



THE GOSPEL



The G O S P E L

The Doctrine of the Gospel

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"For God so Loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

THE GOSPEL

It is only a fool who will say that there is no God. True, *"the fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."* Psalm 14:1 The writer of this Psalm then explains what takes place in the hearts of those who say this. He says, *"they are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."*

What has happened is that, with **corrupt hearts**, *"they...became vain in their imaginations, and **their foolish heart was darkened**. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."* Romans 1:21-22

Apart from such persons, the majority of all people everywhere generally know and believe that there is a God. All, including those who through corruptness and vain imaginings have made themselves fools, are part of a creation known to science as "Homo sapiens" and to God as "Man." These are living souls of a different order to all other creatures and from every other form of animal or vegetable life, in that they all, as a great race and family, have the ability to understand right and wrong, to reason and to worship. Man is created in the image of God, Genesis 1:27, which means that while being part of creation, he also has spiritual and moral capacities that relate him directly to God. He has moral and spiritual consciousness because he is in the image of God, and this distinguishes him from all animals and gives him the capacity to know there is a God, and to fear Him.

Being "godlike," in that all mankind has a moral and spiritual capacity to know, fear, and worship God, all have been provided with proof to satisfy the requirements of reason, first as to the fact of God, and secondly as to the character and purposes of God.

God proves His existence to all mankind by "*the things that are made*" Romans 1:20, and He has revealed His character and purposes by giving "*that which is perfect*" 1 Corinthians 13:10, the Holy Scriptures, which in turn reveal the Son of God, and the heart of God.

1. CREATION

"The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard." Psalm 19:1-3

"The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead." Romans 1:20

That is to say, the works of creation will reveal to minds not corrupted by foolish imaginations, that such works could only have been created by God. Any right-thinking human mind, looking at the works of creation must say "*In the beginning, God.*" Genesis 1:1 There is no other real explanation and God has seen to it that the evidence to produce this logical cadence in the mind of mankind is complete and full to an astonishing degree. Whether a person turns to the wonders of astronomy or microscopy, the more they learn, the clearer the evidence is of the proof of God's existence.

2. THE SCRIPTURES OF TRUTH

The God who creates beings in His own image and Who gives them an awareness and God-consciousness along with the necessary proofs to be satisfied with His existence, must obviously have a very close interest in them. It is surely to be expected that He will find a means of communicating with them, and of revealing Himself to them.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" (and not become

corrupt and foolish) - *"By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word."*
 Psalm 119:9 *"Thy Word is **a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**"*
 Psalm 119:105

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

In the same way that creation reveals God, the Bible proves that it is also given by God. Creation and the Bible agree, and they both show the great authorship of God.

The world is full of books, but **this** book is different. Those who come to God's word in sincerity and without foolish pretensions, quickly learn to see and know the God the book reveals. Proofs abound from within to also convince and confirm its veracity to the genuine soul. There is the wonder of the unity of its revelation, for it tells of a God who satisfies the heart, and Who is clearly the God of glory and of creation. It reveals His love of mankind and it reveals His "Christ" or His Sent One, the Son of God, sent to reveal Himself and recover mankind. There is the wonder of fulfilled prophecy, the wonder of the Book's inerrant accuracy in all matters and the wonder of its miraculous preservation through the centuries. Then there is the wonder of the testimony of millions who in every age have found life and energy from its revelation of the love and power of heaven that has been brought to mankind through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What God is He?

(a) He is the great God

Consider the universe He made. *"O Lord my God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest Thyself with light as a garment; Who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain. "* Psalm 104:1-2

(b) He is a God of perfection

Look at the lilies He made. *"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow... even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."* Matthew 6:28-29
"As for God, His way is perfect." Psalm 18:30 *"Your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* Matthew 5:48

Accordingly it is only to be expected that God's book the Bible is *"that which is perfect."* 1 Corinthians 13:10 *"The law of the Lord is perfect."* Psalm 19:7

(c) He is pure

God is so perfect, that everything He does is right. He never makes a mistake. He is *"the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness."* James 1:17

