



## Meet Jesus

Last Modified 23 Dec 2004

**Although there is no way to write a short paper that in any way truly shows you who Jesus is or Glorifies Him in any way, this is at best a small attempt to give you a glimpse of Who Jesus Is!**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the World, the Sacrificial Lamb who became man, lived as we live, and was crucified on the cross for the cleansing of our sins and to give each of us eternal life. Prophecies of His coming date back over 700 years of His birth, and as His birth came near, the anticipation grew stronger. He was born to what we would call poverty, with the animals and a manger for a cradle. As a youth He exhibited the knowledge that He, the son of God, already possessed by preaching in the temples. As He grew, He showed many the awesome Grace of God by healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, raising the dead, turning water to wine, walking on water, calming a storm, feeding thousands with just a few fish and loaves of bread, showing Grace to His enemies, rising from the dead Himself, and many more. He now mediates for us to God the Father and watches over us every second of our lives. To get to know Jesus, the best way is to spend time in God's Word. Meet Jesus the man, what He did for you, continues to do for you, and how He wants you to live your life. Then accept Him fully into your Life and Heart and see how He will change your life forever. See how you can call on Jesus any time, any place, any where and He will be there for you.

**As you read God's Word, the Bible, keep these items in mind and you will truly see that it is from God and how perfect His Word is:**

- It was written over a span of 1600 years (unlike the books or novels of our day which are written in months to a few years)
- There are over 40 writers; each one inspired by the one true author, God the Father
- Do not read it as a book, read sections and cross references information to other books or sections of the Bible. For example read about the birth of Jesus in the book of Matthew then go and read how it is presented in the book of Luke.
- Never read it alone, ask Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to help guide you and to give you the understanding of God's Word

Bible, the English form of the Greek name Biblia, meaning "books," the name which in the fifth century began to be given to the entire collection of sacred books, the "Library of Divine Revelation." The name Bible was adopted by Wickliffe, and came gradually into use in our English language. The Bible consists of sixty-six different books, composed by many different writers, in three different languages, under different circumstances; writers of almost every social rank, statesmen and peasants, kings, herdsmen, fishermen, priests, tax-gatherers, tentmakers; educated and uneducated, Jews and Gentiles; most of them unknown to each other, and writing at various periods during the space of about 1600 years: and yet, after all, it is only one book dealing with only one subject in its numberless aspects and relations, the subject of man's redemption. It is divided into the Old Testament, containing thirty-nine books, and the New Testament, containing twenty-seven books. The names given to the Old in the writings of the New are "the scriptures" (Matt 21:42), "scripture" (2 Peter 1:20), "the holy scriptures" (Rom 1:2), "the law" (John 12:34), "the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms" (Luke 24:44), "the law and the prophets" (Matt 5:17), "the old covenant" (2 Cor 3:14, R.V.). There is a break of 400 years between the Old Testament and the New.

The Old Testament is divided into three parts; 1. The Law (Torah), consisting of the Pentateuch, or five books of Moses. 2. The Prophets, consisting of (1) the former, namely, Joshua, Judges, the Books of Samuel, and the Books of Kings; (2) the latter, namely, the greater prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, and the twelve minor prophets. 3. The Hagiographa, or holy writings, including the rest of the books. These were ranked in three divisions; (1) The Psalms, Proverbs, and Job, distinguished by the Hebrew name, a word formed of the initial letters of these books, emeth, meaning truth. (2) Canticles, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther, called the five rolls, as being written for the synagogue use on five separate rolls. (3) Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and 1 and 2 Chronicles. Between the Old and the New Testament no addition was made to the revelation God had already given. The period of New Testament revelation, extending over a century, began with the appearance of John the Baptist.

### **Also before you start your journey into the amazing and perfect Word of God; Words that will change your life forever, here are a few other items that might help you:**

First, you will see many references to God. Those who believe in the Bible and in Jesus Christ the Son of God; also believe in the Holy Trinity, or God in His three forms, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Though they are Three (separately), they are also One.

1. You will see God referred to in many ways, for example God, Almighty God, Father, God the Father, Heavenly Father, the Father, but rest assured they are one in the same.

