

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



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Living in the kingdom now



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A good school

Nietzsche vs. Jesus

Session 2 - "A Jesus Worldview"

Video 35:25-53:45



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.

Session 1 Review

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.





And now Jesus Christ

“I’d like you to think of Jesus as a serious person in the area of information on how to live life.

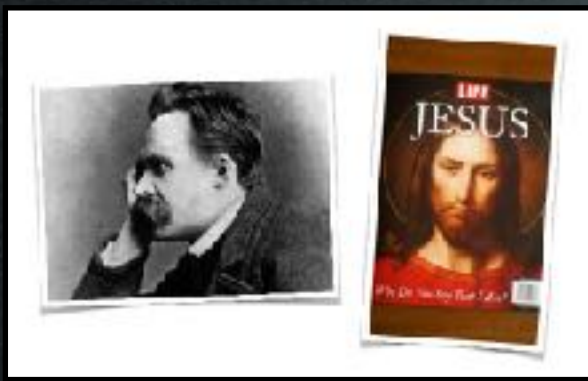
The burden of human life is to find an adequate basis for human action in knowledge.” Dallas Willard

A good question to ask - *Why did Jesus come to live among us?*

How did he answer the question?

See *John 10:9-10*





Nietzsche vs. Jesus

“The heart of the issue between Nietzsche and Jesus Christ is truth and its relation to human freedom, well being and fulfillment.”

[This was so central, Dallas repeats it.]

The assumption of Nietzsche and the modern tradition:

We are closed off individually and socially by our language, our culture, our history, or just our mind. We can not find our way out to an “other” which is reliably there, which we have not somehow made by our own thinking and feeling or by our culture’s thinking and feeling. The inability to do that is what turns us back on the individual will, it turns us back on ourselves and our will as the ultimate reality in our life.

Freedom then means only “Freedom from”.

Nietzsche's Prison

The declaration of freedom that we make in a mind that is closed off and lost in itself is actually an imprisonment of a kind. The modern attempt to deal with the mind and its grasp of the world has its...the backside of that is the increasing emphasis on freedom as merely "freedom from". We are condemned to our aloneness. Self-preoccupation is our only possibility and doing what we want our only conception of human fulfillment and well being.

Here is how the prison works. Someone says,

"What shall I do?"

We reply, "Do what you want."

The honest person says, "I don't know what I want."

Trapped in Nietzsche's Freedom

Now we don't know what we want. In this structure, desire, as a reasonable human capacity, defaults into impulse because as living beings we have to act. Curiously enough, we wind up in a world where we desire to desire.

"We have a viagra society...desiring to desire."

Addiction is an attempt to escape the loneliness that is enforced by a "will" uprooted from a world of truth and reality.



Not “Freedom from” but “Freedom to”

“When we speak of freedom, we should consider carefully what we mean by it. We do not merely mean freedom from restraint or compulsion. [Willard - “that’s freedom from”] We do not mean merely freedom that sets us free from things. We do not mean merely freedom to do as we like, irrespective of what we like. We do not mean a freedom that can be enjoyed by one man or one set of men at the cost of a loss of the freedom for others. When we speak of freedom as something to be so highly prized, we mean [Willard - “ta da!”] a positive power or capacity of doing something worth doing or enjoying and that too, something that we do or enjoy in common with others. We mean by the power which each man exercises through the help and security given by his fellow man and which he in turn, helps to secure for them.”

T.H. Green



Pre-Modern “Freedom” of the Christian Tradition [43:05]

“INTENTIONALITY” - The openness of the mind to what is there—a mind which does not create a world. A mind which the world inhabits through intentionality.

In the Christian tradition, a world that God inhabits, so God is always already there.

The inner light, the inner teacher is God and it is interacting with the mind and enables it to reach out to a world which God, and not the mind, created and to find in that world, with others who are there, the proper support of a will that is capable of moving to genuine freedom.



A Child at Play or a Master Performance

The first step in freedom is to submit yourself to reality.

And for that, you need truth. Truth guides you to reality.

Reality is what you run into when you are wrong. Truth enables you to represent how things are without running into them and to submit your will to reality through truth. Truth is a very simple idea.

A child trying to manage truth by falsity...

“Did you do that?” “No! He did it!”



Nietzsche's World - Truth is absent. Freedom is impossible.

