

THE REASON WHY



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By R. A. Laidlaw (1885-1971)

A business proprietor to his staff

Edited and Re-illustrated 2014, S H Lim

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Suppose a man gives his fiancée a very costly diamond, placed inside a velvet case. Would he not be disappointed if she says, “Darling, this is a lovely box! I promise to take care of it always.”?

If this is ridiculous or foolish, what about men and women who spend all their time and thoughts on their bodies, which are only cases containing their real selves, which the Bible tells us, will persist long after our bodies have crumbled to dust? The soul is of infinite value...

*Tell me not in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem
Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul*

Henry W Longfellow (1807-1882)

In God’s estimate, **your soul is of incomparable worth**. Jesus asked, “*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*” (Mark 8:36). Would you therefore ponder over some real basic issues to do with your soul, such as: -

Is there a God?

Is the Bible true?

Is man accountable?

Is there Divine forgiveness?

I have an innate conviction in me that God exists. No matter how my intellect tried in the past to produce reasons proving He is not, or how much I wanted to believe that there was no God, that “still small voice” came to me again and again, as it has to you, in the quiet of life’s more sober moments. Yes, I know that God IS. And as I look around, I realise that there are many also looking for God, seeking in “religion” to silence that same voice that speaks within me.

True, there are some who display no interest in God. But is this unbelief or credulity? Is it easier to believe that dead matter unaided produced life or living matter produced mind; mind produced conscience and the chaos of chance produced Nature’s cosmos of order?

Credulity is the readiness to believe on slight evidence; no evidence; or even against evidence. In comparison, “*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” (Hebrews 11:1)

Let’s demonstrate it this way. Take ten pieces of paper and mark them one to ten. If you draw one out, the chance you get number one is one in ten. Put back the paper and draw again. The chance that two follows one is one in one hundred. Repeat this till the tenth. The chance of all ten numbers following in sequence is one in 10,000,000,000!

George Gallup said, “I could prove God statistically. Take the human body alone - the chance that all its functions would just happen is a statistical monstrosity.” Psalms 139:13-14a says, “*For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*” No thoughtful person should wish to base his eternal future against such odds. So Psalm 14:1 says, “*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*”

Say we stand together as an Airbus A380 lands. I say to you, “People say that this huge plane took fourteen years and Euro 11B to develop, but I know better. There was no intelligence at work at all. Materials mysteriously came out of the ground, fashioned themselves into plates; holes slowly formed in the edges, rivets appeared, flattened themselves out on both sides and after a long process, the engines came in place! One day, the plane was found sitting on a remote airport.”

“Lunatic!” would you not think of me? You know where there is a

design, there must be a designer! Having seen other human inventions, you are positive that this plane was planned by human intelligence and built by human skill. Yet, there are highly educated people who tell us that the universe came into being by chance without any higher intelligence working. They say they know no God but only Nature.

On the other hand, some thoughtful people believe that God is Transcendent; infinitely greater than the Universe yet revealing Himself in Nature, whose laws and principles are but expressions of His power and wisdom. But all that the atheist can offer is the riddle of design without a designer; creation without a Creator; effect without a cause.

Logical people believe in a series of cause and effect in Nature, each effect becoming the cause of some other effect. If so, there must be a beginning to any and every series. There could never have been a first effect if there had not been a First Cause, which is God.

We may not see electricity but we use it every day at our homes, workplaces and streets. I may not know where God comes from but His manifestations are everywhere around us.

Whether men believe or not will not change God's existence!

Unbelief is a moral choice, not a mental inability. To believe is to admit that we are accountable for how we live and what we do. Atheism and agnosticism are but attempts to deny and escape from this stern reality but does not change the fact that everyone shall have to give an account to Almighty God on the final Day of Judgement!

Many scientists and Nobel laureates of old have testified of their faith in God. Tryon Edwards (1804-1894) said, "Science has sometimes been said to be opposed to faith, and inconsistent with it. But all science in fact rests on a basis of faith, for it assumes the permanence and uniformity of natural laws - a thing which can never be demonstrated."

Yes, there are also unbelieving scientists. One Nobel laureate said, "Since we cannot do experiments to test that sort of knowledge, I am willing to live with not knowing the answer to every fundamental question." But is this not reckless, even suicidal, when this fundamental has everything to do with their most priceless possessions: their souls?