2. You will see Jesus referred to in far more ways, Jesus, Jesus Christ, Advocate, Almighty, Alpha and Omega, Amen, Anointed, Chosen One, Christ, Christ Jesus, Comforter, Counselor, Deliverer, Emmanuel, Eternal Life, Faithful and True, Fortress, Fountain of Life, God, God of Glory, Holy One, Hope, I, Immanuel, Judge, King, King of Kings, Lamb of God, Lord, Lord of Lords, Master, Mediator, Messiah, Physician, Prince of Peace, Redeemer, Reverend, Ruler of Nations, Savior, Servant, Shepherd, Teacher, The Bread of Life, The Gift of God, The Life, The Light, The Living God, The Resurrection, The Rock, The Son of God, The Son of Man, The Truth, The Vine, The Way, The Word, True God, Wisdom, just to mention a few.

This is not done to confuse you, but because of the many and incredible things Jesus did while on earth, people were inspired to refer to Him in the way that He touch or moved them spiritually.

Jesus is the Son of God who became Man for the purpose of bringing salvation to each one of us and bringing us closer to the Father. His coming was planned many hundred of years before His arrival and His agenda was set through God's Word. To show that He is the Son of God and to show the world of Gods Grace:

1. Prophecies of Jesus' arrival date back many centuries before Christ birth
2. He was born to a virgin
  - a. Born as the Sacrificial Lamb

- b. Came to Teach and Guide us
- c. Came to show the Grace of our Father in Heaven
- d. Came so that He could later server as our Mediator in Heaven, knowing what it is like to be man
- 3. He preached as a child with Words and Wisdom that could only be of God
- 4. He brought us many lessons for life and how to live as Christians
  - a. Sower and the Seeds
  - b. The Tares
  - c. The Mustard Seed
  - d. The Hidden Treasure
  - e. The Good Samaritan
  - f. And many more, see the document “Parables of Jesus” on the Home Page
- 5. He showed Compassion and Love for all mankind
  - a. He healed many of the sick
  - b. Fed the hungry
  - c. He was always pulled to those in need
  - d. When no one would go near the lepers, Jesus would not only go to them but heal them
- 6. He performed many Miracles
  - a. Walked on Water
  - b. Calmed the Storm
  - c. Turned Water to Wine
  - d. Healed many who were sick
  - e. Raised men from the Dead
  - f. There are many more, see the document “Miracles of Jesus” on the Home Page
- 7. He faced the same temptations each of us face so He can mediate for us with the total understanding of what we endure as flesh
- 8. Gave us so much when He died on the Cross and was Raised from the Dead; on the Third Day
  - a. Eternal Life
  - b. Forgiveness of Sins
  - c. A new Covenant was made with the Father and His people
- 9. Watches over us and Mediates for us.
  - a. Will not leave or forsake us
  - b. Coming again so we can be with Him in Heaven
  - c. No one goes to the Father except through Him

**Note: You will also find information your need and answers to many of your questions on this website.**

### **Tasted Jesus**

A few years back, a professor in Divinity was giving a lecture at the University of Chicago Divinity School. For 2 ½ hour he worked at proving that the resurrection did not happen. During his lecture a little, frail, old preacher stood up in the back of the auditorium and said I have one question for you. He said, I can not read the scriptures in Greek, nor can I quote them like you do. He then reached in to a lunch bag, pulled out an apple and took a bite. He said my question is this, is this apple sweet or sour. The professor said, “that is impossible for me to know, I have not tasted it”. The preacher responded; “nor have you tasted my Jesus”.

**So please take a few minutes and meet my Jesus and I hope and Pray that He will touch your heart in such a way that he will become Your Jesus, your Lord and Savior.**

## **Prophecies of the coming of Christ**

700 years before the birth of Jesus, prophecies were given to two prophets, Isaiah and Micah. This brought great joy to the people who were tired of the selfish Kings and those who inflicted evil on the world. But they were becoming impatient as their hopes were of that of a new earthly king to lead them, so God sent another prophecy through the prophet Malachi, around 400 year before the birth of Jesus. This rekindled the spirit of the people who then began to long for the new Messiah to materialize. Though their anticipation of the Messiah fell far short of what God was to provide, they shared the excitement with their children and continued to pass it down between generations until the prophecy was fulfilled.

