

Episode 01. "The Time Capsule"

Tuesday, January 5, 2021. 46 Minutes Long.

An introduction to the Early Christian Lifestyle. Tells why other people thought the original Christians were "a new race of humans," and why that fact has been "buried" for 1,700 years. The episode opens a "Time Capsule" that reveals how to live today like an original Christian – with amazing results.

John (00:00):

John Shields opens the episode by saying:

John (00:13):

Well hello, friends! And welcome to the very first episode of the new "Saving Christianity" podcast, brought to you by the Christian family Online in America. I'm your host, John Shields. And, in this first episode of the podcast, we're going to discuss some surprising facts from the book, *Saving Christianity*. *Saving Christianity* is a book that tells us how to have more peace, healing, and hope in our lives. And it's the book that also gave this podcast its name. Now, the title of this first episode is "The Time Capsule." (Repeats.) And in this episode, you're going to hear some facts about Christianity that have been buried for 19 centuries. The Good News about these facts is that you're going to be encouraged and inspired by them. But as I said, the "time capsule" we're talking about in this episode has been buried for 1,900 long and lonely years.

John (01:34):

That explains why so many Christians have never heard the things you're about to hear. Now, before we start, let's answer a question that you're probably already asking yourself. And it's this: "Why do I need to hear these facts?" Well, you probably noticed that our logo for this podcast promises, "A Return To Peace Healing And Hope." So, if more peace, healing, and hope, sound like something that would help you and your loved ones, stay tuned! But I want to stop here to introduce my best friend, and the co-host of "Saving Christianity" podcast, Owen Allen. Owen, why don't you say a few words to our friends?

Owen (02:30):

Well, thank you, John! It's a great and honest pleasure to kick off the new "Saving Christianity" podcast with you. This moment is something we've talked about for many, many years. And of course, with the publication recently of the book *Saving Christianity*, I guess you could say the podcast has finally become possible.

John (02:54):

Yeah. This is a historic moment for us. We're talking about really 30 years (of talking about it). And so this is a culmination of a lot of things that (our friends) are going to be hearing about.

Owen (03:08):

Very much so, John. But before we start, let me mention a fact that I think all of our friends already know from watching TV and surfing the Internet. And it's this: Christianity is in trouble today. I hate to say it, but it's true. Christianity is shrinking rapidly. In other words, there are fewer and fewer Christians each year. And here's why that matters. Christianity is the most rewarding, fulfilling, and miraculous experience on planet earth. I mean that. So there should be *more* Christians each year, not *less* Christians each year.

John (03:57):

Yeah, certainly. Totally. But what does this fact – and it's an important one – that Christianity is shrinking, mean for our listeners today?

Owen (04:12):

Well, I think it raises some important questions that all of us – everybody – should be asking ourselves. Questions like: *Why is Christianity shrinking instead of growing? Why do so many Christians have less peace, healing, and hope, instead of more?* And most important of all, how can our friends, those listening in their cars, and their kitchens, and their offices, wherever they are at this moment ... how can they have more peace, healing, and hope in their personal lives?

John (04:52):

Well, something about our podcast that I'm really, really, excited about is this. Years ago, I was working for a friend of mine who was my boss, and he had a little saying for us. It was this: "Don't come to me with a problem unless you have the solution." And so I'm excited that not only are we discussing facts and the problem, but we're also going to *answer those questions for our friends, aren't we.*

Owen (05:22):

Absolutely. Totally. And by the way, those are only some "starter" questions that may shock some of our friends listening. But we're going to answer all of those questions, and many more like them.

John (05:36):

Fantastic. I know I can't wait as we continue to talk about this. I think we're ready to start now. So why don't we tell our friends about the "time capsule" now. Let's start with the story of the crisis you had several years ago.

Owen (05:56):

Okay, John. And this will be, I guess, our first true story of the podcast. And it's the *key*. The story I'm about to tell is the *key* to this episode, and to the "time capsule." And you know, John, when you think about it, our friends need to know that we're going to tell a lot of true stories in this podcast: Stories about you; stories about me; stories about our families, and stories about our friends.

John (06:25):

This is actually not only a true story, but I love the fact that it's personal.