God's Purpose and Person are Knowable!

God is actually not far from us for we live, move and have our being in Him (Act 17:28-29). If we would seek to know God, there are two ways in which God's Person and Purpose may be known to us.

First is the process of reason: A good detective may be able to tell you things of my skills, habits and character just by examining something I made or handled. In the same way, much can be learned about God by a careful examination of the universe, the work of His hands.

Second is the process of revelation: The same detective cannot say that he knows **me** unless I first communicate with him my feelings, thoughts and wishes in conversation, writing or other ways. Similarly, if God is to be known by men, He would initiate at least some revelation of Himself and His purposes, thoughts and character to men.

Of all the countless books this world contains, one claims to be a direct Revelation from God, telling us of Himself and His purposes in us. This is the Bible, a book surely worthy of honest investigation.

To start with, we should read the Bible through. A good judge will not decide before the case is fully heard. We too should consider the evidence of the witnesses and weigh every word for its significance and meanings. The importance of its claims justify the time on the study of its 66 books, written by over forty different writers, some well-educated, others barely, some kings and some peasants, over a period of 1600 years in places as far apart as Babylon and Rome. With such diverse authorship, numerous random contradictions would be expected but instead, we find a striking unity! Each contribution complements some other; all the contributions together pointing to the same truths!

Slowly the truth of 2 Peter 1:21 dawned. "*Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*" This was confirmed in prophecy after prophecy, which found fulfilment to the letter years later. Isaiah 53 foretold the death of Christ with minute accuracy 700 years before His crucifixion as did Psalms 22:13-18 written circa BC 1000. Yes, the difficulties in the way of doubting the Bible are far greater than those in the way of believing it. I had to be honest and finally admitted:

“I believe the Bible to be the Word of the Living God. I can account for it in no other way.”

But such an admission brought me to a serious difficulty. This Bible set a standard of righteousness that I had not attained and pronounced anything short of it to be sin. Remembering that God knows our secret thoughts and motives, how do we measure up to this? The first and great commandment is, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with **all** thy heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with **all** thy mind.”* And the second is, *“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”* (Matthew 22:37-39)

Before such a standard, who can claim to have put God first always and loved his neighbour as himself? I had to honestly confess with Romans 3:10 and 23, *“There is none righteous, no, not one... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* Upon this admission came the condemnation, *“The soul that sinneth shall die.”* (Ezekiel 18:4)

Someone once asked, “Is it fair of God to set the standard of holiness so high that we cannot attain to it and then judge us for falling short?”

The answer is God has not set an arbitrary standard in the way that men sets standards, which disqualify those who fail even minutely. In fact God did not set a standard - He is the Standard! Hence God declares, *“Be ye holy; for I am holy”* (1 Peter 1:16). God is absolute holiness and in accordance with His character, must remain absolutely holy in all His dealings with man maintaining that standard irrespective of the tremendous implications which it may hold for both Him and us.

It applies like this. In England, people drive on the left side of the road while the rule in America is to drive on the right side. If you got booked in London for driving on the right side, it would be impertinent to tell the judge, “In the USA, people drive on the right side.” England’s laws alone must govern in this instance!

Then, as far as God’s standard was concerned, I was hopelessly lost. It didn’t matter what I thought or what my friends said because God’s standard based on His declarations was the one by which I shall be judged in eternity. Since in God’s judgment we had all sinned, there was no use looking to other men under the same condemnation for help.

But this same Bible also told me of Jesus Christ, Who claimed to be the Son of God.

The Bible declares Jesus to be the Son of God. He saw that men had forfeited their lives to sin and willingly came to give His pure, sinless and spotless life for ours that we might go free. *“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)

If Jesus is the Son of God, we can indeed be sure of salvation. But some say He was a deceiver or was under a hallucination. However the cleverest men of His day were sent to cunningly trap Him with questions but He so completely answered them that *“No man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.”* (Matthew 22:46). His wisdom and gracious words show plainly that He was not a man under any hallucination.

Then was His wisdom so great that He used it to deceive the people?