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)**

**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)**

**"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Mic 5:2)**

**"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. (Mal 3:1)**

## **Jesus is the Son of God**

Many during those days and today fail to believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God. But it is vital to your salvation that you not only understand, but that you Believe. To help you understand this, the best resource you can utilize is the Bible itself which perfectly details the life of Jesus. You can also ready the document, "The Miracles of Jesus", available on this web site, to obtain a condensed view of the miracles that Jesus performed while He was man.

**I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. (Psalm 2:7)**

**The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 1:3)**

**The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)**

**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (Colossians 1:15)**

**This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18)**

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)**

**If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. (John 14:28)**

**And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)**

**But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Matt 26:63-64)**

**And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:4)**

**"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" (Acts 11:15-17)**

### **The Son**

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Viet Nam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art.

The young man held out his package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?"

There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted. "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one. "But the auctioneer persisted." Will someone bid for this painting?

Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?"

Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting.. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!"

But still the auctioneer continued. "The Son! The Son! Who'll take the Son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting."

Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20?"

"Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters."

"\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?"

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!"

A man sitting on the second row shouted. "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over."

"What about the paintings?"

"I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets every thing!"

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is, "The son, the son, who'll take the son?"

Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything.

## **He was born to a virgin**

One of the hardest things for man to believe is the virgin birth of Jesus; however, it is important that we understand and believe this. What better way for God to show us this event was truly of His hand and that this was indeed His Son, than to have Jesus come from the womb of a virgin. Many have also tried to draw a divine attention to the mother of Jesus; however the scriptures and even Jesus himself does not support this. The focus is of the man Jesus who is the Son of God.

**This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (Matt 1:18-25)**

## **He was born as man to be sacrificed**

To imagine that God sent His Son to become man with the full intention of being crucified is a concept that many cannot comprehend, but God knew from the beginning that He would have to give a great sacrifice in order to establish a closer relationship with His people. Man had become so sinful and fallen too quickly to the temptations of evil; that God had to provide the ultimate sacrifice to cleanse the sins of man. This not only shows the love that God has for each of His children but also His desire to have a closer relationship with each one of us.

**He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. (Hebrews 7:27)**

**"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)**

**The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)**

**For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:17)**

**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (I Jn 1:7)**

**But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. (I John 3:5)**

### **I took your place**

One day, a man went to visit a church. He arrived early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near him, and the driver told him, "I always park there. You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat, and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the church sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit. You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still said nothing.

Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet.

Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, "I took your place."

## **Jesus showed us how to stand up to Temptation**

Temptation is one of the most difficult things we face each day. Not only does it exploit our weakness but we have the evil one, then tempter or satan hammering on us daily to turn from Jesus and fall to his temptations to do wrong. And we fool ourselves if we think for one moment we can withstand the temptations on our own. We must turn to Jesus, who faced this temptation and defeated it, to help us to stand up to the attempts of satan to cause us to fail. Through prayer and His word we can find the strength to deal with the attacks of satan.

**Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to**

become bread." Jesus answered, **"It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Matt 4:1-4)**

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, **"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"** (Matt 4:5-7)

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, **"Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"** Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Matt 4:8-11)

People often forget that the earth is the kingdom of Satan until Jesus comes again to claim it as His own. Because of this, satan prowls the earth freely tempting men to turn from the ways of God to the ways of the evil one. This is also why there is an ongoing spiritual battle that each of us must recognize and be prepared for. We see this in Eph 6:10-20, **Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.** We are always part of this ongoing spiritual battle and must do our part as a Christian Soldiers.

## **Call on Jesus for all our needs**

Unlike anyone you will ever know in your life time, Jesus is there for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No matter when you need Him, you can call upon Him to help you through any situation. You should never face any problem or situation alone, especially when you have your Lord and Savior available at all times. Many people turn to friends for advice or even strangers for help and forget to call upon the only one who can truly help them.

**Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."**  
(John 14:6-7)

**"Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always."** (Ps 105:1-4)

**I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. (Ps 116:1-2)**

**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. (Ps 116:13-14)**



**I call on the LORD in my distress, and he answers me. Save me, O LORD, from lying lips and from deceitful tongues. (Ps 120:1-2)**

**The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. (Ps 145:17-20)**

**For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Rom 10:12-15)**

**To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ-their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way-in all your speaking and in all your knowledge- because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. (1 Cor 1:2-9)**

**Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Tim 2:22)**

## **Give your whole Heart to Jesus**

People often give a corner of their lives or hearts to Jesus; but this is often one of their greatest mistakes. They say they are a Christian and feel that one hour of sitting through worship each week fulfills their obligation to Him. Then they spend the other 167 hours as part of the world, following what the world has set as acceptable and doing whatever they choose to do with no regards to what Jesus desires. Jesus says that we cannot be of Him and of the world, it is either one or the other, yet man has tried to create this area of 256 shades of grey and find a position somewhere in between. You can see this daily, even in the churches, which will set aside the desires of God and allow things which have become accepted by the world to become a standard of the church. But Jesus reminds us there is only black and white, no in between.

**I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs-how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world-how he can please his wife- and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world-how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord. (1 Cor 7:32-35)**

**Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. (Acts 11:19-24)**

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. (Rom 14:5-10)

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. (1 Cor 7:39)

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Cor 3:12-18)

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. (2 Cor 8:3-7)

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:15-20)

### Your Whole Heart

Once there was a very wealthy young man. He lived in a great, elaborate house with dozens of rooms. Each room was more comfortable and more beautiful than the one before it. There were paintings and sculptures, crystal chandeliers, golden ornate railings on the stairs. More beauty than most has ever seen.

One day he decided to invite the Lord to come and stay with him. When the Lord arrived, this young man offered him the very best room in the house. The room was upstairs and at the end of the hall. "This room is yours, Jesus! Stay as long as you like and you can do whatever you want to in this room. Remember, Jesus, it's all yours."

"Thank you" the Lord replied, and with that the man shut the door and went about his daily business.

That evening, after he had retired for the night, there came a loud knocking at the front door. The young man pulled on his robe and made his way downstairs. When he opened the door he found that the devil had sent three of his demons to attack the man. He quickly tried to close the door, but one of the demons kept sticking his foot in the door.

Sometime later, after a great struggle, he managed to slam the door shut and returned to his room totally exhausted. "Can you believe that?" the man thought. "Jesus is upstairs in my very best room sleeping while I am down here battling demons. Oh well, maybe he just didn't hear." The young man slept fitfully that night.

The next day things went along as normal and, being as tired as he was, the young man retired early that evening. Along about midnight, there came such a terrible ruckus at the front door that the young man was sure that whatever it was would tear the door down. He stumbled down the stairs once again and opened the door to find that there were dozens of demons now trying to get into his beautiful home. For more than 3 hours he fought and struggled against the demons from hell and finally overtook them enough to shut the door against their attack.

All energy seemed to fail him. "I really don't understand this at all. Why won't the Lord come to my rescue? Why does he allow me to fight all by myself? I feel so alone."

Troubled, he found his way to the sofa and fell into a restless sleep. The next morning he decided to inquire of the Lord about the happenings of the last two evenings. Quietly, he made his way to the elegant bedroom where he had left Jesus.

"Jesus," he called as he tapped at the door. "Lord, I don't understand what is happening. For the last two nights I have had to fight the demons away from my door while you laid up here sleeping. Don't you care about me? Did I not give you the very best room in my house?"

He could see the tears building in Jesus' eyes but continued on, "I just don't understand. I really thought that once I invited you in to live with me; that you would take care of me and I gave you the best room in my house and everything. What more can I do?"

"My precious child," Jesus spoke softly, "I do love and care for you. I protect all that you have released into my care. But when you invited me to come here and stay, you brought me to this lovely room and you shut the door to the rest of your house. I am lord of this room but I am not master of this house. I have protected this room and no demon may enter here."

"Oh Lord, please forgive me. Take all of my house -- it is yours! I am so sorry that I never offered you all to begin with. I want you to have control of everything!" With this he flung upon the bedroom door and knelt at Jesus' feet. "Please forgive me Lord for being so selfish."