He acts rightly and perfectly and can have nothing at all to do with anything that is not in accordance with His own perfection and righteousness. All variation or deviation from this is an abhorrence to Him and such variation is called "sin." God hates it, for He is pure. Accordingly, sin is defilement as seen by God and He will have none of it, nor countenance it in any way in His creatures. He has decreed that in heaven, His home, there shall not be *"anything that defileth."* Revelation 21:27 *"He is pure."* 1 John 3:3

(d) He is the God of eternity

He is, He was, and He evermore shall be, God. He is all powerful and able to maintain His purposes of purity, perfection and glory forever. He is all-knowing and all-seeing and if men could only realise it, He sees and knows all they do, at every moment. He is present everywhere, at all times, for all eternity, in power, glory, perfection and purity.

These qualities together spell the word "holy", for our God is majestic in the power and glory of His perfect purity, and that eternal glory is His Holiness. *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory."* Isaiah 6:3

GOD SO LOVED

The holy God is also a God Who is love. He is holy and loves *"so"* - that is, with a holy love. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."*

Note that God did not so love the world's people that He decided to forgive and forget their sin and depravity and receive all sinners into heaven without first dealing with the cause of all sorrow and suffering - sin. His love is not a love that could ever consider such a course of action.

No, God so loved, that the Son of God must taste death to make it possible for that love to reclaim the sinner.

The cross, the nails, the blood, and the suffering and death of Christ spell out the meaning of the love of God. Love is in all circumstances, that action of intelligent beings that moves to achieve something for the pleasure or good of another. There are different kinds of love, according to the differing code of behaviour of the lover.

Mankind may love and sin in the very action of that love—human love. However, God loves “so”, whereby His loving agrees with His purity and His holiness.

In John chapter 3, God's love is twice referred to. First, He loved the world “so,” verse 16, and then it is stated, “*The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand.*” verse 35 God was able to give “*all things*” to the Son He loved because that holy love was not restricted in any way - for Christ was holy and perfect and pure and had fulfilled all the Father's will and Word. It was right that “*all things*” should be given to Him, and the Father's love will surely accomplish the giving of all things to the Son.

But God's love to the world of sinners can only be of benefit to a sinner, conditional upon two things:

- (a) Christ must be given in a sacrificial death crucified upon a cross to atone for man's sin. This has been accomplished.
- (b) To derive personal benefit from that sacrifice, and to become one of those who belong to the designated class as a beneficiary of the love of God through the cross of Christ - the sinner must believe - “*whosoever believeth in Him,*” verse 16.

God's love is immeasurably great - so great that He gave His only begotten Son for the sinner, and it is such a kind of love that Christ, the Son of God, had to die to achieve its holy purpose.

On the other hand, man's love is such that it may despise God's love, and in verse 19 of the same chapter of John's gospel, we have the statement: “*and this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved*

darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Why do men refuse the Calvary love of God? Because their deeds are evil, and they love and enjoy the darkness of sin, rather than the light and the delights of holiness and heaven that God's love longs to bestow.

God has a special love - a holy pure love. Those who respond to God's love cannot be separated from it, Romans 8:35, and they become "*more than conquerors through Him that loved US,*" Romans 8:37.

CHOICE AND DECISION

On the other hand, those who prefer their sin, and do not believe and receive God's love, cannot have the protection of it. "*For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*" Hebrews 10:26-27

"Herein is love, (a true and holy, pure love of God) not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. "
I John 4:10

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

The great holy God of glory, did however so love in such a way with His perfect love, the entire people of the world. Our Creator is "*a faithful Creator,*" I Peter 4:19 "*But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for US. "* Romans 5:8

The world that God loved is that world of lost men and women of whom the prophet Isaiah speaks when he says "*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.*" Isaiah 53:6 It is a world of sinners wherein "*there is none righteous, no, not one.*" Romans 3:10

No individual in this world is perfect - none is righteous, no not one. All deflect and defect; all miss the mark; all sin. All, like sheep, have strayed. All are lawless to God. All have broken God's law.

All have lost perfection and holiness, and God views the whole world of

men and women as they are - lost. Lost to holiness, lost to heaven, for no defilement shall enter there. All are lost to God, for God can have no fellowship or friendship with any such persons.

