“WHY ... DIDN’T SOMEONE TELL ME?”

by Peter Lewis NZ
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“And the disciples went everywhere preaching the Good News .......”

(Acts 8 : 4)

This is an account of the enthusiasm with which the first followers of Jesus Christ spread the Good News around the Middle Eastern region almost 2000 years ago and with such effect they were accused of turning the world upside down. Today the same Good News is still going forth to every region of the world with the same liberating effect if it is truthfully proclaimed.

We always like to share good news when something good has happened.

What then is this Good News that the followers of Jesus Christ have been spreading for almost 2000 years? News that has so radically changed the lives of literally millions of individuals not to mention the whole course of human history.

This Good News is summarised in two verses of Scripture in the Holy Bible:

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the Scripture.”

(1 Corinthians 15 : 3-4)

THE GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) IS THAT WE DO NOT HAVE TO DIE FOR OUR SINS BECAUSE CHRIST DIED FOR US.

Although God did not create us to die but created us to live and enjoy fellowship with Him for all eternity, the entrance of sin brought separation from God and death into the world.

Sin is the biblical term used to define a violation of the law instituted by God who has created the heavens and the earth and all the things that are
therein. By observing the world around us we can see the tragic effect that our violation of God’s law has brought upon mankind and the world.

We may think that we have led the good life and that sin is not our problem, but God makes it clear in His Word, the Scriptures, that all of us have inherited a sinful nature from our first father Adam:

“Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

(Romans 5:12)

When a lawyer asked Jesus Christ which is the great commandment in the law, He replied:

“You shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

(Matthew 22:37-40)

Have we always, without fail, perfectly observed these commandments which also include commandments such as not taking the Lord’s name in vain; honouring your parents; not lying; not stealing; not coveting?

Jesus went further to say that if we hold hatred in our heart towards another, God sees it as murder or if we look upon a woman lustfully He sees it as adultery. If we are honest we will admit that we have failed miserably and other idols such as our career, possessions, pleasure, sport, money or self have taken a priority in our lives far above our love of God and so for a start we have violated the first and great commandment.

God gave us these laws for our own good but no one has ever kept them perfectly except Jesus Christ. As the scriptures say:

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

(1 John 1:8)

For a true exposure of human nature we need only consider
our response to God’s love when He sent His Son into this world: we took Him and nailed Him to a wooden cross! For this heinous crime the whole world lies guilty before an angry God. As Scripture confirms:

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
(Romans 3:23)

And:

“...as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement:”
(Hebrews 9:27)

GOD’S LOVE COMES TO OUR RESCUE

But God, in His love and mercy, has opened a way for us to be saved from our sin and its fearful consequence of eternal judgement and separation from God in the lake of fire, which the Bible describes as the second death, if we are willing to accept His provision. This provision is in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who in His love for us, took our judgement upon Himself when He bled and died on the cross outside Jerusalem in the land of Israel.

“For he (God) hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

You may ask, “Why is God so severe regarding sin and admission to His presence or kingdom?” The answer is simple; would heaven be heaven if sin were present?

From the dawn of human history, where the Christian faith has its origin, God promised a Saviour would come to free us from the dreadful consequences of Adam’s disobedience which brought a separation between God and man. (Genesis 3:15).

The Hebrew prophets of the Bible precisely foretold details of this Saviour (Messiah) hundreds and sometimes thousands of years before His appearance and though many false christs and false prophets and false gurus have arisen claiming to show man the answer to his dilemma with their various religions, only Jesus Christ of Nazareth conforms perfectly to the very many predictions in the Bible relating to The Messiah’s appearance. (Psalm 22 1000 BC etc)
MAN’S FUTILE ATTEMPT AT SALVATION

How foolish to imagine that sinful man can show sinful man the answer to man’s sin problem! Man’s religion always teaches that by observing sacraments and rituals and good works we can attain a righteousness acceptable to God. God tells us that all our righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight and unless we identify with Christ and His righteousness we are lost. We need to be one hundred percent sure that we have “locked on” to the true Christ otherwise the result for us will be catastrophic.

