

Good News



Why You Should
Turn
To God



Editor

Rev William Macleod
B.Sc Th.M

25 Branklyn Crescent
Academy Park
Glasgow
G13 1GJ

Tel 0141 959 0292

williammacleod@fccontinuing.org

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7 Cearn Sheileidh
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2YW
Tel. 01851 702476
email: donaldmorgan186@gmail.com

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Mrs Muriel Smith
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Come Unto Me

save himself and only God can save him.

Jesus was born into a poor family. He was 'made under the law' and had to keep all the commandments. None of us can do this but He did it perfectly for us. We are all sinners. God's law says that sinners should be punished with death and hell but because He did not sin He did not deserve to die. He took our sin and our punishment and handed Himself over to suffer and die in our place. Because He is God that gives infinite value to His sacrificial death. The Bible says that 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). Having died for us, on the third day He rose again and later ascended up to heaven where He sits at God's right hand as the anointed Lord Jesus Christ. This is the One who today is saying 'Come unto me'.

Those whom He invites

The Lord calls everyone, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden'. Are you today labouring, tired, struggling, burdened down as it were with a heavy weight on your shoulders? He invites you to come to Him. 'All', not just some or even many. 'All' means you and me. But why are we struggling and burdened? When God created man in the beginning it was a paradise without stress. But our first parents sinned against God by doing what He told them not to do. As a result God's punishment came on them and their descendants and God said 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread' (Genesis 3:19). All the stresses, pains, illnesses and tragedies in this life come directly from the first sin of mankind. God could have left us to perish in our misery but in His great love He addresses this wonderful invitation to us.

The Warm Invitation

The God of heaven invites us. The One who in love came into this world and suffered for us, pleads with us. He wept over Jerusalem seeing the terrible devastation which was going to come upon it because it rejected Him and His gospel. From the cross He stretches out His nail-pierced hands to us, calling us to Him. It's a command, 'Come unto me', and who dare disobey the sovereign Lord. But it is also the warm invitation

Do you have needs? Is there anything troubling you? Are you worried or anxious? Do you have a problem that is getting you down? As you look into the future, are you apprehensive? How will it be with you when the time comes for you to die and to appear before the great Judge? Jesus came to save. He desires to help. He loves the word 'Come'. Others say, 'Go to this person, or to such and such an office, or to that organisation, or to that charity, or try the Social Security, or the Housing Benefits Office or the Police', but Jesus says 'Come'. He doesn't say, 'Go to a church, or to a priest, or to a saint or to the Virgin Mary', but 'Come unto me' (Matthew 11:28). This is a tremendous invitation and it's for you. Let's think about it in a little more detail.

The One who invites

Jesus invites us to come to Him, but who is Jesus? The Bible tells us who He is. Indeed the whole Bible is about Him. He is God. There is only one God but this God is in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Son of God, infinite and eternal, and equal to the Father in power and glory. Yet in His great love and in order to save us He became a man and was born in Bethlehem (Israel) to the Virgin Mary. This is a great mystery – how God could become man and still continue as God, and also how a virgin could produce a child. In other religions men become gods, but only in the Christian religion does God become a man. In other religions man saves himself but in the true Christian religion man is helpless to

'Come unto me,
all ye that labour
and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest'



of the One who 'is come to seek and to save that which was lost' (Luke 19:10), the One who has 'no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live' (Ezekiel 33:11), and the One who is 'not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance' (2 Peter 3:9).

The Promise

Along with this invitation comes a wonderful promise: 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest'. Are you struggling, tired, burdened, anxious? Are you weighed down with guilt knowing that you are not the sort of person you should be and that you have done many things you should not have done? Are you conscious that you have failed to do many things you should have done? Do you feel paralysed and helpless? Here is a wonderful promise. God says, 'I will give you rest'. Do you not feel your need of rest? Here is rest for this life and for the next. Come to Christ. Cast your burdens on Him. The Bible says: 'There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked' (Isaiah 57:21), and yet if the wicked come

to Christ they will find rest. Whoever we are and whatever we have done, if we come to Christ we will find rest and peace and joy and salvation.

But how do I come?

You are to come in prayer. Leave your sins behind. Turn your back on your idols, whether they be family, work, money, or pleasure. Like the poor man long ago cry out 'God be merciful to me a sinner' (Luke 18:13). Realise that you cannot save yourself and no one else can save you. Put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross to save sinners. He promises to give you rest and He never breaks His promises.

Surprised by Christ!

Gavin Beers

What is the most unlikely thing you could ever be? What is it, more than anything else, you would wish not to be? For me it was a Christian. Before my conversion such a thought would have been utterly ridiculous, yet I write this article as a Christian and a minister, surprised and overwhelmed by the grace of God shown to me a sinner.

Upbringing

I was born in 1977 into a stable, loving home for which I am most thankful to God. I was brought up to attend Sunday school and church each Sunday in the local Presbyterian

Church in the town of Comber, N. Ireland where we lived. Tuesday nights it was Boys' Brigade and before drill and games I received another dose of Bible. Yet in all this I never remember hearing the Gospel. The impression of Christianity left on me by minister, Sunday school teachers and BB leaders was – be nice, be good and all will be well in the end.

A different church

In the plan of God however, I became friends with a boy in primary school whose family attended a different church. It was not hard to tell the difference between his family's religion and mine. His parents were enthralled with Jesus Christ.



What is the most unlikely thing you could ever be?
For me it was a Christian.

Christianity had something to say to them in all of life. Simple things like giving thanks to God for food, or reading the Bible and praying together as a family were foreign to my home and always made me feel a bit uncomfortable in theirs. Then there were those terms that kept cropping up in conversations 'sin', 'salvation' and 'born again'. If I ever heard these things in the church I attended there was no real consequence attached to them apart from the last one. To be 'born again' in my church was not something anyone would wish to be. I had been left with the clear impression that there must be two types of Christianity: one kind was what you found in my church where enthusiasm for Christ and spiritual things was moderate or shunned. The other kind, the born-again kind, was full of enthusiasm. Such people were over the top, far too religious and you certainly did not want to be 'born again'.

Atheism

Alongside my upbringing in this kind of religion was my education in the local primary school and later in a Belfast grammar school. I had always a keen interest in things logical and scientific and so my studies gravitated to maths, chemistry, biology and physics. Behind these subjects there appeared to lie the assumption that there was no such thing as God and instead we must look for a natural or scientific explanation for all things and as time went by this became my own conviction. Never had anyone in church spoken to me with the authority that science did. The church had a nice minister but he had nothing much to say. I was looking for answers and found them as a teenager in 'The Big Bang' and the theory of evolution. From the age of thirteen church became unbearable; by the age of fifteen I was a confirmed Atheist and refused to attend anymore and by the age of eighteen I was an aggressive, almost

‘evangelical’, atheist seeking to ‘save’ others from a wasted life of religion, whatever form it took.

