

Dialogues in Science and Faith

Talk 2

Title: When the Truth Sets You Free

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Mike Brownutt obtained his first Master's degree (MSci in physics) and his PhD (in experimental quantum mechanics) from Imperial College London. Following this he moved to Innsbruck, Austria, for eight years, firstly as a post-doctoral researcher and later as an Assistant Professor, developing scalable architectures for quantum computers. Throughout this work he has had an abiding interest in the relationship between science and religion. He completed his second Master's degree (MA in theology from the University of Chester) considering how "faith" is understood by various parties in discourse on the relationship between Christianity and science. Now living in Hong Kong, he is Associate Director of the Faith and Science Collaborative Research Forum.

Abstract:

Scientific research is a pursuit of truth. All truth is God's truth. And the truth will set us free. This looks like a neat justification for Christians being involved in science. However, if only Jesus can set us free, there is clearly a richness to truth that this simple account misses. One cannot make a straight switch between what science means when it talks about truth, and what Christianity means. Recognising the differences between these conceptions of truth allows us to ask new questions about what kind of truth sets us free, and what academic freedom might then look like if scientists found it. This back and forth exchange of ideas serves to enrich our view of faith as well as our view of science.