

It's A Wonderful Life

December 16, 2007

Introduction

1. The Wonderful Life of _____

His _____

His _____

His _____

His _____

2. The Wonderful Life of Jesus

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself... He was only thirty-three when the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.

James Allan Francis

In his book, *What If Jesus Had Never Born*, D. James Kennedy contends that Christianity has made more changes on earth for the good than any other movement or force in history. Here are some of the positive contributions Christianity has made through the centuries:

- Hospitals
- Universities
- Literacy and education for the masses
- Capitalism and free-enterprise
- Representative government
- Civil liberties
- The abolition of slavery
- Modern science
- The discovery of the New World by Columbus
- The elevation of women
- Benevolence and charity
- Higher standards of justice
- The elevation of the common man
- High regard for human life
- The setting to writing of many of the world's languages
- The inspiration for the greatest works of art and music
- Countless lives changed from liabilities into assets to society

3. The Wonderful Life of _____

Community _____

Friends _____

Relatives _____

Family _____