

A man with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a white head covering and a long white robe, is walking on a rocky, uneven path. He is looking down and to his left. The background is a bright, hazy landscape with distant hills.

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

The Man History
Cannot Escape

Paul Joseph

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that I AM?**

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Preface

There are many names in history that people admire, study, quote, and remember. Kings, philosophers, scientists, reformers, inventors, political leaders, religious teachers, and revolutionaries have all left their mark on the world. Some changed nations. Some shaped systems of thought. Some moved armies. Some built empires. Some influenced culture.

But there is one name that stands above them all.

Jesus.

No other person in history has been loved so deeply, hated so fiercely, quoted so often, denied so aggressively, worshiped so widely, misunderstood so consistently, and yet remained so impossible to ignore. His name is spoken in churches, streets, prisons, hospitals, homes, universities, battlefields, deathbeds, courtrooms, songs, books, art, and even curses. Whether men

bow before Him or use His name carelessly, His name still rises above every other name.

That alone should make us stop.

Why Jesus?

Why does His name carry such weight? Why does He divide history, stir conscience, provoke opposition, inspire worship, expose religion, comfort sinners, confront the proud, and awaken hope in the broken? Why has the world never been able to bury Him, silence Him, outgrow Him, or move past Him?

This book is written to bring the reader face to face with that question.

It is not written to defend religion. Jesus did not come to introduce another dead religious system. He did not come to give men more rituals, more arguments, more denominational pride, more lifeless traditions, or more religious vocabulary without power. Much of what has been called

Christianity has often hidden the beauty, authority, simplicity, and power of Christ Himself. Many people have rejected Jesus without ever really seeing Jesus. They have rejected religion, church politics, hypocrisy, sectarianism, man-made doctrine, or powerless tradition, and thought they were rejecting Christ.

But Jesus must be seen apart from the systems that have misrepresented Him.

This book is a call to look again.

Look at His life. Look at His words. Look at His claims. Look at His miracles. Look at His authority. Look at His mercy. Look at His death. Look at His resurrection. Look at the prophecies fulfilled in Him. Look at the way He confronted darkness, forgave sinners, healed the sick, raised the dead, rebuked religious blindness, announced the Kingdom of God, and changed the course of human history.

Then answer the question He asked His own disciples:

“Who do you say that I am?”

That question cannot be answered casually. It cannot be avoided by blaming religion. It cannot be dismissed by hiding behind ignorance. It cannot be postponed forever. Jesus does not leave room for comfortable neutrality. Either He is who He claimed to be, or He is not. Either He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, or He is the greatest fraud the world has ever seen. Either He rose from the dead, or the whole foundation of Christian faith collapses. Either He brought the Kingdom of God back to man, or the world is still searching in the dark.

But if He is true, then everything changes.

If Jesus is the Son of God, then His words are not suggestions. If Jesus is risen, then death has been defeated. If Jesus is King, then His Kingdom must

be understood. If Jesus is the only way back to the Father, then every man must decide what to do with Him. If Jesus restored man to God, then salvation is not merely about going to heaven someday; it is about being reconciled to the Father, filled with the Spirit, and restored to the purpose for which man was created.

This book is written with urgency because the question is urgent.

It is written boldly because Jesus spoke boldly.

It is written directly because truth does not need to apologize.

But the purpose is not to condemn the reader. The purpose is to remove the fog. The purpose is to separate Jesus from dead religion, expose the deception that has kept people from seeing Him clearly, and invite every reader to face the undeniable reality of who He is.

You may have heard His name.

You may have used His name.

You may have ignored His name.

You may have been wounded by people who claimed His name.

But the question remains:

Who do you say that He is?

This book is an invitation to look again — not at religion, not at tradition, not at church systems, not at man's arguments, but at Jesus Himself.

Because once you truly see Him, you cannot remain the same.

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Introduction

There is no name in history like the name of Jesus.

Many names have shaped the world. Kings have ruled empires. Philosophers have built systems of thought. Scientists have uncovered laws of nature. Reformers have challenged governments. Inventors have changed industries. Religious leaders have gathered followers. But no one has impacted the world like Jesus Christ.

He never wrote a book, yet more books have been written about Him than any other person who ever lived. He never commanded a natural army, yet He conquered more hearts than the greatest military rulers conquered territories. He never held political office, yet His words have influenced laws, nations, cultures, families, art, music,

education, mercy, morality, justice, and the conscience of mankind. He lived in a small region, walked among ordinary people, and died on a Roman cross — yet the world still cannot escape His name.

That alone should make us stop.

How can anyone ignore Jesus?

This question is not merely religious. It is historical. It is moral. It is spiritual. It is eternal. Whether men worship Him, deny Him, mock Him, curse by His name, argue about Him, write against Him, preach Him, paint Him, sing about Him, or die for Him, they still cannot get away from Him. His name rises everywhere. His words still confront. His life still divides. His resurrection still demands an answer.

And that is the heart of this book.

The question is not simply whether you have heard about Jesus. Almost everyone has heard

something. The question is whether you have truly looked at Him. Not at the religious fog that often surrounds His name. Not at the church systems that have sometimes misrepresented Him. Not at the rituals, traditions, doctrinal arguments, hypocrisy, sectarianism, or powerless forms of Christianity that have caused many people to distance themselves from anything connected to Christ. Those things may explain why some have turned away from religion, but they do not remove the question of Jesus Himself.

Jesus must be seen apart from the systems that have hidden Him.

That is where this book begins.

Let us look at Jesus Himself. Let us look at His claims. Let us look at His words. Let us look at His works. Let us look at His death. Let us look at His resurrection. Let us look at the prophecies fulfilled in Him. Let us look at the Kingdom He preached. Let us look at the authority He carried. Let us look

at the way He healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out demons, forgave sinners, confronted religious blindness, welcomed the broken, rebuked the proud, and announced that the Kingdom of God was here.

No ordinary man speaks the way Jesus spoke.

He did not merely say, "I know the truth." He said, "I am the Truth."

He did not merely point to a way. He said, "I am the Way."

He did not merely promise life. He said, "I am the Life."

He did not merely speak about resurrection. He said, "I am the Resurrection."

He did not merely claim to know God. He said, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father."

He did not merely call men to admire Him. He called them to follow Him, deny themselves, and build their entire lives upon His words.

That is why Jesus cannot be reduced to a good teacher, a prophet, a philosopher, a moral example, or a religious founder. His claims are too great for that. His authority is too high. His words are too absolute. His miracles are too public. His resurrection is too central. His impact is too vast. Either He is who He claimed to be, or He is not. But He does not leave room for comfortable neutrality.

This is why the question Jesus asked His disciples still stands before every person today:

“Who do you say that I am?”

Many voices will try to define Jesus for you — religion, culture, critics, church systems, family, teachers, friends, and even enemies. But in the end, their answers cannot replace your own. Jesus brings the question directly to your heart: **Who do you say that He is?**

This question matters because Jesus did not come only to inspire religious admiration. He came to redeem man. He came to destroy the works of the devil. He came to restore what Adam lost. He came to bring man back into fellowship with the Father. He came to give us the Spirit of God. He came to announce the Kingdom of God — not as a distant idea, but as a present reality. He came to show what life looks like when heaven's government invades earth.

That is why His miracles were not random acts of kindness only. They were signs of the Kingdom. When Jesus healed the sick, the Kingdom was being demonstrated. When He cast out demons, the Kingdom was being enforced. When He forgave sinners, the Father's heart was being revealed. When He raised the dead, death itself was being confronted. When He rebuked religious leaders, He was not attacking wounded people; He was exposing the systems that had buried truth under man-made traditions.

Jesus did not come to start another religion.

He came to restore the government of God in the hearts of men.

This is why His resurrection is not just a doctrine to believe. It is the turning point of history. If Jesus did not rise, then Christianity collapses into mere philosophy. But if He did rise, then everything He said is true. His death was accepted. His sacrifice was sufficient. His blood established the new covenant. His victory over sin, death, and the devil is final. His authority is supreme. His Kingdom is here. And every person must decide what to do with Him.

The resurrection proves that Jesus is not simply a memory from the past. He is alive. He is Lord. He is King. He is Savior. He is the only way back to the Father.

This book is written with urgency because this question cannot be postponed forever. It is

possible to ignore religion. It is possible to ignore denominations. It is possible to ignore church arguments. It is possible to ignore rituals, traditions, and human systems. But you cannot honestly ignore Jesus once you have seen who He is.

To reject Him without looking is ignorance.
To dismiss Him because of religion is deception.
To delay your answer is still an answer.
To call Him merely a teacher is not enough.
To admire Him without surrendering to Him is still distance.

Jesus calls for a decision.