Owen (06:32):

Yeah. And, you know, we *want* to be personal! I mean, what could be more *personal* than Christianity? So this is our first true story. It's about me. And here's the point. This story is about the time that I became so *discouraged with Christianity that I gave up*.

John (06:51):

Yeah. I remember many years ago you telling me that story. How you were out on the lake alone on your boat, and had just thrown in the proverbial towel. And the Lord spoke to you. You said you had given up on Christianity at that time.

Owen (07:15):

I'm sorry to say that I did. And as you know, John, I was raised in a Christian home. You know that I've been a Christian since age 11. But my problem was that I kept being hurt and disappointed by what other Christians said and did. If I may be cold-bloodedly honest here, I saw other Christians having affairs, reading pornographic magazines, cursing, doing all kinds of things that were unchristian. And it seemed to me that nobody, not even the pastors of my congregations that I looked up to, could do anything about it.

John (07:58):

Yeah, and that reminds me of my uncle one time who asked me from a business world perspective, "What's your product as a Christian?" And I said, well part of it is *changed lives*! So what you're suggesting is that you haven't seen too many *changed lives*. So what happened?

Owen (08:17):

Unless it was in the opposite (the bad) direction! (Laughter.) Well, when I reached my early thirties, John, the problem came to a head because my congregation had what we call in the Christian world a "Church Split."

John (08:31):

Sounds like that should be an oxymoron (a contradiction).

Owen (08:34):

Well, a certain decision arose in the congregation. I won't reveal what it was. But half of the members agreed with the decision, and half of the members disagreed with the decision. And for weeks, the congregation gossiped, and argued, and had meetings about the decision. Over the weeks, things got so heated that members were now shouting at one another and throwing hymn books at one another. And then the congregation "Split." What that means is that half of the families left and started a new congregation on the other side of town. The other half stayed – and that included my family – in the original building. But they were so depressed and hurt that they were never the same.

John (09:24):

Yeah. Owen, when I hear you say that, and I know from some of my own experiences (that it's true), I have a feeling that among our listeners, many of them, are nodding in agreement.

Owen (09:35):

Sadly. I mean, think about what we're saying, John. It was horrible. But think about this: The truth is that both sides of the "Split" were hurt. Both groups of families were permanently wounded. Many never spoke to one another again. They would avoid each other in the supermarket. And I was so discouraged by that, and so hurt by that, that I gave up on Christianity. And I didn't worship anywhere after that for several years.

John (10:06):

Well, obviously the very fact that we're sitting here talking about this means that something brought you back. What was that, Owen?

Owen (10:15):

Well, you need to know that I had a research job at the time in St. Louis, Missouri. And one day I read a Gallup poll. And this Gallup poll told me why "Church Splits" happen. It was a national poll of Christians. And here's what it found. Listen to this: It found that *the average Christian is no more spiritual than a non-Christian.* (Repeats.) And John, you remember, that I knew George Gallop personally. He's deceased now. But one night in Washington, we had dinner, and he told me about this poll and how it shocked and hurt him and his research staff to even compile it and see the results.

John (11:10):

You know, Owen, we've talked about this many, many times. But maybe we should explain this in a little clearer terms.

Owen (11:22):

Well, as the old man said, that's where "the fur flies." Because in actual practice, what this Gallup poll found was this: The average Christian – and I know many of our listeners are above average – but the average Christian has the same rate of divorce, the same rate of child abuse, the same rate of drug abuse, the same rate of pornography addiction, and even the same rate of white and blue collar crime, as a non-Christian.

John (11:54):

Well, that's hard for me to get my mind around that. But you're actually saying that the average professing Christian is living the "template" (the lifestyle) of a non-Christian?

Owen (12:06):

Yes. You can look at the people on the street, and you can see *no* difference. Sad, but true. So, put it this way, John: The average Christian has exactly the *same* daily lifestyle as a non-Christian.

John (12:22):

I'm afraid that I agree, Owen. That has truly been my experience now for about 36 years.

Owen (12:30):

Well, let's stop and summarize here for our friends who are listening: The reason that Christians have so many divorces, so much drug abuse, and so many other problems, is that they're living – let's get this now! – on the *same* Spiritual level as non-Christians. And, since non-Christians have all those kinds of problems in their lives, then *so* does the average Christian.