Have you ever heard of a young man through associating with swindlers and rogues becoming ennobled, pure and honest? But I know many, who by receiving Jesus into their lives, were lifted from the basest desires to the noblest manhood. I know men who have said, “I owe it to Jesus that I can walk down the street with my head held erect and my shoulders squared to the world. I owe it to Him that I can look a pure woman in the face and grip an honest man by the hand.” Many have so testified of their transformed hearts and their lives changed by Jesus.

Could these transformations come from the reception of a deceiver into one’s life? I call to witness the opinion of the civilized world that Jesus was at least a good man. If so, then an honest man and if so, He must have been the Son of God that He claimed to be, sent to lay down His sinless life in place of your sinful life and mine.

Convinced that the Scriptures are true, I must accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour

But I do not ask you to accept Him as yours if you have objections. Plausibly the Bible is true you think, but are there plausible alternate

views? Why not submit them to a fair test as well? A friend once told me, “You are all right but so am I, although we don’t see the same way. To me it doesn’t matter what a man believes so long as he is sincere.”

One Sunday morning, my neighbour said to his wife, “Let us take the car and go for a picnic.” Travelling north, they came to a level railway crossing and, sincerely believing there would be no train on a Sunday morning, he attempted to drive across. He was killed on the spot. One son had an arm broken and his little daughter was in a plaster cast for months. Did his sincere belief that all was clear save him?

I know a nurse, who on night duty sincerely believed she held the right medicine in her hand. Twenty minutes later, her patient was dead in spite of frantic efforts to save him. We need sincerity but sincerity alone is not enough! We must sincerely believe truth. A sincere belief in error can be the very means of deceiving and finally destroying us.

The Bible leaves no doubt. Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* (John 14:6). Acts 4:12 declares, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

If you get to heaven any other way, you will be a witness throughout eternity that Jesus spoke falsely. But since He gives full evidence of being the Son of God, is it not folly to attempt coming to God by any other way than through Jesus, Who claims to be God’s appointed way?

But the cross requires humility and repentance on our part. At Calvary, the Son of God, who is meek and lowly of heart (Matthew 11:29), submitted Himself to a most cruel death. Believing in Jesus means judicially taking His death as our very own! (And thereafter, His resurrection power as our means to newness of life!) Pride would resist this rugged path of 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.”*

Can a person not simply sincerely reform and do better in future?

If we can leave our past shortcomings behind and live a holy life, can we be made fit for heaven? Will it work?

A business owner learns that his company owes millions to suppliers. Desperately, he instructs his accountant, “Write letters to all our creditors and tell them let us not trouble about the past. We have turned over new ledger pages and promise to pay 100 per cent on all future business and henceforth live up to the highest standard of business integrity.” Would his accountant not think his boss had gone mad?

Yet thousands of people think to get to heaven by just such a proposal - offering to reform and meet future obligations towards God without accounting for the past. But “*God requireth that which is past*” (Ecclesiastes 3:15). Even if I could start afresh to live an absolutely perfect life – which is what we ought always to do, but certainly also impossible for us to do – my past makes me still a sinner.

God’s righteousness demands full settlement! Every claim of justice must be met! The murderer may cover his sin and live as a model citizen for years but if he is discovered, man’s law still condemns him. He may not have murdered for ten years but has still murdered.

To hide past sins of **thought, words or deeds** by attempting to lead a morally good life, still leaves us sinners in His sight, to Whom past and future are as open as the present. By God’s holy standards, we must bring our sins out into the open and have them dealt with righteously.

We need someone who can clear our debts, but who can do this? Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29, 36). God, against whom we have sinned, stamped His satisfaction on Jesus’ completed work by raising Him from the dead! Christ crucified is now our Living Saviour. He died to save us from the penalty of sin and now lives to deliver us from its power. “*For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*” (Romans 5:10)

Why did Jesus Have to Die?

Could Jesus have saved us without dying? Man had broken God's Law and the penalty was death. Do you not see that if Jesus had paid anything less than the full price, there would still be judgment for us to meet? But because He died, the Law we broke could no more judge us.

Halfway while a man was being tried for a capital offence, he passed away in his cell. The judge dismissed the case for our law cannot judge a dead man. The accused would be judged by a higher bar. In another case, a man who murdered six persons was sentenced to death. Whether he killed one or six, the maximum penalty is to take his life.