The purpose of this book is to remove the fog and bring the reader face to face with Christ Himself. Not a weak Christ. Not a religious Christ. Not a powerless Christ. Not a cultural symbol. Not a stained-glass image. Not a historical footnote. But the living Jesus — the Son of God, the King of the Kingdom, the Lamb who was slain, the Lord who

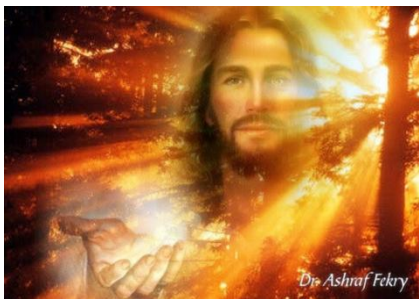
rose again, the Savior who forgives, the Healer who restores, the Truth who exposes lies, and the Life who brings man back to God.

So read with an open heart. Set aside the noise of religion, the pain of offense, the weight of assumptions, and the confidence of what you think you already know. Come willing to face the facts, the claims, the power, and the person of Jesus Christ.

Because at the end of all the evidence, all the history, all the prophecy, all the miracles, all the resurrection power, and all the Kingdom truth, the question will still come back to you.

And no one can answer it for you.

Who do you say that Jesus is?



How can ANYONE Ignore JESUS?

In recent months, I have been meditating on the impact Jesus has had on the world, and I keep wondering: why would anybody want to ignore Him? Or worse, why would anyone want to deny Him?

The answer to the latter is pretty obvious in many cases, especially where religion was the platform used to introduce Jesus. It is true that much of what

has been presented as Christianity has given people a distorted picture of Him. Rituals, doctrinal divisions, false practices, hypocrisy, and sectarianism have caused many to distance themselves from anything connected to Christ. And I understand that stance. Been there. Done that.

But let us go to Jesus alone. Let us take an honest look at who He claimed to be: His life, His message, and the effect of His words on the history of the world. I have read many authors who have written about Him, considered their take on His history, and especially studied His claims to deity. What I have gathered is a series of facts that bring out the undeniable evidence of His Messianic identity. This may challenge everything you thought you knew.

How could someone in history carry such weight, and yet so many people still not know the truth about Him? This is not Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Elon Musk, Einstein, Gandhi, Confucius, Buddha, or

Mohammed. You have heard all those names — and yet you say you do not know Jesus?

People use His name everywhere — even in cursing. They do not usually use Muhammad's name, Buddha's name, or Confucius' name that way. But Jesus Christ? That name comes up everywhere, whether for good or for bad. Why should His name be the one people swear by? What is in that name? Why is He so famous, and to some, so infamous?



Without writing one single line, He set more pens in motion and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times. This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and without arms, conquered more hearts than Alexander, Caesar, and Napoleon. Without formal schools, laboratories, or political power, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined. How can anyone honestly ignore Him after seeing who He is?

No scientist, physicist, psychologist, or philosopher has revealed spiritual and moral laws with the authority Jesus carried, and His words still stand true to this day. His teachings were simple, yet more powerful than the systems of Socrates, Aristotle, Plato, and every philosopher before or since.

No one possesses as many titles and attributes as Jesus: the Door, the Gate, the Truth, the Light of

the world, the Living Water, the Way, the Bread of Life, the True Vine, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection, the King of kings, and the Savior of the world. Who is this Man?

Jesus is the one person in history about whom more has been written and spoken than any other. All the books written about every aspect of His life could not be gathered into one building, no matter how large. His name alone stands side by side with God's name, carrying a weight no other name in history can claim.



You may say that **there's no proof of His existence**, but that holds no water. Sorry, there's no premium to ignorance. Historians all agree that not only Jesus **did** exist, but that there are more accounts in history (even outside of the Bible) of His existence than there are of Julius Caesar, the Emperor of Rome.

Not only did He exist, but His coming was the greatest awaiting of all mankind. So much so, that His birth redefined time from before His birth to after His birth (BC/AD). Not only is His existence historically sound, but the writings of the Bible have been heard throughout the whole world, even outside of the Bible. The story of Noah and the flood, for instance, is spoken of in every major culture of the world, whether as fact or legend, but nevertheless recorded. The whole world is forever different because of Jesus.

The ONE MAN in Whom there was no sin. The One Who raised the dead, healed people and cast out demons to set people free. Who else could claim, "All power is given unto Me," He said. "All judgment is given unto Me. My blood is the

new covenant between man and God. My Words will never pass away. Before Abraham was, I am. –The 'I Am' Who was from the beginning." In Jesus' Own Words He said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life and no man comes to the Father but through Me." **WHO else can claim such things?**

C.S. Lewis, once a skeptic and later a believer, famously argued that the Jesus of the Bible cannot be reduced to merely a good moral teacher. He is either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord He claimed to be.



There are more than 300 prophecies speaking of and confirming the person of Christ; prophecies that tell us that we can identify who the Messiah is.

It should not be an issue of debate regarding the facts. The facts are clearly stated. And of the 333 prophecies about Him, there are 150 fulfilled in one hour at the cross. Thirty-three miracles are recorded, along with this astonishing statement:

"As many as touched Him were made perfectly whole!" ... Thousands of people healed. People would simply touch Him and be totally healed. What is that energy? And how can it be ignored? How can anyone speak evil of Him without knowing Him?

Their only answer has to be, "My mind is made up, don't confuse me with the facts."



You can't MISS Him—He's EVERYWHERE

As we consider the Jesus of the Bible, everyone has their own opinion; some will say that He's a prophet, others will say that He was a spiritual guru, but Jesus Christ Himself said that He's none other than **the Lord HIMSELF**, the Messiah, the One announced and prophesied centuries before His birth.

Some say He was just another teacher — another philosopher. Sorry, but you cannot land Him there. He is either the center of God's program, or He is

not. He divides opinions. In fact, He even divides close friends.

People say He was **just a carpenter**. Or was He? If so, why were people so desperate as to open the roof of a house to get to Him for their crippled friend to be healed?

He is the One who said, “Your sins are forgiven.” Did anyone else do that? Ever?

- He is the One who said to the lame man, “Rise up and walk,” and people were astonished by His miracles.
- He is the One of whom they said, “No one has ever spoken like this Man.”
- He is the One who says, “What you do with Me will define your eternity.”
- He is the One who said, “I am the embodiment of truth.”
- He is the One who made outlandish claims about Himself and then backed them up with miracles, signs, and wonders.

- He is the One who said He would rise again — and He did. That alone stands in a class of its own.
- He is the One who changed the world by caring for the poor, forgiving sinners, receiving the rejected, and bringing a new standard of love, self-denial, and meaning.
- He is the One who explained that happiness does not come from the things of this world, and that we must store up treasures in heaven rather than on earth.
- He is the One whom the winds and the sea obeyed.

Who is this Man? No other philosopher or king died as a ransom for the sins of his people. None. And you will ignore Him? Really?

He prophesied the future. He was a teacher, a healer, and the Messiah. The Word says He is the image of God, the firstborn over all creation, and that all things were created by Him and for Him. In other words, Jesus did not present Himself as

merely a rabbi, teacher, or philosopher. He presented Himself as the Son of God in the flesh, sent by the Father as the only way for man to know God.

He's the One Who could claim, "I am the Lord, the high priest, the King of kings. It says He is omnipresent, He is everywhere, and He knows everything. On top of that, it says He's merciful, and He is eternal. And He is divine and human at the same time and He is sinless.



Who else could make such claims about Himself, fulfill them, prove them, and teach with such wisdom that even the teachers of the law stopped

asking Him questions? Jesus even compared Himself to the wisest man who had ever lived and said, 'A greater than Solomon is here' (Luke 11:32).

Why can't we avoid Him? Is He from God, or is He a deceiver? Why have so many writers, philosophers, historians, and orators spoken about Him? Why have so many poems, paintings, songs, and works of art been created around Him? He is in a class of His own — and yet you would simply ignore Him?

He lifted man's ethics to the highest claim, and then turned around and expects us to live by that standard. Self-sacrifice has become the new law and the new definition of true love. He brought immortality to all men. He spoke the truth even when it hurt, and never apologized for it. He made no mistake. He never rectified anything He said. He never asked for advice from anyone. He said of Himself, "***Behold a greater than Solomon is here.***" He was His own credentials. He carried His Own highest mortality through His conduct.