John (13:00):

Wow. So, we talked about in our opening about answers to questions! So, what did you *do* after getting that really shocking information from the Gallup poll?

Owen (13:14):

Well, I thought it, and suffered, for a long time. In fact, for many months. And I kept asking myself this question. It rolled in my mind, even at night: "Why don't Christians live better lives than non-Christians?" I kept thinking, "Why don't Christians have *fewer* addictions, *fewer* abuses, than non-Christians?" Well, eventually, this choice – this decision, this issue – formed in my mind. And here it is. I told it to many people over lunch, and dinner, and in conversations. Here it is: Either Christianity is the biggest HOAX ever pulled on Christians. Or Christians today are doing something WRONG. They're misunderstanding something. Or misapplying something, about Christianity.

John (14:12):

Wow. Owen, that is quite an observation. Can you repeat that again?

Owen (14:19):

Let's try it this way. Here was my issue. I realized that one of two things had to be true: Either Christianity is nonsense. Or Twenty-First Century Christians are living the Christian life incorrectly in some way that I didn't understand.

John (14:43):

Ouch. I'm sure I know. But when the dust finally settled, which of these two options did you choose?

Owen (14:55):

Well, you might not believe it, but I struggled. But finally, in religion -- and this applies to our friends who are listening -- in the field of religion, all of us eventually have to make some hard choices. And so, finally I sat up in my chair, and I made a hard choice. I said to myself, "Christianity is not a HOAX. Christianity is TRUE!" But that left me with a big PROBLEM to solve: I had to find out what it is that Christians are doing *incorrectly* today!

John (15:40):

So, *that* was when you started your "quest."

Owen (15:43):

Absolutely. That's when I finally started my three year, round-the-clock study of Early Christianity. My wife, Joanna, literally brought me my meals on a tray and, except for sleeping and eating, I studied and read and worked on my computer, and worked on the internet, for three straight years. And by the way, that story is in the Introduction to the book, *Saving Christianity*. And that's the reason everything we're saying, in fact, on this episode, is in that book. And that's why I'm hoping -- we're hoping -- that every one of our listeners will get a copy, either on the Amazon or the Barnes and Noble website, so they can follow along with these points that we're making.

John (16:33):

Right. Owen, I was privileged to kind of have an insider's view of all that. I was in college when you were doing that. And I can assure our friends that it's (the book *Saving Christianity*) one of the most practical and unusual books I've ever read. And anyone who reads it will reach that conclusion, I think. But tell me, what did you hope to find out in the quest?

Owen (17:04):

Well, let's put it this way, John. I wanted to find out how the "inventors" of Christianity *lived*. I wanted to find out how the "founders" *behaved*. Why? Well, as the old joke goes, "When

everything else fails, read the instructions!" And that's what I did. That's something we all learned as young parents on Christmas Eve! When you can't get it done, read the instructions!

John (17:35):

For sure! You know, that's an unusual viewpoint! You rarely, if ever, look at it through that lens. So let's talk about the research that you did.

Owen (17:47):

Well, first, over a period of three years, I read over 300 books on the Early Christians. Many were rare or out-of-print books. But I also traveled to Italy, and Greece, and Israel, and Turkey, to study the Early Christian *ruins*, and *symbols*, and *paintings*, and *letters*, and *artifacts*, that the original Christians left behind.

John (18:14):

So, that's what brings us to actually calling this episode "digging up the 'Time Capsule'."

Owen (18:21):

Exactly. That's why we're calling this episode that. And by the way, we might as well stop here and remind our friends what a "time capsule" is.

John (18:34):

And we're actually using that term, Owen, as a *symbol*. Correct?

Owen (18:39):

Yes, let's use it today as a *symbol*. But you know, there really are "time capsules." I guess most people have never seen them. So, let's tell our listeners what a "time capsule" really is. It's a box, or a place. It can be a cave, or a grave, that contains *coins*, and *symbols*, and *letters*, and *art*, and *clothes*, and personal *items*, that one group of people buries or leaves, so that another group of people can dig it up later. And here's why: To find out how that first group lived.

John (19:17):

Right. Such as the way people put things in the cornerstones of new buildings. Or maybe like the tombs of the Egyptian pharaohs. That sort of thing.

