

'HONEST TO GOD' REVISITED

Ben Whitney

A Study Day for radical enquirers

Five 45 minute sessions, each with a short presentation and questions/discussion

First published in 1963, Bishop John Robinson's short classic book, (which is still easily available second-hand or in Kindle format), brought serious theology to a mass audience. Over a million copies were sold. He had just been a witness for the defence in the 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' obscenity trial and many Christians, though not all, were equally outraged by his presentation of 3 modern German theologians, Bultmann, Tillich and Bonhoeffer. Long before Bishop Jack Spong, he was saying that Christianity must change or it will die. The book continues to raise many exciting questions for the radical follower of Jesus, or those who would like to believe but cannot reconcile the Church's traditional teachings with modern understandings.

The language and style of the book does at times look dated, but the issues are as relevant as ever. What do we mean by 'God'? How do we understand the life and death of Jesus? How do we decide how to live? I offer a reflective and participatory day to guide you through it. For those willing to risk exploring new ideas and insights in a spirit of openness, whether or not they would call themselves 'Christians'.

Aimed especially at encouraging and supporting 'lay'-people who may feel that talking 'theology' is too difficult (it isn't!) or who may be worried that there may be nothing left to believe in if you question the conventional Christian doctrines, (there is!)

Sessions:

- 1. The Ground of our Being:** New understandings of 'God'
- 2. The Man for Others:** The meaning of Jesus
- 3. Worldly holiness:** Personal Spirituality
- 4. The New Morality:** The Supremacy of Love
- 5. Recasting the mould:** Changing the Church

It would help to read the book in advance, but it is not essential. The day includes an opening meditation, a brief introduction to each session, group discussion of suggested questions and feedback/responses on each theme. Breaks and lunch can be taken as required.

This offer is primarily for the Midlands area where I am based. Contact me via my website if you are interested in arranging a local event.

Fee/expenses entirely at your discretion.

www.ben-whitney.org.uk