

DEAD IN
ALLAH

ALIVE IN
JESUS



MUSTAFA ABUBAKAR

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DEDICATION



To My Wife, Maria. My Daughter, Shamsa
Amalia and My Son, Tamani Liam.

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Brother Wycliffe Nyachae suggested that I should have a separate subtitle on the 'Love of God'. He insisted that I should not mention the love of God

in passing but give a detailed exposition for God's love for sinners motivated Him to send His one and only Son to die on the cross.

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PROLOGUE



LOST AND FOUND

As an introduction to this book, I will share my story (in reality, it is the story of Jesus Christ). It is the story of Jesus Christ; searching me, finding me, and saving me.

I believe that there are circumstances that ‘start’ off the journey towards Jesus. But those circumstances in themselves do not and cannot save us and make us Christians. Again, those life circumstances that ultimately lead us to Jesus are themselves divinely planned and orchestrated by God. At the end of the day, one thing only should lead us to seek Jesus; and that one thing is our sin and many sins. In the following paragraphs, I will share the circumstances that ultimately led me to hear the Gospel preached, realized that I was a sinner heading to hell, in need of a Savior, and embraced Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord. I will not share all my life’s details because some are too embarrassing while others could negatively expose people I deeply love and care about.

I was born and brought up in a family of eleven. I am the tenth born. It is an extended family as my father was a polygamist. He was a devout Muslim who made sure that all his children attended Madrassa (Islamic education centers). Young as I was, I knew my father to be a very hardworking man. He was very intelligent, an extremely good planner. He was a full-time magician and farmer. He was a man of many business deals. He was very aggressive, a perfectionist and at times a very impatient man. He used to hunt snakes and keep them for his magic show business. Many people in the neighborhood feared and hated him. From what I gathered, young as I was, very few loved him.

I grew up to admire and respect my father especially for his intelligence, hard work, magic shows, and of course the adrenaline in hunting and domesticating snakes. Growing up, I always wanted people to know that I was one of his sons. He was a famous and fearless man. Without realizing it, a part of my father had taken root and grown in me. He was my hero, an idol of some kind.

I used to attend burials but it never seriously

crossed my mind that my father would die. Death to me was something that befell other families, not my family, not my father. To me, death was a vague reality.

Then it became so real to me. My father died. I vividly remember that before his death, my father called all of us (his children) and we gathered around his death bed. He was critically sick in bed. He had been sick for a week or so and was thus very weak. Lying there on his bed, my father looked particularly helpless. He gazed into the empty space and then turned his eyes towards us. You could tell from his eyes that he knew that time had finally come for him to depart from this side of eternity. He gathered his strength, raised his voice, and instructed our elder brother to take good care of us all. Then he closed his eyes and was no more. The image of this event has remained in my mind to date.

My father's death started a series of questions in mind that were never truly, satisfactorily, and answered until the day Jesus Christ found me. If my father could die, then death is a reality. No matter what he was or who he was, he was now dead! Not to come back again! This thought staggered me; the fact that

one day I will also die and face the grave never to come back again. I was young back then but these thoughts kept hovering in my mind and heart. I was greatly troubled and disturbed. I became anxious and worried. I grew into adulthood with this and many more questions which brought a sense of emptiness and hopelessness in my life.

I started asking myself some questions about life: What is life? What is the meaning of life? Why was I born? Why am I in this world? Was I born just to live for a few years and then die? What is my destiny when I die? What happens in the grave? For these questions, I never got clear and straightforward answers from the Mosque and Madrassa teachings. I did not get clear, straightforward, and satisfying answers from the Quran. When it comes to life after death, Islam does not give clear and satisfying answers. The Quran is not clear, Islamic teachers are not sure and I was confused.

When I got to senior school, these questions loomed largely. I struggled with these questions even more. I remember in my first exam I scored straight A's in all the subjects. And I asked myself, "After all these A's, what is the meaning of life? My father died.

I will also die with my A's". I deeply hungered and longed for meaning beyond this earthly life, beyond the grave, beyond death. Is death the end of it all? Deep down my soul, I said "no". Death cannot possibly be the end. But the Quran was not giving clear, straightforward, authoritative, and satisfying answers. Sometimes I would not sleep for days, even weeks just wrestling with these questions. I always found myself wanting more but not getting the more that I wanted. I was longing for more although not clearly knowing the more that I longed for.

Day by day, I became anxious, depressed, angry, bitter, and easily irritated. I felt empty and frustrated and preferred being in isolation. I preferred secluded places. I stopped attending entertainment sessions during the weekends; these were times when students were allowed to rest, watch a movie, or listen to music and dance. As the student leader in charge of the school library, I would spend time alone in the library studying but sometimes crying although not knowing exactly why I was crying. During holidays, I would carry home books and lock myself in my room and study. I was searching for meaning in academics.

I stopped attending the communal Friday prayers in the Mosque. Within a short time, I stopped performing the five daily prayers (Swalat) and finally stopped fasting during the month of Ramadhan. But one thing I did not stop; I kept studying an English Quran version searching for answers. I worked even harder in my academics. At some point, I wanted to transfer to the best school in our county so that I would perform even better. I was denied the opportunity and I thought of quitting school altogether.

I cleared high school. I was very bright. I had acquired knowledge. I had developed my mind. My head was full. But my soul was empty. I was miserable. Peace of mind and heart eluded me always. My soul was restless. I became fearful, stressed, confused, and lost my appetite. All along, I was deriving meaning from books. I had now cleared high school; what was the meaning of life? Same question!

I thought of starting a business, make a lot of money, become a millionaire, and probably find a place in the Forbes list. Perhaps that would fulfill and satisfy my empty soul, so I thought. I would frequently visit

the internet and read the stories of the richest men in the world. I researched on the best business ideas and ways to get rich quickly. I wanted to become a millionaire before I was thirty years old. I desperately wanted to become rich and help the poor. That would give my life purpose, meaning, and significance, so I thought. I bought many inspirational and motivational books. I listened to tapes on how to become rich and successful. I started a small business, selling second-hand clothes and groceries and it was doing well. I had read stories of the richest men in the world who had started from scratch. I was determined.

My high school results came out. I had performed very well and got a place in the oldest and most desirable university in the country; the University of Nairobi. I had scored a straight A in Chemistry and was called by the University of Nairobi to pursue a bachelor's degree along that line. I loved Chemistry. My dream of becoming rich and successful was slowly unfolding. I would go to campus, get my degree, and establish a pharmaceutical firm. My dream was to establish a business empire. I will do my masters immediately then get my doctorate before clocking

thirty years. Of course, there is nothing wrong with being rich with masters and doctorate but my whole perspective and attitude in life was that material wealth and education would make me happy, fulfilled, and satisfied. I thought life was all about becoming rich and educated. I thought that was the meaning of life. I was wrong.

I would become a rich, young scientist. Drive sleek cars. Use the latest gadgets. Put on the sharpest fashion. Live in a mansion. With a beautiful wife, perfect marriage and wonderful children. I always dreamt of this. Most probably these would give my life meaning, significance, and purpose.

I joined the University of Nairobi, my very first time in Nairobi city. A month on campus and something caught my attention; young men my age would come in Mercedes and some in Range Rovers. Some children of prominent government officials would come escorted by bodyguards. They had the best phones and dressed sharply. I admired their lifestyles. These guys were already living the life that I was only dreaming of. Then something happened; a son of a prominent government official committed

suicide leaving behind a note saying that things were going on in his family, some prolonged family fights and because of that he was not happy and therefore did not see the point of life. He complained of frustrations and depression because of these wrangles in the family. I felt shattered to the core! My heart became heavy. Is my dream a mere fantasy? Is it an illusion? Here is a young man my age, already rich, in the best university, committing suicide, leaving behind a note saying that life was not making sense. Am I chasing after the wind?

I felt heavy for weeks and lost interest in my studies. I would go to the washrooms and just cry. Sometimes I would go to City Park, find a secluded spot, sit down, look into the sky and just weep. What is life? What is the meaning of life? Why am I in this world? What will happen next when I die? My father died. The same fate awaits me, any time.

I was already drinking alcohol when I joined campus although I was not addicted. I would drink when I wanted and stop when I wanted. I secretly turned to the bottle and a friend introduced me to cigarettes and marijuana. Every time that emptiness came, I would secretly grab a bottle or puff a roll. But

the more I drunk and smoked, the emptier I felt. I became very heavy, always fearful, and in a panic mood.

I lost interest in my studies altogether. I dropped from campus, left Nairobi, and crossed the border to the neighboring country; Tanzania. Being in a foreign country with a foreign culture, the world seemed so strange to me. I became even more fearful of people and life in general and drunk and smoked even more. I found that people in Arusha easily spotted and recognized a foreigner. Without the necessary immigration papers, it would cost me years in prison. That was the last place I could imagine finding myself in. I could not imagine being a prisoner in a foreign country. The city was too tough to maneuver. I bowed out and traveled back to my home country.