Owen (19:29):

Yeah, because stop and think about the famous King Tut's tomb that was excavated. We learned so much more about the ancient Egyptian people that nobody had known. And we learned it from all the stuff that was buried at his time. So, except that in my case, Early Christian history was my "time capsule." I dug up the lifestyle of the original Christians by

reading their *letters* and studying their *symbolology*. A lot of people don't know that they left many symbols. They left art. Even their graves contained items. And even some of the ruins of their ancient homes. John, for example, later in an episode, we'll talk about the ruins of the apostle Peter's home, which still stand today in Capernaum, Israel. And I've studied those ruins carefully. I was trying to find out what it was that made those Early Christians unique.

John (20:38):

Well, since this is true, shouldn't we define the term "Early Christian history," since that's the context from which we're working?

Owen (20:52):

Good point! Okay, researchers define "Early Christian history" as *the first 300 years of Christianity*. (Repeats.) Including, obviously, parts of the First, Second and Third Centuries of world history. But – and John, this is important – what we're calling our "time capsule" is only a *100-year-slice* out of those three centuries. In fact, that slice goes from the Middle of the First Century, to the Middle of the Second Century: 100 years.

John (21:36):

Now, we are limiting our "time capsule" to a 100-year-slice.

Owen (21:45):

Right! And here's why. Hang on to your hat. Because that was the *lifespan* of the very first Christian families. Stop and think about that. What if we were investigating how airplanes were invented? We'd be interested in the families that worked on that, and knew all about it. That would be the Wright brothers and their families. Or, what if we were studying assembly lines? How were they invented? Then we would study the Ford family, and their immediate families. And so, that's what we're looking at: That 100-year-slice of ancient history. It includes the lifespan of the very first Christian families.

John (22:32):

And that's so unusual. To be that specific. I'm not sure we ever hear anything about first century families. But we're limiting that quest to the families of the very first Christians.

Owen (22:54):

And here's why. A lot of people don't know this, John. But the average lifespan of a person in the First and Second Centuries was *40 years*. Imagine that. 40 years! And it was over. So that means that with these first families we're talking about, the ones who knew why Christianity was invented in the first place – they lived 40 years. Of course, Peter and Paul, two of the most famous early Christians, were unusual. They lived to their sixties. And the apostle John, who was a teenager when Jesus was walking the earth, broke all records by living to 92. But most of them died young. You know, Jesus died at 33, and many of His original apostles died young too.

John (23:47):

But, Owen. I have to ask. Why is the 40-year lifespan so significant?

Owen (23:57):

I can say it in two words, John. "Accurate Evidence!" My quest was to collect accurate evidence on these first families – and what it was that made them unique. And so, what happens is, that occurred, as I said earlier, from the Middle of the First Century to the Middle of the Second Century. For example, the first accurate evidence ... many people listening couldn't answer this ... the first accurate evidence ever discovered about the early Christians was in a letter that was discovered, that was dated 45 AD. Now, if we round that off and let's just say 50 AD. That's the Middle of the First Century. And let's assume that the person who wrote that letter was about 20 at the time. So we add 20 years to him to make a complete lifespan. That brings us to 70 AD. But wait a minute. All of the original Christians had families and children. We know that the apostle Peter traveled with his wife and his children. So we've got to add 40 years for the children, too. That brings us to 110 AD. And then finally – think about it! – they also had grandchildren. You know, grandchildren know their grandparents, and they hear the family stories at reunions. And so *they* knew all of this. We add 40 years for them. That brings us to 150 AD. Or the Middle of the Second Century. And that's when accurate evidence fades out.

John (25:34):

Yeah, and so, the 40-year lifespan (of the Early Christians) is significant. But also talk a little bit about why the Middle of the Second Century is so important.

Owen (25:47):

Well, that is truly when the last accurate evidence about the last generation of the Christian families is available. Just in that 100-year-slice is what we're calling our "time capsule." Because that's when accurate information starts to fade out of the history books.

John (26:09):

Okay. So, our friends are probably wanting to know why we're limiting our "time capsule" to the *families* of the first Christians.

