

# Searching for the Truth - Poonen | Conlon

by Zac Poonen

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing one's sin and coming to Jesus Christ as a sinner in order to receive redemption and live a life of joy and freedom.*

**Duration:** 22:07

**Scripture:** John 14:6, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8, Revelation 21:27

**Topics:** "Salvation Truth", "Repentance Faith"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the exclusive truth of Jesus Christ as the only way to God, highlighting the narrow path of truth compared to the broad-mindedness of the world. It delves into the necessity of recognizing one's sinfulness, the need for genuine repentance, and the profound sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for sinners. The speaker urges listeners to forsake deception, embrace the truth of Christ's death and resurrection, and surrender their lives completely to God for salvation and eternal life.

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## Transcript

Jesus said in John 14 verse 6, I am the way, no one comes to the father but through me. Is that right or wrong? I can't go to God except through Jesus Christ and I'll explain to you why. Truth is always very narrow-minded.

Many people say why can't you be broad-minded and nowadays in the world everybody likes to be broad-minded, don't get into a controversy with anybody, accept everything. I say 2 plus 2 is 4, somebody says no it's 3, somebody says no 2 plus 2 is 5, let's accept everybody or let's at least accept those who are pretty close to us like somebody who says 2 plus 2 is 3.9, somebody says 4.1, they are much closer. I say I'm sorry, I'll get all my calculations wrong if I say 2 plus 2 is 3.9 or even 4.1 or even 4.0001. Truth is absolute, 2 plus 2 is 4. What if I say the earth goes around the sun? No, no, no, let's accept the other fellow who says the sun goes around the earth also.

I mean let's be broad-minded about these things. I say you can't be broad-minded, everything, all your physics calculations will go wrong if you accept this fellow says the sun goes around the earth, that fellow says the earth goes around the sun and somebody else says something else. Truth is absolute whether in the realm of astronomy or mathematics, chemistry, you see how truth is absolute in every area, only when it comes to faith, they say no, no, no, let's be broad-minded.

Broad-minded people are in error in mathematics, physics, chemistry, astronomy and religion but people are willing to be very narrow-minded in all those other areas and don't recognize that truth is narrow-minded here too. Jesus Christ said I am the way, no one comes to the father but by me. So I say I'm not, you're not arguing with me when I say that, you're arguing with Jesus.

You can have your choice but don't say he was a good man. How can he be a good man if he told such a lie like this? How can I know? There's only one question folks in life that really needs to be answered rightly. You can afford to be wrong in a quiz game but you can't afford to be wrong with this one.

How do I know? How can I know that the covering I have is going to get me into heaven? How can I know that I'm going to go back and dwell with God for all of eternity? The Christian faith teaches that all human beings are sinners. If you come to God, if you come to Jesus as a Christian, your sin cannot be forgiven because Jesus did not die for Christians, he died for sinners. So the only person who can be forgiven is one who comes to Jesus and says I'm a sinner.

Anybody sitting here, you come to Jesus saying I'm a Christian, Jesus will say I didn't die for Christians. You can't come to Jesus as a Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Atheist, nothing. He said I came to the world to die for sinners.

You come as a sinner, you can be forgiven. You come as a Christian, you will live and die in your sins and go to hell because that's the punishment. You see Jesus had come and he was now going to put an end to all man-made attempts to get back into right relationship with God.

He was going to open up anew in a living way. He was going to do something that man could not do for himself. He was speaking through time from the time he came into the Garden of Eden.

I'm sure Jesus had Adam in his mind. No fruit grow on you anymore forever. No more covering, no more phoniness, no more hypocrisy, no more appearance of godliness without genuine fruit in your life.

No more of this phony religion that professes to be my representative on the earth and that has deceived itself into thinking that it's coming back into heaven with me for all of eternity. No more, no more this fruit of deception. Sin is a crime.

Supposing I'm a judge, my son is standing there, he's committed a crime. Can I say I love you my son, I won't punish you? Even an earthly judge will not do that because he's got a sense of justice, not because he's going to be caught. Some people just won't do it because they've got a sense of justice and that sense of justice he's got in his mind is a fraction of the perfect justice of God Almighty.

So when I've done something wrong and God is the judge and he looks at me, he says son I love you very much but I can't let you go because you did something wrong. But you say, but judge you're his father, can't you just let him go? He's sorry. However much my son may sorry to me in the court if he's done something wrong, I have to punish him.

Let's say he robbed a bank or did something like that and I have to fine him. Your fine is 10 lakhs, pay the fine or go to jail. People say boy, what a strict, he doesn't love his son.

His son also may turn around to me and say, the son may turn to me and say dad you don't love me, punishing me like this, can't you let me go? You're the judge, you've got all power. No son, I'm your judge here. Fine, I signed the court order 10 lakhs or go to jail and while he's looking sad at such a hard judge, I

get up from my seat and take off my judge's robes, come down, become an ordinary man again, take out my checkbook and write 10 lakhs to my son.