Drink and drugs

At the same time my new belief system started to shape my life. If there was no God then there were few, if any, rules and I could live as I pleased, which is precisely what I started doing. Teenagers are exposed to many temptations in modern society; I saw them as opportunities and grasped them with both hands. Alcohol began to play a part in my life in my early teens but this was soon displaced by the use of recreational drugs. Marijuana was the staple of each day but with the arrival of the weekend I would turn to a concoction of harder drugs. Had you asked me at that point, I would have told you I was having a great time. Then gradually, by the grace of God, I became conscious of a gnawing emptiness in all I was doing. The drugs were great, but the high passed. The clubs were fun, but the fun was soon over. The ecstasy of a Friday and Saturday gave place to the numbness of a Sunday and the prosaic Monday to Friday. My life was really about the weekend and the more I thought on that, the more empty life became.

Atheism challenged

By this time I was at university, but still friends with the lad from primary school whose family were Christians. Much to my regret now, I, along with others, had done a good job enticing him away from the things he heard at home and in church, so that he was living just like me, apart from going to church on Sundays, or often just pretending to go to please his parents. In all his waywardness, however, he would never deny the truth of the Word of God. One evening I was making a great plea to him to abandon all thoughts of God, but he wasn't listening. It was a clear night and when he had heard enough of my science and philosophy he simply invited me to behold the heavens. ‘Those stars’, he said ‘are innumerable. Your scientists tell us they are in some cases millions of light years away. Here we are standing, looking at them, talking to each other and you think it all just happened’. Indeed I had thought it all just happened, but that simple statement seemed in a moment to shatter my worldview. All the presuppositions on which I had built my beliefs appeared to be with no foundation at all. *How did it all just happen? Where did it all come from? If there was a big bang what went bang and where did it come from? Did it create itself? How do you get life from non-life? From that time I abandoned my atheism, believing that there had to be a supernatural explanation for the origin of life and all things.*

Fashionable spirituality

But what god would I choose to believe in? That was my next question. I was now nineteen and fashionably spiritual. I was still as far from being a Christian as I ever had been but God had not finished with me. On the outside my life got worse rather than better as a result of my new-found belief. In an eight-month period beginning in the summer of 1996 I started to drink more alcohol than ever before, and any degree of caution I had when it came to drugs seemed to disappear. I had an insatiable thirst for these things. At the same time on the inside one question dominated my thoughts ‘What is the point?’ What was the point to my being at university? If I graduated, found a job, got married, had children, what was the point of that? I later learned that the preacher in the Bible had summed it up many thousands of years before: ‘Vanity

of vanities... vanity of vanities, all is vanity’ and ‘vexation of spirit’ (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 14). For a considerable time I lost all motivation and determined to drop out of college. Then I went home for my Spring holiday (1997).

The Gospel

Arrangements had been made before my return that on the first Saturday I was home I would travel with my friend and his father to an event some distance from our town. As things transpired, my friend could not come and so I travelled the hour there and back with his father. The same man I had heard pray many times at the dinner table and lead his family in worship, now shared the Gospel with me. For the previous fifteen years when I had practically grown up on his farm I had no interest in his Gospel or his Christ, but now, as he spoke into the broken mess of my life, I found myself wishing he would ask me to go to church with him the next day. As he left me at my home he did just that. Had he asked in the previous years, I might have laughed; that day I gladly consented. On going to his church I heard the Gospel preached in a way I had never heard it before. I heard a man stand up, look me in the eye and preach with authority. I was shown from the Scriptures that I was a sinner in rebellion against God: ‘all have sinned and come short of the glory of God’ (Romans 3:23). I was shown that all my restless search was a consequence of this and all my endeavour to find satisfaction in this world, in drugs, drink, sport, relationships and whatever else were really just attempts to find the satisfaction only Christ can give: ‘Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?’ (Isaiah 55:2). They showed me that the gnawing emptiness and relentless questioning to find meaning in life could not be answered until I saw myself as a man created in the image of God, for fellowship with God, but cut off from that fellowship through sin and so under condemnation. The only way I could be saved and satisfied was by responding to the ‘good news’ that Christ came into the world to bear that condemnation and restore every sinner who will believe on Him into fellowship with the eternal God. For eight months God had broken me and brought me to an end of myself. It is a strange thing but now to understand that I was a sinner was a relief. It explained everything. To see that Christ was willing to be my Saviour was an overwhelming joy.

Peace and joy

I came to Christ, trusting in Him alone as my Saviour. The atheist, who had become spiritual but was still as lost as lost can be, found Christ. Rather Christ found me! He forgave all my sins, gave to me an indescribable peace and joy. I had been ‘born again’ by His sovereign grace and His almighty power. As a young man I had thought such religion was madness but Jesus says, ‘Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven... cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.... ye must be born again’ (John 3:1-7). Every Christian’s experience is different: Christ brings His people to Himself from a variety of different backgrounds and in different ways, but some things are true of them all. They are all sinners! They are all born again! They all take Christ as a Saviour from sin! They are all, like me, surprised by God’s grace and they all hope you will be surprised by that grace too: ‘Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest’ (Matthew 11:28).



Science Discredits Evolution – not Creation!

Graeme Craig

Mr Craig has an honours degree in Geology and since entering the ministry has retained an interest in Science and in the Evolution debate.

A common perception, perpetuated by modern atheists, is that science has not only discredited religion, but exposed it as complete nonsense. They conveniently ignore the fact that modern-day science originated with men like Isaac Newton who believed that the God of order planned the universe to work the way it does. That belief was a driving influence behind their research and without it the modern scientific age would not have come about.

Committed to Atheism

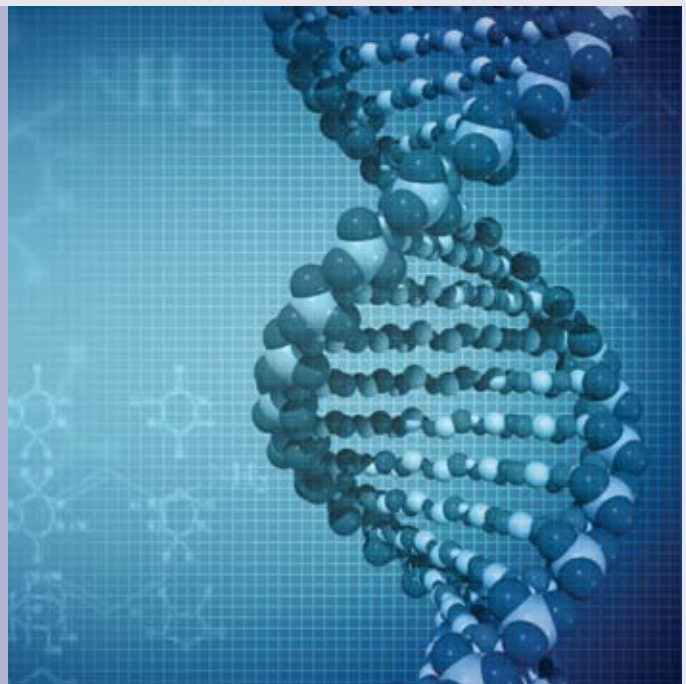
In reality, today's atheists such as Richard Dawkins and Stephen Hawking, believe what they do, not because of true scientific investigation, but because of their prior religious commitment to atheism, scientific materialism (the belief that there is no supernatural realm) and evolution. Indeed, some of their theories are illogical. For instance, Hawking recently asserted that 'because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing'. Yet as Sarfati has pointed out 'self-creation' is self-contradictory. Something can do something – including create – only if it exists; something not yet existing has no power to do anything, *including create itself*. Indeed, scientific laws of themselves can do nothing. They merely describe things. As Prof John Lennox puts it, 'The laws of physics can explain how the jet engine works, but someone

had to build the thing, put in the fuel and start it up'. Only an agent (God), not the law of physics, could have built the universe and to assert otherwise is nonsense.