Owen (26:20):

Yeah, what's interesting, isn't it? You'd think it would be famous writers or someone of that period. But here's why. If you're doing good research, talk to an FBI agent. Or talk to a police detective. You always want to collect your evidence from as close to the event in *time* as possible. Also, you want use *eye witnesses* as much as possible. So check this out: I limited my quest to people who had known *Jesus* – because He's the founder of Christianity – and to people who had known *people* who had *known* Him.

John (27:02):

Which limited you to three generations, right? Because three generations are what we call an "immediate family."

Owen (27:09):

Exactly. Researchers call the parents, children, and grandchildren of any family the "immediate family." And those are the ones we wanted to study. What made them different? Why it was their relationship with Jesus and the Holy spirit made them so different. And all that information now starts to die out with the third generation of the first Christian families.

John (27:39):

Now, so the most accurate evidence in our "time capsule" comes from the first three generations of the first Christians.

Owen (27:50):

Absolutely. You nailed it. So let's summarize quickly. We don't want this to be too technical for our dear friends who are listening. And it's this. Here's our summary: Early Christian history is the 300-year-period of the First, Second, and Third centuries. But the "time capsule" we're explaining in this episode, is *only a 100-year-slice* of those centuries that covers the *first three generations* of the first Christian families.

John (28:23):

Okay, so let me make sure I understand as well. So research into Early Christianity can really be based on the principle of the 40-year lifespan.

Owen (28:35):

I think so. I think that was a twist that I felt led to do. And many researchers overlook that principle. So you could also say it this way: Early Christian history is 300 years. You divide that back (by the number 40), you're looking at the first eight generations of the Early Christians. But we're limiting our "time capsule" to only the first three of those generations

John (29:04):

Okay, I got it! We're just taking a "slice" of that. But let's ask another question. Why did – and I think this is so important – why did Early Christian history *end* after only 300 years?

Owen (29:23):

That's the whole point! That's where the worm turns! Because that's, John, the *tragedy* that we're producing this podcast to discuss, and to explain to people. Because that *is* why Early

Christian history did end with the dawn of the Fourth Century. And that wonderful lifestyle of peace, healing, and hope, that those first Christian families enjoyed faded away at that time.

John (30:01):

And so, obviously, that did not happen in a vacuum. So why did it? That's the question. We're always asking, "Why?" *Why* did the Early Christian lifestyle fade away at the start of the Fourth Century?

Owen (30:19):

That's amazing, isn't it! Really, I personally think, John, and I think that our friends would agree with that. *That's one of the most important questions in history.* Because the answer to that question tells us *why* Christianity is shrinking today. And *why* its influence on society is fading away today. It's the purpose of this podcast is to answer those questions! *Why* did Christianity die at the dawn of the Fourth Century? And more than that, *why* don't more Christians today know the answer to that question? Well, the Good News is that we're going to *explain* all of that, and *answer* all of those questions, fully and completely, as we move along.

John (31:22):

Great! I'm looking forward to the answers! It's going to be a life-changing experience for our friends. But let's back up just a moment. We've been talking a lot about "The Early Christian Lifestyle." So what is that?

Owen (31:43):

That's a great question. And now we're moving into parts of the *answer* to our questions. Because researchers say that a "lifestyle" is simply a type of *behavior*. It's simply a way of *living*. It's a style of *conduct* that a group of people have. And listen, the reason that's important, in our case and in this podcast, is because when you see a person's lifestyle, you're looking at that person's *Spiritual level*.

John (32:19):

Okay. So ... is it a *good* thing to see people's lifestyles?

Owen (32:25):

Well, I think it is. I think it's important to see people's *lifestyles*. I mean, that's the whole message of this episode here. Why? Because the Early Christians were the most *Spiritual* people on earth. And that's what Christians were intended to be – at all times, and in all places. Let's repeat that. A lot of people haven't thought this through. The Early Christian families, in the time slot that we're talking about, were the most *Spiritual* people on earth. I mean, you can read about that. We know the miracles that happened to them, the angels that appeared and guided them. We know these wonderful things. But here's the point: Christians at all times, and in all places, and in all ages, are supposed to live *that* lifestyle!

John (33:21):

Well, I'm going to play devil's advocate for a moment, Owen. How do we know that?