They killed Him on three charges:

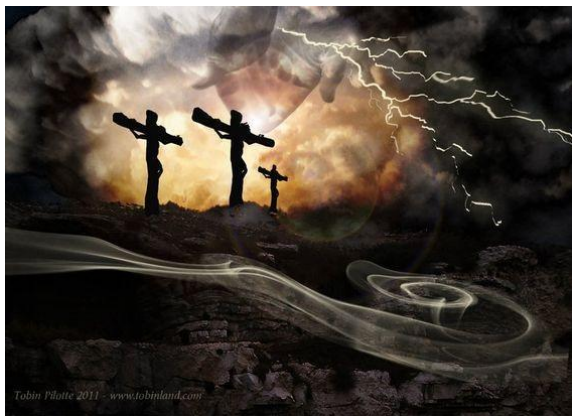
- He was a friend of sinners.
- He healed people on the Sabbath Day.
- He claimed to be the Son of God.



When He died, the earth shook. The sun was darkened for three hours. And the thickest and largest curtain ever made for the temple was torn in half from the top down. The one veil that symbolically divided man from God was ripped

open from the top down — a veil hung so high that no man could reach it.

This Man was crucified cruelly, and yet while hanging on the cross, He asked His Father to forgive His executioners and accusers. Even at the cross, He did not ask for pity for Himself. He said, ‘Weep not for Me, but for yourselves.’



To this day, people around the world walk into water to be baptized and renewed and say, "**I'm in!**" People will follow Him to their death because **He's the way back to God. And** there are

countless testimonies of people **meeting Him** in the afterlife and even in this life... not Buddha, not Muhammad, not Confucius, but Jesus!

The greatest controversy about Him is that He did not come to establish a religion, but a government. All prophecies about Him were about a new government, a kingdom. So if that is the case, we must take Him out of the religious arena and set Him in a government arena. What is His government? What does He govern? What are the laws of His government? He said, "My kingdom is not of this world"....

He repeatedly said that He came to preach "the Good News of the kingdom of God". He kept telling people that the kingdom of God is HERE. And all His miracles back that up. Everywhere He encountered the "works of the devil", He rectified it with the power of God. --from healing the sick, correcting the lies of the religious leaders, to appeasing the storm. He proved by the way He lived that the kingdom of God was HERE.

So much impact, so much truth, so much wisdom, so much power — and yet so much humility. You cannot remain on the fence. Jesus calls for a decision. There is no ‘ho hum’ anywhere in Him. He came to change man’s way of living. He came to announce and establish the government of God — the Kingdom of God.

There's no "HO HUM" about JESUS



The claims of Jesus in the Bible, from a carnal view, are absolutely outlandish and preposterous. If they are false, then He would be the greatest deceiver the world has ever seen — or the greatest lunatic who ever stepped on this earth. But if Jesus fulfilled what He claimed about Himself, then it changes everything.

Jesus, as it turns out, did not come to introduce another religion or reduce God's purpose to buildings, rituals, and traditions. He came to restore the Kingdom of God and bring man back into God's original purpose under His authority. At creation, man had been given dominion over the earth, but through Adam's disobedience, that rulership was surrendered to the enemy. The Kingdom of God was intended to be expressed on earth as it is in heaven. But Adam's rebellion brought separation from the life and fellowship of God's Spirit. Man was now trying to live apart from the Spirit of God, working the ground by the sweat of his brow — and humanity has been living under that burden ever since.

But God made a way for man to regain control on earth. And that's why He sent His Son Jesus to be that very One to pay the price for the redemption of the Kingdom of God, not just the redemption of man; He paid a price that we could not pay, a sacrifice too great for us to pay.

The end purpose was not only that man would be reconnected to his Creator, but that God's will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. This is why, after His resurrection, Jesus breathed on His followers and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' This echoes the beginning, when God breathed the breath of life into Adam and man became a living soul.

That is one of the ultimate purposes of Jesus coming to earth: man restored to God, filled again with the Spirit of God, and empowered to represent the Kingdom of God. Before Jesus ascended, He told His disciples to wait for the 'Promise of the Father.' In other words, do not go anywhere, do not do anything, until you are filled with the Spirit of God. Jesus said, 'You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you' (Acts 1:8).



The End PURPOSE: The Holy Spirit of God Back Into Man

Jesus paid the ransom for the sin-nature of man -- the contaminated and rebellious nature of man. Man, through rebellion against God, had lost the Spirit of God living in him. He became mortal, separated from the life God originally breathed

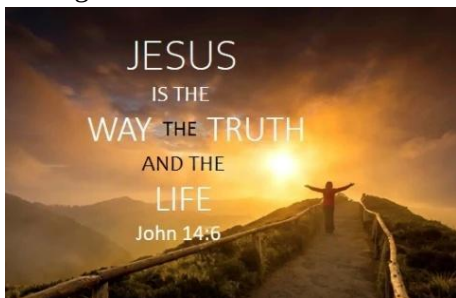
into him. But Jesus came to regain control over the earth, return the rulership to man and to return the Spirit of God back into man, so that man could again be the Vice-Roy on earth. The representative of the King on earth.

This is why Jesus is the central figure in history. This is why He is not just a man. This is why He cannot be framed as merely one religious figure among many. It is a Kingdom that He reinstated, not a dead religion. It is the original Kingdom purpose and dominion God gave man at the outset of creation. This is why Jesus confronted the religious leaders who tried to box God's plan inside rituals, traditions, and condemning constraints. It is vital that we understand what Jesus offers man: the opportunity to be reunited with God and restored to his original purpose.

What He proclaimed is intense. Jesus said He came to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is here and available to all through faith, not through human effort, religious

performance, or good works. The dominion and purpose originally given to man are restored in Christ, the Redeemer.

His victory over the treason of the devil is permanent. Jesus said, “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” He also said that unless we believe and receive Him, we cannot find our way back to the Father. That is why He declared, “I am the way... no one comes to the Father but by Me.” Without Him, man cannot receive the greatest healing of all: the healing of the sin nature, the contaminated glitch in man’s programming.



If you have ever truly loved someone, you know that one of the great dynamics of relationship is forgiveness and reconciliation. Restoration is an

integral part of love, and God extends reconciliation to us through Jesus. The Word says, “God so loved the world... He gave His Son,” to redeem mankind and restore our relationship with God.

That is why He is the most powerful figure in history. He changed the governing powers of the world by reinstating the Kingdom of God in the heart of man. To be a believer is to accept Jesus, through the presence of His Holy Spirit, as the governing authority over our lives. Jesus asked His followers, “Who do you say that I am?” That question is not casual. It is a life-or-death challenge, because our answer carries eternal significance.

Man can continue going in circles, trying to recreate or redefine who God is and who Jesus is. Or he can receive the free gift of redemption and be restored to a life empowered by the Spirit of God within him. Wow... that all makes sense now.

Jesus Christ is the lone Savior. He is the true God, the Redeemer, the forgiver of sin, and the One who offers rebirth and eternal life. He is the One who says, “I will give you new life,” and “He who comes to Me will never die.” The Spirit of God in you will empower your life.

What will you do with Jesus? You cannot ignore Him. Ask anyone their opinion of Jesus, and they will have one. No one is ever truly silent about Him. But the issue for you personally is this: what do **you** say about Jesus, and what is your understanding of who Jesus Christ is?

That is why being offended by religious doctrines, churchy rituals, and doctrinal arguments is not enough of an excuse or justification to ignore Him. Jesus does not offer religion, and He never will. He is the cornerstone upon which man’s life must be rebuilt. He is the One through whom we can find true meaning and true freedom. It is not only about heaven and hell; it is about living your life as a victor now, rather than as a powerless victim.

That victory is made available to everyone freely through His redemptive sacrifice. That ought to be the deal of a lifetime — and indeed, it is.



To claim ignorance will not work — not in this world, nor in the world to come. You cannot tell a policeman, after being pulled over, “I did not know the law.” In the same way, you cannot let your search for knowledge lead you away from knowing Jesus.

When it comes to your eternal destiny, it is not merely what you know that matters. It is Who you know.



The One Day That Changed the History of the World

Jesus gave His disciples predictions about His death and the events that would follow, saying, ‘So that when it does take place you may believe’ (John 14:29). Throughout His ministry, He not only told people that He was the Son of God, but also that He would die and rise again. He predicted

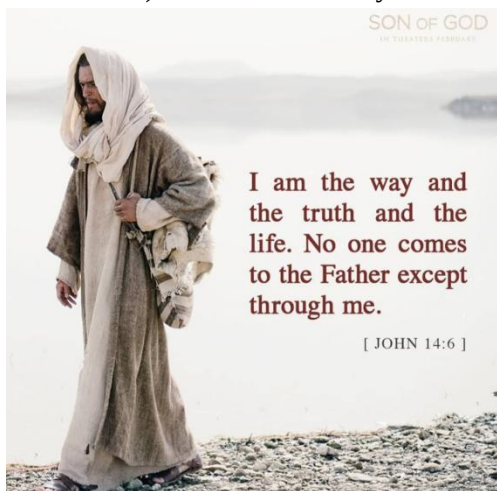
His resurrection repeatedly.