In the words of one writer who has so aptly condensed the Gospel message into a few short paragraphs:

“On the cross, God treated Jesus as if He had lived your life so He could treat you as if you had lived His life: that’s justification; that’s imputation and any adulteration of that is an adulteration of the Gospel.

When you put your trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, He is fully the substitute for your sins - all your sins placed on Him - all His righteousness placed on you.

That’s why God can accept you into His heaven, because He treats you as if you had lived Christ’s sinless life. That’s justification, that’s the Gospel.

If you do not understand the Gospel you cannot put your faith in Jesus Christ. If you cannot do that you cannot be saved. This all occurs by faith.

On the cross Jesus was not a sinner but God treated Him as if He were. And you are not righteous but God treats you as if you are - if you believe.”

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

(Romans 4:5)

In response to our belief, God justifies the ungodly and man’s attempts to justify himself apart from Christ are futile. There follows then this glorious truth, that if there is a willingness to bow to God’s conditions there is hope for the moral as well as the immoral sinner and that
encompasses everyone without exception. This certainly then is Good News for you and me because the Bible clearly states that it is totally impossible for any of us to attain a standard of righteousness acceptable to God by our own works.

The divine currency which paid to God the debt for our sin and makes us acceptable to God is the precious shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, all that stands between a believer and the judgement of God is the blood of Jesus Christ and that alone. Nothing else can cleanse our sin and make us fit to enter God's presence.

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."
(Hebrews 9 : 22)

All scripture is given by inspiration of God through His holy apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit. In them God tells us that His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, for whom and by whom we were created, demonstrated His love for us by coming to earth in a human body to take upon Himself the out pouring of God's righteous judgement against our sin by suffering and dying the death of crucifixion in our place on the cross of Calvary at Jerusalem in the land of Israel. As it is written,

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
(John 15 : 13)

GOD'S GIFT TO MANKIND
The Lord Jesus Christ laid down his life for you and for me. The great Creator became our Saviour if we are willing to receive him.

Our eternal destiny hinges upon our reception or our rejection of God's gift of the Saviour, Jesus Christ, and on that alone. We are told in the scriptures that,

"... the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
(Romans 6 : 23)

The Bible also goes on to say, "He that hath the Son hath life (eternal); and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."
(1 John 5 : 12)
Like any gift which is offered to us we have the choice to either accept the gift or to reject the gift; a personal response on our part is required. If we do nothing it indicates that we do not want the gift and failure to respond is automatically taken to mean the rejection of the gift. Whereas, reaching out and taking possession of the gift is clearly an indication of acceptance of the gift.

We can reject God’s gift by not receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and so isolate ourselves from the protection of Christ’s sacrifice. By doing this we expose ourselves to the full wrath of God’s judgement of our sin where the verdict will be, “guilty” and the sentence eternal punishment.

On the other hand we can repent or change our direction and accept God’s gift by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour. By doing this we effectually shed or crucify our old Adamic nature which is under the curse of God’s law through sin and we become a new creation in Jesus Christ with His Spirit indwelling us.

That is why Jesus made the paradoxical statement:

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”

(Luke 9:24)

GOD HAS GIVEN US FREE WILL

Here The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that we can choose to save our sinful Adamic nature and go into eternal separation from God in hell or we can choose to lose our Adamic nature by receiving Christ’s righteous nature and go into eternal union with God in heaven. It’s as simple as that. That is the simplicity of the Gospel from which we are warned not to depart by giving heed to the false gospel that we are saved by religious sacraments and good works.

By losing our lives we are as it were ‘Under New Management’ or ‘Born Again’ by the Spirit of God. Jesus describes this in His conversation with Nicodemus, the learned Jewish Rabbi:-

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto
thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

By making Christ our choice we come under the protection of Christ's sacrifice; we are delivered from the judgement of God and receive the gift of eternal life.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:22)

And the promise of God to all that believe:

“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy (God's) presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” (Psalm 16:11)

God, who knows our every thought, is awaiting our response to His message of Good News: to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour or to reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

These are the only two options open to mankind.