I arrived in Mombasa-Kenya and lodged at a friend's place who offered to accommodate me for a few weeks. In that estate, almost everyone would leave for work and school during the weekdays. I was always left alone in the house. I felt lonely, unloved, ignored, unwanted, and hopeless. Most of the time I felt ashamed, lost, wasted, and miserable for the foolish

decisions I had made. When all the people had left, I would go out and get myself a prostitute. I found solace and satisfaction for my soul in sex. It made me relieved briefly but immediately the woman left, the usual emptiness was back. I would do it twice or thrice a week. The little amount of money I had was finally gone. As time went by, I got a job in a fast-food restaurant and then moved to another job in a casino. Now I had the money to do all the dirty stuff I wanted to do.

It was during this time working in the casino that I witnessed firsthand how unsatisfied, miserable, hopeless, and joyless rich tycoons can be. I discovered that rich people can be a very empty and joyless lot. They can be very much depressed, fearful, insecure, and stressed. They would come and drink smoke, gamble, and get involved in some dirty orgies. Most of them were always bitter, angry, weary, full of rage, and easily irritated. One Indian tycoon almost slapped me for speaking loudly during a card game.

During my time at the casino, I had quit Islam altogether and was living a morally loose and carefree life. Despite my immoral and irreligious life, something

deep within kept reminding me that my lifestyle was offensive to God. My will had become so weak and my conscience was very much loaded and burdened with guilty feelings. I felt condemned. Guilt was eating and gnawing my heart away making me restless and fearful. Thoughts of God punishing sinners in hell started running in my mind. I wanted to make peace with God but I didn't know how to do it. Should I go back to the Quran and search? Should I go back to the Mosque? I did not want to go back. I was there and did not get any satisfying and fulfilling answers to my many questions. But where should I go?

Islam is a religion of works. It is all about trying hard to do good deeds. Perhaps your good deeds can take you to heaven; Perhaps not. You cannot be sure. You cannot even be sure that your bad deeds will take you to hell. If your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds, you may go to heaven, but even that you cannot be sure. Talking of good deeds, I knew I didn't stand a chance as a Muslim. I had lived a reckless life. And even if I go back to Islam and try my level best to be a devout Muslim, there was no assurance of going to heaven. I desperately needed assurance. Islam does not

offer assurance. But even if Islam offered assurance of heaven through one's good deeds, I found it very difficult and impossible for me to do all the good deeds. Every time I tried to do good deeds and be a nice man, I failed miserably. In Islam, there is an implied suggestion that the only way you can get the assurance of going to heaven is through fighting for the Islamic faith as a Jihadist. And the only way you can be assured of going to hell is if you become a Christian. I was confused.

I was not stable emotionally. I was a deeply troubled young man. I quit the casino job and briefly got into drug peddling. During that time, I convinced my elder brother to start a high school. We built the structures, took in students and the school was up and running. We had Christian students at the school. These Christian students were invited by a neighboring school to participate in a students' weekend rally. As the school head, I had to accompany the students. I spent time outside as they continued with their singing and fellowship in the hall. At this time, I knew and believed that there is a God who created the heavens and the earth and everything in it but was not sure

which religion/faith to follow anymore, but I was not a Muslim anymore.

The preaching time came and I got in to listen to what the preacher would have to say. I went in and sat down waiting. In his discourse, the preacher said many things that I cannot remember. However, there is one text he quoted and briefly expounded on it. He quoted this verse off the cuff. It was not part of what he was building on in his sermon. I can even say that he veered off from what he was preaching when he quoted this verse. This single verse, I will never forget; Hebrew 9:27 “Just as a man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” This text cut straight to my heart. It came with such penetrating power that some balls of tears immediately formed in my eyes. In passing, he briefly spoke about God’s holiness and the sinfulness of man. He made some remarks on hell and the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. I was deeply moved and sharply cut in my heart by what he said. I was like a sponge, drinking all that he said. I desperately wanted him to expound more on these things. I desperately wanted to hear more about these things. I guess he discovered that he was veering off and the

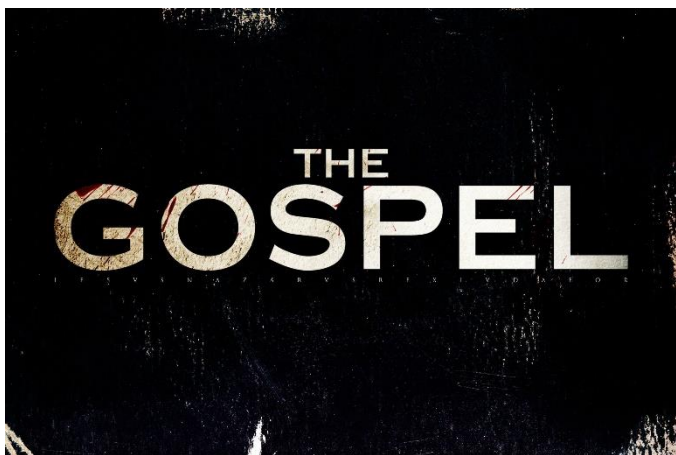
students were no longer attentive so he immediately went back to his discourse.

Of course, I knew he was teaching and preaching from the Bible. So I went home, got myself a copy of the Bible, and began to read and study it. I remember reading and studying the entire Bible consistently from Genesis to Revelation, book after book, chapter after chapter, and verse after verse. I read the entire Bible in around six months. Many times, I would read an entire book in one sitting. Even though I could not understand everything, all my questions were truly answered; ALL OF THEM. I found the Bible to be generally clear, plain, straightforward, and consistent. I have to admit that I came across passages that were difficult to understand. However, generally, I found the central message of the Bible to be plain and clear. All my questions were sufficiently and satisfactorily answered. The Bible came to me with such penetrating power, authority, liveliness, and with a cutting edge in my heart that drove me to tears during some of my reading sessions. With help from other books, I came to a true understanding of who God is, who I am, and who Jesus Christ is and what He has

done to save all those who would come to Him by faith. And that is how my journey with my Savior and Lord Jesus Christ began, and to date, the journey continues.

My dear friend, what I want to share with you in this book is the Gospel that I came to know and believe. That is the heart of this book. My prayer is that after you are done reading this book, you will know what the Gospel is and by God's grace believe the claims of the Gospel. I became a Christian when I knew and believed the claims of the Gospel. My conversion to Christianity was through the Gospel. In part one, I will share with you the claims of the Gospel. Then the commands of the Gospel in part two and finally the Gospel warnings in part three.

PART ONE: THE GOSPEL



SECTION ONE: GOD

HIS EXISTENCE

This book is not an apologetic work. I am not writing to argue for the existence of God for it is a clear and plain fact. God exists! There is one true, living God who created the heavens and the earth; God who created you and me. Whether we accept this fact or not doesn't make any difference. Our agreement or disagreement does not affect or change anything regarding His existence. He exists whether we agree or disagree, whether we believe or not. Consider what the Bible says regarding the existence of God in the following texts:

Isaiah 45:5: "I am the LORD and there is no other; apart from me there is no God"

Isaiah 46:9: "...I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like me."

Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth"

Isaiah 40:28: "The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow weary

*or tired and His understanding no one can fathom.
Isaiah 42:5: “This is what God the LORD says- the
Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who
spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who
gives breath to His people and life to those who walk on
it.”*

*Isaiah 44:24: “This is what the LORD says...” I am
the LORD, the Maker of all things, who stretched out
the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself”*

Friend, you just found yourself in this world.
You did not plan to be here. Did you plan, organize,
and strategize regarding your existence? Did you create
yourself? God created you. You are just a creature.
God is your Creator.

HIS HOLINESS

God is a holy God. He tells us in the Bible that
He is holy:

*Isaiah 6:3: “And they were calling to one another:
“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole
earth is full of his glory”*

*Isaiah 5:16: “...and the holy God will be proved holy
by His righteous acts”*

*Revelation 4:8: “Each of the four living creatures had
six wings and was covered with eyes all round, even
under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was,*

and is, and is to come”

Joshua 24:19: “...He is a holy God...”

1 Samuel 6:20: “And the people of Beth Shemesh asked, ‘who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God?’”

But what does it mean? What does the Bible mean when it says that God is holy? There are two ideas regarding His holiness:

First (Primarily): It means that God is in a class of His own. He is in a category of His own both quantitatively and qualitatively. He is separate from His creation. He cannot be compared with anyone or anything

“With whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare him to?” (Isaiah 40:18) This is a rhetorical question whose answer is no.

Second (Secondarily): It means that God is not evil. He is ethically and morally perfect. He is without sin. He is pure *“Your eyes are too pure to look on evil” (Habakkuk 1:13)*. He cannot sin, *“Surely, God will not act wickedly...” (Job 34:12a NASB)*, He hates sinners. Yes! God being holy hates sinners *“The boastful shall not stand*

before your eyes; you hate all evildoers” (Psalm 5:5 ESV), “The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence” (Psalm 11:5 ESV). He cannot have communion and fellowship with sinners. When Adam and Eve fell into sin when they disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit, God sent them out of the garden “Therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden...” (Genesis 3:23 NASB). Why did God do that? Because He is a holy God and being holy He could not continue to have communion and fellowship with Adam and Eve who had now become sinners.