Owen (33:26):

Well, it's a matter of recorded history. Happily, it's not an opinion. It's not something we made up. Down through history, other people – mind you, people who were *not* Christians, other people who were what I call non-Christians – saw the *Spiritual* behavior in those Christian families. And they wrote about it. And then those written reports, those ancient documents, came down through history, and they're in the museums today.

John (33:59):

Right! Let's talk about one example today.

Owen (34:04):

Okay. One example. Here's probably a good, quick, easy example. It's an incident that happened in Second Century Rome. Here we are, again, in the Middle of the Second Century. There was a man named Natalis. He was *not* a Christian. And he was standing with a group of friends who were *not* Christians. And they were watching the behavior of a group of the Early Christians in the street. Imagine this now. I don't know if they were on a balcony or where they were. But they were watching some of the Early Christians in the street. And after they watched a few minutes, Natalis turned to his friends, and here's what he said. And I quote: "Look at them! They love one another almost before they know one another!" (Repeats.)

John (35:01):

I haven't heard anyone say *that* (about Christians) lately!

Owen (35:03):

Tell me! (Laughter.) And by the way, that story is in the Introduction of our book, *Saving Christianity*.

John (35:11):

Well, Owen. You know me well enough to know that I'm kind of a bottom line guy. So, I would say to that, what's the point of that story for us?

Owen (35:24):

Well, here's the point. The story of Natalis proves what we've been saying about the Early Christian lifestyle. It proves the kind of *behavior* that the Early Christians had. They had *Spiritual* behavior. That's another word for "supernatural" behavior – which ain't a bad word!

Even though Hollywood has stolen it for Frankenstein movies. What it only means is something that's beyond what's natural and normal. So, it was *supernatural* behavior (that Natalis saw). Other people didn't have it. It was not natural. It was supernatural. And that's the point of Christianity. Listen, Christians are people with *supernatural* behavior.

John (36:12):

So, he (Natalis) *saw* their behavior. He actually *observed* it. And, obviously the conclusion is that this was a lifestyle for them. And furthermore, that lifestyle was *supernatural*, right?

Owen (36:28):

Exactly! *Exactamente!* (Spanish for "exactly.") You know, if you asked a typical Christian today, "Excuse me, do you have supernatural behavior?" They'd faint. But, they should say, "Praise God, yes!" (Laughter.) So, as we said earlier, if you see a person's lifestyle, you're looking at that person's *Spiritual* level. You're seeing how *Spiritual* that person's behavior is. And that's what Natalis saw in Rome. He was amazed at how *Spiritual* their lifestyle was! Listen to this: What he saw on the street was *not* human love. All people have that. What he saw on the street was *Spiritual* love. And that's an important difference that our friends really ought to think about.

John (37:22):

Right. So actually, he saw in them something that he knew he *didn't* have. Right?

Owen (37:30):

Exactly. And something that he *wanted!*

John (37:32):

And something that he *wanted*. So, what about this? So, we're saying that, in this context, non-Christians *don't* have *Spiritual* behavior.

Owen (37:47):

Well, that's a blunt statement. But in truth and in fact, they *don't*. I mean, that's the principle that our "time capsule" has revealed here. Non-Christians *don't* have it. They don't have *supernatural* behavior. They're not equipped for it. They haven't received it. Because they're *not* Christians. And that's why original Christianity, and I use that word carefully – ORIGINAL Christianity – was different from the other religions of that day. Think about it. There were about 400 other religions of that day. But Christianity gave its people *supernatural* love, joy, peace, patience, hope. And the other religions didn't give that to their members. So, why do you think Christianity spread worldwide in only 70 years? In 70 years, it was in every country, in every city. Why? Because non-Christians *saw* that supernatural behavior, they *wanted* it, too. So they became Christians to get it. And Christianity spread by that process.

John (39:02):

And, as the old saying goes, "The world was never the same."

Owen (39:06):

And it wasn't supposed to be! (Laughter.) That's the point. To give people lives that are *filled* with supernatural peace, healing, and hope!

John (39:17):

And other religions don't offer their members *that*. So that's a very, very important point. And the Great News is that it's *still* true today, isn't it.

Owen (39:31):

Okay. John, you just put your finger on the most *important* principle in this episode. The purpose of Christianity has never changed. It's the *same* today as it was during the years of the "time capsule" that we're "digging up." The purpose of Christianity is to give people lives that are *full* of supernatural peace, healing, and hope, that no other experience, religion, cult, or belief on earth can give them.