God tells us that we have no other alternative.

All the evidence that we need on which to base our decision is found in the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Holy Bible: God’s revelation to mankind. As our eternal destiny hinges upon our response to this provision of God's love and mercy it is surely our first priority in life to study the evidence for ourselves and not to entrust the eternal destiny of our souls to a church or priest but to Christ alone.

THE PERFECTION OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

Jesus Christ by his own will laid down His life for you and for me when He died on the cross:

“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” (Hebrews 10:10 -12 - 14)

What an affront to Almighty God for man to imagine that a priest can supplement the finished work of Christ's perfect sacrifice by perpetuating this
once for all sacrifice through religious sacraments or by using good works as a means of self justification and thus denigrate Christ’s sacrifice which in itself was sufficient for the sins of the whole world.

As Christ died on the cross His final utterance was ‘It is finished’ and He gave up the ghost.

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”

(John 19:30)

Everything necessary for man’s redemption had now been finished by His life and by His death; a perfect work of redemption had been accomplished. God’s righteousness and the demands of God’s law in respect of sin have been satisfied. Finished means finished and it is not for man to use religious trappings to tamper with or to try and supplement a work which is perfect in the sight of God and which carries the stamp of God’s approval by His resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Do we respond to Christ’s love and receive Him as our Saviour, or do we despise His love and reject Him as our Saviour?

The inescapable fact is that one day we will all stand before the Lord Jesus Christ, whom God has appointed the judge of all men, and on that day we will either know Him as our Saviour or we shall know Him as our Judge. We do well to ask ourselves,

“Which will it be in my case?”

“What must I do to be saved?”

There is a passage in the Scriptures where a man cries out,

“What must I do to be saved?”

Paul the apostle responds,

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved....”

God’s plan of salvation has not changed and it is still the same today for you and for me.

“How do I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?”
BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES US. IT IS NOT HIS WILL THAT WE PERISH.

John 3:16
“For God so loved the world, (that’s you and me) that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever (that’s you and me) believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

2 Peter 3:9
“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Matthew 1:23
“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

Matthew 1:18
“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.

Luke 1:35
“And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

John 19:7
“The Jews answered him, we have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.”

BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS GOD THE SON.

Colossians 2:9
“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

Philippians 2:5 - 8
“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form...
of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

BELIEVE HE BLED AND DIED ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SINS

Colossians 1:20 - 22

“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:"

BELIEVE THAT CHRIST'S SHED BLOOD HAS PURCHASED GOD'S PARDON FOR OUR SIN

Hebrews 9:22

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

Romans 3:23 - 26

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

BELIEVE THAT APART FROM CHRIST THERE IS NO OTHER SAVIOUR

Acts 4:12

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me...”

BELIEVE THAT CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS, DESCENDED INTO THE
HEART OF THE EARTH
AND ROSE AGAIN THE
THIRD DAY

John 19:33
“But when they came to Jesus,
and saw that he was dead
already, they brake not his legs.”

Matthew 12:40
“For as Jonas was three days and
three nights in the whale’s belly;
so shall the Son of man be three
days and three nights in the
heart of the earth.”

Mark 8:31
“And he began to teach them,
that the Son of man must
suffer many things, and be
rejected of the elders, and of
the chief priests, and scribes,
and be killed, and after
three days rise again.”

BELIEVE THAT
HE ASCENDED INTO
HEAVEN AND WILL
RETURN AGAIN
TO ESTABLISH HIS
KINGDOM OVER ALL
THE NATIONS
OF THE EARTH.

Acts 1:9 - 11
“And when he had spoken these
things, while they beheld, he was
taken up; and a cloud received
him out of their sight. And
while they looked stedfastly
toward heaven as he went up,
behold, two men stood by them
in white apparel; which also
said, Ye men of Galilee, why
stand ye gazing up into heaven?
this same Jesus, which is taken
up from you into heaven, shall
so come in like manner as ye
have seen him go into heaven.”