Matthew gives a detailed account of that morning:

“At dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has RISEN, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay’”
(Matthew 28:1-6).

“Why did Jesus predict His resurrection? Why did He make such outrageous claims? Because when He rose from the dead, it proved that He had been telling the truth. He claimed to be the Son of God and the only way to the Father. His resurrection verified His divine identity. Jesus also told His disciples that His blood, shed for our sins, would establish a new covenant between God and man (Matthew 26:28). And that is exactly what He did.



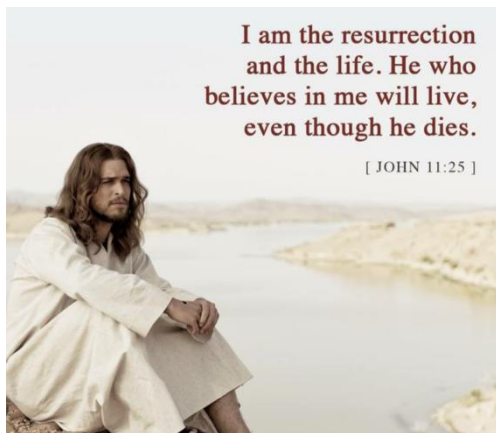
Remember, Jesus intentionally came to earth to die in our stead, and eradicate our sin-nature.

Contrary to much religious teaching, man's separation from God is not merely the result of individual sinful actions. Those actions are the outward consequences of the original rebellion that took place in the garden through Adam. That rebellion caused a major glitch in man's programming. Man became self-centered, self-willed, and proud. From that point on, humanity began living from self instead of from God.

Jesus' death was the final sacrifice that paid the debt of that rebellion for all (Hebrews 9:28). His death and resurrection were the ultimate purpose of His ministry because that was the only way to redeem man and restore him to his original purpose and assignment. Remember, Jesus came to restore man to the Kingdom purpose of God, not merely to give him a free pass to heaven.

The resurrection of Jesus was the dawn of a different era — a whole new era for humanity. A New Covenant was now established between God and man. The resurrection of Jesus is the most

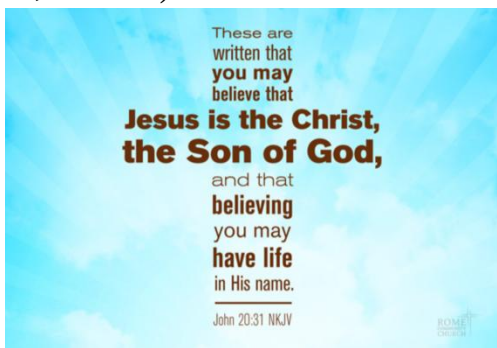
important event in all history. So much so that every time anyone writes a date, history is still being measured in relation to the coming of Jesus Christ.



The resurrection of Christ is far from being a myth. It stands at the center of Christian faith and has been examined, defended, preached, and testified to throughout history. Through His victory over death and the devil's claim against man, God gave all authority to Jesus (Matthew 28:18; John 3:35; John 5:26–27; Philippians 2:9–11). The resurrection means that Christ is truly King and

Victor, seated ‘far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked’ (Ephesians 1:21). The New Covenant between God and man is no small thing. It touches all of life on earth and in heaven.

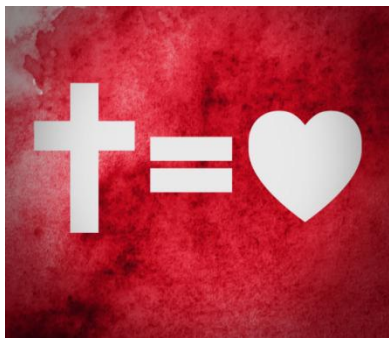
Jesus prophesied that, from hereon, the law of Moses would be done with, and **man could be redeemed by FAITH alone**. He said that those who believe in Him would have eternal life and be reconciled to God (Jn 11:25, 26, 1Cor 4:15, 12-20, Jn 3:16, Jn 3:1-21).



did not die and rise again after three days, then the entire hope of the believer is based upon nothing

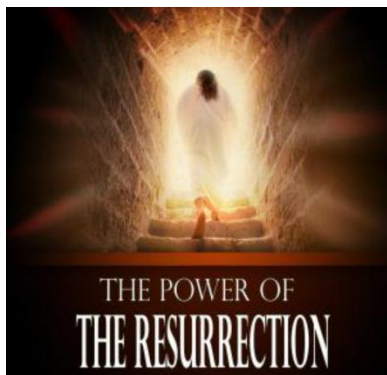
but lies and falsities. In short, mankind's sinful nature would not be forgiven and changed (Rom 4:25). If it wasn't for the resurrection we would have to continue living as the Jews of old and offering animal sacrifices to God for the redemption of our sins.

The resurrection was the complete verification of all that Jesus preached and taught during His three-year ministry. It was the final proof of His outrageous claims. If He had not risen from the dead, He could have been dismissed as just another teacher or rabbi. But His resurrection changed everything and gave final proof that He truly is the Son of God and that He conquered death once and for all.



The resurrection means that love is stronger than death. It was for love that God gave His only Son (John 3:16). It was for love that Jesus died on the cross (John 15:13). It is for love that the risen Lord intercedes for us even now (Romans 8:34). The resurrection is filled with the proof of God's love. Jesus said, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13).

Jesus said, 'Because I live, you also will live' (John 14:19). So the question remains: 'How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3).



The POWER of His Resurrection

“That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection” (Philippians 3:10)..

I have been meditating on what Paul calls ‘the power of His resurrection,’ and I came across

something Spurgeon wrote on that very subject.



Remember, Paul was what we would call ‘the cream of the crop’ as far as the Jewish law was concerned. Yet he deliberately set aside his personal credentials and the righteousness he had worked so hard to attain as a Pharisee. He said, ‘But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ’ (Philippians 3:7). In other words, only one thing counted now: that he might know Jesus and the power of His resurrection.

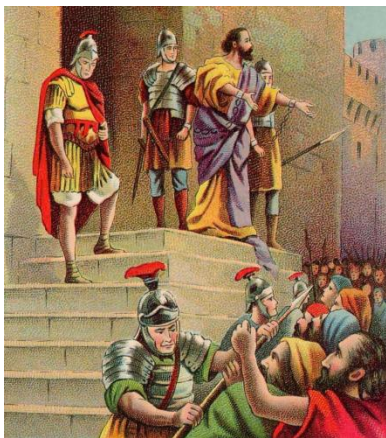


Just think about this for a minute. Everywhere Paul went, he confronted religious resistance from those who trusted in the Mosaic Law as the basis of righteousness. His message challenged them to see that the old covenant had been fulfilled in Christ and that righteousness now comes through faith in Him. Can you imagine the challenge? No wonder Paul was persecuted and even stoned for the message he preached.

If you ever feel frustrated trying to convince people that Jesus is more than church attendance, encourage yourself by remembering the challenges Paul faced. He had to preach to both Jews and Gentiles that righteousness now comes by faith in the crucified and risen Christ. This Nazarene man

went about doing good, was rejected, crucified, and now lives again.

Paul was so convinced, so compelled by his love for Christ, and so empowered by the truth of the resurrection that he helped carry the Gospel across the world of his day. His message was simple and unshakable: if Christ is not risen, then the Gospel collapses. He wrote, 'If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain' (1 Corinthians 15:14). That is how central the resurrection is. There is power in Christ's resurrection.



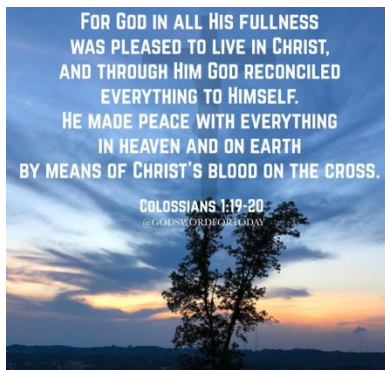
Paul even said that the apostles would be false witnesses if Christ had not been raised, because they had testified that God raised Him from the dead. Then he added, ‘If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins’ (1 Corinthians 15:17).

The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of faith. If you take the resurrection away, Christianity is reduced to nothing but philosophy, morality, and empty religion — what Peter calls a “cunningly devised fable.” Jesus’ life may have

remained a perfect example of conduct, but His life could not have become our righteousness if His burial had been the end of the story. It was essential that He be raised from the dead, because He conquered death itself. The Word says, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). In other words, the consequence of the sin nature and rebellion of man was death. Jesus paid that price so we may live.

The power of His resurrection is infallible proof of the authority, power, and glory of Jesus as the Son of God. This proof so gripped the early apostles that they preached with outstanding boldness, even to the point of martyrdom.

Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me shall never die’ (John 11:25–26).