Jesus smiled and told him that He had already forgiven him and that He would take care of things from now on.

Along about midnight the banging on the door was frightening. The young man slipped out of his room in time to see Jesus going down the stairs. He watched in awe as Jesus swung open the door...no need to be afraid.

Satan stood at the door this time demanding to be let in. "What do you want, Satan?" the Lord asked. The devil bowed low in the presence of the Lord. "So sorry, I seem to have gotten the wrong address." And with that, he and the demons all ran away.

There is a moral to this tale. Jesus wants all of you, not just a part. He will take all that you give him, but nothing more. How much of your heart have you given to the Lord? Are you keeping a portion of it away from Him? Perhaps the attacks are coming more and more each day.

**LET THE LORD fight the battles for you! He is always victorious!**

## Jesus is Grace

Grace is what makes Christianity different than any other religion. And there is no greater example of Grace than Jesus Himself.

**For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. (Titus 2:11-15)**

**And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace. (Rom 11:6)**

**"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. (Acts 20:22-24)**

**Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men. At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. (Titus 3:1-8)**

What makes Christianity different from all the other religions of the world? Years ago that very question was discussed at a conference. Some of the participants argued that Christianity is unique in teaching that God became man. But someone objected, saying that other religions teach similar doctrines. What about the resurrection? No, it was argued, other faiths believe that the dead rise again. The discussion grew heated. C. S. Lewis, a strong defender of Christianity, came in late, sat down, and asked, "What's the rumpus about?" When he learned that it was a debate about the uniqueness of Christianity, he immediately commented, "Oh, that's easy. It's grace."

How right he was! The very heart of the gospel is the supreme truth - God accepts us with no conditions what so ever, when we put our trust in the atoning sacrifice of His Son. Although we are helplessly sinful, God grace forgives us completely when we repent. It's by His infinite grace that we are saved, not by moral character, works of righteousness, keeping commandments, or churchgoing; we can not earn or buy our way to heaven. When we do nothing else but accept God's total pardon, we receive the guarantee of eternal life.

God's grace for us is truly amazing and has been often misunderstood. But God shows us, through the Apostle Paul, when he tells us Grace is:

God's favor bestowed on undeserving people;  
God's instrument for bringing salvation to each believer;  
God's provision of spiritual fellowship with others; and  
God's creative influence equipping the believer to fulfill His purposes.

God's grace is not only amazingly rich it's also free because the giver Himself has paid the price.

God's Grace is amazing, and too often it is forgotten. For example when Christians pass through the dark tunnel of depression, they tend to focus on their sins, weaknesses, and failures while forgetting to call upon the grace of God. For it is only by His Grace that we are saved. We see this in Elijah, in 1 Kings 19. **He was so afraid he ran away. Then out in the desert, with no food or drink, he asked God to take his life. In his prayer he said "I have had enough and am no better than my ancestors". But God showed Elijah Grace, first providing him food and drink, and then lifting his fears and put him back on the right path.**

### The Safety Net

God's grace is like our safety net. During the building of the Golden Gate Bridge over San Francisco Bay, construction fell badly behind schedule because several workers had accidentally fallen from the scaffolding to their deaths. Engineers and administrators could find no solution to the costly delays. Finally, someone suggested a gigantic net be hung under the bridge to catch any who fell. Finally in spite of the enormous cost, the engineers opted for the net. After it was installed, progress was hardly interrupted. A worker or two fell into the net but all were saved. Ultimately, the time lost to fear was regained by replacing fear with faith in the net. God has given us a safety net to work over as we cross the bridge of life.

God's Grace is amazing. Some may feel it is "To go to be true". Maybe this is why some do not profess faith in Jesus Christ. A few years ago there was a study done looking at those who have and don't have the grace of God in their lives. First they looked at the dying words of various people who **did not** profess faith in Jesus.

-The English atheist Thomas Hobbes said, "I am taking a fearful leap into the dark!"

-The French infidel Voltaire cried out, "I am abandoned by God and man; I shall go to hell!"