HIS JUSTICE

“For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice...” (Psalm 11:7) “The LORD loves righteousness and justice...” (Psalm 33:5) See also Psalm 99:4, Psalm 45:6, Isaiah 5:16, Isaiah 9:7, Job 8:3-4, and Job 34:12.

God is a just God. What does it mean? It means that God will and must always do what is right. If God must do what is right, then He must punish sinners. He will by no means let the guilty go unpunished “...*the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished*” (Nahum 1:3) He must punish sinners. The

justice of God demands the punishment of sinners. Justice demands justice. God is the Judge of all the earth. And He judges righteously. He will not just take our sins and shove them under the bed. No, He must punish, and if He forgives, then be assured that someone else has carried the punishment on our behalf. God's forgiveness is costly. When forgiveness comes our way from God, then someone else has taken our punishment. Someone else has carried and suffered our penalty.

You will agree with me that as human beings we love and demand justice always. We even fight for justice. We want judges in our law courts to give justice, and if a judge is corrupt and does not offer justice, we will demand his removal from the bench. We will even demonstrate and protest against any government that is not just.

Let me give you an example; suppose someone you dearly love is sexually abused and killed. The rapist is arrested and taken to court. All evidence proves that he raped and killed your loved one. The rapist himself admits that he raped and killed your loved one. However, the ruling judge says that he will not punish

the rapist because he is a loving, kind, and compassionate judge. The judge says that he will set the rapist free because he loves him. Will that be okay with you? No! Why? Because you want justice! Now, if you want a human judge to be just and offer justice, what about the Judge of all the earth? God, being the Judge of all the earth is and will always be just. And this means that He must punish sinners! If the human judge wants to forgive the rapist because he loves him, then he must take his punishment and go to jail on his behalf. If the rapist is to go to jail for fifty years, the judge has to go to jail for fifty years on his behalf. If the rapist is to be put to death, then the judge should be put to death on his behalf. He cannot just forgive him because he loves him. Justice demands justice. If God shows love and forgives sinners, be assured that the punishment of those sinners has been carried by someone else.

WHAT IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR SIN?

The Bible teaches that the punishment for sin is death “...*the wages of sin is death...*” (*Romans 6:23a*). What does it mean? What does death mean? There are

two ideas:

First: It means **physical death**. Physical death refers to the cessation of the life of your body. The dying of your physical body. Your heart stops beating. Your veins stop circulating blood. You are buried, decay, and decompose in the grave.

Second: It means **spiritual death**. Spiritual death is separation from the presence of God. To be far and shut out from the presence of God is to suffer spiritual death. We say a person is dead spiritually when that person does not have any fellowship, relationship, or communion with God. Spiritual death can be **temporal** or **eternal**. So we have **temporal spiritual death** and **eternal spiritual death**.

Temporal spiritual death: This refers to separation from the presence of God in this life; Living life away and far from God; Living life without having any relationship, communion, or fellowship with God. You are alive and going about your daily activities, but you are just physically alive. It is your physical body that is alive. Your soul is dead. Your soul does not have any relationship, fellowship, and communion with God. You don't know God. You don't feel anything

for Jesus. You don't desire Jesus. You don't love Jesus. You don't want anything to do with Jesus. You are spiritually dead. I hope you know that you have a soul and a body. You are not just a mass of bones and flesh. You have a soul as well. You could be very healthy and going about your daily activities but you are just a healthy body carrying a dead soul inside. Anyone in this life who does not know Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord are spiritually dead. We call this temporal spiritual death because life is very short. You will not live in this world forever. Your life is very temporal.

Eternal spiritual death: This is hell itself where you will be separated and shut out from the presence of God forever. Remember we said you have a soul. You are not just a body. Now, I want you to know that your soul was not created to die. Your soul will never die. Your soul will live forever whether you like it or not.

When you die today, your body will be buried and decay in the grave but your soul will not cease to exist. Death does not end our existence. We have bodies and souls. Death is the separation of body and soul not the end of our personhood. When we die, our

bodies become lifeless and are no longer the place where our souls ‘reside’ but we continue to exist as souls until the resurrection. When you die, your soul immediately departs from your lifeless body and goes straight to hell. As people cry, weep, and mourn during your funeral, your soul is suffering the torments of hell.

My friend, there is nothing like soul sleep. Soul sleep is a lie. Immediately you breathe your last breath, your soul departs your lifeless body and goes straight to hell.

On the day of resurrection- a day is coming when all the dead will be raised from their graves- your soul will be reunited with your body and you will continue to suffer the torments of hell in your body and soul. We call this eternal spiritual death because it will be eternal. It will be forever. You will forever be separated from the presence of God and forever suffer torments in hell.

THE EXAMPLE OF ADAM AND EVE

We have seen that the wages of sin is death. And I have explained what death means. That it is physical and spiritual death.

Now, let’s learn from the example of Adam and Eve. God commanded them not to eat from the

tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the day they will eat from that tree, they will die.

“And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die (Genesis 2:16-17)’

Sin is breaking the commands of God *“Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4)*. So Adam and Eve broke God’s command when they ate from the forbidden tree. They sinned. And since the wages/punishment of sin is death, they deserved to die; to die physically and spiritually there and then. But they did not die physically there and then. They did not immediately die physically. We have said that God is just and that he must punish sinners. And if he will not punish you, then someone else should bear your penalty. In the case of Adam and Eve, God killed (figuratively) an innocent animal on their behalf *“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them” (Genesis 3:21)*. Their punishment (physical death) was figuratively carried by the animal. The animal died (figuratively) on their behalf. The animal was their substitute. The skin was a sign that an animal had been killed. The animal that was killed was innocent. The animal had not committed any sin. The sin of Adam and Eve was (figuratively) laid on the head of the animal and the animal was killed on their behalf. But that was just the physical death. The animal only paid (figuratively) for their physical death. What about their

spiritual death? We have seen that spiritual death is separation from the presence of God. Adam and Eve died spiritually (at least temporarily). They were separated from the presence of God. God sent them out of the garden, out of his very presence "*So the Lord God sent the man out of the Garden of Eden*" (*Genesis 3:23*). So the animal paid for their physical death. They died their own spiritual death (temporarily); they were separated from the presence of God. God is a just God. He must punish sinners.

SECTION TWO: MAN, A DEPRAVED WRETCH

COMMITTED SINS

What is sin? The Bible teaches that sin is breaking the law. Sin is breaking God's law "*Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is transgression of the law.*" (1 John 3:4). The Bible teaches that "...all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Therefore, all of us have broken God's commands in one way or the other.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments are God's moral laws to all people, in all places, in every time, in all cultures and circumstances. All mankind is obliged to keep these moral laws. No one is excluded. Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and even Atheists are under this moral law. The Ten Commandments is the absolute code of conduct given by the King of this cosmos to His creatures. The Creator of the heavens and earth gave a spiritual,

moral, and ethical standard of life. He created us and He has every right to dictate how we ought to live. He is the Lawgiver and Judge of mankind. He gave us the moral law. Look at the Ten Commandments for a moment:

Exodus 20:1-17:

- i. You shall have no other gods before me.
- ii. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow to them or worship them
- iii. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who takes his name in vain
- iv. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- v. Honor your father and mother
- vi. You shall not murder
- vii. You shall not commit adultery
- viii. You shall not steal
- ix. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor
- x. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Looking at God's Laws above, have you kept all of them every time and every day since the day you

were born? No. You have not! The opposite is true. You have broken them every time, every day since the day you were born. The Bible teaches that breaking one of them is the same as breaking all of them *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*” (James 2:10).

But you say, “I have not killed someone.” You are wrong. You have murdered many people, many times. The Bible teaches that being angry with your brother makes you a murderer *“Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer...”* (1 John 3:15). Many times you have been angry with your friends. Therefore, you are a murderer.

Your thoughts, words, and deeds are all sinful. We not only sin by doing bad deeds but also by thinking wicked thoughts and speaking vile words. Again the Bible says that:

...we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles are all under the power of sin. As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their

throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes. (Romans 3:9-18)

My dear friend, you are a sinner and you know it in your heart. You know you have committed many sins. Your conscience is screaming at you. You know that you are wicked, vile, evil, and filthy!