Matthew 25:31 - 32
“When the Son of man shall
come in his glory, and all the
holy angels with him, then
shall be sit upon the throne
of his glory and before him
shall be gathered all nations:
and he shall separate them
one from another, as a shep-
herd divideth his sheep
from the goats.”

“What is your
response?”

Is it logical to refuse the grace
and free pardon offered us by
our Creator and choose instead
the fearful consequences of
isolating ourselves from His
mercy to face the full force of
God’s immutable law under
which the whole world lies in
condemnation and whose
verdict for sin is the penalty of
death?
Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Deuteronomy 30:19

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life.”

God’s will is that we choose life.

When that fateful day comes and we step through into eternity and the stark truth of God’s word confronts us, will the anguished cry of many be, “WHY DIDN’T SOMEONE TELL ME?”

You can thank God that this does not have to be your cry.

“What is your decision - life or death?”

Before making your decision carefully consider the disciplines that the Lord Jesus Christ requires of His disciples. This requirement is a switch of motive from living to serve self to a motive of living to serve Christ. Jesus warns against making a hasty decision to become His follower before carefully counting the cost.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

(Luke 9:62)

WE ARE GOD’S AMBASSADORS TO YOU

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

(2 Corinthians 5:20)

If you have determined to choose life and to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, Jesus tells us that your decision has repercussions in the heavenly realm:

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” (Luke 15:10)

He also gives you the further assurance that your approach to Him will not be rejected
circumstances.

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

(John 6 : 37)

**MY DECISION TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS MY SAVIOUR AND MY LORD**

**“HOW DO I ACTUALLY RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS MY SAVIOUR?”**

Receiving Christ as your Saviour is as simple as receiving a guest who has arrived at the front door of your home: you open the door and invite him in.

“So it is with Christ your Creator. He is at the door of your life or at the door of your heart and, as your Creator, His desire is for this fatal separation to cease so that He, by His Spirit, can come in and be united with you. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and be with me.”

(Revelation 3 : 20)

In your own words acknowledge to God that you repent or turn away from all sin and then simply ask Jesus Christ to come into your life as your Lord and Saviour as you would invite the guest at your front door to come into your home.

From His promise in the Scripture above you have His assurance that He will accept your invitation and come into your life and indwell your spirit; and God cannot lie.

As you ask Christ into your life you may or may not experience feelings of emotion as the weight of sin is lifted from your shoulders and you experience a peace with God that you have never known before. Nevertheless, we do not walk with God by our emotions but by faith; that is, taking God at His Word. Not to do this is the sin of unbelief: the submitting of our will to Satan’s lie rather than God’s truth - man’s original mistake in the Garden of Eden!

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

(Romans 1 : 17)
If you prefer, you could use a prayer such as the following to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour:

**A PRAYER OF REPENTANCE AND RECEIVING JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOUR**

Almighty God I confess that I have sinned against you by violating your laws and that the wages of sin is death.

I thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to shed His blood and to die on the cross for my sins.

I ask you to forgive me my trespasses which I have committed against you, for all sin is against you.

I receive you now Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour and yield control of my life to you.

Indwell me now by your Spirit as I now become your disciple.

Thank you Father that my sins are forgiven according to your word; that I am born again and adopted as your child and have eternal life through Jesus Christ my Lord.

To mark this most important day in your life you may wish to make this outward testimony of an inward decision.

I have this day repented of my sins and asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive me and come into my life as my Saviour and my Lord.

Signed

At

Date

John 1:12

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power (authority) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

John 5:24

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”
LET THIS BE YOUR DESTINY IN GOD’S ETERNAL KINGDOM

“LORD, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME TO DO?”

Having committed yourself as a follower of Jesus Christ there are certain disciplines which Christ requires of His disciples.

Without doubt your most important discipline is to apply yourself to the study of God’s word, the Bible, using only the incorrupt Authorised or King James version. Begin with the New Testament and then make it a regular practice to read the Bible right through from beginning to end.

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: (1 Peter 2:2)

But he (Jesus) answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)

God’s word, which is Spirit and Life, is our spiritual food. Neglect it and we will die spiritually just as neglecting natural food will cause us to die physically.

