



You are graced with 10,080 minutes weekly. If you invest 80 minutes watching the video plus our course discussion, you have 10,000 minutes to incarnate life with God in His Kingdom among us becoming the kind of person Jesus would be if He lived your life.

80:00 + 10K

Meditation — *John 8:31-32*

Application

- 1.) What did Nietzsche articulate to change the view of what is “real”?
- 2.) What is lost when Christians are seen with merely good intentions?
- 3.) Where is the “Individual Will” presented today as the source of truth?



† Cross Fit

Session 1 Summary

According to Nietzsche and a modern world he helped define, truth is a matter of what you construct by the power of exercising your individual will.

The heart of the matter is truth.



Next Thursday - Final Session

Nietzsche vs. Jesus

“A Jesus Worldview”

Part 2 — Time Code 35:25-53:45

Know others who might join us?

Register — info@JesusCollege.com

“Jesus, Dallas & NT — Romans 8”

Starts
Next Week



Jesus called and gifted Dallas Willard & NT Wright to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and teach the written Logos as brilliant scholars, compassionate pastors, and genuine followers of Jesus offering biblical truth with a global influence rare in the same generation. Join our 3-session course based on the teachings of Dallas Willard and NT Wright on Romans 8 - what many consider to be the centerpiece of Paul's most powerful writing.

~ ~ ~

“Romans 8 - A masterful passage...an essential part for training in Christlikeness will bring Kingdom order into our entire personality.” *Renewing the Christian Mind*, by Dallas

~ ~ ~

“Romans 8 - A deep dive into Paul's greatest letter.” *Into the Heart of Romans*, by NT

FREE 30 minute 3 week Zoom Webinar

Tuesdays, 8 AM - or - 4 PM (US Pacific = GMT -7 hours)

June 25, July 2 & 9, 2024

Information or Registration — info@JesusCollege.com

A CELEBRATION of COMPLETION

Yahwehallelujah!

From Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College
to the Apprentices who completed the Course:

“Nietzsche vs. Jesus”



CERTIFICATE
OF COMPLETION

This Certifies that

Edmund Hussert

Has diligently and devotedly completed in June, 2024, the Course

NIETZSCHE VS. JESUS

Doug Webster

DOUG WEBSTER



JESUS COLLEGE

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“Master’s in the Master”

A 3 year spiritual training as a student of history’s greatest teacher for apprentices who take their spiritual formation seriously.

A self-paced, community supported, spiritual transformation track through (15) courses to grow in Christlikeness guided by the works of Dallas Willard. This is a non-accredited but fully accountable and affirming journey with Jesus and fellow apprentices from around the world.



JESUS COLLEGE

A good school

May a very real and
resurrected Jesus lead
your next 10,000 minutes
exploring and engaging a
world where truth is lost,
will is power, and hope is
absent.

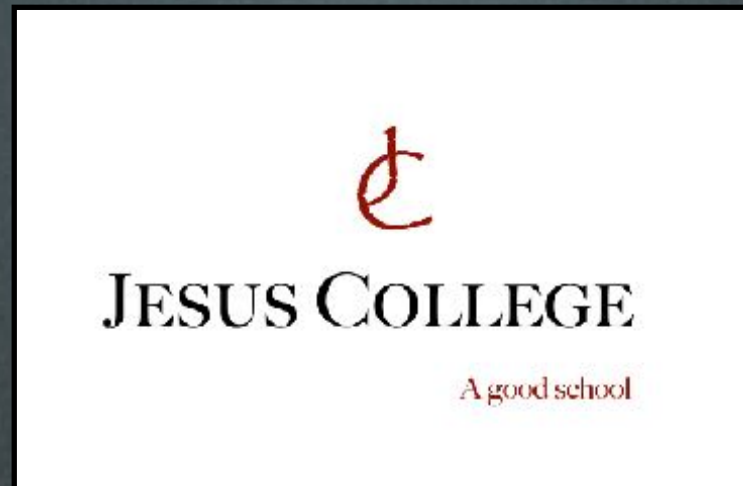
Doug



The SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

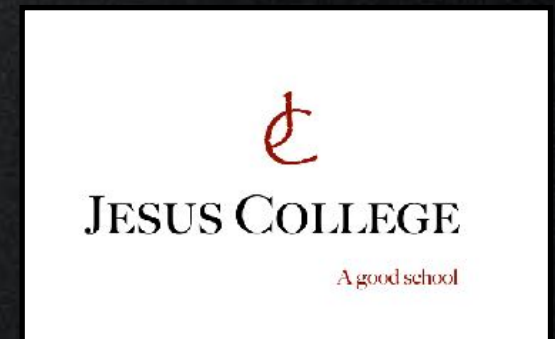
Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

The Mission of Jesus College - To Empower Apprentices of the Master of Love who know Jesus as the One, great truth and to live a good life found in His truth.

The Vision of Jesus College - Equipping Trainers—Parents, Pastors, Professionals, Professors, Politicians—to mentor Senior Apprentices who will make Apprentices of Jesus.

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