Christ has an ongoing life in us, and He makes His life flow into every part of His spiritual body. He said, ‘Because I live, ye shall live also.’ As believers, we possess the life that is in Christ, for we are His body and He is the Head.

The power of His resurrection gives us the ability to be in the world, but not of the world. We can live independently from the world’s system — renewed, transformed, and translated into His glorious light. That power gives us the identity of another world: a new citizenship, a new passport, the citizenship of the Kingdom of God.



When we believe in Jesus, we receive a new life powered by His resurrection, and we are raised into a higher order of life. Our spiritual life now carries the life of Christ, and we are refashioned after the image of God. We are re-empowered to represent the King on earth. The old life no longer defines us; the new life God gives is the true life, connecting us to the divine and the eternal.

Just think about this: the risen Christ is able to give us an entirely new life. By the power of His resurrection, He brought God's Holy Spirit back into man, and we are raised from the death of sin

into eternal life and righteousness. The righteousness by which we are accepted is finished and complete; therefore, we find rest in Him.

The resurrection power of Christ is the operating system that powers all who hear and believe His words. Just as the springtime sun brings warmth and life to frozen ground, quickening and producing life through its light, the resurrection of Christ quickens us into new life and brings a springtime of hope to those who believe.



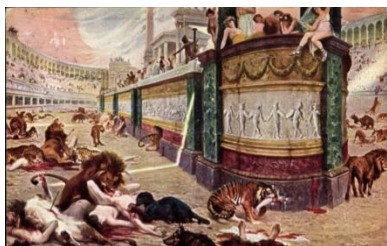
This is the power by which the missionary goes forth to sow. This is the power by which the

witness continues to scatter the seed. This is the power that compelled the apostle Paul to carry the Gospel into the world, and it is the same power that energizes us to shine with a light that comes from within.

Death, brought through Adam's rebellion, has no more dominion over us because of Jesus' victory over death. As we have been raised in the likeness of His resurrection, we are raised into eternal life. Jesus said that the water He gives will become in us 'a well of water springing up into everlasting life' (John 4:14). The power of the resurrection is the power of the Holy Spirit restored to man. It is the energy of the incorruptible seed of God, the life-giving power of the Word of God.

Back to Paul, in his day, to be a believer was a costly matter. Imprisonment was the lightest of their trials: stripes and tortures of every kind were their portion. "Christians to the lions!" was the cry heard in the amphitheatre; and nothing pleased the

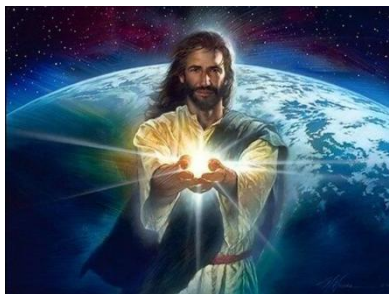
people better than to see believers smeared with pitch from head to toe, and set on fire.



Today, there are many nominal Christians who know the clichés of godliness but do not know the power thereof. There are ritualistic Christians who polish the outward form of Christianity but do not walk in the power given through Christ's resurrection. There are moral religionists who admire the ethics of the Gospel while denying its power. This kind of regulated religiosity may carry the name of Christ, but it lacks the life of Christ. It has a form of godliness, but denies the power



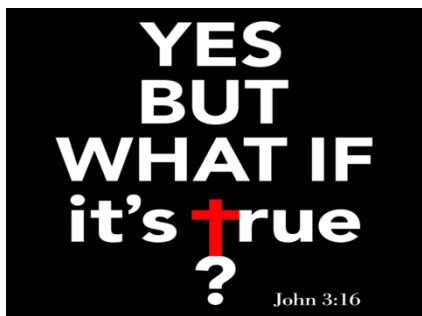
The truth of the Gospel has force in it — power, redemption power. Do not just gaze at the power of God's Word; eat of it until you feel its power. Let it nourish and energize your whole being. There has to be a propelling joy and a force that compels us to tell.



He is risen. He is alive. He is the Victor. 'All power is given unto Him in heaven and on earth.' That resurrection power empowers believers, under the authority of Christ and by the Holy Spirit, to heal the sick, cast out demons, enforce the victory of Christ on earth as it is in heaven, and destroy the works of the devil. That power energizes believers to be the light of the world.

That power is the light you can see in the eyes of those who truly believe. That power is what gives us the right to become sons of God (John 1:12).

Live out the POWER.



If it's TRUE, Then WHAT???

Suppose it is true that God is the God of the universe, that He is the Creator of the world, and that He sent Jesus to redeem mankind so that we could be restored to our God-given authority on earth.. Suppose Jesus meant what He said when He declared that if we obey His Word, we will know the truth, and the truth will make us free (John 8:32). If all of this is true, then there are serious decisions to make.

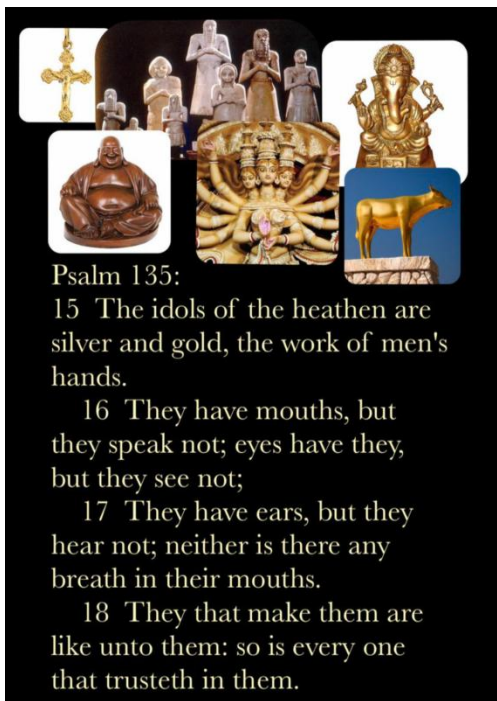
I think one reason many people resist taking a stand is that truth requires surrender. If God is God, then we are no longer the final authority over our lives. It is no longer our plan that rules; it is His. And that requires humility.

When a person builds life on a lie, he must keep building scaffolding around that lie to hold it in place (2 Thessalonians 2:11). I have often spoken with people who reject God, and when asked what they actually believe, they begin constructing philosophical ideas as they go, reaching for some kind of truth to live by. But without God, the foundation keeps shifting.



David puts it bluntly: "*The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'*" (Ps 14:1). Actually, they don't

want to believe in the true God, yet I rarely met an atheist who doesn't have a statue of Buddha or some other idol on his desk. They do believe in some (super)power but they will not want to bow down to the One true God. The proof is, throughout history, man has always indulged in idolatry, either in worshipping various gods or in making idols that represent some of those gods. Why? Because man was originally created to worship.



Psalm 135:

15 The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

16 They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not;

17 They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths.

18 They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.

There are too many laws set in motion by God to honestly ignore Him. Yet man often tries to deny His existence and build philosophical scaffolding to prop up his own purpose apart from God. The Word says, 'The wicked, in the haughtiness of his

countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, “There is no God” (Psalm 10:4).

Because if it is true — all true — then you cannot live half-heartedly, haphazardly, without direction, and without purpose. The world around us is filled with order, design, law, and life. Even the miracle of a seed carries a witness that creation is not random, but purposeful.

The chalkboard contains the following content:

- Top left: $\eta \rightarrow \eta^*$, $\eta = \eta(1 + \frac{\pi}{2}\psi)$, $F = \frac{d}{dt}(mv)$, $\omega = 2\pi f$, $PV = nRT$
- Top middle: $\mu u du + \frac{1}{2} dm = c^2 dm$, $\Delta T_v = -\frac{1}{2c^2} \sum_{i=1}^k v_i^2 \Delta T_i$
- Top right: $m^2 - m_0^2 c^2$
- Middle left: $\vec{u} = c$, $\vec{u} = \frac{u+v}{1 + \frac{uv}{c^2}}$, $K = \int c^2 dm = c^2(m - m_0)$, $E = mc^2$
- Middle center: $D = \mu k_B T$, $E = mc^2$
- Middle right: $x = x_0(1 - [(v^2)/(c^2)]^{1/2})$
- Bottom left: $\Delta m = \frac{\Delta E_0}{c^2}$, $\frac{c+v}{1 + \frac{cv}{c^2}}$, $\frac{(c+v)c}{(c+v)} = c$
- Bottom center: $E = mc^2$, $m = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$, $F = d(mu)/dt$, $\Delta t = \frac{\Delta t_0}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$
- Bottom right: $p = \frac{mv}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$, $\sum m_i v_i = \sum m_f v_f$, $m = m_0 / \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$, $pV = \frac{1}{2} n k_B T$

It is like driving a car, knowing you must put gasoline in it, but refusing to do so. Then you

wonder why it will not go, while also refusing to read the owner's manual. There is an element of foolishness here that cannot be overlooked. The Word says, 'Proud,' 'Haughty,' 'Scoffer,' are his names, who acts with insolent pride' (Proverbs 21:24).