TELL SOMEONE YOU TRUST THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR

Romans 10:8-10

“The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That 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.”

* ASSEMBLE WITH GENUINE BIBLE BASED BELIEVERS. MANY “CHRISTIAN” CHURCHES DENY BIBLICAL TRUTH AND ARE HARMFUL TO YOUR FAITH

Hebrews 10:24 - 25

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to
good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

**BE BAPTISED INTO CHRIST BY TOTAL IMMERSION**

Acts 2:38

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Mark 16:16

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

**READ YOUR BIBLE DAILY**

1 Peter 2:2

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

Acts 17:11

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

**PRAY (TALK) TO GOD WITH THANKSGIVING AND REQUESTS**

Philippians 4:6 - 7

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

**MAKE FINANCIAL OFFERINGS TO GOD**

Deuteronomy 8:18

"But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth,"

2 Corinthians 9:6

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."
Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

**SHARE WITH OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS**

Luke 12:8 - 9

"Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God."

Matthew 7:21

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Romans 8:14

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

**REALISE THAT SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT BUT THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP IS SELF DENIAL**

Luke 9:23

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Galatians 2:20

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
IF WE DO SIN AGAINST GOD HE FORGIVES US WHEN WE REPENT AND CONFESS OUR SIN TO HIM

1 John 1 : 9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

On one occasion the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Lord teach us to pray.”

Jesus then provided them with what has now become known as the Lord’s Prayer as a model upon which we can base our approach to God in prayer. We do well to commit it to memory.

MATTHEW 6 : 9 - 13

After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts (sins), as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Jesus tells us that to be His follower is not the easy path through life but it is nevertheless the only path that leads to eternal life. We are on a pilgrimage through hostile territory and we have an unseen enemy who strives to discourage and divert us from following the Lord Jesus.

However, this same Jesus is the strength of our life and He has promised never to leave us nor to forsake us.

As we approach the time of Christ’s return, scripture clearly indicates that deception will intensify and that what you see amongst professing Christians will frequently not align with what you read in your Bible.

When questioned regarding His return, the Lord Jesus would inevitably preface His reply with the warning,

“Take heed that you are not deceived!”

DRIVE CAREFULLY - HAZARDS AHEAD !
“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.”

(Matthew 24:3-4)

Our sole benchmark to distinguish truth from falsehood is the Word of God - nothing else. “Sola Scriptura,” or “Scripture only” was the benchmark used by the Christians of the Reformation to liberate many nations from the cruel grip of Roman Catholicism which, by its false gospel, controlled much of the world by fear during the dark ages.

With these warnings in mind we take courage from the fact that we have an all powerful Father in heaven who loves us and watches over us night and day. A faithful High Priest, the Lord Jesus, who ever lives to make intercession for us.

The constant presence of the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us. Holy angels who minister to us. God’s word to instruct and correct us and the fellowship of the saints to support us.

We can truthfully say that, regardless of circumstances, God is causing all things to work together for our good.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

(Jude 1:24-25)
**BIBLE REFERENCE KEY**

For Example -

**JOHN 3:16**

**BOOK** -

The Gospel According
To JOHNS

**CHAPTER** - 3

**VERSE** - 16

**HYMN...**

"**TO GOD BE THE GLORY**"

by Fanny J. Crosby

1.... To God be the glory, great things He has done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

chorus... Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.
Let the earth hear His voice, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord.
Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

2.... O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
chorus...

3.... Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
chorus...
IF YOU HAVE BEEN HELPED BY THIS MESSAGE
AND WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION
WE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED
TO HEAR FROM YOU

Email: Peter Lewis <peter.lewis@xtra.co.nz>

[ Or Email Despatch: beusterhoward@gmail.com]

PETER LEWIS, PO BOX 1243,
WHANGAREI, NEW ZEALAND

PH. 09 4346464 FAC. 09 4346464 MOB. 025274767

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This booklet has been reprinted by Endtime Ministries in Aust. text
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What the Bible is all about:

- **A book about God**
- **A book about people**

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Editor of Despatch: Wendy B. Howard
0422359978
beusterhoward@gmail.com