God hates sin, but He loves the entire race of sinners with a love that yearns to save all from their sin and give them purity to make them fit for fellowship and friendship with Himself and the society of heaven.

He loves each man, woman, boy and girl in just this way with this holy, divine love.

He loves even the lost ones who love darkness and sin rather than Himself and His holiness.

There was found, however, one Man Who, when loved, did love God perfectly in return and *"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth."* I Peter 2:22 This was Jesus of Nazareth, Who is Emmanuel, God with us, His only begotten Son, Who *"was daily His delight."* Proverbs 8:30

Let the world of all mankind know therefore, that *"the love of God (for mankind) ...is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 8:39

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

God's *"dear Son"* Colossians 1:13, or *"The Son of His love,"* is *"the image of the invisible God"* and *"by Him were all things created"...* *"all things were created by Him, and for Him."* Colossians 1:15-16 He was originally *"in the form of God"* and *"equal with God."* Philippians 2:6

Now God *"so loved"* the world that He gave *"the Son of His love,"* who would empty Himself of His glory, that was rightly His, and take instead *"the form of a servant,"* being *"made in the likeness of men."* Philippians 2:7

As this love moved to effect its holy purpose, the message was sent to Mary (the bondmaid of the Lord) Luke 1:38, *"Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favour with God, and behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name JESUS."* Luke 1:30-31 *"Thou shalt call His name JESUS; for He shall save His people from their sins."* Matthew 1:21

After thirty years of ordinary, undetected-by-others human life with Mary, His mother, and with Joseph and the members of their family at Nazareth, having worked there as a carpenter, the time came when God would publicly reveal Him openly at His public baptism at the river Jordan. God spoke from the opened heaven, *"This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."* Matthew 3:17 John the Baptist was also permitted to point to the wonder of this sacred Person, for as He came to be baptized, John said *"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* John 1:29

God demonstrated that this perfect One, **His** Lamb, sinless and alone, in the world, for thirty years, was perfect. God set Him aside for special testing and proving for those three years of public service and then He *"gave"* Him up deliberately for the world of lost sinners that He so loved.

He *"gave"* Him in that humble birth, in subjecting Him to share the humanity and manhood of His creatures, but He also *"gave"* Him as a perfect man to the death of the cross. The Son of God humbled Himself to take upon Him the likeness of mankind, and *"He humbled Himself"* further, *"and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Philippians 2:8

*"All we like sheep have gone astray; **we have turned every one to his own way**; and the Lord hath laid on Him the **iniquity of us all.**"* Isaiah 53:6 All have willfully turned to lawlessly go the "self" way, but all have had their iniquity laid on Him.

Christ was *"stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted"* Isaiah 53:4 and *"He was cut off out of the land of the living,"* verse 8. *"It pleased the Lord to bruise Him "* although He is *"the Son of His love "* and *"His only begotten Son, "* His *"Well beloved Son, "* He also loved the lost sinners in the world. Nonetheless, as the Holy God He must in holy justice pass judgment upon all sin.

How could such love so expressed in the crucifixion of a loved Son, be so effective to benefit the loved creation of fallen sinners?

*"He was wounded for **our** transgressions, He was bruised for **our** iniquities: the chastisement of **our** peace was upon Him; and with His stripes **we** are healed."* Isaiah 53:5 (The believer only will use these words.)

Christ *"bare our sins in His own body on the tree."* 1 Peter 2:24 He suffered for us, in our stead, and He *"loved me, and gave Himself for me."* Galatians 2:20

WHOEVER BELIEVES ON HIM

Do all then have eternal life, if Christ has borne the iniquity of all and died for mankind?

No, the benefit of that suffering is for *"whosoever believeth on Him. "*

The holy God has laid down the conditions upon which He will forgive the sinner, and admit Him to the family of God and to heaven. God's conditions are twofold. Firstly, atonement must be made for sin, all lawlessness, and Christ has done this. Secondly, the sinner must repent and believe the Saviour and honour Him by acknowledging Him as personal Saviour and Lord, Who has paid full price for the believer's redemption.