John (40:05):

Yeah. And obviously, part of the reason – our motivation – for even this podcast, is that we want everyone, all of our friends, to be *filled* with that supernatural power, don't we?

Owen (40:22):

Absolutely! And I'm hoping, as these episodes roll along, that will actually happen. But you know, John, I'm sorry to say it. But I just looked at the big clock on the wall, and it's time to close Episode 01. But you know, I'd like to summarize everything that we've said. And I think maybe one good way to do that is to read a few sentences from the Introduction of the book, *Saving Christianity*.

John (40:53):

Great. That's a good way for us to close today, Owen. So, what part of the Introduction are you going to read?

Owen (41:00):

Okay. Let's read that part where I'm talking about my three years of research. And let me quote those sentences. Now, here we go:

Owen (41:08):

"During my research, it finally dawned on me that I had grown up without knowing anything about how the original Christians lived and behaved. For example, I didn't know that they weren't originally called 'Christians.' I didn't know that they didn't have buildings called 'churches.' I didn't know that they didn't have preachers, pulpits, or pews. Or that they didn't have choirs, candles, or crosses. Or that they didn't have bulletins, Bibles, or bazaars. Or that they didn't have organs, offering plates, or orchestras. In fact, I didn't realize they didn't have much of anything that we call 'Christianity' today. So what did they have? They had incredible Spirituality. They were so incredibly Spiritual that they turned the whole world upside down Spiritually in only 70 years. Their lives were filled with healings, peace, love, and courage. Their behavior was so different from other people that non-Christians thought they were a 'new kind of humans' that had somehow appeared on earth."

Owen (42:28):

End of quote. And John, that last sentence is something that many Christians have never heard. The original Christians had such *Spiritual* behavior, that non-Christians thought they were a 'new race of people' that had somehow appeared on earth.

John (42:45):

(Laughter.) Yeah, that is *amazing*. And I don't know many Christians who know that.

Owen (42:50):

Nah, but you know, it's a critical fact. And all of us need to think about it. All of us need to ask ourselves what *that* particular kind of Christianity could – and should – mean to us personally. And to our children. And to our families. And the Good News is, we're going to continue exploring that idea even deeper in Episode 02.

John (43:15):

And that's why we're so excited about this. And that's why we're asking all of you, all of our friends, to tune in to Episode 02.

Owen (43:25):

Yeah, *subscribe* to this podcast! Because we've only scratched the surface. And remember, this is Episode 01. And a script and recording of it are on The Christian Family Online in America website. That same website that doubles as my personal blog. And if our listeners want to access the script and/or the recording of Episode 01, here's all they have to do. Go to www.CFOpods.com. **C-F-O-P-O-D-S.com** on the Internet. And click in the index at the top. Or just scroll down to Episode 01 on the list.

John (44:12):

And I encourage you to subscribe to this podcast, so you'll get notifications for Episode 02, and the rest of the upcoming episodes.

Owen (44:22):

Yeah, don't forget! Get a copy of the book, *Saving Christianity*, so you can follow along with these life-changing facts that we're talking about – either at Amazon Books; Barnes and Noble Books; Thrift Books, or any of the other quality book websites.

John (44:40):

All of us need a copy of this (book). And you can pick one up. I know my copy is necessary.

Owen (44:47):

And our friends need to know, John, that now Episode 02 coming up, is going to be very interesting. Because we're going to talk about what the Christian "fish" symbol originally meant. You know, John, that's the little symbol that you see on people's car bumpers. But here's the problem. It did *not* originally mean what people think it means today. We're also going to talk about why Christians were *not* originally called "Christians." A lot of people don't realize that that's not the original name for us. A lot of people don't know what Christians were originally called. And so, we're going to get into that. Why they were called that, (and) what they were called. So, there's a way you could say that Episode 02 "digs up" even more amazing facts from our "time capsule." But now, this is Owen Allen ...

John (45:45):

And this is John Shields ...

Owen (45:48):

... saying: May the God of our fathers bless you, and keep you, and guide you, and protect you, until we meet again.

Owen and John (46:07):

Owen and John end the episode.