-Sir Francis Newport wailed in anguish, "Oh, eternity, eternity forever and forever! Oh, the unsufferable pangs of hell!"

-What a sobering contrast to the last words of people who knew and loved Christ as their Lord and Savior.

-Like Dwight L. Moody who said, "This is glorious! Earth recedes; heaven is opening; God is calling me!"

-Sir David Brewster declared, "I will see Jesus; see Him as He is. I have had the light for many years. Oh, how bright it is! I feel so safe, so satisfied!"

-And these words from a man being burned at the stake: "Blessed be the time that ever I was born for this day. We shall not lose our lives in this fire," he said to his fellow martyrs, "but only change them for something better."

God's Grace is there when we feel hopeless. The story is told of a former world chess champion player who was taken by a friend to see a picture which had been hung in a famous art gallery, and which had attracted much interest. The artist had portrayed a young man sitting despairingly at a chessboard, while opposite him sat the devil with a look of malicious triumph on his face. The title of the picture was a single expressive word: "Checkmated". For a long time the champion player stood before the picture, his brow furrowed by concentration. Suddenly his voice rang out in the art gallery: "Bring me a chessboard. I can save him yet!" Sure enough, the mastermind had discovered the way out. And just as surely Christ can give victory to the person who will trust him implicitly. Naturally speaking, there may not seem to be a way out, but never limit God for He's the provider of our comfort, for His provisions go beyond our human abilities.

And then there is the story of Oscar Cervantes. As a child, Oscar began to get into trouble. Then as he got older, he was jailed 17 times for brutal crimes. Prison psychiatrists said he was beyond help. But they were wrong! During a brief interval of freedom, Oscar met an elderly man who told him about Jesus. He placed his trust in the Lord and was changed into a kind, caring man. Shortly afterward he started a prison ministry. A Chaplain at the prison describes it this way: "The third Saturday night of each month is 'Oscar Night'. Inmates come to hear Oscar and

they sing gospel songs with passion; they sit intently for over 2 hours; they come freely to the chapel altar.... What professionals had failed to do for Oscar in years of counseling, Christ did in a moment of conversion."

I hope we all realize the Grace of God is in our lives. Grace comes in many forms and is to be accepted if we are to grow in Christ. As children of God, even if physical pain and heartache are a part of our closing days, the heavenly Father will give us grace and peace. When we pass through that dark valley, we need not fear. The Great Shepherd will be with us.

## Jesus is Love

**For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! (Eph 3:14-21)**

**"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. (John 15:9-17)**

When we attempt to look at the Love the Christ has for us, we realize it is something that we can never measure. Romans 5:6-8 gives us a glimpse at this love. The Apostle Paul tells us **"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

There have been many conflicting questions posed on the love of Christ:

If Jesus loves me, why am I sick, unemployed, homeless, in financial difficulties, or even the biggest one: how can he love me with all the things I have done.

First we know from Romans 8:35 that Jesus will always love us. Paul tells us **"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"**

Jesus will always love us, even when we walk away from Him: now that is unconditional love. His love surpasses all understanding. Here is an example:

A taxi driver in the Philippines had a mother who was very ill. (1990) He prayed to Jesus and asked for healing. He felt that Jesus' answer back was for him to endure some of the pain that Jesus had went through. Though his mother was healed a short time after his prayers, three months later she passed on of a heart attack. This man, in an attempt to thank Jesus for all He has done, has been nailed to a cross every Good Friday for the past 10 years and plans to do so for many more years. In fact he said that when he went next door to some friends and asked them if they would nail him to the cross they said they where happy to oblige. He was nailed to the cross and also

supported with straps to take the weight off of the vital organs. Now he is attempting to show his love for Jesus by this act; however, since he does not possess the incredible and sustaining love that Jesus does, he is only able to stay on the cross for a short period.

Another man in Europe, this past year, attempted to be hung from the cross to show that it is not a difficult thing to endure. But yet this man who was tied to the cross and was in an air conditioned building was only able to stay there for a few hours. He almost died.

Jesus' Love for us can never be match; can not be measured; is unconditional and never ending.