Evolution is unscientific

Whilst atheists are quick to say that belief in God is 'not scientific', they fail to recognise that their own evolutionary views of origins are unscientific. The science that helped develop cars and medicines works through observations and repeatable experiments which lead to the formulation of general laws and theories which are viewed as objective knowledge but could theoretically be proved false if experimental evidence demonstrated otherwise. Without an explanation being testable, it is not viewed as scientific. As the study of origins deals with unobservable and unrepeatable past events which cannot be subjected to testing it follows that the study of evolution (and historical geology) is not truly scientific. It produces stories to fit the observations which may or may not be true. It will not do to presuppose that what we see today explains the past – that is a philosophical and unprovable presupposition. Yet, observations have a place when studying origins. They can be used to assess whether the historical inferences made by creationists and evolutionists are reasonable. When this is done Creation is seen to be a much

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more reliable explanation of origins.

Where did life come from?

A basic problem for evolution is that it cannot account for the first appearance of life. Living cells are not just collections of chemicals but complex information-processing machines. The components of a simple cell are themselves complex and could not come into existence individually but must be present together in order for them to be made or the cell to work. It is little surprise that biochemists are at a loss to understand how DNA, RNA and genetic information could have originated. Attempts to synthesize the building blocks of RNA in laboratories prove nothing. Not only is this a long way from producing RNA itself, but the conditions of production are very different from the 'primordial soup' in which life allegedly arose. The chemistry is such that it could not spontaneously form itself and any parts produced would readily break down, not provide the basis for life. Only blind faith can justify belief in chemical evolution, without which, evolution could not have occurred. The evidence points incontrovertibly to the Creator!

'Vestigial organs'?

So called 'vestigial organs' have often been cited as proof of evolution. However, as medicine advances alleged vestigial organs such as the appendix have been shown to be anything but redundant evolutionary leftovers. Recent research indicates that the appendix acts 'as a "safehouse" for helpful bacteria, so they can repopulate the intestines after dysentery'. That an organ's function is currently unknown does not make it vestigial and only evolutionary bias will suggest otherwise.

'Bad design'?

Many evolutionists acknowledge the appearance of design in organisms and therefore point to examples of alleged 'bad design' to counter this clear evidence for Creation. However, such arguments are specious and subjective. Failure to fully understand why something is designed the way it is does not mean the design is necessarily bad. More importantly, the fact of design is not disproved by questioning its quality. Contrary

to Dawkins' claims, the wiring of the retina is actually good design. His alleged 'better design' would produce an eye which was as useless as an eye with a haemorrhage and which would take months to recover when exposed to bright light! Similarly the long, roundabout route the left recurrent laryngeal nerve takes from the brain to the larynx via the chest is not, as Dawkins claims, poor design which is better explained as the leftover of fish ancestry: not only does this nerve serve other functions apart from larynx control, but it can be shown that its length is due to design constraints during foetal development. It displays both good and intelligent design and should lead us to marvel at the ingenuity of the Creator.

Fossils

Increasingly, allegedly ancient fossils are being discovered that are almost identical to living organisms. Whether it be the presumed-extinct fish, Coelacanth (allegedly 380 to 80 million years) discovered alive and almost identical in 1938 or the latest ancient fossil shrimp (allegedly 360 million years), the lack of any changes discredits evolution and points to the reality of creation. Similarly, despite millions of fossil discoveries and the claims of evolutionists, no reasonable missing links have been found between major animal groups. Those posited to be such eg Tiktaalik, the alleged ancestor of reptiles, have been shown to be nothing of the sort. The evidence from fossils, whose very preservation must be due to rapid burial, favours the Biblical account of creation and flood, not evolution.

Conclusion

It is little wonder that someone has called evolution *the greatest hoax on earth*. The observed evidence supports creation, not evolution. Do not be deceived by vociferous voices which decry creation and make spurious pseudo-scientific claims on religious and philosophical grounds because they hate the idea of being creatures accountable to a lawgiver and judge. The only way to understand who you are, why you are here and where you are going, is to come to know your Creator who speaks to you in the Bible.

I'M NOT THE WORST AROUND

Kenneth Macdonald

The Bible tells us that our heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus reinforces this point when He says, 'From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man' (Mark 7:21-23). But how many of us truly believe this? Do you have a filthy heart?

Has the government the answer?

The prevailing view in Britain today appears to be that sin comes from our environment, not from our own hearts. There seems to be a perception around that if we sort out the social problems, the bad housing and the poverty then everything will fall into place, people will live honestly and lovingly, crime will be overcome and everybody will live happily ever after. But this is to ignore the root problem in society which is that we are all sinners by nature and therefore cannot change that condition by ourselves, nor can any man do this for us. Many live as if the government of the day had all the answers and therefore we do not need God. No government ever has, or ever will be able to deal with the problem of the wicked and deceitful heart of man.

I'm better than most

Why do we find it so hard to acknowledge our hearts being deceitful when, if we are honest with ourselves, the proof is seen in the way we think, the way we deal with others every day, and at the same time the way we justify ourselves in actions we know are wrong? Is this not in itself proof that what the Bible says about the heart of man, is true? Your heart will deceive you into imagining you are not as bad as others, and indeed that you are better than most, and while you would never claim to be perfect, you justify yourself by asserting

that you are doing your best. What more could be required of you? But your best will always fall short of God's absolute standard.

Giving up drink and drugs

Some may be able to change their lifestyle; some who were drunkards, thugs, swearers, drug addicts, thieves, unfaithful in their relationships can 'clean up their act' and live outwardly respectable lives, yet while this may be true even of you, you know your heart is still not right before God. You may have left off many sins, but there are others which beat you. You are struggling to know peace of conscience. Why? Again the answer is found in the Bible.

God's answer

You need to confess your sins to God, repent of them, and ask the Lord to give you a new heart. The prophet Ezekiel tells us that God can do what we can't: 'A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you' (Ezekiel 36:26). God's justice demands punishment for all sins. That explains why the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ, came and died on the cross. He was willing and able to take the punishment due to all who believe in Him. We read in Isaiah 53:6, 'The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all'. Jesus says, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28). Here is the answer to your sinful heart and your desire for peace of conscience. Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Substitute, Sacrifice, Mediator, Deliverer and Saviour. That is where you will find the peace you seek and need. Then you will at last freely acknowledge the condition of your heart and see the death of Christ in your place as the only way to obtain peace with God.

Are you willing to consider this today?