LOVE GOD AND YOUR NEIGHBOR

Jesus Christ summarized the Ten Commandments in two parts:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:29-31)

Now, friend, in your entire life until this very moment, have you loved God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength? Are you consumed and lost in the love for God? If you have not, then you are a sinner. Have you loved your neighbor sincerely, genuinely, and

perfectly? God created us to love Him this way. He created us to love Him, obey Him, follow Him, trust Him, worship Him, serve Him, and revere Him. He created us to glorify Him. God created us to delight in Him, rejoice in Him, and be glad in Him. He created us to live in communion with Him, enjoy Him, and walk with Him daily. In all our lives we ought to find our joy, happiness, fulfillment, satisfaction, purpose, and meaning in God alone. He created us to live for Him! God must be the center and soul of our lives. Anyone who does not love God this way is a sinner. You know you have not loved God this way. You can try to find peace and joy in alcohol but you won't find it there. You may try to find happiness, fulfillment, and satisfaction in sex but you will not find it there. You may try to find your purpose and satisfaction in fame, career success, or money but you will not find it there. Husband, wife, or children cannot give you true joy. Music and movies cannot satisfy you. Even being involved in ministry cannot give you ultimate and true fulfillment. There is nothing in this world that can truly and fully satisfy you. True joy, happiness, fulfillment, and satisfaction are only found in Jesus Christ. Jesus

says in the Bible...

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

Jesus is calling all who are thirsty to drink from His waters. The waters that Jesus gives are spiritual waters. They are not waters of this world. They will quench your thirst forever. You will not be thirsty again. Your soul will not be restless anymore. Your soul will find rest *Jesus said "...whoever drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* (John 4:14)

You are a sinner. You have broken all God's law. You have not loved God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. You don't love your neighbors. You are not finding your joy, satisfaction, and fulfillment in God. Instead, you are seeking joy in other people and things. Even a single sin will take you to hell. The Bible teaches that breaking one of God's laws is the same as breaking all of them *"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking*

all of it.” (James 2:10)

WHAT ABOUT MY GOOD DEEDS?

Our good deeds cannot make us holy, perfect, and acceptable before God. The Bible says that when God looks at our ‘good’ deeds, He sees them like filthy, stinking rags *“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous (good) deeds are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind, our sins sweep us away.” (Isaiah 64:6)*. Where is your hope? God is holy (He hates sinners) and just (He must punish sinners in hell). A just God must punish sinners in hell. Death is surely coming. Hell is real and you are heading there when you die. Where is your hope? Maybe you will die today. Are you ready to die and stand before the throne of a thrice holy God?

SINFUL NATURE

Now, apart from the sins that you have committed, you have a sinful nature. It is your sinful nature that makes you commit sins. You are not a sinner primarily because of the sins you have committed (although those sins make you a sinner). You are a sinner primarily because you were born with a sinful nature. Before you commit sins, you already

have a sinful nature in your heart.

Let me give you an illustration; a mango tree is a mango tree even if we don't see mango fruits on its branches. Even if it does not produce mango fruits, it will continue to remain a mango tree. Why? Because it is a mango tree by nature. Same with you. Even if you don't commit actual sins, even if you don't steal or kill someone, you already have a sinful nature in your heart. A child born today already has a sinful nature in its heart. Sin is in our hearts before we commit sins. It is this sinful nature that pushes and make us commit actual sins. The Bible teaches that this sinful nature is in our hearts:

*The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of **his heart was only evil** continually. (Genesis 6:5)*

*The **heart is deceitful** above all things. And is desperately sick; who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9)*

*For **out of the heart** come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. (Matthew 15:19)*

Even a child that has been born today has this

sinful nature. We are conceived in our mother's wombs and born with a sinful nature in our hearts! The Bible teaches that in the book of Psalms:

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalms 51:5)

SINFUL NATURE INHERITED FROM ADAM

We received this sinful nature from Adam, our first parent. All of us are descendants (children) of Adam. Adam was created holy by God but he fell into sin “*God created man upright but they have gone in search of many schemes*” (Ecclesiastes 7:29). God did not create Adam with a sinful nature. It is Adam himself who fell into sin. Adam passed this sinful nature to all mankind. The Bible teaches that in the book of Romans: “...*sin entered the world through one man (Adam).*” (Romans 5:12)

SLAVES TO SIN

You are under the power of this sinful nature. You cannot help yourself out of it. This sinful nature is controlling you. The Bible says that you are a slave of this sinful nature “...*I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.*” (Romans 7:14). This sinful nature is your master and you are a slave to it. A slave always listens to their master and does what the master says. Same with you.

You always listen to your sinful nature and do what it tells you. You cannot do otherwise. That's why you always find yourself doing bad deeds. Your sinful nature will always lead you to commit sins. This is what the Bible teaches in the book of Romans:

We know that the law is spiritual but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing. Now, if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being, I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? (Romans 7:14-24)

You may try to do good deeds but you will always fail. You may try to stop sexual immorality or stealing but you will always fail. You may try to stop watching pornography and masturbation but you will always fail. You may try to stop slander and gossip but

you find yourself always failing. Why? Because your master is called “sinful nature”, and he will always and only lead you to commit sins. My dear friend, you are under the power of sin. You are a slave to sin. You are a powerless and hopeless slave! This sinful nature is destroying your life now and will ultimately lead you to hell.

THE ESSENCE OF SIN

At this point, I want to bring to your attention something that I consider very important. I have shown you from the Bible that we have inherited a sinful nature from Adam. I want to show you in summary how this sinful nature looks like. This sinful nature that you have inherited from Adam is at heart a God-hating and a man-hating nature.

You cannot and will not love God, nor can you love your fellow man (in a way that glorifies God). Your nature hates God and the things of God. You hate the Bible and Bible study. You hate prayer and fellowship. You can fake and pretend to love God but deep down you know that your heart is very cold and don't feel anything for God. You can even be a churchgoer, take part in Bible studies, prayer,

fellowship and sing with others but it can all be faking. If you can sincerely examine yourself, you will find that you do not have any genuine love for God. Your heart is cold. Your hearts are as hard as stone. Your heart is sinful. Until God himself changes your heart, until God himself give you a heart of flesh, until God himself deals with your sinful nature and give you a new heart, you cannot love him genuinely and sincerely.

You cannot love your neighbor as well (in a way that glorifies God). You have a God-hating and man-hating nature.

You will never be able to genuinely love God and fellow man. You will never be able to do good deeds that bring glory to God unless you repent of your sins and surrender your life to Jesus Christ until you trust in Jesus Christ until you believe in Jesus Christ until you commit your life to Jesus Christ until you rest in Jesus Christ.

Once you repent and surrender your life to Jesus Christ, He will become your new Master and sin will no longer be your master. Jesus Christ will give you the Holy Spirit who will enable you to do good deeds that please God. Without the Holy Spirit, you are not

able to do anything good or pleasing before God's eyes. If you repent and believe in Jesus Christ, you will receive the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that in the book of Acts "*...Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" (Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit will give you the power to fight, battle, and defeat your sinful nature.

YOUR TWO PROBLEMS

You see friend, you have two problems:

First: There is the punishment (penalty) of sin that awaits you. God is a just God. He must punish sinners. The punishment is eternal hell. And hell is surely waiting for you. It is real. This is your first problem.

Second: There is the power of sin. Your sinful nature is your master. It is controlling you. You are just a helpless slave. Sin is ruining and destroying your life now. You are helpless. Alcohol drinking is destroying your life and you are not able to stop. Sexual immorality is ruining your marriage. Smoking is destroying your health and you are not able to stop. The power of sin has mastered and conquered you. It

is destroying your life. This is your second problem.

For all these problems, Jesus Christ is the only help; No one else. No other person. It's either you come to Jesus or perish. It's either you come to Jesus or you will remain lost, barren, wasted, pitiful, blind, and naked; now and forever. Without Jesus Christ, you are lost in this life and you will perish in the life to come! However, you cannot come, follow, believe, trust, surrender, or rest in someone you do not know. Let me show you in the next section who Jesus Christ is and what He has done to save His people from sin.

SECTION THREE: JESUS CHRIST, THE SAVIOR

A SAVIOR FROM SIN

Jesus Christ is the Savior. He is the only Savior, the only help for your sin problem. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ came to save sinners from sin. To save sinners from the power of sin and punishment of sin (Hell). And He is the only Savior “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12). Jesus Christ came into the world to save His people from their sin:

*Matthew 1:21: “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**”*

*Romans 4:25: “He (Jesus Christ) was delivered over to death **for our sins**...”*

*Galatians 1:3-4: “...the Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself **for our sins** to rescue us from the present evil age...”*

1 Timothy 1:15: “...Christ Jesus came into the world

*to **save sinners...***"

*1 Peter 2:24: "He (Jesus Christ) Himself bore **our sins** in His body on the cross..."*

*1 Peter 3:18: "For Christ also suffered **for (our) sins...**"*

Jesus came to the world for one reason and one reason alone: to save His people from sin; from the power of sin and the penalty of sin (Hell)! Jesus Christ did not come to make you rich. He did not come to make your business prosper. He did not come so that you can get a promotion at your workplace. He did not come so that you can drive a Range Rover or a BMW. Jesus Christ is not an ATM machine! He is not the lucky jackpot number. If you want to become rich, work hard in school, or become an entrepreneur. The richest men in the world are not Christians! Check the Forbes list of the world's one hundred richest men and tell me how many of them are Christians. Some of the richest men in the world are Atheists! And they are rich! If you are coming to Jesus because you want earthly riches, you need to change your attitude immediately! Listen to what the Bible teaches about the desire and love for material wealth:

But godliness and contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root for all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:6-10)

*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**. (Colossians 3:1-2)*

Jesus Christ himself gave a sharp warning regarding the love of material wealth:

Jesus said to people, ...Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions. (Luke 12:15)

Jesus said, the seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word making it unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22)

Jesus said, what good will it be for someone to gain the whole world yet forfeit their soul? (Matthew 16:26)

Jesus gave the following parable to warn us against the love and desire for material things and

financial wealth:

Jesus said The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I will say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink and be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you... (Luke 12:16-21)

My dear friend, listen to me; money, cars, education, fame, big houses, and job promotion are not the most important questions of life. The most important questions of life are these; **God, Jesus Christ, death, the grave, heaven, and hell.** Think about these. Think about the eternal destiny of your soul. Where will you spend eternity? Friend, you don't even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. You are destined to die once and after that to stand before a holy God and face judgment. Think!