**But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph 2:4-10)**

**"But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands. They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them, even when they cast for themselves an image of a calf and said, 'This is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt,' or when they committed awful blasphemies. (Nehemiah 9:16-18)**

God requires us to share His love with others, even those we dislike or have done us wrong; for in Matthew 5:44-48 we read **"But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

We also read in 1 Thess 3:12-13 **May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.**

God's love is infinite and is given to us freely. We are to give it to others in the same manner. Now God's love is also different than the love we have. His is the purest and truest of all love. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-13 Paul gives us the definition of God's Love. **"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. "**

God's love for us is unconceivable. It is free. It is for all whom chose to receive it. It is to be shared freely.

**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his**

presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. (1 John 3:16-20)

## **Jesus Rules in Heaven and will come again to claim the World**

The one driving force for all Christians is that Jesus is coming again. Just as the people eagerly awaited the first coming of Jesus; we too experience an excitement of the second coming.

**"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Mark 14:62)**

**But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God." (Luke 22:69)**

**"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven ." (Matt 26:64)**

**Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20)**

**"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." (Rev 22:12-16)**

**"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (Matt 24:30-35)**

**"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Rev 3:11-13)**

Vernon Grounds writes, "A friend told me of an incident that happened while he was in seminary. Since the school had no gymnasium, he and his friends played basketball in a nearby public school. Nearby, an elderly janitor waited patiently until they finished playing. Invariably he sat there reading his Bible. One day my friend asked him what he was reading. The man answered, 'The book of Revelation.' Surprised, my friend asked if he understood it. 'Oh, yes,' the man assured him. 'I understand it!' 'What does it mean?' Quietly the janitor answered, 'It means that Jesus is going to win.'"



## Life without Jesus

We are people stuck in this world and therefore we are often affected by what the world believes and accepts. One thing we learn from the world is to take things for granted. We all do it in one form or another. We take for granted our family or loved ones, the food we eat, or even the possession we have been so graciously given. But there is one thing that is all too often taken for granted, and that is Jesus. We forget all that He has done and continues to do for us. We forget how important He should be in our lives and how much we truly need Him. We forget that life is nothing without Him.

Solomon reminded us how important Jesus is in our lives in the 127<sup>th</sup> psalm we read earlier. **Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.** Unless the Lord Jesus is an active part of your life, your life is truly nothing. Without the Lord Jesus Christ, everything life could possibly offer is only Vanity of Vanities. As Alexander Grosse said so meaningfully in 1632, "Where Christ reveals Himself there is satisfaction in the slenderest portion, and without Christ there is emptiness in the greatest fullness."

We often put more meaning on material possessions than Jesus. A few years ago, Sheriff Joe (Sheriff in Phoenix, AZ) decided to take all of the TVs out of the inmate's rooms. Within hours there were protest made by liberal citizens in Phoenix. They claimed it was cruel; even though years ago prisoners went without TV because it wasn't even invented. Would the liberals have reacted the same if the prisoners were told they could not worship Jesus or be allowed to have Bibles in the prison; I doubt it.

This is the reason it is so important that we not only make Jesus an active and total part of our lives, but that we spread the news and share Him with everyone. We may think that because we know Him, nothing else matters. But decisions are made, that affect our lives, by people who do not know Jesus. Col 3:1-4 reminds us **"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. We need everyone to be of Christ and not of the world.

I don't know if you have been watching the news, but one man who does not know Jesus, has been causing great controversy. He has tried, and partially succeeded, to have "One nation under God", removed from our pledge of allegiance. Millions if not billions have recited it and believe in it, yet one man of the world can possibly take all of that away. And he is not happy with just that, he next is going to try and have the words "In God We Trust" removed from our currency.

If we truly believe the words of the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalms, **He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust"**, then we must stand up for Jesus and not only make Him the ultimate center of our lives, but take Him to the streets, to everyone!

We should use David as an example to add to our lives. Through his Psalms he showed many what Christ means to him; Ps 18:1-3 **I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.**

An also Psalms 144 **Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.**

Are we willing to put Jesus first and proclaim Him as David?