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were drunkards, thugs, swearers, drug addicts, thieves, unfaithful in their relationships can 'clean up their act' and live outwardly respectable lives, yet while this may be true even of you, you know your heart is still not right before God.'



A Roman Catholic Testimony

Earl Payne
Ex US Army Officer



I was born in a Catholic hospital, baptised by a priest, educated in the Roman Catholic catechism, received my first communion at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, went to confession, performed acts of penance, and became an altar boy. Later, while in the U S Army, I had the opportunity to attend Bible studies at a nearby church. Although I had attended Mass and studied the catechism, I had never been taught from God's Word. Roman Catholics need to be saved just like everyone else. Through the Scriptures, I learned to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as my own personal Saviour and received God's gift of eternal life.

As I continued to study the Bible, I discovered its teaching to be quite different from my earlier religious instruction. The following are just a few examples:

Pope

The concept of a Pope is not found anywhere in Scripture. Catholicism teaches that Peter was the first Pope, the rock on which that church is built. The Bible teaches that that Rock is Christ, as the Apostle Peter himself testified (Acts 4:8-12). (Also Ephesians 2:20 and I Corinthians 10:4). When the Lord

Jesus said '...upon this rock I will build my church', He wasn't speaking of the weak and bungling Peter who would soon deny the Lord three times with oaths and swearing. He spoke of Himself, the One who never wavers. As Hebrews 13:8 declares, He is 'Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever'.

Marriage

The Catholic Church forbids priests, nuns and Popes to marry. However, Peter was married (Matthew 8:14), and so were other apostles. I Timothy 4:3 condemns any religious group which forbids marriage.

Rosary

The rosary is an important part of Catholicism. Over those beads millions of 'Our Fathers' and 'Hail Marys' have been recited. Yet the Scripture says in Matthew 6:7, 'When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do'. 'Vain repetitions' is an accurate description of someone praying the rosary. The Lord said that 'heathen' use vain repetitions when they pray, and He commanded us not to follow them.



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A Mediator

Catholics pray to Mary and the saints, and they confess sins to their priests to seek forgiveness. However, the Bible plainly declares in I Timothy 2:5, 'There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus'. Since Christ is the only mediator between God and men, why pray, 'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners...?' And why go to a confessional to find a mediator (a 'go-between') between yourself and God?

Blessed Virgin

Mary is called the 'Blessed Virgin', but she did not remain a virgin after the birth of Jesus. Matthew 13:55 reads, 'Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us?' Mary had a large family. She was definitely not the 'Blessed Virgin' after the birth of Christ.

Purgatory

Another fictitious element of the Catholic religion is purgatory, a place where people who missed hell but weren't good enough to get into heaven suffer until their sins are 'purged', at which time they are allowed into heaven's gates. As with other points we have mentioned, one can search the Bible from cover to cover without finding a hint at such a place. What we discover repeatedly, though, is that Christ Jesus the Lord has already 'purged' our sins (Hebrews 1:3). I John 1:7 says further, 'The blood of Jesus Christ his (God's) Son cleanseth us from all sin'. According to God, purgatory is unnecessary and nonexistent.

Meritorious works

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that a person goes to heaven by living a good life, being a good Catholic, going to confession and communion, and doing other deeds which they consider meritorious. The teaching of the Bible on this all-important subject is very different. Romans 6:23 tells us, 'The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord'. Ephesians 2:8-9 states, 'For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it

is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast'. The Bible makes it clear in these verses and throughout its pages that heaven and eternal life are received as a gift, based on the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ alone. It specifically declares that it is 'not of works'. Yet in the face of this, the Catholic Church, as well as many other religions and denominations, teaches that a person must earn salvation.

True Saviour

When the Bible says, 'He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life', it is talking about a person relying on Christ alone for forgiveness and salvation and trusting the Saviour to do what a Saviour is supposed to do – to save! If a person tries to live so as to merit heaven, he is trusting in his own deeds to save him – which means he is not trusting Christ as his Saviour – which means he is not saved! As Lord of all, the Lord Jesus Christ deserves our undivided reverence. As the Saviour of sinners, He requires us to admit our guilt and accept His all-sufficient payment for our sin. You cannot do this and believe the doctrines of Roman Catholicism at the same time, for as we have seen, the two are diametrically opposed.

No longer a Roman Catholic

Therefore, I no longer believe the teachings of Catholicism. Instead, I rely on the Word of God which shall stand forever. I am no longer a Roman Catholic. Instead, I have God's gift of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The gift of eternal life is available to everyone. But the only people who receive it are those who are willing to give up their own ideas and traditions and put their trust in the Saviour. '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). This 'whosoever' means me. It can mean YOU if you believe and repent. Don't let anyone or anything stand between you and this precious gift. No one has a right to interfere with the reception of the gift of life, not even your church.

Choose Christ! Choose Life! And begin to live – FOREVER!
For your sake and His glory.

My Time Has Come

(MWTB)

Maybe my time has come to die', said the old man from his hospital bed.

'Yes, but are you ready to die?' I asked him. 'Are you saved and ready to meet God?'

'That is a deep question', he replied slowly and thoughtfully. 'I have always tried to do what was right, and I have never done anything really bad in my life'.

'Then you don't have a chance in the world of going to heaven', I said.

Good people will not be saved

He stared at me, and I could see he did not believe his ears, so I repeated it. 'If you have never done anything wrong in your life, then you don't have a chance in the world of going to heaven. Jesus Himself said, "I came not to call the righteous"; so if you are righteous, there is no hope for you; you cannot be saved. Jesus said He did not come to save good people' (see Luke 5:31,32).

The old man seemed to be absolutely dumbfounded. He looked as if he had been shot. Tears trickled down his cheeks as he said brokenly: 'Can it be that I have been wrong all my life? I have never in my life heard that before. I thought God saved good people'.

God saves only sinners

'No, Jesus said plainly that he did not come to save righteous people, but sinners. So if you are not a sinner, you cannot be

saved'. After quoting a number of Scriptures to him, he saw that he was a sinner (Romans 3:23). He also was shown that Christ came to save sinners, and therefore to save him, if he repented of His sin before God and trusted Christ as His Saviour (Acts 20:21). Only the blood of Christ can cleanse from sin (1 John 1:7) and make one fit for God's presence.

You can't save yourself

How astonishing it is to see people who go through life hoping they are all right because they have never killed anyone or robbed a bank. Then they launch into eternity, to meet God in their sins, and find themselves shut out of heaven forever. Yes, this dear old man had joined some church and been baptized, he told me. He raised his family right, and did all he could to help other people. But he did not understand anything about God's wonderful salvation, which is entirely by grace and not of works (Ephesians 2:8,9). And now literally with one foot in the grave (for one of them had been amputated), and with the other one sliding on the brink, he evidently heard for the first time in his life that he could not save himself.

Are you a sinner?

What about you? Are you a sinner? If not, there is no hope for you, for 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – only sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). If you are depending on your good life, you will not be saved. When your time comes to leave this life, you will be judged and cast into hell.



'I have always tried to do what was right, and I have never done anything really bad in my life'.

'Then you don't have a chance in the world of going to heaven', I said.