Therefore it matters not that there may be sins in my life I have long forgotten. I fear none of them for Jesus, my Substitute, suffered the **utmost penalty** of the Law on my account, freeing me absolutely from all its claims against me, great or small. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 8:1)

If Christ died for all, are all therefore saved?

God's Word simply says that salvation is offered for all. It does not say that everyone will accept this offer and be saved.

One bitterly cold winter, unemployment was rife with many in dire need. The authorities provided free meals. A poor fellow heard about the provisions and believed in it generally. However, he would continue to starve unless and until he ate and drank what was provided.

Jesus' death provides salvation for whosoever will. But only those who personally receive and believe in Him are saved. I must take Christ as **my** Saviour or His death avails me nought. You can die of thirst beside a spring of water if you drink not of its life-giving stream.

How can Jesus' One Life substitute for the lives of so many?

Jesus is God manifest in the flesh; Deity in humanity. The Life He gave is Infinite and able to meet the needs of any number of finite lives. Add or multiply as many finite numbers, no matter how large or many times,

and the result would always still be finite and never reach infinite. Jesus' Life given for sinners is sufficient to save all who come to Him.

How could Jesus suffer for sins not committed till 2000 years later?

God's Eternal Name is "I AM" (Exodus 3:14). Jesus said in John 8:58, "*Before Abraham was, I AM*". Almighty God, Eternal and Omniscient, knows all things absolutely at all points in space and time. Events that take place thousands of years from now are as clear to Him as events of thousands of years ago or events happening right now in the present.

Why didn't God make man incapable of disobeying His will?

This is like asking why God does not draw a crooked straight line or a round square or make an object pitch black and pure white all over at the same time. As man is an intelligent creature, the question really is: Why didn't God make a creature with intelligent choice and yet without the power of intelligent choice at one and the same time?

If I could hypnotise my children and say, "Kiss me goodnight," unfeeling arms may go around my neck and unresponsive lips press to mine. I might have prompt and perfect obedience to every command, but would this be satisfying both to my children and to me? As parents, don't we all want children with free wills, capable of disobeying but who willingly choose to carry out our instructions, given for their good out of our love for them? Our children too would not want to be robots. God in His Wisdom and grace would not put us in such a state.

God does not want puppets that jump in a given direction when pulled, or "human" robots who absolutely obey His will like the planets that whirl through space. God is pleased with our spontaneous love and free-will decisions to walk in paths that honour Him. This same power of free action however also enables us to defy and dishonour Him.

In your own interests, may I ask what your response to God is now as you read this booklet?

What does God care about our tiny world in this Vast Universe?

Years ago, an astronomer comparing the smallness of our earth to the vastness of the Universe, suffered grave doubts, "Of what importance can Earth be to God, and of how much less importance can man be?" The vastness he saw robbed him of his faith in God. But his thirst for knowledge led him to the microscope. Worlds started to unfold before him – worlds as wonderful as those above, and slowly his faith came back. Yes, the God who could attend to such miniature details as to make a drop of water throb with wonderful living organisms was sure to be interested in man, the highest form of His creation!

When we look in wonder at the beauty of God's Creation, we are the astronomer! We can sing with the psalmist, "*O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! ... When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*" And bow in amazement and worship of the Creator, "*O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens.*" (Psalm 8:1, 3-4, 8)

But is Faith logical?

Faith and reason contradict not but are bosom friends walking hand in hand till they reach the shoreline where reason can go no further. There, they bid each other a fond farewell before faith steps upon the waters, walking into the far horizon, beholding Him Who is Invisible.

Reason is based on knowledge which in turn largely derives from human testimony. Reason thus depends on faith. We would not swallow strychnine because the records of men tell us that it is poisonous. Ninety percent of the things you know are a matter of faith in human testimony, which you have not verified yourself. As you have accepted the testimony of men on other matters, will you not accept the testimony of thousands of believers who affirm that they have found and proven true God's promises written in God's Word?

Why should God judge my sin as worthy of death?

Death basically means “separation”. To die is to be separated from God and all things good such as your loved ones and all you value. Spiritual death occurred when Adam was separated from his daily intimate fellowship with God. Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body when the body fails. Death is the result of sin.