Now, I am not saying that it is wrong for Christians to become rich. It is very much okay for

Christians to have money, cars, and build nice houses. What I am saying is that Jesus Christ did not die on the cross to give us material wealth and financial prosperity. The purpose of His coming and dying on the cross was to save us from sin and reconcile us to God. He died so that believing sinners could have a relationship, fellowship, and communion with God. Now, let's see who Jesus Christ is and what he has done to save you from your sin.

HIS VIRGIN BIRTH

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin woman called Mary. Jesus Christ did not have an earthly biological father. His pregnancy was not a result of a man and a woman coming together in sexual intercourse. He was not the product of man's seed. The virgin girl, Mary, only provided a womb in which Jesus Christ was conceived.

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 pregnant through the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18)

When Joseph found that Mary was pregnant and he had not had any sexual intercourse with her, he

wanted to divorce her. However, when Joseph was still thinking about this, an angel of God appeared to him and said the following words:

...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. (Matthew 1:20)

Here is another description of how the birth of Jesus Christ came about:

...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...' Mary asked the angel, 'How will this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the one to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:26)

Maybe you are asking 'Is it possible for a woman to conceive without a man?' The answer is yes! It is possible. Such a thing is not difficult for our God who created the heavens and the earth and everything

in it. Is anything too hard for God?

NECESSITY OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Was it necessary to have the pregnancy of Jesus conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin? Yes, it was necessary. It was necessary so that Jesus Christ could be born and be truly human without a sinful nature. Remember, we have said that sin entered the world through one man, Adam. Therefore, since Jesus Christ is not the product of any man's seed, He was truly human without the inherited sinful nature that we all have inherited from Adam. Adam, being the first father and representative of mankind passed his sinful nature to the entire human race. Jesus Christ was truly human without a sinful nature. Jesus did not descend from Adam in the same way every other human being has descended from Adam. Also, miraculously, the Holy Spirit who conceived Jesus Christ in the womb of the virgin prevented the transmission of sin from Mary to Jesus.

*The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So **the holy one to be born** will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)*

NECESSITY OF CHRIST'S HOLINESS

Now, another question comes up. Was it necessary for Jesus Christ to be born without a sinful nature? Why was it necessary for Jesus Christ to be holy, blameless, pure, and sinless? It was necessary so that He could be able to stand in the place of His sinful people and save them.

Let me use an illustration (This illustration has its limitation. Let's look at it on the surface); suppose two men are guilty of suicide bombing and they are given a death sentence by the ruling judge. Now, between these two criminals, who can save the other from the death penalty? No one can save his friend. Why? Because both of them are guilty criminals and all of them have death penalties. Now, suppose one of the criminals is a son to the judge who has given the death penalty. The judge can say, I will stand in the place of my son and die his death. The judge can save his son because he is not guilty, he does not have a death sentence to carry.

If Jesus Christ had a sinful nature, then He could not save His people from sin because He would already be under the same punishment of sin. Just like

the two criminals; how could Jesus save us from death because of our sin if He has His sin and is under the punishment of death? He couldn't! Therefore, He had to be holy.

FULLY MAN AND FULLY GOD

Jesus Christ is two natures in one person. Or if you like, He is one person made up of two natures. He is truly and fully man. He is also truly and fully God. We can rightly call him the God-man Jesus Christ.

FULLY MAN

He had a human body. He was born and grew up like any other man.

Became strong: *"And the child (Jesus Christ) grew and became strong..." (Luke 2:40)*

He got tired: *"...and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well..." (John 4:6)*

He got thirsty: *"When the Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' (John 4:7)*

He became hungry: *"After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry." (Matthew 4:2)*

He had hands and feet: *Jesus said to them, "Look at my hands and feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see..." (Luke 24:39)*

He ate: *“They gave him a piece of broiled fish and he took it and ate it in their presence.” (Luke 24:42-43)*

He had a human mind: *“And Jesus grew in Wisdom...” (Luke 2:52)*

He had a human soul: *Jesus said, “My soul is troubled...” (John 12:27) Jesus said, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death...” (Matthew 26:38)*

In some texts in the Bible, Jesus is referred to as “man”. *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5) “...Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested by God to you...” (Acts 2:22)*

We have seen that Jesus Christ was fully man. But was it necessary for Jesus Christ to be fully man? Yes, it was necessary for the following two reasons:

- i) We have seen that man is a sinner. Man has broken the law of God. Man has broken all the commandments of God. Therefore, Jesus Christ had to be a man so that He can stand in the place of man and obey all the commandments of God on their behalf. You have broken all the commandments of God. Jesus Christ became man so that He can fully and perfectly obey the commands of God on

your behalf if you believe in Him. You are a lawbreaker while Jesus Christ is a law keeper. You disobeyed God all your life while the man Jesus Christ has obeyed God all His life. If you believe in Jesus Christ, your disobedience will be transferred to Him and His obedience transferred to you. When you believe in Jesus Christ, a divine exchange immediately happens; Jesus Christ takes all your sins and He gives you all His righteousness. And when you stand before the judgment throne of a thrice holy God, He will not see your sins because your sins and all your disobedience has been taken by Jesus Christ. God will not see your sins but instead will see the obedience and righteousness that the man Jesus Christ has given you.

- ii) Jesus had to be a man so that He can die for His people; So that He can die on behalf of His people. Remember we have seen that the wages of sin is death. Sinners are to be punished by death. God being just, He will and must punish sinners by death. And if God is to forgive, then someone else has to carry the death penalty

(punishment). Jesus Christ is the substitute of His people. God took the death penalty (punishment) of the people He wanted to forgive and laid it on the head and shoulders of the man Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ died on their behalf. Because Jesus Christ came to save man, he had to be truly and fully man.

FULLY GOD

Jesus Christ was not just fully man but He was also fully God. Jesus Christ is God Himself who took on a human body. When we look at Jesus Christ, we are looking at God Himself. When we see Jesus Christ, we have seen God Himself. Jesus Christ was and is God in a human body. Like we said at the beginning, Jesus Christ is two natures in one person. Let's see what the Bible teaches about Jesus being God:

Romans 9:5: "Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Christ who is God over all, forever praised!"

Titus 2:13: "while we wait for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:1: "...To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ..."

Colossians 2:9: "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."

Was it necessary for Jesus Christ to be fully God? Yes, it was necessary for the following reason:

We have seen that sinners will be punished by being sent to eternal hell. This is spiritual death. Hell is eternal. Sinners will suffer hell forever. But man is not eternal. The punishment is eternal but man is not eternal. So if someone wants to take man's punishment and suffer that punishment in full, that person has to be eternal because the punishment is eternal. Therefore, Jesus Christ had to be truly and fully God because it is only God who is eternal and can take the eternal penalty.

GOD THE SON (SON OF GOD)

We have seen above that Jesus Christ is God Himself. It is important to note that Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Godhead. God is **one** existing in three distinct Persons. I have **not** said, three Gods. I have said one God existing in three Persons. The First-person is God the Father, the second Person is God the Son and the third Person is God the Holy Spirit.

Each of these Persons is fully God. God the Father is fully God. God the Son is fully God. God the Holy Spirit is fully God. We should **never** think that the title “God the Son” means that He is inferior or less than “God the Father” No! God the Son and God the Father are equally God. No one is inferior or superior to the other. All three Persons of the Godhead are equally and fully God.

It is God the Son who took on a human body and became man in Jesus Christ. As we have seen, Jesus Christ did not become the Son of God when He became man. He was already the Son of God even before He became man. He is the eternal Son of God.

In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning...The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only Son, who came from the Father... (John 1:1,2,14)

For God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

HIS PERFECTLY RIGHTEOUS LIFE

We have seen that Jesus Christ did not have a sinful nature like us because He was born of a virgin woman. He has a holy and pure nature. His heart is perfectly holy and pure. Apart from not having a sinful nature, Jesus Christ did not commit any actual sins. He did not commit even one sin. In his entire life here on earth, Jesus Christ did not commit any single sin. His thoughts were perfectly holy and pure. His words were perfectly holy and pure. His deeds were perfectly holy and pure.