Saved from the *Titanic*

Maurice Roberts

The famous ship *Titanic* was believed to be the safest ship afloat. Built in Belfast, it was 269m long and had a gross tonnage of 46,328. At the time it was the largest ship that had ever been built.

On the night of April 14-15, 1912 on its maiden voyage from this country to New York the *Titanic* struck an iceberg and sank. The iceberg was sighted just before the collision but it was too late to avoid it. The impact tore open a 90m slit along the hull. There were not enough lifeboats for all the passengers on board.

The ship sank in about two and a half hours. The liner *Carpathia*, which was in the area and had received the alarm signal, picked up over 700 survivors. But very many died in the icy waters of the North Atlantic. It is reckoned that over 1500 people perished in this tragic accident.

Curious to say, in 1985 researchers from France and America found the wreckage of the *Titanic* deep down in the ocean, round about 800km SE of Newfoundland. The researchers refused to give the exact location.

Four years after the *Titanic* went down a young man from Scotland stood up in a meeting in Hamilton, Ontario, in Canada. He said, 'I am a survivor of the *Titanic*. When I was drifting alone on a spar on that awful night, the tide brought Mr John Harper of Glasgow [a famous Baptist preacher at the time in Glasgow whose memory is still kept alive by the name of the Harper Memorial Baptist Church in that city] also on a piece of wreck near me. "Are you saved?" asked Mr Harper. "No!", I said, "I am not". He replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved".

'The waves bore him away, but strange to say, brought him back

a little later and he said, "Are you saved now?" "No", I replied, "I cannot honestly say that I am". He said again, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved". And shortly after he went down. There, alone and in the night and with two miles of water under me, I believed.

'I am John Harper's last convert'.

Reader, make sure you too are saved. Believe in Christ and you will be kept from making a shipwreck of your life. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will then be fit to face any and all of the troubles of this world. More still, you will be prepared to face death and the great Judgment Day which all of us must face when we leave this life in death.

Jesus came to die on the cross of Calvary for us. It was God's love that sent Him into this sinful world for our salvation. How sad that so many perished in the disaster of the *Titanic* for want of room in the lifeboats! But no one will ever be able to say there was not room in heaven for sinners who truly want a Saviour. '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).

There is still room in the lifeboat of the gospel if you really want to come in. But there is no second chance. Once we leave this world by death all hope of salvation is over for unbelieving sinners forever.

Will you not therefore pray that by God's grace you may become one of Christ's converts? If so you will meet John Harper's last convert for yourself in heaven at last. Better still you will meet the Saviour of sinners Himself in all His love and grace.

The Answer

Tracy Holding



The problem

You're going to die in 1997', said the handsome young man to me when I was only 16. This was my boyfriend, and he practised the dark arts. It was 1982 and I was living it up in the rock clubs in Manchester. He was the sort of company your mother would have described as 'unsavoury'. I wasn't too phased by his prophecy though. After all, I had another 15 years left – what was I worried about? And besides, it was probably just a chat up line anyway... wasn't it? Well maybe, but for the next fifteen years this thought simmered away in my mind, fuelled by my telling people from time to time that I wasn't going to live long, and acting as if it was true.

Eight years later in a Welsh pub a stranger took hold of my hand, looked intently at my palm, and pronounced, 'You're going to meet your Maker when you're 31'. I brushed it off at the time, but the words amazed me – I would be 31 in 1997. The two predictions matched! How could that be, unless it was true? And if it was, that meant I only had seven years left to live.

I wondered what was going to happen to my soul. Ever since a child I'd been fascinated with the paranormal. I was convinced there was something beyond the material, something spiritual, ghosts or angels or something. And encounters with the after-life could only mean one thing – that you didn't really just die and disappear when you were dead. You WENT somewhere.

The problem got worse

So what was I to do? Well, in some ways I became very blasé about everything. Okay, so I was going to die, big deal, it happens to everyone. So why was I *worried* about it then? Why was I *frightened* of dying? I've always been a bit of a bookworm, and I thought that if you could know about something, you could somehow control it. I think that was why I began a serious search – to discover what would happen after I died. At this point I took a major wrong turn. My mum gave me a Bible when I was 11, and I carried it around like a good-luck charm. But I didn't look in there for the answer. I went to the New-Age shop and bought books about 'healing' arts, and things 'spiritual'. Things like astrology, flower remedies, hypnosis, crystals, reflexology, faith healing, yoga, and even 'white' witchcraft. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that stars, flowers and crystals are inherently evil, but if you think they're going to stop you from dying, or tell you the future, or impart some magical spiritual power, or give you the Answer to life, then you're definitely going in the wrong direction. I'd turned my back on the one thing that could answer my questions, the Bible, and headed off in earnest into the darkness. Next I learned how to read tarot cards. I went to pagan festivals. I

began drinking copious amounts of alcohol and smoking cannabis. I got into weird philosophies and politics. I danced all night in nightclubs. My life disintegrated with this 'alternative' lifestyle. Everything claimed to be 'the light'

but I wasn't getting any nearer the truth. And I wasn't getting any younger either. To cap it all, I was beginning to lose my mind; becoming paranoid, depressed and psychotic from the cannabis, and the further I went into the darkness, the more I lost my mind.

Something did make me look in the Bible though. It was the Hale Bopp comet which was passing the Earth then. I thought it was going to hit us, and perhaps that was how I'd die. I somehow knew that 'Revelation' (the last book of the Bible) was about the end of the world and I started to read it to see if it described how the Earth was going to come to an end.

The answer

It was there that I found something that REALLY made me afraid – it said that Jesus was coming back to judge the world. Now anxiety was mixed with my other mental torments. I didn't *want* Him to come. I knew what the Ten Commandments said, I'd heard them in school: Thou shalt not kill... thou shalt not steal... nor commit adultery... nor bear false witness (lie)... etc., but I'd broken all of these, and more. If Jesus came back today, I thought, I was in BIG trouble... there was no way to avoid it, I was going to **hell**.

Thankfully though, Jesus didn't come back that day, or the following days. He gave me more time and I kept reading, and eventually I discovered that there *was* a way to avoid hell – Jesus Himself was the way – He was the judge, and He was the Saviour! I understood that all the dark things I was mixed up with were all connected with the Devil – yes he really does exist – and that I was sinning. But Jesus was powerful enough to save me from Satan, and sin, and even death. I'd like to be able to say that there and then I fell to my knees, saw a great flash of light, and suddenly life was a bed of roses. But that wouldn't be true! I struggled on some more, maybe even years, I can't remember exactly, but eventually I found Him. That was over 12 years ago. Now I'm not afraid of the end of the world, or of the judgment day, or of dying, because 'perfect love casts out fear', and He is perfect love.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

'I've got my own religion'

Ron Melick (MWTB)

Whatever you believe is all right.
Everybody has their own beliefs.
All that matters is that you believe something.

These are sayings which you will hear from many people today. They sound nice, and help to make people feel good, since their own beliefs are said to be as valid as those of anyone else. 'After all', some say, 'can you really know anything for sure?' People who claim to have 'the truth' are looked down upon as being arrogant and intolerant. For some reason, people can accept the idea that any religion is valid as long as it doesn't claim to be the only true religion! Do you know why that is? It's Satan's way of getting people to believe anything but the one thing that will remove his grip on their souls.

