

res and Doctrine :: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any test

JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimonies? - posted by Lordoitagai

When I ask this question, I am not referring to lives that have been encouraged, uplifted and edified by SI discussions. I am speaking of changes in doctrinal thinking or in ideas about Biblical principles that have truly been changed or affected as a result of SI discussions. Are there any testimonies of Christians who felt that they were in error, and were enlightened to the truth as a result of discussions on this forum?

The reason that I ask is that I fear that many participants have wasted (possibly to the point of sin) many hours that could have otherwise been used in a much more eternally productive manner. If we search for people near where we live who do not even know "the basics" of Christianity and form home Bible studies with them, we can teach them (from ground up) in what we "know" to be sound Biblical teaching. In the process, they may even get saved and prepared for heaven.

Re: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimonies - posted by hulsey (), on: 2012/12/7 20:12

I don't know about the forums but the sermons have had a great impact on my life.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2012/12/7 20:12

The forums for myself have been a great place of encouragement, growth and challenge. Also I can testify God has used it greatly to connect like-minded brethren. Also at times the charity and love expressed amongst those on the forums has been a tremendous witness to many. It has been something that people have testified that there has been a marked difference between the SI forums and all other Christian forums on the internet.

This is only by the grace of God that there has been this fruit.

Re: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimonies, on: 2012/12/7 21:38

The sermons first helped me. Then reading the forums and getting help from the saints here has helped a lot in addition. Doctrinally I have been here and there, realizing that the scripture is the final authority.

but yes my life has been changed by the counsel and spirit of the saints here. And I'm sure it will continue to benefit me.

I am learning how to approach situations with people groups like Catholics/JWs/Mormons/etc so it's very important for me to understand the spirit in which we ought to go about our sharing the gospel. I realize the narrow road is the best and hardest (walking in the Spirit), so I'm hoping to grow in that area.

Re: - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2012/12/7 21:50

I perfectly agree that "at times the charity and love expressed amongst those on the forums has been a tremendous witness to many."

Although I don't get to participate in the forums as often as I'd like, I look at them often and often I find great encouragement in them. So often, my own thoughts are expressed by others very clearly on these forums because it is the same Holy Spirit working within each of us as we grow in our knowledge of the Lord.

I prefer to get my "news" information from SI because it is filtered through godly people who will post things that I would be more interested in.

The main emphasis of this thread is not necessarily the blessing that SI forums are to our lives, but I suppose that this q

question better fits what I'm asking:

"Are there any testimonies of Christians who felt that they were in error, and were enlightened to the truth as a result of discussions on this forum?"

So often hours and hours are poured into "proving my point" on the forums about some particular doctrinal position or view of and interpretation of scripture. I've been guilty myself. Often when one's view gets attacked or countered, volume is written in defense of one's particular view, but to what avail???

What fruit has ever been accomplished on these forums for such intense arguing over different views of the scripture? Can ANYBODY testify that he saw the error in his thinking on a certain issue because of reading arguments on SI?

Can a witness step forth to prove that it is profitable???

As a personal testimony I can say that some of my own beliefs about issues such as church structure have been strengthened on these forums, but I don't know that I can say that I've actually been enlightened and changed a strongly held view of the scripture as a result of a debate on these forums.

We don't want to hear the words: "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness ..." because we unprofitably squandered our time proving our points, when God had other plans for our time.

How about it? Are there any witnesses?

Re: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimonies, on: 2012/12/7 22:05

The doctrines that we hold to are being tweaked often. There have been people on here that have let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. I can feel it strongly in my spirit that what is being said comes directly from God. So yes, I have had to tweak the doctrine that I hold to and my mind is changing regarding repentance, a whole new world of thinking is developing.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2012/12/7 22:07

Dear brethren, I've always thought that prayerful participation in these forums is an excellent place to gather seeds where by God can grow us in wisdom and grace. If the heart is right with God and man, and you come here without an agenda, God can do miraculous things in your spiritual life. It is this very principle many have understood, and the Spirit brings us back here again and again, to share, to express joy, to learn humility - and very often to rearrange our theological furniture. I truly believe that this is the warmest and most wonderful place on the internet and I am honored to be a servant here.

Naturally, a place like this will be attacked. The attacks, though, are for a season only, and God uses them to profit us all even greater. It is always a win-win situation with the Lord if you walk in His light and remember to humble yourself in every occasion. God always restores, cleans, renews. I see in this forum a microcosm of my actual walk with Christ outside this cyber-fellowship. I see the same seasons of attack, different occasions to abase myself, and times to share what God has been showing me in the midst of trials.

This place can be an absolute blessing if it is not abused with agendas or used as a soapbox to vent. And to answer the original question of the thread: yes, my life has been changed tremendously because of God using Sermon Index; I will even go as far to say it is the indirect cause of who I am today in Christ. Through SI's influence, God has given me many powerful tools of grace to build my faith and groom my understanding of His love for me in Christ Jesus.

Brother Paul

Re: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimoni, on: 2012/12/8 2:12

I find your question strangely difficult to answer brother. Inwardly I discern that since I have been reading the posts especially I have undergone a real inner change. But I cant put my finger on it and say precisely what it is. I think it has something to do with an awakening to an understanding of the Churches in North America. Why that should have benefitted me I really cant say. As a matter of interest I could not have conceived of the church in North America without this site. It has been really sobered to me.