Yes, life has to have definition. As a matter of fact, that is what people search for their entire lives. But many refuse to believe that there is one true definition: creation. Creation implies a Creator. Architecture implies an architect. Someone greater created the lesser, and the lesser is therefore subject to the greater.



The discovery of DNA alone has put the last nail in the coffin of the theory of evolution, and yet there are those who persist and insist on denying

facts. "My mind is made up, don't confuse me with the facts". Truth be told, every creation and innovation comes with instruction from the maker on how it is meant to operate. The same is true with God. He gave His manual to man, but man refuses to read it and then wonders why the 'device' is not operating properly. What's wrong with this picture — the device, the Creator, or the operator? Remember, the Creator provided the manual. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction"* (Proverbs 1:7).

So, yes, refusing to subject ourselves to God is not intellectual courage; it is pride. More than that, it is foolishness, because pride always blinds a person to truth. The Word says, 'Scoffer is the name of the arrogant and haughty man who acts with arrogant pride' (Proverbs 21:24). And again, 'Through insolence comes nothing but strife, but wisdom is with those who receive counsel' (Proverbs 13:10).

Deuteronomy 16:21-22



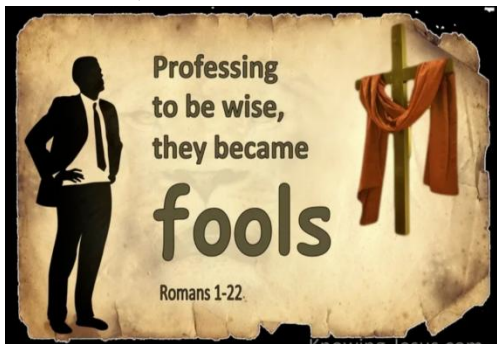
You shall not plant for yourself an Asherah of any kind of tree beside the altar of the LORD your God, which you shall make for yourself. ²² You shall not set up for yourself a *sacred* pillar which the LORD your God hates.

There are too many laws in our universe to overlook. There are laws of physics, laws of mathematics, laws of chemistry, natural laws, and spiritual laws. These laws were not invented by man; they were discovered and observed by man. And they work consistently. Take gravity, for instance. It does not only work in winter, in Australia, or among a certain ethnic group. It works for everybody, all the time.

God has also set spiritual laws in motion for us to live by. These laws work for the just and the unjust, just as Jesus said that rain falls on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45). In

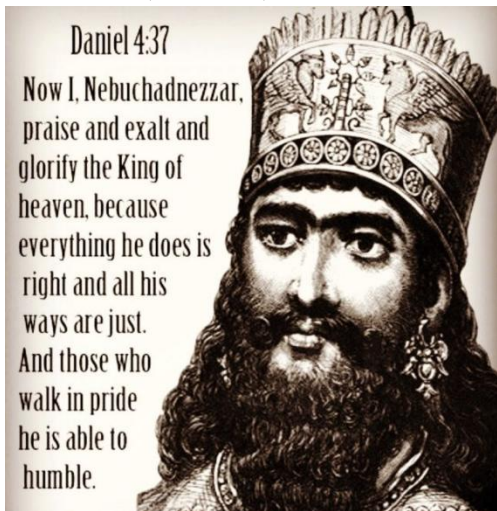
schools, they teach physical laws, mathematics, chemistry, and other observable principles, but they often refuse to teach spiritual laws. What is wrong with this picture?

Here is one spiritual law of God that should be taught everywhere: ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble’ (James 4:6). The Word also says, ‘Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor’ (Proverbs 18:12).



Daniel the prophet lived under a very proud King and Emperor, the most powerful in the world at the time, Nebuchadnezzar, and his pride turned to arrogance and defiance. Here is what

Daniel said, "But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him." **But after Nebuchadnezzar got humbled** and had to eat grass for seven years, he came back and said, "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are right and His ways are just; and those who walk in pride He is able to humble" (Dan 4:37).





There Are Only TWO Religions

One man used to spend much of his time witnessing about Jesus on the streets of a California city. He said this question was posed to him again and again: 'How can you say that you have the truth? There are hundreds of religions in the world, and all of them think theirs is the only right one. How can I possibly know which one is right?

The man would answer: "Hundreds of religions, you say? Why, that's strange! I talk

to so many different people every day, from different parts of the world, and I've heard of only TWO!" His listeners would retort, "Oh, but you MUST know that there are MANY more than that!" To which he would reply, "Not at all. I will admit that WITHIN these two different religions, there are many different sects and differences of opinion. But there are, after all, only TWO.

The first religion consists of all those different faiths that believe that they can EARN their own righteousness by doing good deeds, by being "good enough" and by keeping different kinds of religious laws and commandments. Some try to meditate their way to goodness, others try to achieve holiness through piosity, yet others try to abide by a set of strict guidelines and disciplines to obtain sanctity, and yet others pray to many deities so as to be in good favor with them all. This, as you must realise, comprises most of the faiths of the World.

But the other consists of those who know that they are INCAPABLE of obtaining righteousness on their own, and look to Jesus alone to save them!

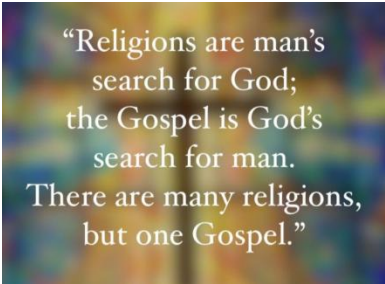


So you see, the whole question is really very simple! Do you think you can save yourself, or somehow earn your salvation by being 'good'?--Or do you realise that you need a saviour to rescue you from your sin-nature and mistakes?

"For by GRACE are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the GIFT of

GOD. NOT of [good] WORKS, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9). "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His MERCY He saved us." (Titus 3:5).

People make things very complicated when they refuse the truth. The grace of God is all around us. But if you reject God's simple plan of grace through faith, you then have to come up with your own philosophy or **some kind of religion to "yin and yang" your way through life.** It's pretty easy to draw a sharp distinction between believers, who worships the Creator, and paganism, which worships the creation, including 'self'.



“Religions are man's
search for God;
the Gospel is God's
search for man.
There are many religions,
but one Gospel.”

All false religion is alike in this one way: it says, 'Something in my hand I bring.' The only difference is what that 'something' happens to be. But true faith says, 'Nothing in my hand I bring.' One rests on righteousness by doing; the other rests on righteousness by what Christ has already done.

Jesus told a vivid story that explains these two religions perfectly: the parable of the Pharisee and the publican. The first man is the doer, the man with 'something' in his hand that he offers to God, hoping to buy a seat in heaven. Notice his prayer: 'God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.' He represents the great church of the self-righteous. What a handful he brings — his character, his fasts, and his tithes.

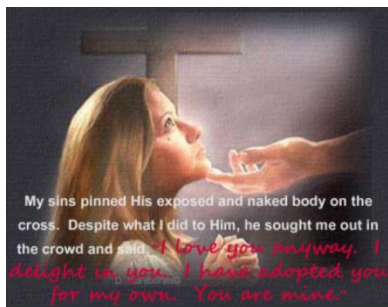


In this story, he is called a Pharisee, but today, he actually has many other names. We find him in the robes of a Papist and Jew, Churchman and Dissenter, Unitarian and Evangelical, Theosophist and Spiritist, Buddhist and Brahmin, Mormon and Mohammedan, Christian Scientist and Confucian, Jezreelite and—what not? His robes are various; his prayers—the pith of them—are ever the same. Sometimes he quotes Scripture. Sometimes he rejects it.

The publican in the same parable—his prayer was different! He had no righteousness to plead. And his character, he is ashamed to bring up. "Me, the sinner," he cries, and beats

upon his breast. He cannot boast of fasting and tithes. He comes empty-handed before God, his only hope is that divine mercy may find a way for a guilty wretch to be saved instead of damned. He admits that he doesn't deserve grace. He does not try to hide his pitiful condition.

God has not only imprinted His love and kindness all throughout His creation, but He's also set in motion simple rules to live by and once anyone accepts His simple plan, it takes all the stress of trying to figure out life. He paid a VERY BIG price for you to be at peace forever. He gave His only Son as the One and ONLY sacrifice to redeem all of us and to put us back in charge of our true destiny through the empowerment of His Spirit in us.