All religions not equal

It is not true that all religious beliefs are of equal value. It is not true that 'Whatever you believe is all right'. The very fact that 'Everybody has their own beliefs' is what God says is man's biggest problem – we have exchanged God's truth for our beliefs. 'All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way' (Isaiah 53:6). Man's confused religions stand in opposition to God's simple way to life. Man's ways are the wide, tolerant, sin-ignoring way that ends in destruction. 'Broad is the way that leadeth to destruction ... narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it' (Matthew 7:13,14).

God's truth will stand

There is one sense in which it is true that what you believe doesn't matter. What you believe, or what religious men have taught, does not change the truth of God's Word! Just believing something doesn't make it true. Jumping off the top of a skyscraper onto the street below will kill you, no matter how strongly you believe otherwise. Entering into eternity with the firm belief that there is no God, or that your beliefs or your works are good enough to merit His approval will not change the outcome: 'Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire' (Revelation 20:15).

Jesus is the truth

Truth is not a matter of opinion. Either something is true or it is false. Jesus Christ claims to be the truth. He did not say, 'I am a way', but rather, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me' (John 14:6). When it comes to faith, it is not, 'Just as long as you believe something', but 'Just so you believe Christ'. Faith in Jesus Christ, who laid down His life on the cross of Calvary and rose victoriously from the dead, is the only way to everlasting life and forgiveness of sins.

Only Jesus can save

Just as everyone has turned to his own way, each of us must individually turn from our rebellion. No one can save himself, since salvation is 'not of works' (Ephesians 2:8,9). Because God is the One who saves, salvation is as certain as His promise: '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' (John 5:24). Jesus Christ is the only way. Won't you stop rejecting Him, and by faith receive Him as your Saviour today? 'Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved' (Acts 4:12).



A Muslim's Faith in Jesus Christ the Messiah

Brother Warsameh

I was born to a very religious Somali family in a small village in western Somalia. I am a Somali. I grew up in Mogadishu where I worked and finished high school. My father was a well-known religious leader and also a well-respected tribal leader. He memorised the entire Qur'an in Arabic, even though he could not speak Arabic very well. The Qur'an is roughly the size of the Christian New Testament.

My father trained Muslim religious teachers for the propagation of Islam. In his pursuit of spreading Islam he enjoyed the moral and material support of the military government in Somalia. My father gave me a very solid Muslim religious education for he wanted me to succeed him as a religious leader. Little did he know that I would become a follower of Jesus the Messiah.

How the Lord Found Me

Since the Qur'an says a lot of good things about Jesus the Messiah, I decided to study Him and His teachings as well. So I obtained the Holy Bible, *Kitaabka Qudduuska Ah*, in the English language. I shared with my father about my growing interest in Jesus Christ and my suspicion of the claims of Muhammad as the last prophet from God. He threatened to take my life away if I ever again openly questioned the claims and the trustworthiness of Islam.

After three years of studying the Bible the Lord found me in 1986. The Holy Spirit was certainly working in me since 1983 but I continuously resisted his conviction until 1986.

Many passages in the Bible spoke to me directly like the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) but it is the totality of the Scripture and its authenticity which impacted me the most. I remember the day I totally surrendered to the Lord. I spoke to the Lord in my heart and confessed my ignorance and arrogance towards His Messiah and his Injeel (New Testament). I repented of my sins and started a new life with the Lord. The radio broadcast *Codka Nolosha Cusub* (Voice of New Life) personnel in Nairobi, Kenya, helped me in answering many of my questions (through correspondence) and guided me in my walk with the Lord. It was a difficult journey but worthy of the effort.

The Lord used radio ministers to convict me of my sins and to understand my need for redemption. I always knew that I could never please God and earn salvation on my merits. The Bible assured me that all I needed to do to be saved was to repent and turn away from my sins and accept Christ as my Saviour – no more dogma or empty rituals and no more constant fear of whether I will end up in hell or in heaven. I got solid assurance in Jesus the Messiah.

One radio ministry that blessed me beyond measure was *Codka Nolosha Cusub* (Voice of New Life) beamed from the Seychelles. CNC sent me invaluable Bible study materials and I faithfully listened to their radio programmes. Before I met any flesh and blood believers to learn from them and to worship with them, CNC was my main source of spiritual growth during my lonely walk with the Lord.

CNC sent me Bible study materials which were extremely

helpful. The fact that I heard Somali Christians speaking my own mother tongue on the radio was also encouraging – it was evident to me that Somalis could also follow the Messiah.

How My Family Reacted

My family was terribly disappointed when I shared with them my faith in Jesus the Messiah. My mother was the first person I told of my new faith. I first confided in her that I found the Injeel (New Testament) of Jesus which our religious leaders tell us was lost a long time ago. Then I showed her the entire Bible and told her that the Torah and Psalms were also there.

Needless to say, my mother did not believe me and dismissed my claims as baseless. I remember her telling me to fear Allah and not to abandon Islam. I could see she was red with anger and disappointment. She thought I was becoming a rebellious son – that was her concern. Some of my relatives were growing very impatient with me. They first thought I was mad and they repeatedly questioned my sanity. They threatened me with every conceivable punishment if I did not recant my faith. But I insisted on my newly found faith and freedom in the living Messiah who died on the cross for our sins, who was resurrected from the dead on the third day and now sits in heaven at the right hand of God.

I explained to them my reasoning for choosing Jesus over Muhammad. My point was clear and concise. I told them that God did not send any prophet to abrogate the Injeel of the Messiah. I told them that the Injeel was the final revelation of God and the Messiah Jesus Christ – the last messenger sent from God.

I was finally told to leave home and I was disowned. This was a very painful experience in a culture where your identity and self worth are derived from your family. I automatically forfeited the acceptance and the protection of my clan and almost lost my job because of my faith in the Messiah.

The Somalis, like most Muslims, do not understand the Christian faith because they have never read the Bible. They only trust what their religious leaders tell them. For a Somali, Christianity and paganism are synonymous.

My family finally took me back as their son when their fear of 'paganism' did not materialise. As a devout Muslim, I was always well behaved and was considerate. My good qualities increased when the Lord found me and that surprised my Muslim family, relatives and friends. They couldn't believe that the Messiah had made me a better person.

The Price

Though the Lord found me in 1986, I did not meet any other Christians until 1992. My shortwave radio was my 'church' and my 'pastor'. But things suddenly changed in 1992 when I met my first Somali Christian. I was introduced to him in Mogadishu by a Swedish missionary. Though I already knew this young man, I never knew he was a follower of the Messiah. He was an underground Christian just like me. Liibaan Ibraahim and I planted an underground house church in Mogadishu in 1993

and pastored it together. We had 14 members by early 1994. Things went out of hand in 1994 when Muslims found out that there was a small but growing Christian community in their midst. Then, an unprecedented persecution broke out. Liibaan was the first Christian martyr. He was shot to death early one morning when he was reporting to work. He was a nurse by training.