This is to mean that Jesus Christ kept God's moral law perfectly well. He obeyed all the commandments of God. He did not break even one of the Ten Commandments. He loved God perfectly. He loved God with all His heart, soul, strength, and mind. Jesus Christ prized and treasured God more than anything or anyone else. He delighted and rejoiced in God with all his heart, soul, strength, and mind. He also loved his neighbors perfectly well. He did not sin towards God. He also did not sin towards man.

Let's see what the Bible says about the life of Jesus Christ:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses but we have one (Jesus Christ) who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrew 4:15)

Such a high priest (Jesus Christ) truly meets our needs. One who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners... (Hebrew 7:26)

When the Jews asked Pilate to crucify and kill Jesus, Pilate said the following words:

Pilate said, "You brought me this man (Jesus Christ) ...I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither does Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death." (Luke 23:14)

As soon as the chief priests and their officers saw him (Jesus Christ), they shouted, 'Crucify! Crucify!' But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him. (John 19:6)

After betraying Jesus, Judas said the following words as recorded in the Bible:

When Judas who had betrayed him saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, 'I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood. (Matthew 27:3-4)

Jesus Christ never committed any sin. He lived a perfectly righteous life. And all those who will believe

in Jesus Christ will receive His righteous life. The moment you put your faith in Jesus Christ, His perfectly righteous life becomes yours and your sinful life is transferred to Him. You exchange places. Jesus Christ takes your sin and sins and He gives you His perfect righteousness.

HIS CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH

Jesus Christ was crucified and died on a cross. The crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ is a historical fact. It is recorded in the Bible in four different accounts by four different authors; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Let's see what the Bible teaches about his crucifixion and death in one of the four accounts. We will look at the account of Matthew.

Then he (Pilate) released Barabbas for them. But he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified. Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorian and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. They said, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They spit on him and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then, they led him away to be crucified. As they were going out, they met a

man from Cyrene named Simon and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means 'the place of the skull'). There they offered Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right, and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!' In the same way, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. They said, 'He saved others but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.' In the same way, the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' (Which means, 'My God my God, why have you forsaken me?') ...And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit (he died). At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs and after Jesus' resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him

who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!' Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs..." (Matthew 27:26-56)

WHY DID JESUS CHRIST DIE?

We have seen that the punishment for sin is death. And death is both physical and spiritual. We have also seen that Jesus Christ was and is pure, holy, blameless, and sinless. He did not have a sinful nature and he did not commit any sins. Now, if Jesus Christ was holy and without sin, why did He suffer death? Why did He die if He was holy? If it is only sinners who are to be punished by death, then Jesus Christ did not deserve to die because He was not a sinner. Why then did He die on a cross? Jesus Christ died on behalf of His people. He died on behalf of all those who would believe in Him. On the cross, Jesus Christ took the sins of His people and the death penalty of His people:

He (Jesus Christ) himself bore our sins in his body on the cross... (1 Peter 2:24)

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly...But God

demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6,8)

It is like the case of Adam and Eve; an animal was killed on their behalf. The animal had not committed any sin. The animal was innocent. But God figuratively took the sins of Adam and Eve and laid them on the head of the innocent animal and killed it on behalf of Adam and Eve. The same thing happened with Jesus Christ. God took the sins of His people and laid them on the head of Jesus Christ and punished Jesus on behalf of the people He loved *“God made him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us...” (1 Corinthians 5:21)*. God judged, condemned, cursed, forsook, damned, and punished Jesus on behalf of His people. Remember we said that God is a just God. Being just, he must punish sinners. And if He forgives you, then someone else has carried your death penalty. It is God himself who punished and judged Jesus Christ on the cross *“Yet it was the LORD’S will to crush him (Jesus) and cause him to suffer...” (Isaiah 53:10)* Jesus Christ satisfied the divine wrath. He satisfied God’s divine justice.

THE LOVE OF GOD

It is at the cross of Jesus where we see the love of God for His people. God is a loving God towards His people. He is a loving, gracious, kind, compassionate, and merciful God. The love of God towards His people is abundantly and fully displayed at the cross of Jesus Christ. God hates sin and sinners and He must punish sinners. But out of His great and tender love, He takes the sin and sins of His people and places them on the head of His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is then punished for the sins of those that God deeply loved.

Those who believe in Jesus Christ are safe. Their sins have been paid in full by Jesus Christ. God will not punish them again for Jesus Christ has already taken their penalty. They have an assurance of going to heaven because Jesus Christ has taken and suffered their hell torments on the cross. Once you are in Christ, you are certain and fully assured of eternal life. You are assured of spending eternity rejoicing in the presence of God in His Kingdom. God will not remember your sins anymore. Jesus Christ has paid for you. You know and are very sure that if you die today, you are going

straight to heaven; not because you have done many good deeds but because Jesus Christ has done those good deeds for you and has died on your behalf.

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)

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9)

CHRIST'S PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL DEATH

We have seen that the death punishment is both physical and spiritual. Therefore, if Jesus Christ took our death penalty then He died a physical death and a spiritual death.

CHRIST'S PHYSICAL DEATH

This is the death of the body; the cessation of the life of the body of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ died on the cross. His heart stopped beating, his veins stopped circulating blood and He died. He was taken

down from the cross and His body was buried. He died physically.

CHRIST'S SPIRITUAL DEATH

Many times, we look at the physical sufferings of Jesus Christ and stop there. Yes, he was flogged, spat on, slapped on the face, and made to carry the cross. During his crucifixion on the cross, He suffered a great physical pain that we cannot even begin to imagine. His appearance was indeed disfigured beyond human recognition and his form marred beyond human likeness. The physical suffering was part of the penalty. It was part of the wrath of God. However, I want you to know that in as much as His physical sufferings were great, the torments, agony, horror, and sufferings in his soul were greatest. On the cross, Jesus Christ suffered the torments and pangs of hell itself! It was God Himself who inflicted the greatest judgment on Jesus, not the Roman soldiers. *Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush him (Jesus) and cause him to suffer..." (Isaiah 53:10)*

Spiritual death like we have already said is separation from the presence of God. To be cast out of the very presence of God. To be forsaken by God.

To be shut out and banished from the presence of God. To suffer hell itself. While on the cross, Jesus Christ was separated from the presence of God. He was forsaken by God. Jesus Christ could no longer behold the beauty and glory of God and rejoice in it. On the cross, Jesus Christ could no longer experience the love, mercy, kindness, and grace of God. All that Jesus Christ experienced on the cross was the fierce anger, wrath, and judgment of God. He was judged, damned and cursed by God when He was on the cross. On the cross, Jesus Christ suffered the wrath of God that sinners will eternally suffer in hell.

While on the cross Jesus Christ cried out in a loud voice, *“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”* But why was Jesus Christ forsaken by God? Why was He separated from the presence of God? Because, while on the cross, Jesus Christ was carrying on His head and shoulders all the sin and sins of His people and God being holy could not continue to look upon Christ. God being holy could not continue to have communion and fellowship with Jesus Christ who was now carrying sins on His head. Remember we said that God is holy; He hates sinners and cannot have any

fellowship or communion with them. Jesus Christ was carrying all the sins of those He had come to save and so God forsook Him.

JESUS SUFFERED HELL ON THE CROSS

We have said that spiritual death is suffering the torments of hell itself. Our sins are taking us to hell. Jesus Christ took the sins of His people on the cross. And if He took their sins, He also suffered their torments of hell on the cross. He drank the torments of hell on the cross. The exact measure of God's wrath that sinners will suffer in eternal hell, Jesus suffered it on the cross. Let's see some few parallels between **hell** and the **cross** and you will see that while on the cross, Jesus was suffering the very torments of hell:

First: Hell is **outside**. Sinners will be thrown outside *"And throw that worthless servant **outside**, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* (Matthew 25:30). Jesus Christ was crucified and suffered **outside** the city gate *"And so Jesus also suffered **outside** the city gate to make the people holy..."* (Hebrew 13:12)

Second: There is **darkness** in hell *"And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will*

*be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 25:30). While on the cross, **darkness** came over the whole land “From noon until three in the afternoon, **darkness** came over all the land.” (Matthew 27:45)*

Third: In hell, people are **forsaken** by God. While on the cross, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “My God, My God, why have you **forsaken** me?”

Fourth: Hell is the most terrifying, ultimate, and final **curse** on any man “...*Depart from me you who are **cursed** into the eternal fire...*” (Matthew 25:41) Jesus Christ took this curse for us on the cross “*Christ redeemed us from the **curse** of the law by becoming a **curse** for us...*” (Galatians 3:13)

Fifth: Jesus Christ drank **the cup** on the cross Jesus prayed, “...*My Father if it not possible for this **cup** to be taken away unless I **drink** it, may your will be done.*” (Matthew 26:42). The **cup** that Jesus Christ **drank** on the cross contained the wrath of God. The cup contained the fierce fury, anger, wrath, and judgment of God. The cup contained the very torments of hell. While on the cross, Jesus was judged, damned, cursed, and crushed by God Himself.