Here, go and pay the fine, you're free. Can anybody in the world accuse me of not doing what is just? No, I gave him the full penalty of the law. Can he accuse me that I don't love him? No, I punished him as a judge, I paid the punishment, maybe I emptied my bank account, entire 10 lakhs gone, save his life, I'm going to jail.

He will know I loved him as a father. That is what God did on the cross. He cannot overlook your sin, he forgives you only because the punishment has been, he says the punishment has to be paid but I'll pay it myself.

But many many people who profess to know Jesus Christ even in our time, they create a garment of their own making that allows them to commit adultery, it allows them to steal in the workplace, it allows them to lie and gossip and slander unrestrainedly and this garment that they put on themselves convinces them that there's no justice for this, there's no judgment day coming for them. Even though Jesus said by every word you speak you'll be justified and by every word you'll be condemned. Jesus said if you do not forgive those who have wronged you neither will your heavenly father forgive your trespasses.

But in spite of what God has spoken, they create a garment of fig leaves and they cover themselves and say all is well, all is well and they seek out a church that won't challenge their sin, that won't expose this hypocrisy for what it is. I'd rather you get mad at me and go to heaven. Being forsaken by God, that is the most terrible thing any human being can ever face.

Think of the worst suffering you can ever face multiplied by a million and more and you understand what being forsaken by God is. We think of hell as some geographical place somewhere. Maybe it is, but the worst part of hell is that it's a God-forsaken place.

It's the only God-forsaken place in the universe. That means God is not there and it's terrible to be there because God is not there. God is the only, God is in this world today, that's why even for unbelievers things are very pleasant.

But when you go to the place where God himself has withdrawn his presence, all the evil and the devil and the man and all comes out fully, it'll be terrible. That's, I believe, that evil is what makes the fire of hell, makes people's lives so miserable. But what a tragedy to have been covered in an unrighteous covering, to have been covered in human effort, to have been covered in something deceptive, to find in the last moments of your life that the feet coming down the hallway are not taking you to heaven.

I guess the question would be whose feet are coming to get you? Who's been assigned to take you into eternity? And if you're not sure they're God's, can it be changed? Can I get back? Mine. That's the first foundation of Christianity. Christ died for our sins.

That's not enough. He rose from the dead. If he did not rise from the dead, I would not be a Christian.

I would waste, I wouldn't waste my time preaching this message. His rising from the dead is the proof that all that he said on earth was true. No man died for the sins of the world.

No man rose from the dead. No religion even claims that somebody died for the sins of the world, except Christianity. And no religion even claims that somebody who died came out of the grave after three days.

So the foundation of the Christian faith is not do good, be kind, don't hurt others. It is Christ died for your sins and he rose up from the dead. You remove those two things, Christianity becomes like any other religion in the world.

And that's why it's unique. You need to understand that. You are a sinner and you deserve to go to hell for all eternity, to be forsaken by God forever.

And you have lived for yourself. You're created, created to belong to God, but you live for yourself. And when you come back to God, you must come back like a thief who has stolen what belongs to God for so many years.

How old are you? 25, 30. So many years you have stolen something that belongs to God. You can come back to him in sorrow.

What I didn't know, this was your thing I stole so many years. I'm going to come back to you and give my life to you. If you're a thief, scripture says all thieves dwell outside of the city of God.

Read it in Revelation. If you're a liar, you're not going there either. So whatever kind of robe you want, you're not going.

The leaves have got to come off. God says, I'm looking for a Nathaniel today. I'm looking for a man, a woman without guile.

He says, Lord, I want it your way. You can get through the deception your whole life. You can even sing in the choir.

You can go your whole life, but there's one moment you will not get through and it's the last five seconds of your life. You'll not make it through. It has to be true.

That's what you need to recognize. Lord, I deserve hell for my sin. I may not be as bad as the murderer and the thief and adulterer, but I've also sinned.

I violated your law. The Bible says if you violate one law, it's as bad as if you got a good chicken curry. How many lizards do you have to put inside to spoil it? 10, 20, or one? Supposing you put only one.

Another fellow put a 500. You say my curry is better than yours. Yours is unfit for eating too.

How many drops of poison do you need in a glass of milk to corrupt it? One drop or 20 drops? One? Enough to kill? One sin makes you as much a sinner as someone who's committed 500 or 5 million. A sin is poison. It's polluted your whole system.

So don't compare yourself with others. Finish with that today. Lord, I'm a sinner.

I deserve hell. See, if you don't take this position, if right at the beginning you think you're a little better sinner than the other fellow. I've got only two lizards in my curry.

He's got 10. Or I put only three drops of poison in my glass. He put 500.

These are the type of Christians who never make progress. 20 years later, they'll still be like that. Pathetic.

If you want to make a good start in your life, recognize that you are no different from the worst sinner in the world. I am just as as anybody else. Even though I haven't put so many drops of poison as he did.