Dr. Ahmed Gobe was the next Somali Christian to be murdered. He was shot one evening when he was returning from his clinic. His bullet-ridden body was found the next morning.

Another member of our underground church who was martyred was Mohammed Haji. He was a former university professor who was educated in Canada. Mohammed was rebuilding the school system in Mogadishu that suffered under the civil war. He was then kidnapped and assassinated.

Another Somali Christian to be murdered was the famous Sheekh Doon. He was shot and killed, along with his Muslim wife, in their bedroom when some gunmen had broken into their home one night. Their children escaped physical harm.

Another Somali Christian member, Saleebaan Mohammed, was snatched from the bus he was riding home from work and was executed publicly in broad daylight because of his faith in Jesus the Messiah.

Only two members of our underground church in Somalia have survived the carnage, myself and another believer. Of the 14 in our church 12 were martyred. The murderers are still roaming

in the streets of Mogadishu with impunity. The local authorities are not holding them responsible but the Lord will.

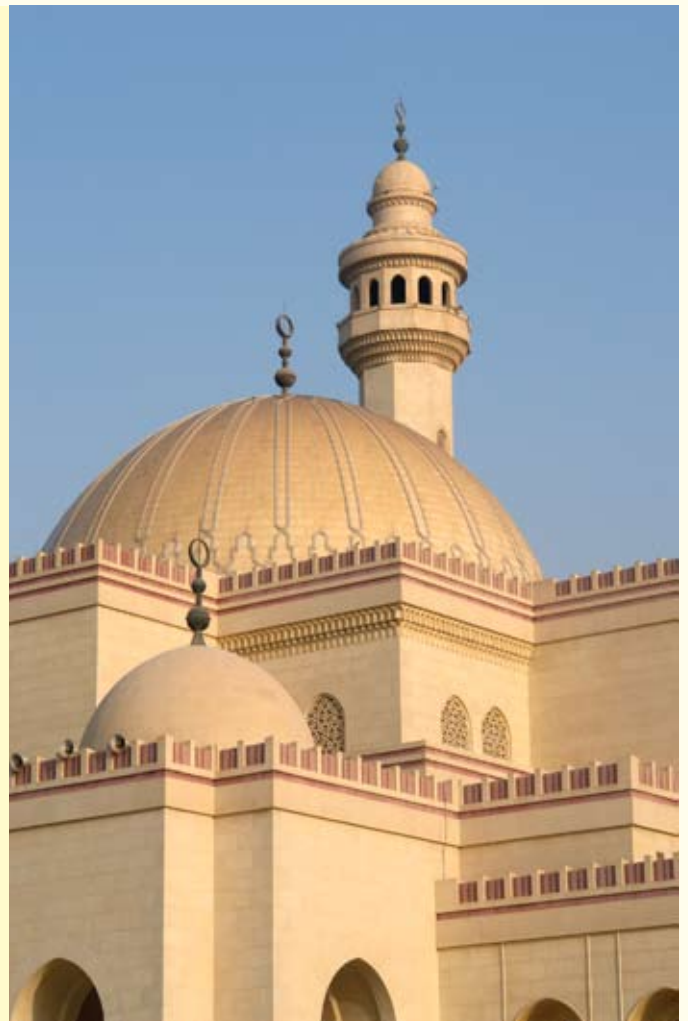
God has accepted those martyrs into His glorious Kingdom of Heaven. They were faithful to Jesus Christ and to His Testimony until the end. As Jesus said in the Book of Revelation chapter 2, 'Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life'. May God grant that those murderers will come to see the light that Jesus Christ is Lord, may they ask Jesus Christ to forgive them of their sins, or they will burn and suffer eternally in the lake of fire, the second death. For God alone has power over the second death.

After several attempts on my life, I left Somalia for another country in 1996 for fear of my life. I joined a Bible college there where I earned a Bachelor of Theology degree after four years of hard work. While in school, I periodically travelled to Somalia to plant underground house churches. This underground ministry produced strong house churches and capable church leaders. I am now pursuing a Master of Divinity degree in an evangelical seminary. I am the only Christian in my family.

Today there are many Somali Christians around the world and house churches as well. Most of Somali Christians live in East Africa but many have resettled in the West – primarily the US and the UK.

contact@somalichristians.org

'Another Somali Christian member, Saleebaan Mohammed, was snatched from the bus he was riding home from work and was executed publicly in broad daylight because of his faith in Jesus the Messiah.'



The Unknown God

David Blunt

The Bible tells us of an occasion when the apostle Paul found himself in the great city of Athens. It was a very religious place, full of temples and idols. During his visit Paul came across an altar inscribed with these sad words: 'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD'. Being a godly man Paul was burdened to preach to the Athenians. Standing on a high place he announced to the people boldly: 'Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you' (Acts 17:23). Then he proclaimed to them the living and true God.

We may say that something similar is repeated in our own land today. The skylines of our cities reveal churches with their spires and steeples. These buildings testify to the fact that men are conscious of God and have a desire to worship. Yet the vital thing is to *know* God in a personal and saving way. Whether we are Athenians or Glaswegians or whatever we are, our need is the same! The church must proclaim the God with whom we all have to do.

Real

If we are to know God then we must heed what the Scriptures have to say. The Bible takes it for granted that God is. 'He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him' (Hebrews 11:6). 'Atheists' who deny the existence of God are fools (Psalm 14:1). 'Agnostics' who believe that God may exist are also wrong for the universe declares its designer and maker (Psalm 19:1, 2). Sadly many say they believe in God but live otherwise. 'They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him' (Titus 1:16). So what exactly is God?

Spirit

God is a Spirit (John 4:24). He is therefore invisible. When the Bible speaks of God's eyes, ears, mouth, hands or feet it is using figures to teach us truths about God that we could not otherwise understand. God cannot be known by the ordinary senses. He can only be known by *faith*. In this way Moses 'saw' the invisible God (Hebrews 11:27).

Perfect

God is a perfect Spirit. He is *infinite* or without limit, filling every space and present in every place: 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' (Jeremiah 23:24). He is *eternal*, having neither beginning nor end: 'from everlasting to everlasting thou art God' (Psalm 90:2). He is *unchangeable* or ever the same, unlike this passing world: 'I change not' (Malachi 3:6).

Character

The Bible reveals the following things about God's character: His *being*. God revealed to Moses a special name: 'I AM THAT I AM' (Exodus 3:14). This means that God exists by Himself and is independent of everything; by contrast we are dependent upon God for our being and everything else.

His *wisdom*. Some men are clever but few are wise. We all make mistakes, change our minds and even forget our thoughts. But God knows all things at once and directs each and every event to the best end.

His *power*. There are things that we wish to do but cannot do. However God is able to do all that He desires. When God promised a son to Abraham and Sarah in their old age He said, 'Is any thing too hard for the Lord?' (Genesis 18:14).

His *holiness*. 'God is light, and in him is no darkness at all' (1 John 1:5). God is so pure that He 'cannot be tempted with evil' (James 1:13). We are all sinners and 'ungodly'.