*Jeremiah 25:15: "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel said to me, 'Take from my hand this **cup** filled with the wine of my **wrath** and make all the nations to whom I send you to drink it.'"*

Jeremiah 49:12: "This is what the LORD says, 'If those who do not deserve to drink the cup must drink it, why should you go unpunished? You must not go unpunished but must drink it.'"

*Isaiah 51:17: "Awake, awake! Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the **cup** of his **wrath**."*

Isaiah 51:22: "This what your Sovereign LORD says, your God who defends his people: 'See, I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger; from that cup, the goblet of my wrath...'"

*Revelation 14:10-11: "They too will **drink** the wine of **God's fury** which has been poured full strength into the **cup** of his **wrath**. They will be tormented with burning sulfur...and the smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever. There will be no rest day or night..."*

My dear friend here is your Savior Jesus Christ who is very able and willing to save you from your sin and its penalty. Will you come to him today? You should come to him, my friend.

HIS BURIAL AND RESURRECTION

BURIAL:

After His death, Jesus' body was taken from the cross and was buried in a tomb.

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it with the spices in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (John 19:38-42)

RESURRECTION:

On the third day, Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He has risen! He is risen indeed! His resurrection is a historical fact. He rose from the dead literally with a real physical body from a real tomb in real-time.

After the Sabbath, 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, he 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 is risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you in Galilee. There you will see him...' (Matthew 28:1-7)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead has the following significance:

- i. It showed that Jesus had finished paying the penalty for our sins. That he had finished dying our death and that we are finally free. Let me use an illustration; suppose you are to be jailed for ten years and your friend says that he will go to jail on your behalf. You walk out of the prison cell and your friend walks in. Even though you will go home, you will neither be free nor feel free until the ten years are over and your friend walks out of the prison cell. Your friend walking out of prison is a sign that he has finally finished paying for your offense and now you are truly free. Jesus Christ rising from the dead

was a sign that He had finished dying our death and now we are finally and truly free.

- ii. It showed that God had accepted His payment for our sins on the cross and that His people will not bear that punishment again. And all those who believe in Jesus Christ have their penalty paid for and will not carry it again. Jesus Christ has taken care of it and God has accepted.
- iii. The resurrection is a sign that Jesus Christ has defeated death, grave, hell, the devil, and the entire kingdom of darkness. Jesus Christ has conquered, mastered, and triumphed over all the enemies of mankind; death, grave, hell, the devil, and the entire kingdom of darkness. And all who believe in Jesus Christ have conquered with Him. The victory of Jesus Christ becomes the victory of all who believe in Him. Those who believe in Jesus Christ have conquered death, the grave, hell, the devil, and the entire kingdom of darkness.

HIS ASCENSION

After His resurrection, Jesus stayed with His disciples for forty days and then ascended into heaven:

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:9-11)

When he (Jesus) had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. (Luke 24:50-51)

In heaven, Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father. He is crowned and enthroned as King. He is not just a king but the King of kings and Lord of lords. At this very moment, as you read this book, Jesus is sovereignly reigning as the King of this universe. Everything is under His feet.

God has raised this Jesus to life and we are witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God. (Acts 2:32-33)

...when he (God) raised Jesus Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and above every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything... (Ephesians 1:20-22)

HIS INTERCESSORY MINISTRY

In heaven, Jesus is also praying for His people.

...Christ Jesus, who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)

but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.” (Hebrew 7:24-25)

The prayers of Jesus are keeping all who believe in Him. Through His prayers, we will run and finish this race of faith victoriously.

HIS SECOND COMING

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord (Jesus Christ), will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord (Jesus Christ) himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the

trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)

For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven 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. (Matthew 24:27,30,31)

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice, he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and his name is Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:11-16)

Friend, here is Jesus Christ; He was crucified and died, buried and raised from the dead, ascended into heaven, seated at the right hand of God as King

of this universe, and will be back! Jesus Christ will be back. He will be back!

His first coming was full of humiliation and poverty but His second coming will be full of unimaginable riches and glory. He came in weakness but will be back in power. He came in loneliness but will be back with a countless number of angels and His redeemed people. He was mocked by the Roman soldiers who placed a staff in His hand as a scepter but He will be back with an iron scepter. In mockery and ridicule, the Roman soldiers placed a crown of thorns on his head but He will be back with many crowns on His head. He was despised, rejected, mocked, betrayed, spat on, slapped, flogged, insulted by mankind but at His second coming, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is indeed KING of kings and LORD of lords!

At His second coming, those of us who will have died in Christ will be raised from our graves and we will be given new and glorified bodies never to die again. We will finally and ultimately defeat death and the grave. We will rise victoriously from our graves to reign with Him and rejoice in His glorious eternal

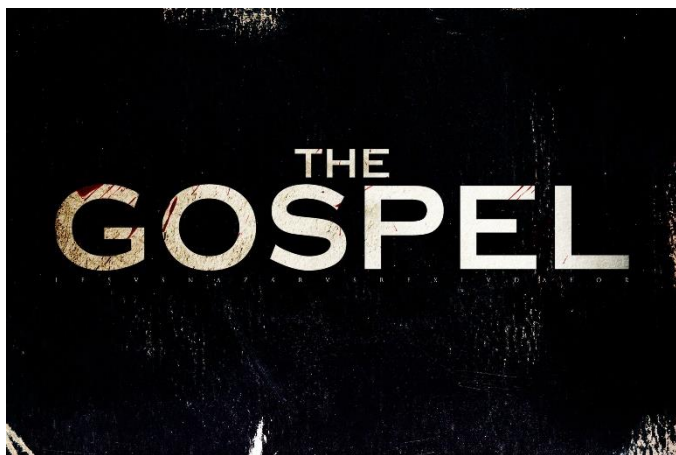
kingdom. Those who had not believed in Christ will also be raised from their graves. They will also be given other bodies; bodies that are suited for hell.

The following passage in the Bible speaks of the resurrection of those who had believed in Jesus Christ:

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed. In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:51-54)

That is the blessed Christian hope. We are waiting. We long for His appearing. And he who promised is faithful. He will be back.

PART TWO: GOSPEL COMMANDS



SECTION ONE: REPENTANCE

REPENTANCE AND FAITH

*In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now he **commands** all people everywhere to **repent**. (Acts 17:30)*

*And this is his **command**: to **believe** in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ... (1 John 3:23)*

You know you are a sinner. You know you are under the power and control of sin. You know that your sin and sins will take you to hell. You know that Jesus Christ is your only Savior. You know that He died on the cross; that He suffered the torments of hell on the cross on behalf of His people. But you ask, “What can I do to be saved?” The answer is “Repent and believe!” But what is repentance? What is believing (faith)? In this part, I will explain what repentance and faith are so that as you consider repenting and believing, you know exactly what you are required to do.

Before we go into the details, let me say upfront that the moment you come to God in repentance and faith, all your sins will be forgiven. All your past, present, and future sins will be forgiven. God will not remember your sins anymore.

Repentance essentially involves the following:

CHANGE OF MIND

True and genuine repentance must start with a change of mind. Your mind should change concerning God, Jesus Christ, yourself, and judgment. Your thinking should radically change concerning what I have mentioned. For example, once you never thought that God exists but now your thinking should change regarding God's existence. You never thought that God is holy, now your thinking should change regarding God's holiness. You never thought that God is just and that He must punish sinners, now you know and think that God is indeed just and must punish sinners. It never crossed your mind that God will punish sinners in eternal hell, now you think and know that hell awaits you. You never thought that you are a sinner, now your mind knows that you are wicked. This is what we mean by a change of mind. True and

genuine repentance must involve this radical change of your mind. Let's see this in the Bible:

*After I strayed, I repented; after I **came to understand**, I beat my breast. I was ashamed and humiliated because I bore the disgrace of my youth. (Jeremiah 31:19)*

Do you see that? He repented after he **came to understand**. There are certain things his mind did not understand before. Once his mind understood those things, he was on the repentance road. Let's look at another passage in the Bible teaching the same thing. This one is a parable that Jesus Christ gave:

*...There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When **he came to his senses**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. But while*

he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. (Luke 15:11-24)

The above parable teaches us a lesson on repentance as a change of mind. But before we look at that, let's get some lessons that this parable is teaching us on the dynamics of the life of sin:

First: This son wanted independence. He did not want his father to control his life. He did not want to submit to his father, get permission from him or receive his instructions. He took his share and left his father's house to a distant country. This is the same as you as a sinner. You want independence from God. You want to run your own life and do your stuff. You don't want God to control your life. You do not want to submit to God or follow His commands. You live life in a distant country, far away from the presence of God. But your home should be where God is. You have left home, away from God. And you are alone in a distant country.