I deserve hell. Oh, folks, don't miss heaven. Don't miss heaven.

Don't miss heaven. Heaven is open to you. Why would you choose to go to hell? Why would you choose to live in deception? Why, why, why would you choose this? Well, the life of God can be yours.

The redemption of God can be freely given to you. Why would you die in your sin? I know with all my heart that you died for me because my sin that crucified you on the cross. You died because of my sin.

I want to hate sin in my life because you died there. And I believe with all my heart that you're the son of God. You rose from the dead.

I want you to come into my life. You don't need fake leaves anymore. I found the branch.

I found the covering. I found the redemption. I found the redeemer.

I found the Messiah. All the mercy of God. The incredible, unspeakable mercy of God.

Hallelujah to the Lamb of God. Glory to God. Glory to God.

Glory to God. Not that I came to God, but God came to me. Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God that he came to me. Hallelujah. The branch came, gave me a covering, and took away my sin.

Allowed himself to be nailed on a cross and paid the price for all the wrong things that I have done and for all the foolish ways I've tried to reason my way back into the presence of God. God Almighty did it all himself in a day. What I could never accomplish in a lifetime, he did in a day.

He made the way back into his presence for eternity. The truth may be difficult, but God will help you to do it. He'll never ask you to do something which he won't also put his arms underneath and help you to do it.

But it's the most wonderful life you can ever live. I'll tell you that. I started living this life 47 years ago, and I have no regret.

My only regret is I wish I had started earlier. It's the most wonderful life you can ever live. And once you begin to know his life, you wouldn't want any other anyway.

Everything will just start to fade. But I want to give an altar call for every person in the balcony at Maid Sanctuary and say, Pastor, I don't fully understand everything you said, but I feel like God has spoken to me. And I feel like there's things in my life that have to go.

I've tried to cram these into the kingdom, and I realized the dangerous game that I'm playing today. It's very, very dangerous to play games with God, folks. Very dangerous.

He's holy. He's righteous. He's a God of mercy, but he's a God of judgment as well.

Very, very dangerous. No more dangerous game in the universe you can play than to play games with the holy God. He's extended a hand of mercy.

If you have any wisdom, you will take that hand, and you'll cling to that hand and never let it go. You'll walk with him and agree with him. And he'll bring you into a life that you've only ever dreamt was possible and take all fear away.

And you will know in your last days, you will know whose feet are coming down the hallway for you. I know Jesus so well today. I'm never lonely.

I cannot be lonely because I can't go to a place where he's not there. There's no problem I have, which I cannot tell him. It's a wonderful life.

It's the best life. It's the way God wanted man to live. It's a life full of joy.

It's a life free from anxiety and fear because I give my future into his hand and say, Lord, you hold the future. Lead me. Just make sure.

I want to hold your hand. I'll lead where you go. For some, this is the moment of your salvation.

It's the moment where an old way of living is put away. And all attempts to reach heaven in your own strength you've realized today are foolish. You're never going to be able to do it.

And today you've realized that I've got to reach out and take the hand of God. It's the only way back into life. God stretched his hand out to me on the cross, paid the price for my sins.

An innocent man suffered, was beaten and died for the wrong things that I've done, even the religious deception that I've committed against God. And today is the day of your salvation, if that's truly and sincerely in your heart. And this is where conversion.

To be saved, you are giving up the rights to your life. You're giving them to God. That's salvation, folks.

It's not a prayer that you pray to make you feel good and go out just the way you want to. You're giving the rights to your life to God. He is going to buy you with his blood, as the scripture says.

Hallelujah. Let's pray together. Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for loving me in all of my deception, in my foolishness and rebellion.

You've kept loving me. You stretched your hands out to me. Today, my God, I receive your offer of eternal life into my heart.

And I invite you to be my Lord and my Savior. I bend my knee to you. Your ways are higher than my ways.

I confess with my tongue that you are not only my Savior, but you are the Lord. You are the absolute Lord of my life. I thank you, Jesus, for receiving me.

God, help me to walk with you and to honor you and to know your power and your promises all the days of my life. Help me, Lord. I believe you have received me.

Listen to this word of Jesus. If you come to me, I'll never cast you out. Believe that.

Today, Lord Jesus, I believe. Those of you who are not sure, believe God's word. If you have done your part, he has done his.

It does not matter whether to know the date. Maybe you were saved 10 years ago or now. It doesn't matter.

But you're sure today Jesus has accepted you. You're forgiven and you're going to be a child of God. Now you need fellowship.

You need to be with God's people. You need the food of God's word. You need power.

You need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Pray to God. He'll give you all that.

Seek fellowship with God's people. Don't try to live this alone. A child cannot live alone.

It needs fellowship. It needs to be helped as it grows up. Seek fellowship in a good church.

So after we give ourselves to Christ, we take baptism, which is like a testimony. I've finished with my old life. Now I belong to Jesus.

He's my Lord. He's my bridegroom. He's my husband.

I'm going to live with him forever.

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