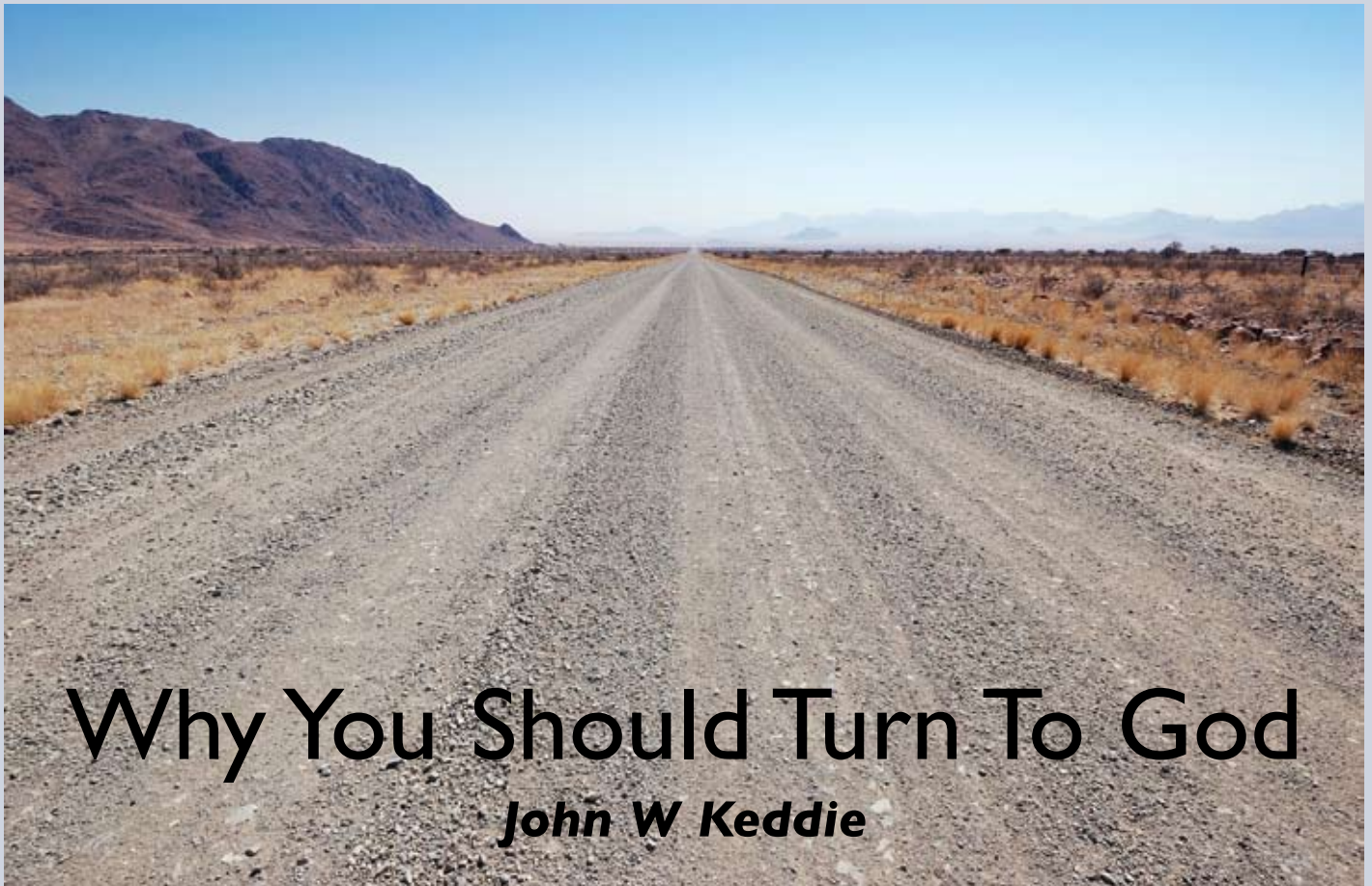
His *justice*. God is righteous. He is upright in His character and in His conduct. He will always punish sin and reward good. In His Word God has given us His just law to keep.

His *goodness*. Jesus said, 'there is none good but one, that is, God' (Matthew 19:17). God's nature is goodness. He is wholly good and the source of any good found in man.

His *truth*. Some things God cannot do. 'It is impossible for God to lie' (Hebrews 6:18). There are no falsehoods with God, only faithfulness. He is true to Himself and to His Word.

Friend, do *you* know this great and glorious God? One day soon you will encounter Him for at death your spirit will return to Him (Ecclesiastes 12:7). God has made Himself known supremely in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to save sinners such as you are and to bless them with all the goodness that God has to give, even eternal life. May you know the help of God's grace in seeking and finding this dear Saviour!





Why You Should Turn To God

John W Keddie

Why are we here? We have a message which we wish to share with you. What is it? It is about you as a sinner before God and about Christ as a great Saviour for sinners. It is a message based upon the Bible as the Word of God. It is the Christian Scriptures that tell us what is important to know about God and Jesus Christ, life and death and beyond. Of course it is a matter of faith. But this is part of our burden today – to call people to come to faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son, who came to seek and to save that which was lost (in sin). But why should you accept this message? I give you some reasons to ponder:

(1) *Because the God who made this world is our Maker*
'Woe to him that striveth with his Maker!' (Isaiah 45:9). We therefore should acknowledge Him and recognise His claims. We know what a terrible thing it is when children rebel against their parents and go their own way showing no respect for those who brought them into the world. In a higher sense God gave us life, therefore we should respect Him. Because He is our Maker we are answerable to Him.

(2) *Because we are born sinners and are not right with God*
'All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23). We sin against Him, against His word (the Bible). Sin has spoilt this world. Everything people touch is stained by it. Above all, sin is any action against God's perfect law given in the Bible. So, we need the gospel message of Jesus and His love because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But why is that important?

(3) *Because it is 'a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God' (Hebrews 10:31)*

Why? Well, His standards are perfect but ours are imperfect and must incur His displeasure. If you are asked to do

something for an employer and your work is shoddy of course he will be displeased. You may not be too worried about that in this world, but our Maker is displeased with sinful man who breaks *His* word/law. But is that so important? Yes,

(4) *Because we have to face God as our judge*

'We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10). It is appointed for man once to die, says the Bible, and after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). What then? If we have not turned to God; if we have not received the salvation from sin accomplished by Jesus' death; if we have not recognised the seriousness of sin and sorrowed for it before God and come to Christ by faith; then we must be condemned for ever hereafter.

Turn or Burn

The Bible speaks of a broad road that leads to destruction and a narrow road that leads to life. It's this 'narrow road' we direct you to. As the Bible writer put it: 'Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men' (2 Corinthians 5:11). That's why we are here. It's like traffic signs. What are they for but to direct on the right roads and take the right action to avoid some danger? You know that the triangular ones warn of dangers. You would be foolish to ignore them. We know that. But we're dealing here with people's souls and their eternal well-being after this short life. And we say to you, respectfully: 'turn or burn!' It's summed up in these verses: '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. 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).

“As many as received Him [Jesus Christ], to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

John 1:12-13