Jesus' World - The real world is there and so is freedom.

Truth & Community

You need more than truth for freedom.

You need community.



A child needs to bond to learn how to step into a world that is already there.

A child looking to a mother and the mother to the child.

As the child grows, it has to trust that world and it can not trust that world unless it finds truth.

Human fulfillment comes through community in which there is trust and there is truth and the “will” is enabled to grow so that it takes in what is not part of itself and makes that a part of its life.

Jesus Bringing Truth to His Community

Think of Jesus, not as a kind of sanctified religious figure. Think of him as someone who knew what He was talking about. Which, if you stop to think about it, you might think that is true of Him. He is here with his little community of students or disciples telling them...

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

John 8:31-32



Think of freedom as the capacity to live fully in the world.



The Rematch — Nietzsche vs. Jesus

The arena is your life!

We are heirs to a Nietzschean world. The question is,
Can we find freedom in that world?

We have another world presented by Jesus Christ, an
intelligent person. He says,

*“If you put my teachings into practice, then you’ll be my
apprentices and I will be your teacher, and you’ll come to know
truth about life and the world and, in knowing that truth, you
will find genuine fulfillment as the human being you were
meant to be.”*

Put the words of Jesus into practice!

Be as incisive as Nietzsche minus his
false nature of the mind and will.



Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

80:00 + 10K

Meditation — *Romans 12:1-2*

Application for Spiritual Formation in Christ

- 1.) VISION - How do I compare Jesus to the smartest people in history?
- 2.) INTENTION - Where is “intentionality” missing for me to live what I believe?
- 3.) MEANS - How am I engaging my faith community to build trust to know truth?



† Cross Fit

Session 2 Summary

Your life aim is to find the knowledge how to live well in relation to reality. Jesus knows what He is talking about when He offers the truth of the reality of God outside our minds and the way to practice this truth to know the freedom to become a good person living a good life in His Kingdom.



“Jesus, Dallas & NT — Romans 8”

Started
Tuesday



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~ ~ ~

“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

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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

Friedrich Nietzsche

Has diligently and devotedly completed in June, 2021 the Course

NIETZSCHE VS. JESUS

Doug Webster

DOUG WEBSTER



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Rebecca Willard Heatley

REBECCA WILLARD HEATLEY



DALLAS WILLARD
MINISTRIES

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May your next 10,000
minutes following Jesus
into His freedom to live a
good life carry you 10,000
years and beyond.

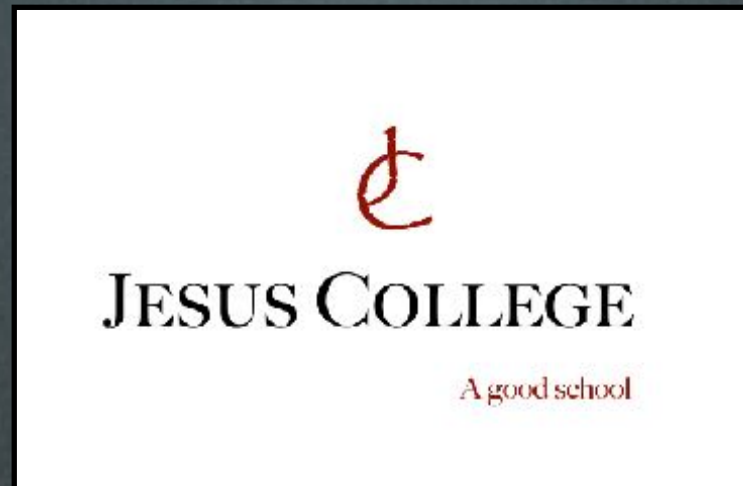
Doug



The SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



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

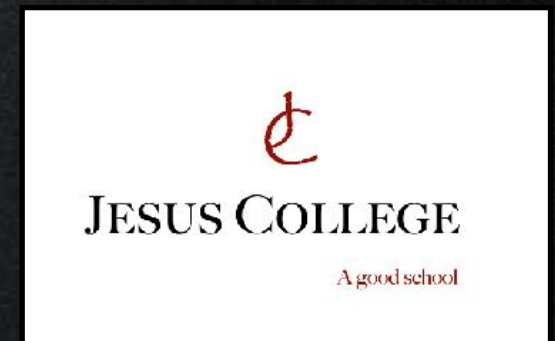
Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

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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