Different customs exist so that an act of violence may attract little attention in one land while constituting a serious offence in another. The same act but no judgment in one instance, severe retribution in another. The difference may simply be a difference of enlightenment.

But we have seen that God is absolute holiness. Leviticus 11:44 states, *“I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy.”* God alone has immortality, *“dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto.”* *“God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all.”* (1 Timothy 6:16, 1 John 1:5)

In the light of God’s absolute holiness, can we stand before Him with all of our sinfulness? Is not sin justly worthy of death?

Is it just and merciful of God not to take us all to heaven just because we reject Jesus?

Would it be kind to transfer a beggar into the glare of a palace, where he would be totally conscious of his rags? Would he not yearn for the darkness of the streets and be infinitely happier there? Is it kindness and mercy to bring a man in his sins into the holy light of Heaven if that man had rejected God’s offer of the only cleansing power?

If you and I would not wish our friends to see inside our minds and read all the thoughts that had ever been there (and our friend’s standards may be no higher than ours), what would it be like to stand before an Absolutely Holy God with our sins revealed in all its awfulness?

When Jesus returns during the Great Tribulation, the people will flee from His face and call upon the rocks to hide them. *“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and*

the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” (Revelation 6:14-16). Would bringing them to heaven where the Lamb sits enthroned be merciful?

Heaven is a condition as well as a place. Jesus’ presence is what makes Heaven heavenly for His disciples. Let us reason together. Will you be really happy in the presence of someone whose love you rejected and whose great sacrifice of blood you trampled down? Yes, even in Judgement, God is unchangeably wise, merciful and kind.

Salvation by Substitution: The Innocent Bearing the Sinners’ Guilt

Love would forgive the sinner but righteousness would prevent this forgiveness; Righteousness would judge but love would constrain the judgement. A difficult knot no human philosopher can untie. Divine Love steps in with an immense offer: The death of God’s only begotten Son for the sinner! *“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself not imputing their trespasses unto them.”* (2 Corinthians 5:19)

But someone objects of this too wonderful a salvation, “Should not justice protect the innocent and bring the full penalty upon the guilty?”

God is both just and merciful. He does not take an innocent passer-by and compel him to bear the penalty of the guilty. God, against whom we sinned, sat on His Judgment Throne and passed just sentence. Then in mercy, He came down from His Throne and in the Person of His Son Jesus, interposed His own precious blood to bear the sinner’s penalty of death upon Himself. At the Cross, *“Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”* (Psalms 85:10)

So rich and great is this salvation that the Apostle Paul gladly testified, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth... For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith.”* (Romans 1:16, 17)

But is this acceptance of Jesus as Saviour simply all that is required to

save us for all eternity? I admit its' simplicity is difficult to grasp (but this is probably due to our sin-complicated hearts than anything else.)

Say I owe ten million dollars and have no means to repay, but a friend comes along and clears this for me! My debt would be settled forever! This is just what Jesus did when He gave His life for mine on the cross. Not only that – but as He breathed His last, He declared victoriously, “IT IS FINISHED!!” The work of atonement was completed – all my sins were washed away! Then He rose from the grave on the third day sealing my justification, as the beloved hymn goes,

Living, He loved me; Dying, He saved me

Buried, He carried my sins far away

Rising, He justified freely forever

One day He's coming—O glorious day!

J. Wilbur Chapman (1859 – 1918)

IT IS FINISHED means we cannot add to it! Try to add good works, a good name or any merit you think you may have and you only spoil it. Just accept it as it stands - His life for yours and you go free!

What about a noble, true and generous gentleman who has not accepted Jesus? In eternity, will he be lost while a crude, vulgar and unrefined man will go to heaven just because he received Jesus into his heart?

Let's illustrate this from Louis Pasteur's law of biogenesis: “Living things come only from other living things by reproduction; all life is from life; all cells are from cells.” Applied to the spiritual, spiritual life must come from spiritual life. Jesus said to Nicodemus, “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*” (John 3:6-7).