Jesus told us in the reading from John, **"I tell you the truth, I am the gate"**

We are also reminded in Matt 7:13-14 **"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life; and only a few find it.**

Notice he said "Many enter through it". With over 6 billion people on the earth and less than 1.2 billion Christian, we can see what "many" means today. But tomorrow, with everyone's help, that number can grow smaller and smaller and more people can know Jesus.

Imagine those who do not have Jesus in their lives. Here are some things to think about.

They do not know true love  
Their life has no real purpose or meaning  
Their sin way heavy upon their lives  
Eternity will be spent in Hell

Remember the requirements placed on salvation by God; **Rom 10:8-11 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."**

## **Jesus Put YOU First**

Skeptics have often said that if Jesus really was the Son of God, His sufferings must have been easier to bear. When you hear people talk like this you sometimes wish you could nail them to a cross and let them see just what it is like; however, as true Christian we should take the time to let them hear the truth. As the Son of God, Jesus could have made things easier on Himself, but there is no evidence that He did at anytime. There is however overwhelming evidence that He chose not to make anything easier, but rather fulfill the will of God.

One example of this can be found in Matthew 26:36-46; **"Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" Now at anytime Jesus could have demanded His own will, but did not.**

When we read on a little farther in Matthew, verses 50-56 we find that Jesus could have called upon the angels to protect Him, but did not. **"Jesus replied, Friend, do what you came for. Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you**

**did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled."**

As we continue to read on in Matthew we see many opportunities for Jesus to "Save Himself" from ridicule, mockery, and torture". But He chose instead to fulfill the will of His Father, even though He knew it would mean His death.

Though Jesus had come to pay such high a price for our sins, His love for us unworthy sinners did not stop. To bring yet even more disrespect to Jesus, He was to be crucified with two thieves. Pilate did these things to try and get Jesus to defend Himself and say He was not the Son of God. But Jesus held fast to the truth. Luke 23:32-43 tells us that **"two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One. The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!". But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."**

The fact that Jesus **could** have done these things to save Himself may have intensified His agony and increased the temptation to use His power for His own advantage. But He **didn't**. Instead, He used His power for our benefit! This is described in Hebrews 4:15-16. Jesus suffered temptation the same as we do—except that He *didn't* sin. So He can **"sympathize with our weaknesses"** Therefore, we can approach His throne of grace boldly and obtain His **"help in time of need"** Whatever your need is today, Jesus wants you to come and make full use of this privilege.

### **The Missionary**

Some look at what Jesus did for them and still they fear death and fail to follow Him; they just don't have faith. It is like what happened to a missionary in Brazil who discovered a tribe of Indians in a remote part of the jungle. They lived near a large river. The tribe was in need of medical attention. A contagious disease was ravaging the population. People were dying daily.

A hospital was not too terribly far away—across the river, but the Indians would not cross it because they believed it was inhabited by evil spirits. To enter the water would mean certain death. The missionary explained how he had crossed the river and was unharmed. They were not impressed. He then took them to the bank and placed his hand in the water. They still wouldn't go in. He walked into the water up to his waist and splashed water on his face. It didn't matter. They were still afraid to enter the river. Finally, he dove into the river, swam beneath the surface until he emerged on the other side. He punched a triumphant fist into the air. He had entered the water and escaped. It was then that the Indians broke out into a cheer and followed him across.

That's exactly what Jesus did! He told the people of His day that they need not fear the river of death, but they wouldn't believe. He touched a dead boy and called him back to life. They still didn't believe. He whispered life into the body of a dead girl and got the same result. He let a dead man spend 4 days in a tomb and then called him out and the people still didn't believe Him. Finally, He entered the river of death and came out on the other side.

And there are still some today, who truly don't believe. However, we should take every opportunity to reach out to those who have not accepted Christ, or possibly those who say they do but just don't have the right kind of faith. I heard of a man just appointed as the pastor of a Christian church who openly says that he has his doubts about the

virgin birth and the resurrection of Jesus. That is why we must be bold and open about our faith in Jesus Christ and our total belief in God's perfect word.

So where is Jesus in your life? He put you first above Himself, He took the burden of your sins and carried them to the cross, He did all of this for You; have you put Him first in your life?

All the Praise and Glory to the Father and the Son

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