

INTRODUCE SELF

INTRODUCE SERIES

Why "The Omega Series"? Omega = last letter of Greek alphabet = the end

- Completion, conclusion, consummation
- Talk about global issues affecting us all, where is it all going, where will it end?
- Current events in eternal context

Ground rules :

- Introductory, thought-provoking
- Christian perspective
- Aim to raise questions

Source :

- Not just personal opinion
- Based on Bible and standard Christian teaching
 - But is Bible reliable? SHAPE

STARTING POINT

The world is uncertain. Where are we going?

Niels Bohr : Prediction is always difficult, especially about the future!

Plato : The problem with the future is that more things might happen than will happen.

Hillson : Everything about the future is uncertain – probably!

Many sources of uncertainty : PESTLIED

- Political
- Economic
- Social
- Technological
- Legal/regulatory
- International
- Environmental
- Demographic

FIRST KEY QUESTION FOR CHRISTIANITY

Where is God?

- Absent?
- Busy?
- Unaware?
- Disinterested?
- Powerless?

GODISNOWHERE : depends on perspective

Return to this question later in series.

RESPONDING TO UNCERTAINTY

Four basic responses :

1. apathy
2. anger
3. anxiety
4. action

What action is possible when faced with uncertainty?

Two options : Risk management or faith in God? (copies of paper?)

Risk management :

- personal – safety, insurance, health, travel ...
- professional – insurance, H&S, training, process, operational & strategic risk mgt ...
- political – international collaboration (UN, EU, NATO etc), legal, negotiation, treaties, intelligence, armed force ...

RISK MANAGEMENT BASICS

Definition

Purpose

Process

Response options

Benefits

Risk management is never 100% effective, always left with residual risk :
uncontrollable, unforeseeable, unknown

DEALING WITH RESIDUAL RISK

Can return to first three basic responses (4 A's), but what further action is possible?

When risk management has been tried, what is left? Fear or faith?

When we've done what we can we can trust God for the rest.

When residual risk is uncontrollable – he can do anything
unforeseeable – he sees everything
unknown – he knows everything

Trust is an action, active, not passive, not same as believing or hoping.

E.g. sitting on chair – can believe it will support me, and hope it will

Trust is actually sitting down, taking action in line with beliefs

What do we believe about God? GOD-IS-NOWHERE or GOD-IS-NOW-HERE?!

- Personal
- Powerful
- Present
- God is love

Implications? What action to take if this is true? How does this affect our view of life?

CONCLUSIONS

If there is a God and we believe that GOD-IS-NOW-HERE, can we trust him in this uncertain world? Can we trust him when faced with PESTLIED? The Bible says yes!

[Prayer]

COMING NEXT WEEK

Putting history into context

Looking ahead – what can we expect?

Ancient prophecies with current fulfilments?