Those who honour the Son, the Father will acknowledge and honour, and *"he that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent Him."* John 5:23

It is inconceivable that God could receive anyone who will not honour and bow to His Son. In loving the world of sinners, God's purpose is that He should have those He loves to love the Son of His love. The acknowledgement of sin and of the need of atonement for sin is the change in the sinner which causes him to see the Saviour on the cross of Calvary as his substitute. He discovers the Lord has died for his sin and for himself. That personal "seeing" or "understanding" of the crucified Christ as substitute is the "believing" which brings salvation and eternal life. The very believing will be God- assisted, because it involves the meeting of all God's requirements. To "believe" that Christ died in unspeakable holy agony in our place, is to honour Him and bow to Him and to make Him Lord. It is God's love that provided the Saviour to die for the sinner's sin, and it is God's love that woos and wins the sinner to behold the suffering Son of God on the cross. The *"believing"* is that change. Turning we put our faith in Christ as we receive the benefits of Christ's sacrifice, the love of the Saviour, and the grace and mercy of God.

Few are saved, many are lost, for the Lord Himself said, *"Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go*

in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. "Matthew 7:13-14

The reason for this is *"Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."* But God loves all and there is no person who may not benefit. Christ has died for all, and the beneficiaries of that sacrifice and love are *"whosoever believeth on Him."*

All have sinned, and all have been provided for in the sacrifice and in the love of God, that now, whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. But many are lost to individual destruction because few find the *"straightened"* — the narrow way or gate-entry to life eternal. Jesus Christ is the door, the gate and entry to salvation and life eternal.

THE WAY

The straightened way that so few find is the way of the cross upon which Christ was crucified. The way is Jesus Christ and His sacrifice upon the cross.

This cross is an offence to many, and even religious people stumble at the teaching or revelation of the cross. Secular scholarship and the "worldly- wise," generally call the preaching of the cross "foolishness." The Bible states that the cross is foolishness to some and a stumbling block to others.

Nevertheless to "believe" in Christ involves "seeing" Christ suffering for our sins, crucified on a cross, bleeding, dying, because He bore the judgment of God that our sins merit.

Accordingly, the "Way" is also to see how awful was our sin, that it had need to be judged on a cross at the place of execution.

We must come to learn at Calvary our need of a Saviour, by observing the cost to Him, Jesus Christ, of our sin. Look hard and look long at that suffering One, and behold how shocking is the consequence of our sin and how vile our state, that the Saviour must bear such wrath of God to atone for all. Thus He says *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me. "* John 14:6 *"For He (God) hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. "* 2 Corinthians 5:21

SEEING THE WAY

1. See at the cross our sin as God sees it.
2. See that the Saviour has atoned. He died on the cross in our place, the sinless Substitute sacrificed for the sinner in His work for others when He stated, "It is finished."
3. Believe on Him in **full trust**.

The sinner simply "believes" in Christ. This involves his repentance, confession of guilt and need of a Saviour. It involves the saving knowledge that Christ died for him, a sinner, and that Christ is God's Son, spotless pure and able to save.

The sinner simply "believes" in Christ, and that means he puts his trust in Him.

Immediately upon believing in His Son, God indwells the saved sinner through the person of the Holy Spirit of God, Who sets a seal upon him, This marks him as God's and Christ's for all eternity, and then God gives the believer power to live for God. He removes the judgment and punishment for sins committed that lie ahead for the sinner. That judgment is removed from the believer because it was placed upon Christ. The believing sinner has been redeemed and his sin atoned for by the precious blood which is now applied to the soul of the saved one. A new light shines from the cross upon the believer and a song of praise and joy replaces the sinner's previous guilt and sadness.

Immediately there is *"peace with God,"* and *"access by faith"* (to God's grace to supply all needs) and there is *"rejoicing in hope of the glory of God."* And *"the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us."* Romans 5:1-5

That God really has the power to do this through His Son is shown by Christ's resurrection from the dead. *"His soul was not left in Hell, neither His flesh did see corruption."* Acts 2:31 He was *"declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."* Romans 1:4 *"God hath made that same Jesus, Whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."* Acts 2:36

For these reasons, the genuineness of our "believing" in Christ may be tested in relation to our belief in the fact of the physical resurrection of that Holy One in the body in which He suffered and died. So Paul says *"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* Romans 10:9-10