My sins pinned His exposed and naked body on the cross. Despite what I did to Him, he sought me out in the crowd and said *"I love you anyway. I delight in you. I have adopted you for my own. You are mine."*

Paul the apostle, once a Pharisee himself, emptied himself of all his imagined goodness and counted it all as loss. Then he tells us how true righteousness comes: 'Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him all that believe are justified from all things from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses' (Acts 13:38–39).

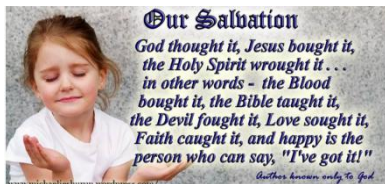
Losing It All To Gain Christ The Deal of A Lifetime!

Philippians 3:8 (NKJV)

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Here, Paul explains that no one can do even what the Law of Moses demands. Man tries and struggles, but all in vain. To wash out the stain of even one sin is altogether impossible by human effort.

So stop trying to invent your own interpretation of life and accept the Creator's answer. Then, and only then, will it all begin to make sense. The Word says, 'To him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness' (Romans 4:5).



Our Salvation

*God thought it, Jesus bought it,
the Holy Spirit wrought it . . .
in other words - the Blood
bought it, the Bible taught it,
the Devil fought it, Love sought it,
Faith caught it, and happy is the
person who can say, "I've got it!"*

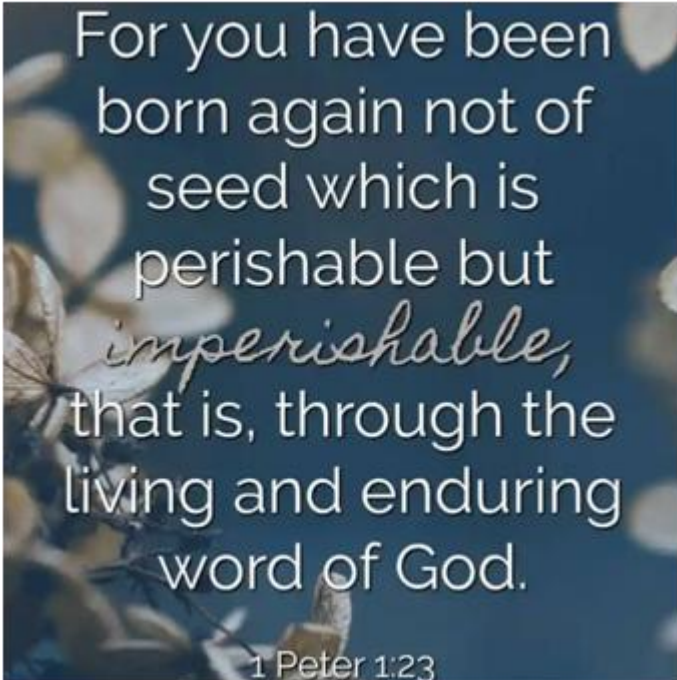
Author known only to God



The Kingdom of God is HERE.

The Kingdom of Heaven is a place, but the Kingdom of God refers to the government of God. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus preached the "Kingdom of God". The exact wording of "the Kingdom of Heaven" is only found in the Gospel of Matthew, more than 30 times. The phrase "Kingdom of God" is used in the New Testament more than 70 times, with five of those mentioned in the book of

Matthew. Paradoxically, Jesus refers to the church only twice. Notice also that it was not Jesus who called His followers, Christians. Rather He referred to us as friends and then sons: Sons of God, born into the Kingdom of God.



For you have been
born again not of
seed which is
perishable but
imperishable,
that is, through the
living and enduring
word of God.

1 Peter 1:23

When Jesus first began His ministry, He said, 'The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel' (Mark 1:14–15). In other words, 'Repent, the

Kingdom is here.’ Most preachers dwell on repentance, but what did Jesus mean when He said the Kingdom of God was at hand? He meant that the fulfillment of God’s rule, government, and will had now come near and was being re-established on earth through Him.

Even to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, Jesus preached the Kingdom: ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.’ He was telling him that being born again gives a person citizenship in the Kingdom of God and the right to become a son of God (John 1:12). The new birth is spiritual, but it also gives legal standing in the Kingdom. You enter the Kingdom through the new birth.



And then it says that He went on teaching and preaching "the Kingdom of God". In fact, He gave multiple examples and parables about how it OPERATES. He said,

"The Kingdom of God is as a man traveling."

"The Kingdom of God is a mustard seed."

"The Kingdom of God is as yeast."

"The Kingdom of God is a pearl of great price."

Why is there so much said about its operations? Because He wanted to teach us how to MANAGE the Kingdom. That's why the parable of the "talents" (Mat 25:14-30). We're to be rulers and managers of His Kingdom on earth.



A great change of government took place when Jesus came. We were not only delivered from the kingdom of darkness; we were brought into the Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13). This Kingdom operates entirely differently, which means we now live by a new set of laws. The Word tells us that we have been:

1. redeemed from the curse of the law,
2. redeemed from the enemy,
3. redeemed from our sin-nature,
4. redeemed from every lawless deed,
5. redeemed from all wickedness, and
6. redeemed from death.

This is big. It is a major shift — not merely in how the world operates around us, but in how we operate in the world. We can now walk by the laws of the Spirit and apply the Word of

God in faith. That is why Jesus said His people are in the world, but not of the world. In a kingdom, the word of the king carries authority (Ecclesiastes 8:4). That is why we speak the Word of the King over circumstances that contradict His will.



Get a load of this: Jesus came to redeem what was lost. Through Adam's rebellion, man lost his place of dominion and stewardship under God. Adam was originally created to rule under God's authority, steward the earth, and fill it with God's image and order. But through disobedience, he surrendered that place of authority to the enemy. Jesus came to restore what had been lost.

But look at what the apostle Paul says: 'For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son He loves, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins' (Colossians 1:13–14). He also wrote, 'But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son... to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons... So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God' (Galatians 4:4–7).

We are no longer foreigners and strangers.
We are sons of God, heirs with Christ, and
children of the King of the universe.



In the world, we're taught, "You gotta work to make a living," and so it is. In fact, we're identified by what we do, not by who we are. People ask us who we are and we reply by what we do. I'm a plumber, an electrician, a dentist, etc. In the Kingdom of God, we're identified by who we are. We're sons, not servants. Jesus said, "*seek ye first the kingdom*". And "*Take no thought for your life.*" Why? He said, "*For after all these things do*

the Gentiles seek: for your Heavenly Father knoweth that you have need of all these things." (Mat 6: 25-34). The Word says we're not supposed to "be living to make a living".



Jesus shifted life's priorities: *"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."* And He said, *"Life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment...Do not be afraid, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."* (Lk 12:32). He said, "the Kingdom of God is NOW HERE, the sweating is over". Adoption as sons means we're back in the Kingdom of God now, as the Kingdom was intended before the fall.

Again, shortly after creation, the world's laws on earth shifted when Adam disobeyed. God told him, "Because you disobeyed, the ground is now cursed. You will now have to work it, and sweat to make it yield your provision." Later, through Moses, God told Israel, "If you obey Me, I will bless you. But if you do not obey Me, I will curse you" (Deuteronomy 28).

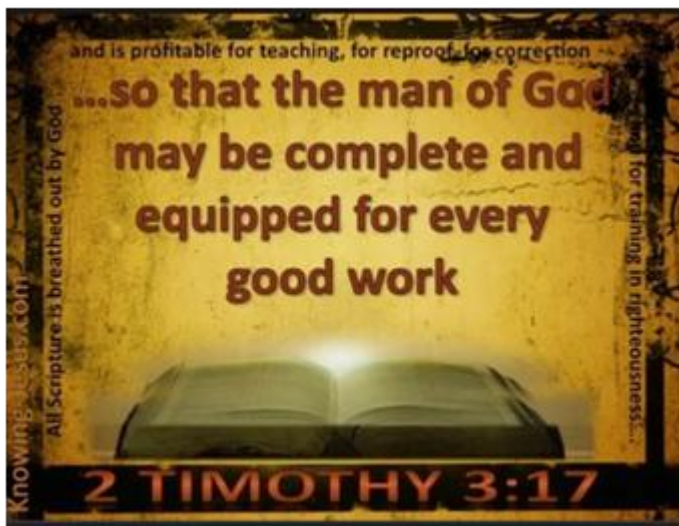
But for us, because of our full redemption paid for by Jesus, the promises of God are not seated in hope, nor hidden behind conditions,

but they are ours as rights. Why? Because we are sons. We're already incorporated into the Kingdom. We go by our civil rights from the Word of the King. The promises of the King are for us, "YES", and "SO BE IT", they are not conditional. The King's reputation is linked directly to His promises (laws) and to the welfare of His people.



