



Read the
book before
you meet
the author.

The unfolding of your words gives light Psalms 119:130

Have you ever finished a book and immediately wanted to get in touch with its author? It's a common enough experience. At least one author actively discourages his readers from contacting him assuring them that his books are much more interesting than he is. The chances of us actually meeting some famous authors are very slim indeed.

The people who do get to meet lots of authors are celebrity talk show hosts like Michael Parkinson and Andrew Denton. Before they do, they and their research teams spend hours learning about their guests. They want to be able to ask the right questions and they want to be able to answer the inevitable question from their guest "Have you read my book?". Imagine their embarrassment if they had to admit that they hadn't. It would show that they weren't really that interested in their guest at all. If you're going to meet an author it's best to be prepared.

Common wisdom tells us that there are only a couple of certainties in life: death and taxes. While there are a dozen countries you could live in and avoid income tax there's no way to avoid death. Life has a 100% mortality rate.

The Bible teaches that there is one other certainty: meeting the author of life, God! For we are all "destined to die once, and after that to face judgement" (Hebrews 9:27). Jesus taught that each of us will have to give an account for our lives and that "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26).

This sounds like the sort of meeting to be prepared for! Fortunately we have a book that was "written down as warnings for us" (1 Corinthians 10:11) so that we could be ready. If God were to ask us "have you read my book?", how ready would we be?

The Bible, which just means 'book' in Latin, is God's book about himself, his world and his people. It answers many of the 'why?' and 'who?' questions that we all have: Why am I here? Why is the world the way it is? Why am I the way that I am? Who's in charge? And most importantly it tells us about who God is. If we really want to get to know God he has given us his book to read.

The question is, will we read the book before we meet the Author?

Prayer

Dear Lord, you are the Author of life. Thank you for revealing yourself in the Bible. Help me to seek you in reading your Word. Amen