

Blaise Pascal

Hello my friends. I want to thank you for joining me today for PUNLA Coffee Table Heroes. So, grab your coffee or tea and get comfortable at PUNLA Coffee Table so we can talk.

Today I'd like to introduce you to PUNLA Coffee Table Hero Blaise Pascal. Let's take a quick look at our Bible timeline. You can see Pascal was Born in 1623 and died 1662 at a very young 39 years old.

French mathematician, physicist, inventor, philosopher, writer and theologian. But during his life time he was without a doubt one of the smartest people to ever live. He invented the first digital calculator, the Pascaline, in 1639 at age 16. His concepts for measuring pressure and calculating probabilities are still the foundations used today. I'm an engineer and I use these fundamentals in my work routinely.

He grew up as a Roman Catholic but over the years he became more and more evangelical. Believing in salvation by grace, not works.

Beyond his considerable contributions to science, mathematics, physics and philosophy. He is credited with some amazing quotes and I want to share just a few with you today. Please research more on your own. You may recognize some of these. Pascal is credited as the first to say things like.

"There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus." I have used this illustration myself for years but never knew it came from Pascal until I learned about this Christian Hero and his contributions to our faith.

How about this one, "Either Christianity is true or it's false. If you bet that it's true, and you believe in God and submit to Him, then if it is true, you've gained God, heaven, and everything else. If it's false, you've lost nothing, but you've had a good life marked by peace and the illusion that ultimately, everything makes sense. If you bet that Christianity is not true, and it's false, you've lost nothing. But if you bet that it's false, and it turns out to be true, you've lost everything and you get to spend eternity in hell." How true. The atheist has no come back for this. The questions is what are you betting on? I'll bet on Christ and have great satisfying life of peace.

This next one made me stop think about it for a while. "In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't." I heard a version of this in a sermon awhile back. I had to research its origin. I was amazed this came from Pascal. What a very profound and insightful phrase. God never overrides our will. If our will is to find God, He shines His light. If our will is to deny God, then His shadow will blind us from the truth.

This one just made me smile as I thought about this profound truth Pascal captured so concisely. "There are only three types of people; those who have found God and serve him; those who have not found God and seek him, and those who live not seeking, or finding him. The first are rational and happy; the second unhappy and rational, and the third foolish and unhappy." Notice only the those who serve God are happy. Right to the point. The cure for unhappiness is the source Jesus.

This next one sounds like a modern saying, something from the great preachers of our day. "Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it."

Remember he wrote in the early 1600's. What would he think of our Post-truth era of today. I'm going to quickly read a couple more..

Quote, "Not only do we not know God except through Jesus Christ; We do not even know ourselves except through Jesus Christ." Or this one,

"There are only two kinds of men: the righteous who think they are sinners and the sinners who think they are righteous." What a great quote. It really exposes our self-righteous tendencies. Only two groups those who know they need God and those that arrogantly reject God.

Listen to this one, "Men despise religion. They hate it and are afraid it may be true." Or this one which goes closely with it.

"Knowing God without knowing our own wretchedness makes for pride. Knowing our own wretchedness without knowing God makes for despair. Knowing Jesus Christ strikes the balance because He shows us both God and our own wretchedness." As Christians, we know that it is only through Christ and His word that we can see ourselves as we truly are, hopeless, broken, messed-up sinners without Jesus

"Vanity of science. Knowledge of physical science will not console me for ignorance of morality in time of affliction, but knowledge of morality will always console me for ignorance of physical science." The Christian life is the only console in times of trouble, all the science and knowledge will not help you cope with your troubles, only Jesus can.

Some many of these quotes make you stop and think, like this one. "Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much." Or as Jesus told us "Love your neighbor as yourself"

"It is impossible on reasonable grounds to disbelieve miracles." This is profound because the world wants to disprove the miraculous but has no explanation other than disbelief. Pascal says, just because you think its impossible does not make your disbelief proof. Without evidence, you have to consider the possibility miracles are truly miracles.

"Jesus is the God whom we can approach without pride and before whom we can humble ourselves without despair." And I'm truly glad for this. We can pour ourselves out to God without fear.

I think every one of these quotation are amazing. And there are many more. I found several websites with more than 154 Christian quotes from Pascal, not to mention his philosophy, and scientific quotes. Truly an amazing Christian Hero. God has used his words to encourage countless Christians over the past 400 years. I will include a few of these links under this message if you want to learn more about our PUNLA Coffee Table Hero Blaise Pascal

I hope you enjoyed learning a little about Pascal. Maybe not what you would think of as a Christian Hero but very noteworthy. Most of the Christian Heroes we think about died for their beliefs but we should also remember the Heroes like Pascal. We can learn so much from their insights and lives. Blaise Pascal, PUNLA Coffee Table Hero.

Let's Pray. Lord thank you for allowing us to get to know Pascal. His writings inspired by You, inspire us. Thank you for creating people like this who can put thought to words in ways that help us understand you more.

Thank you so much for the tools and technology that you have given us, such that we can learn and study with ease and understanding.

Help us to discern what is from you and what is of the world, oh Lord. Thank you for this time and study. I pray these things in your name Jesus, Amen

Next time on PUNLA Coffee Table Heroes we will learn about John Wycliffe.

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table for Coffee Table Heroes. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website (www.punla.org) or mail me at kip@punla.org. I want your feedback so let me know what you think.

Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. (www.punlacoffeetable.org) God bless.

LINKS

- [Blaise Pascal - Les Provinciales \(www.britannica.com\)](http://www.britannica.com)
- [Blaise Pascal Biography - History of Mathematics \(mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk\)](http://mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk)
- [Blaise Pascal Quotes – www.BrainyQuote.com](http://www.BrainyQuote.com)
- [Blaise Pascal Quotes \(www.goodreads.com\)](http://www.goodreads.com)
- [Blaise Pascal - Biography, Facts and Pictures \(www.famousscientists.org\)](http://www.famousscientists.org)
- [Blaise Pascal - Education, Pensées & Religion – \(www.Biography.com\)](http://www.Biography.com)