So we can now live on earth as representatives of the King, enforcing His Word and will by faith. He has also given us His Spirit to teach us how to operate as citizens of the Kingdom. Jesus said, 'When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13). He also told

His followers, who had seen Him operate every day for three years, not to go anywhere until they received the power of the Holy Spirit. 'You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you' (Acts 1:8).



Paul said, 'The Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power' (1 Corinthians 4:20). In other words, the Kingdom is not merely something

we talk about; it is something God demonstrates. Jesus manifested the power of the Kingdom with tangible miracles, signs, healings, and deliverances. Wherever He announced the good news of the Kingdom, the works of darkness were confronted — sin, sickness, demons, poverty, and even death had to bow before the authority of God.

"For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness (sonship) and peace (with God) and joy in (through) the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17).

With the Spirit's power, the Word is life; it not only changes you, but energizes you and it does what is impossible to humans. Without the power, the Kingdom of God cannot be revealed through miracles, signs and wonders with delivering humanity from bondages.



Without receiving the power of the Spirit, a person can read the Bible and still fail to understand or walk in what it reveals. Many have accepted the Bible as the Word of God and adopted a form of godliness, yet denied the power that actually transforms a person (2 Timothy 3:5). The Word must be received by faith and made alive in us by the Spirit.

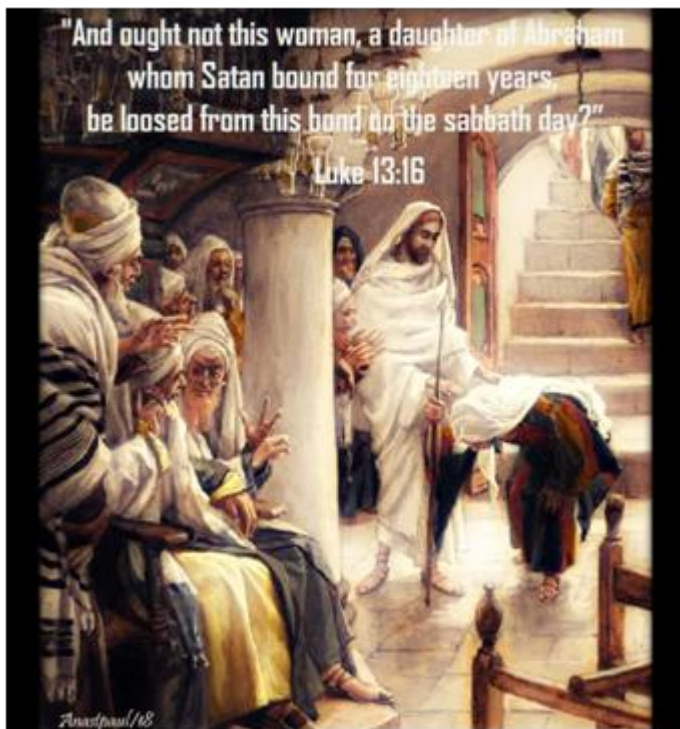
In other words, Jesus was teaching us to seek first the citizenship and government of God — our new identity, our righteousness, and our right relationship with the King. When we learn to operate on earth according to the King's Word, the provisions people anxiously chase after are taken care of by the Father. Righteousness is our rightful relationship with the King.

Take no thought... (You're embarrassing Me, as your Provider). Come unto Me.. I'll give you REST (the Sabbath rest means it's all DONE for you). Take a hold of the blessings of God without stress, without sweat with it. (Pro10:22). If you've got to work for your blessings, it's no blessing. The blessing of the Lord is God's original plan for man. Contrary to religious belief, God doesn't want you sick, broke and lonely. He wants to bless you in every area of life - your health, finances, relationships, and more...

If you are righteous in Christ, you are in the right position to stand confidently on the King's promises. That is why there is no begging in the Kingdom. The Word says, '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). We do not approach God as outsiders trying to persuade Him. We come as sons who trust His faithfulness.

"And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham
whom Satan bound for eighteen years,
be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?"

Luke 13:16



When Jesus was rebuked by the ruler of the synagogue for healing a woman who had been bent over for eighteen years, He said, 'Ought not this woman, being a daughter of

Abraham... be loosed from this bond?' (Luke 13:16). Religion said it was the wrong day. Jesus revealed that covenant relationship carried freedom. And when He said these things, His adversaries were ashamed, and the people rejoiced for all the glorious things He had done (Luke 13:17). The Kingdom of God comes with covenant rights and the power to manifest the will of the King.

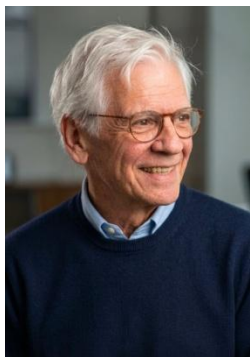
If you are a son of the King, then the question becomes, 'Ought you not?' Ought you not walk in the freedom, provision, healing, and blessing Christ has paid for? Once you are born into the Kingdom, you have covenant standing. You qualify in Christ.

Once righteous, you become dangerous to darkness. God's angels minister for the heirs of salvation. You stand on what God has promised because His Word is faithful. You do not beg sickness to leave; you speak to it in the authority of Jesus. You tell what contradicts the Word that it has no legal right

to rule over you. Everywhere you go, you carry the blessing of God, and even the place where you work is affected because the Kingdom is in you.

Stand in faith. Live on earth with the authority of heaven, and manifest God's power by destroying the works of the devil wherever you go.

About the Author



Picture this: It is 1972, and a young couple steps out in faith, not knowing their "yes" to God would spark a 45-year adventure that would touch thousands of lives across multiple continents. That is where Paul Joseph's and his wife Linda's story begins—but it certainly does not end there.

Through scorching African heat and the heart-wrenching realities of Liberian refugee camps, they have lived out what it means to be Christ's hands and feet in our broken

world. After two decades in Asia, they spent yet another decade in Africa pouring their lives into these displaced communities, turning a refugee camp into spaces of hope and healing. Their work was not just about providing physical aid—it was about showing people that even in life's darkest hours, God's light still shines.

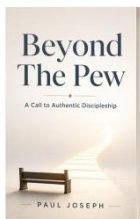
But Paul's ministry extends beyond the mission field. His pen has become as powerful as his presence, most notably through his transformative work, "Handbook for a Disciple of Jesus." This is not just another Christian living book—it is a practical roadmap for anyone serious about following Jesus and helping others do the same. Think of it as a field manual for modern-day disciples, written by someone who's walked the walk for over four decades.

The handbook is just the beginning. Paul's library of books and daily devotionals continues to light the way for believers worldwide, offering practical wisdom forged in

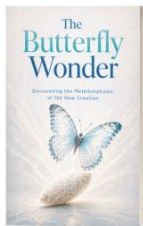
the fires of real-world ministry. His writings do not just tell you what to do—they show you how to do it, drawing from frontline experience in disciple-making.

Want to dive deeper into these resources and discover tools for your own spiritual journey? Visit faithwithoutborders.us to explore Paul's complete collection of works and ministry resources.

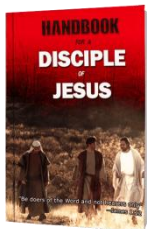
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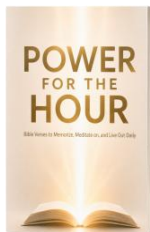
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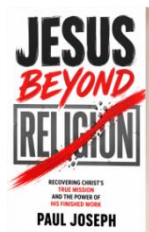
The Butterfly Wonder



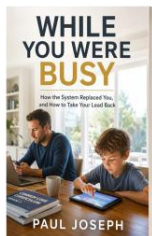
The Handbook for a Disciple of Jesus



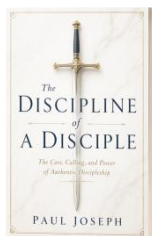
Power for the Hour



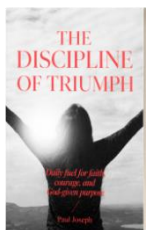
Jesus Beyond Religion



While You Were Busy



The Discipline of a
Disciple



The Discipline of
Triumph

Click [here](#) to explore more books by Paul Joseph.

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Who Do You Say That I Am? is a bold, urgent, kingdom-focused confrontation with the one Person in history no honest soul can ignore: Jesus Christ.

This book does not ask the reader to give religion another try. It does not defend church systems, rituals, denominations, or man-made traditions. It admits plainly that religion has often given Jesus a bad name. But then it separates Jesus from the religious fog around Him and says: behold Him clearly — His claims, His life, His resurrection, His kingdom, and His power.

Jesus claimed things no ordinary man has the right to claim. He forgave sins. He healed the sick. He raised the dead. He commanded storms. He said He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He said He would die and rise again.

And then He did.

That changes everything.

Jesus cannot be ignored. He cannot be reduced to religion. He is either Lord, or nothing makes sense.

So the question still stands: *Who do you say that I am?*