Doctrinally I have shifted my understanding as well. But this is peripheral and still less clear to me. I can say without a doubt that I thank God the day I came across this site. I have really learned "something" which to me is a treasure and now that it has been buried in me for the future it is out of sight of my mind. It is real though to my spirit. Praise God for that. I have an expectancy because of it and a renewed sense of trusting the God of our salvation and a realisation that I have never really learned to trust God in the things which are personal to me, though as we all do, I trust Him with my eternal soul.

I take your point about wasting time to the point of sin. I can't speak for others but this has not been my own conviction. I have no interest in politics, never watch the news, never read any books other than Scriptures and hardly speak with other men save for the lost and one brother or sister here or there. Go figure that. For nearly 30 years it has been my portion to wait knowing that there is a revelation of things to come. SermonIndex has certainly awakened and stirred that expectancy and in that I am really encouraged.

It is also truly sad as well as in it are some sobering and difficult realities of men. It is a bitter sweet drink. But it is food for my soul and a rod and a staff to my spirit.

Re: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimoni - posted by yuehan, on

I've benefited greatly from the SermonIndex forum archives over the years. John Sung used to say that a believer's life was like a living Bible, and I am grateful for the many participants who have shared their journey with Jesus here.

I used to be part of a Charismatic church, during which I had concerns about certain practices. What I gleaned here was that God is more real than we could conceive Him to be, and there is indeed a baptism in the Spirit; yet there was also emphasis on the necessity for discernment. Every experience with God engages not only the emotions, but also the mind, the soul and the spirit - our whole being; and every such experience is always in perfect harmony with Scripture.

Some years back, I was acquainted with people whose denomination decided to discard the doctrine of the Trinity. Though the denomination had a global reach, the mother church was in Hong Kong and they had been officially labelled a cult. To help them out, I tried to compile various discussions on the Trinity - and SermonIndex was immensely useful in that

Sometimes it seems to me that most of what can be asked can be found in the forum archives. I have benefited from the insights and sharing of many posters here, and I trust that I am not alone in that.

Re: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimoni - posted by yuehan, on

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Re: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimoni - posted by timg, on: 20

It is hard to say for me if my life has been changed. Mainly because I think the changes are small and gradually. I use this forum to challenge my own thinking and clarify in my own mind what I believe.

Almost everything that we believe has been debated and discussed for centuries by brilliant men who loved God.

Listening to others when done in humility can only help our pursuit of truth.

Frankly, when we endure persecution someday many of these things will resolve themselves I believe.

Until then, let us pursue righteousness and purity and love.

In Him,

Tim

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Re: , on: 2012/12/8 13:51

I have had both good and bad experiences from discussions here. When I first arrived I was agnostic.

There was a discussion on Pharaoh if I recall rightly. I had been studying the Bible, reading all about Christianity, listening to preachers such as Paul Washer for quite some time in my quest for truth, but somehow I never heard about Calvinism. When I did learn about it during the course of the discussion here it totally shattered my understanding of God as I had come to understand Him. One of the posters here tried to explain that not everyone believed in it, but I ended up leaving for quite a while then.

I then had a conversion experience sometime later after a lot more seeking and the prayers for me of someone here, and I joined under this user name. I appreciated the sermons and the discussions, because I was trying to understand the Bible and work out how to find a local group of believers. So it was good and I eventually attended a local Baptist Church.

Then it happened that one day as I was studying John 17 which talks about the unity of his believers, I felt a real conviction. This led to the study of Church history and doctrine and eventually to the acceptance that I had to become Catholic.

This led to being told I was no longer a Christian by the others here, which was quite upsetting for me, and not something I understood at the time. I had seen the Catholic Church as kind of formal because I had no understanding of liturgy. And the Catholics I knew were kind of lukewarm. But this was something more and I did not understand it.

And since that time I have studied anti Catholicism to try and understand where this has all come from. And I do understand now, I know about the books and tracts you guys have been fed.

I would encourage you to challenge your own anti Catholic beliefs. You don't even need to rely on Catholic scholarship, just any scholarship. I have come back to perhaps offer a different perspective at times, but to be honest I find it quite difficult still.

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/12/8 15:07

I know for me I am picky when it comes to sermons because I find alot of sermons bore me terribly. The one sermon th at caused me to itch a bit inside was one from Paris Reidhead. When I say itch I really mean squirm.

When it comes to the discussion board I use it to bounce thoughts off of others to find what should be true, false or indif ferent. This is because I frequent other forums/boards in which there are atheists and agnostics in which have grown up in the church and walked away from it for various reasons.

Re: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimoni - posted by ginnyrose (

I cannot say whether this site has changed me or not - I would guess other people can discern this better then me. I alw ays consider myself a work in process - never done but always pressing upward.

I can say though that this site has been a great encouragement to me. It is too easy to sit here in our small, rural town a nd become ingrown and believe the whole world is going to hell in a basket and we alone are left. But what this forum do es is inform us that there are Believers in other places who are sincere in their walk with the LORD. This alone is very en couraging. True, there have been lots of disputes over time, but people have survived and they will survive the current o ne raging on this forum. Disagreements will always be with us - like it or not - it is how we handle them that demonstrate s to us where our weaknesses are. We are all changing - and I could name you well-known posters here who have chan ged in the years since they started posting, but I will let them tell you that.

Yes, if you stay on here long enough you will be blessed.

ginnyrose

Re: JUST CURIOUS Â... How many lives have been changed by SI discussions? Any testimoni - posted by ginnyrose (

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