WHOSOEVER BELIEVES ON HIM WILL NOT PERISH

This whole world will perish. As Scripture says, *"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."* 2 Peter 3:10

More than this, there is to be a great white throne where the dead, small and great must *"stand before God."* The apostle John was shown these things prophetically and he records, *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* Revelation 20:14-15

For the many who remain on the broad road, the end is eternal punishment in the lake of fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. All sinners are under this condemnation and judgment, and for those whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life, there can be no exception. This is the appointed end for all sinners, except *"whosoever believeth in Him"*, for these whose names are so written in the book of life, *"shall not perish"*, because they have eternal life.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36
"he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:18

These things the Scriptures set out clearly, for the love of God uses all means, including these warnings, to cause all mankind to turn to Christ and to believe on Him.

A fear of God is a very healthy thing. The Lord Jesus said *"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is*

able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ” Matthew 10:28

If a person lived for this life and pleasures, having only a body of dust, then these truths of God would have no serious application. But God made man, *“a living soul”, “in the image of God”,* and while man is free to choose his own way he must remember *“it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. ”* Hebrews 9:27

The atonement that Christ made is accordingly an atonement for the soul. The soul is the precious creation of God which inhabits a house of clay. So we read in Leviticus 17:11 *“It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”* We are accordingly *“saved by blood”* from *“perishing”* if we are among the *“whosoever”* that believes on Him.

WHOSOEVER BELIEVES ON HIM SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

The word is not "might have" for this is not something about which we may all differ in opinion. This is the Son of God speaking, the one Who is truth incarnate, and He speaks with absolute authority and with the certainty of finality based on His eternal being.

*“Whosoever believeth on Him, **HATH** eternal life.”* Accordingly, if a person believes on Him and says that they know they have eternal life, they are not being presumptuous, because this is not stating a hope or an opinion or a daring thought of their own. No, such an individual is honouring Christ in so speaking, for in "believing" on Christ that person is, by obedience to the call and command of God, demonstrating that what Christ said of those who believe is true! The believer trusts His Saviour's work and Word, for now he knows that what Christ has said is true, and thus he openly states (on Christ's authority, not his own) that he is now the present possessor of eternal life.
He has it!

Such a person does two things. First, that individual believes on Christ. That is, he trusts His work and sacrifice and blood for atonement for the soul. Secondly, they trust Christ's Word that eternal life has been given to them.

It is a very important matter to know and to be sure of eternal life. Not only does it give present assurance of safety from judgment to come, but it is the provision of something eternal here and now in this life. Indeed, it must be

realized that while *"Eternal Life"* goes on forever, it must commence within the span of life while alive on the earth, or it will not commence at all.

Those who can say that they *"have"* eternal life know that they have peace with God, and they also have the wonderful present privilege of access to God at all times. Eternal life comes only through Christ and it is related in its energy and power to Christ's resurrection and to His present glorified life of power and glory. All the "Whosoever" who believe on Him have this power in their earthen vessels of clay in this life now, for Christ has said it, and as believers they have experienced it! The experiences of those who have trusted Him all downthrough the centuries have verified the wonder and the power of this eternal life that is life indeed. This eternal life, is the present possession of the believer.

"For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

This life responds to God and to the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit, Who indwells the believer to give comfort and cheer. The Holy Spirit will direct in all things relating to the Lord for right acting, and to teach the truth of the Word of God. Prayer is a simple motion when the believer has this eternal life and the Bible becomes an open book when read in concert with the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Where there is this eternal life, then it is also correct to say, *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."* Psalm 23:1

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

When God sent fiery serpents among the children of Israel because of their sin and *"much people of Israel died"* Numbers 21:6, then the Lord said to Moses, *"Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived."* Numbers 21:8-9

The Lord Jesus Christ explains John's gospel of God's love and of His suffering on a cross, thus: *“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”* John 3:14-15 These are Christ's own words.