The difference between a highly moral man and the born-again believer is not one of **degree** but of **kind**. One has a developed and cultured level of human life; the other has *spiritual* life. They are radically different; one can never grow out of the other. A further development of our old life will not suffice. You need Jesus who offers this new divine life to those who will receive Him! “*He that hath the Son hath life; and*

he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” (1 John 5:12)

How may I receive Jesus as my Lord and Saviour?

A wealthy man loses all his money, and rather than sacrifice his social position, agrees to give the hand of his daughter to a rich man, whom she however despises. She at first refuses point-blank but later, in consideration for her father, relents and goes through the marriage ceremony. She becomes according to the law of the land, his wife. But is her heart really his? Surely not!

You see it now, don't you? When a man and woman would be truly one, they must love with such a love as to receive each other into the very innermost recesses of their hearts with such deep, true feelings that cannot be expressed in words. We all have our innermost recesses of our beings, sacred to us, where emotions stir that no one else can understand. God's only begotten Son claims the right to enter there. He will take no other place in our lives. His love for us entitles Him to that place. Will I withhold it? Would you withhold it?

If I was trapped in a fire and a friend rushed in to save me, and in the process got scarred and burnt very badly while I was rescued unharmed, would not my heart go out to him? God knows it would.

And now I am face to face with my Saviour.

I see Him agonizing in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying, *“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”* He is at Pilate's Judgment Hall. The soldiers strike His face and crown His head with thorns. They take Him, bleeding and bruised, to Golgotha, “the place of the skull”, where they drive great spikes through His hands and His feet. They lift Him up between two condemned robbers. The people mock and revile, not understanding that He is pouring out His life to redeem them. Then He prays, *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”*

Do tears stream down your cheeks? If this is merely sympathy for Jesus' physical sufferings, it will not avail you of salvation unless and until you understand that it was for you that He died, so that you turn

away from your sins and take in exchange His righteousness as your own! For God *“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)

Jesus agonised at Gethsemane for the cup to pass because sin is entirely repugnant to the Godhead. Yet, as the Holy Son of God, He set His face to the cross to take all our sins upon His own self, and to be made sin for us. Throughout eternity prior, the perfect communion between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit was continual and never once broken. But when Jesus hung on the cross, accursed for us, the Father had to, for the first time in eternity turn His face away from the Son, causing the Godhead most intense agony, wherein Jesus cried out loudly, *“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”*

Now do you understand the Gospel? Can you reject Him who had endured so much for you? Then hear the call of Isaiah 55:6-9, *“Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

But you say: **“It seems so mysterious;** all of this baffles me.” I do not ask you to understand the mystery of it. I am asking you to rejoice in its fact. You must have known people who received Jesus and were so changed to be totally new persons in Christ. Will you not let the facts you have seen influence you? It is as simple as switching on a light.

The root reason people will not believe is revealed in John 3:19, *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil”.*

We pray this will not be your case. Yield to Him now – He wants to come into your life. Say and mean it: **“I am Yours Lord Jesus, yielded body, soul and spirit and YOU ARE MINE.”**

THE DYING MAN'S CHOICE

Mr Chew was in a hospital bed dying of terminal cancer. He had heard the Gospel but had not come to terms with it. As I entered in with a missionary who spoke Mandarin, he told us he was in pain. We prayed for him and I then read a Psalm to him. This was a Psalm of David, for contemplation. *“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”* (Psalm 32:1-2).

We told him that David was the King of Israel but he did not write, “How blessed is he who became king.” The greatest blessing that anyone can receive is not power, fame or riches. Rather, it is to have our transgressions forgiven, our sins covered; to have the Lord impute no iniquity in us; to have no deceit in our spirit.

We asked Mr Chew if he would now believe and he signified yes. We prayed together as he received Jesus as His Saviour. We later heard that he slept well that night, his pain mysteriously alleviated. He was baptised a few days later before he was taken home to be with the Lord.

What about you? Are you still “thinking it over,” or have you faced the issue squarely and decided right?



Suppose a man gives his fiancée a very costly diamond, placed inside a velvet case. Would he not be disappointed if she says, “Darling, this is a lovely box! I promise to take care of it always.”?

If this is ridiculous or foolish, what about men and women who spend all their time and thoughts on their bodies, which are only cases containing their real selves, which the Bible tells us, will persist long after our bodies have crumbled to dust? The soul is of infinite value...

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