

“New Archaeology Find Proves the Bible is True”

“New Discovery Proves the Existence of God”

“Formerly Hidden Manuscript Proves the Gospel is True”

“Recently Identified DNA Strand is Proof of the Creation Story”

These are some of the headlines attached to various articles that are regularly circulated through the pages of Facebook devotees. It seems there is a spiritual cyber army whose sole intent is to PROVE to the unbelieving masses of the cyber world that God/Creation/the Bible/the Crucifixion & Resurrection are verifiably true. And I'm guessing this cyber army thinks that if they can PROVE the Gospel to be true, then all the unbelieving folks will bow down to God. I have a problem with this methodology for introducing Jesus to the unbelieving.

First off, this idea of “proving” the Gospel as a catalyst to conversion ignores some of the most basic inclinations of humanity's fallen nature. All sorts of things have been proven but the proof has little to no effect on human behavior. Smoking cigarettes? Is there any doubt as to the harmful, sometimes fatal, effects of smoking cigarettes? As soon as the Surgeon General announced smoking was hazardous, people quit smoking. Didn't they?

Is there anyone who would seriously challenge the evidence that driving under the influence of alcohol is dangerous? Is there anyone who would debate the fact that alcohol impairs a person's judgment and reflexes? Of course there isn't and yet 9,967 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes during 2014. Do you suppose those people who chose to drink and drive were ignorant of the dangers of doing so? Really?

There exist vast archives of research proving that a healthy adult should get at least 30 minutes of physical, aerobic activity every day and strength training at least twice a week. Exercise is for your benefit! Exercise can improve your quality of life! Exercise can lead to lower health insurance premiums! And I'm betting that many of you can't remember the last time you intentionally exercised for an extended period of time. And why is that? Here's why - simply proving a thing to people doesn't automatically insure a positive response or induce a life changing commitment. My friend Hugh says there is an entire class of people living by this mantra: “Don't bother me with the facts...I've already made-up my mind.”

Second, an individual's response to God is a response of faith. A person's initial response to God is considered...hopeful...curious...and a little scary because they are placing all their faith in something that has been presented as truth yet cannot be proven. But here's the thing: even if the Gospel can't be proven, it can be known. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, bringing an individual to the place of trusting by faith...the place where the soul knows the authentic truth, grace and love of the Gospel. Many of you have sung the words “I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today; I know that He is living whatever men may say... you ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart.” Having responded to God in faith, we are drenched in the veracity of the Gospel. Cya in Sunday School & Worship, Pk.