Then later, Christ said also, *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me”* John 12:32, and John adds, *“This He said, signifying what death He should die.”* Verse 33

Later the apostle John who was present at the actual crucifixion of Christ, records, *“Then delivered he (Pilate) Him (Jesus) therefore unto them (the Jews) to be crucified. And they (the Jews and the Roman soldiers) took Jesus, and led Him away. And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: where they crucified Him.”* John 19:16-18

*“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst... When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, **it is finished**: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.”* Verses 28 & 30

John further certifies, *“When they (the soldiers) came to Jesus, and saw that He was dead already, they brake not His legs: but one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he (John) that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the Scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of Him shall not be broken. And again another Scripture saith, They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”* Verses 33-37

“He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was He stricken.” Isaiah 53:8 *“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He (God the Father) hath put Him (His Son, Jesus our Lord) to grief... ”*making“ *His soul an offering for sin.”* Isaiah 53:10 *“He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”* Isaiah 53:12

Christ was buried and He has risen again from the dead and, *“God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in*

earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-10

Christ is not now on a cross, but spiritually we must each see Him there as our Saviour, dying for us, that we may have forgiveness and life. Though now in heaven, it is to the cross He draws us, causing us there to behold what He has done for us, dying for us there, bearing our sin. He says as if speaking from the cross still today, *“Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”* Isaiah 45:22

“Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto My sorrow, which is done unto Me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted Me, in the day of His fierce anger.” Lamentations 1:12 Behold the wrath of God on account of our sins, and behold the sorrow of the perfect One Who bore that anger for us. *“Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?”* Even in His resurrection body He still displays the marks of His suffering and says, *“Behold my hands and my feet.”* Luke 24:39 And in heaven itself, the Lamb of God appears triumphant over all, but *“as it had been slain.”* Revelation 5:6 For *“ye were not redeemed with corruptible things,... But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* I Peter 1:18-19 *“Thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name.”* Luke 24:46-47

“There is none other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be Saved.” Acts 4:12

Sins, trespasses and all lawlessness against God can only be dealt with by the death, the blood of God's Son, Jesus Christ. *“The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”* I John 1:7 The guilt and burden of our personal sins against God can be dealt with only by the blood of Christ. There is no other way in which we shall experience God's forgiveness and freedom from the guilt we feel. "There is power, wonder-working power, in the precious blood of the Lamb."

Only at the cross could sin and sins be dealt with, and only Christ Jesus our Lord could save us there. He says, *“I, if I be lifted up...will draw all men unto Me.”* John 12:32

All who are suffering the bitterness of sin need only to lift the eye of faith to Him, and see Him there for themselves and they will be made clean and whole.

It is the testimony of all who have trusted Him that, *"They looked unto Him, and were lightened."* Psalm 34:5

* * * *

Friend,

The Scriptures quoted in this booklet make it plain that salvation and all hope for a safe eternity relate entirely to the cross of Christ. The plea of this book is that, in simplicity and sincerity, you should come to the cross and see the wickedness of sin for which the Saviour died. See His purity and God's judgment of our sin. See your own sin there. See that He suffered. See the nails, the wounds in His hands and feet. Learn His sorrow, as God the Father turned away from Him in the darkness, as He bore the punishment for sin in His own body on the tree. See that lovely One suffering in your place, and know that it was for you. See that He loved you unto death. Look and receive the light of the knowledge of God's love. There is life for a look at the Crucified One.

Are you willing to turn from the sin that nailed Him to the cross? Will you bow humbly, and repenting of that sin, "believe on Him?" If you will only look and see Who He is and what He has done, you surely will repent and turn, for that look of yours shall bring you life.

Friend, if you have looked and seen Him and believed after reading the Scriptures in this booklet, please be encouraged to write to the C.B.R. at the address given below and tell us that you are now trusting Christ. This will be a form of confession of your faith in Christ and the exercise of writing will help you, and then the C.B.R. and others will support you in prayer and will perhaps be able to assist in other ways.

Your friends can only point the way. Jesus Christ, Son of God and Saviour of the world, will save you and He alone. He has promised to support and direct you. If you have seen Him at the cross and trusted Him, then lift your heart to Him in prayer and He will certainly hear you. Read His Holy Word, the Bible, and

He will speak to you and reveal something of Himself of His love and worth and of the path of discipleship which He has planned for you.

"Now then,...as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
2 Corinthians 5:20-21



"For God so Loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16



published by

CHRISTIAN BOOK ROOM

P.O. Box 95413, TsimShaTsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong, S.A.R. of CHINA

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