Second: This son did not leave home with his own money. He asked for money from his father. He wanted to leave home and be independent but he did not have his resources to take care of himself. Just like

you as a sinner. You don't want to submit to God. You don't want to listen to what God has to say. You want to run your own life and do your stuff. But who gives your life? Who is giving your daily breath? Did you create yourself? All that you have comes from God that you so hate. The Bible teaches that you were created by God and it is God who is sustaining you every day (Hebrew 1:3).

Third: He spent and finished all that he had. A severe famine hit the land. He was employed to feed pigs. At some point, he was too hungry that he desired to eat the pig's food. Running away from God does exactly this. And even more! Friend, the pleasures of sin are fleeting. They are like a mist. They don't last. You can drink and party and be involved in sexual immorality but such joys will neither last nor satisfy. They will leave you even emptier. In the distant country, the son became barren, wasted, lost, and desperate to an extent that he desired to eat the pig's food. He was very desperate!

Fourth: Finally, life caught up with this son. Surely, life is good at teaching us lessons. ***He came to his senses.*** His thinking changed. His thoughts

changed. His mind changed. This is repentance! He started thinking about home. He started thinking about his father. He thought about his sins. He thought about asking his father for forgiveness. This is repentance! His mind changed! What are you thinking about God? What are you thinking about your sins? Are you thinking about going back home?

Fifth: He got up and went back home. His gracious, loving, kind, merciful, and compassionate father ran to him, hugged him, kissed him, and welcomed him back home. Friend, don't wait for life to catch up with you. Come back home to your God in repentance. He is loving, kind, gracious, compassionate, and merciful. He will hug you, kiss you, and welcome you back home. Friend now is the favorable time, now is the day of salvation. You can come home to God. You should come home to God. You must come home to God. Will you come home to God? I beg you, friend. I urge you, friend. I plead with you, friend, come home to God in repentance.

CHANGE OF HEART

We have discussed a change of mind above. But it is important to know that repentance is not just an intellectual understanding and approval of facts. After your mind has changed, there should be brokenness in your heart over sin. The sins that you once loved with all your heart, you now hate with all your heart. There should be heartfelt sorrow, remorse, and grief over your sins. For example; you loved sexual immorality with all your heart but now you hate and abhor it with all your heart. The son in the parable above was heartbroken. His sinful life broke him. His barren lost and wasted life finally broke him. Let's see more examples regarding change of heart in the Bible:

*My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, **I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.** (Job 42:6)*

To despise oneself and sit in dust and ashes shows that one's heart is broken a million pieces. It is no longer a hardened heart but a heart of flesh, a contrite and penitent heart.

See another example from the Bible below:

*And if they have **a change of heart** in the land where they are held captive, and **repent** and plead with*

*you in the land of their conquerors and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly;' and if they **turn back to you with all their heart and soul** in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray towards the land you gave their fathers, towards the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name; then from heaven your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their plea and uphold their cause. **And forgive your people who have sinned** against you; **forgive all the offenses** they have committed against you... (1 Kings 8:47-50)*

Friend, do you sense this change of heart? Do you have this change of heart?

CHANGE OF WILL

We have discussed a change of heart above. However, it is important to know that sorrow, remorse, grief, and brokenness does not mean that one has genuinely repented unless it is accompanied by a sincere decision and commitment to forsake your sin and turn towards God and endeavor to live a holy life. This decision and commitment to forsake your life of sin happens in your will. Mere weeping, mourning, and crying do not mean that one has genuinely repented. You can weep and cry a bucket of tears and still not have repented. Your will should make a decision and a

commitment to forsake your life of sin and turn to God. There should be a turning away from sin and a turning towards God.

Repentance is not only a change of mind and a heartfelt sorrow over one's sins but also a willing renunciation of sin, a forsaking of a sinful life, and a sincere commitment to turn towards God and walk in newness of life and obedience to God.

Let us see examples from the Bible: What happened to the son in the parable above?

First: He came to his senses. His mind changed.

Second: He was heartbroken over his lost status and sinful life.

Third: His will changed. He did something. He made a decision and a commitment to forsake his sinful life. He got up and went back home to his father. My dear friend, don't just be broken over your sins. Don't just be broken over your barren, lost, and wasted life. Decide. Make a decision. Commit and get up! Go back home to your God.

...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. (1 Thessalonians 1:9)

Did you see that? The people turned towards God and started living a life serving God. But they had also turned away from their old sinful life. They were worshiping idols! It was a sinful life! This is what repentance should look like. Not just a change of mind and brokenness in one's heart but forsaking that life of sin and seeking to serve and obey God.

Here is another example from the Bible:

*Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. **Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.** (Isaiah 55:6-7)*

Again, the wicked are called to forsake their ways. They are asked to turn away from their sin. And turn towards God. The change of mind, heart and will in repentance is essentially and ultimately a turning away from sin and a turning towards God.

IS MY REPENTANCE GENUINE?

How will you know that you have truly and sincerely repented? How will you know that your repentance is genuine and not fake repentance? If your repentance continues and lasts for a lifetime, then it is

genuine repentance. Repentance is not just a matter of a single moment. You will indeed start repenting in a moment. Your repentance will begin at a moment. But if it is genuine and true repentance, it will continue in your entire life until the day you die or the day Jesus Christ comes to take you home.

Genuine and true repentance is proven by growth in holiness, godliness, and Christlikeness. The sins that you once loved, you will now start hating and by the grace of God, you will denounce and forsake them. You will strive to grow in the knowledge of God. And as you grow in the knowledge of God, your mind will continue to change as well as your will. A heart that has truly repented will now love, desire, and delight in the things of God. You will love God. Your heart, soul, and mind will be preoccupied and consumed with God. You will love God's word. You will have a thirst and hunger to read and study the Bible. You will love to sit under sound teaching and preaching of God's word. You will love to be in prayer and fellowship and commune with your God. You will love to be in fellowship with other Christians.

If you don't have a thirst and a hunger for reading and studying God's word, if you don't have any desire for God's word and this continues over a long period, you have every reason to examine yourself and see whether you are a Christian or just deceiving yourself. A true Christian will crave and desire to read and study God's word. If there is no hunger and thirst for God's word, if there is no desire and delight for prayer, if you don't crave sound teaching and preaching, and this continues over a long period; my friend, most probably you are not a Christian! You are self-deceived. You think that you are a sheep while in real sense you are a goat.

Listen, my friend, Christianity is not just about gathering in a building on a Sunday to sing, dance, shake, shout, cry loudly, fall and roll on the floor and speak unintelligible words and go back home. No! Many people think that just because they gather in a building every Sunday, they are Christians. That's not true. You can go to church all your life and even become a bishop and still not be a Christian. Read the following words carefully. Realize that these words were spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ. They perfectly

well capture what I am trying to say.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we, not prophecy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers. (Matthew 7:21-23)

We can say a lot from the above text but let's briefly draw a few points:

First: This is the Last Day, The Day of Judgment. This is after the trumpet call has been sounded and all mankind is gathered before Christ to give an account of their lives.

Second: Some people are calling him 'Lord, Lord' on that day. All along, in their earthly lives, these people thought that they were Christians and that they will inherit the Kingdom. They are now shocked that Jesus Christ is denying them. These are self-deceived 'Christians'. They lived their lives here on earth thinking that they were Christians.

Third: These people prophesied. They drove out demons and performed many miracles in Jesus' name. My friend, this should terrify you. This should

make you tremble! These are teachers and preachers of the Bible. They are miracle workers. But they are not Christians! And they don't know that they are not Christians. They think they are Christians just because they preach, drive out demons, and perform many miracles. It is the same thing as many people today. They think they are Christians just because they gather in a building every Sunday to sing, dance, shout, and cry.

My dear friend, examine yourself. Test yourself. Check yourself. Make your election and calling sure. Are you a genuine Christian or are you self-deceived?

SECTION TWO: FAITH

True saving faith must involve and include the following:

KNOWLEDGE (AND UNDERSTANDING)

The Bible teaches that “...*faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*” (Romans 10:17) For you to put your faith in Christ, you must have some knowledge and true understanding of who Jesus Christ is, what He has done, and what He can do. You must know about His virgin birth, His perfectly righteous life, His deity, His crucifixion and death, His burial and resurrection. Jesus is alive now and that He will be back to judge the living and the dead. I am not saying that you must know and understand everything perfectly and fully well before you can be saved. No, I don’t mean that. What I am saying is that you should have some basic knowledge and understanding of who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for you. For example, you will not understand how Jesus Christ can be fully man and

fully God. You will not understand how Jesus Christ can be one person with two natures. However, not understanding these things does not mean that you cannot put your faith in Jesus Christ and be saved.

APPROVAL

Having knowledge and understanding of some facts about Jesus Christ is not enough. The next step is you accepting these facts. Do you agree with these facts about Jesus Christ; His virgin birth, His deity, His perfectly righteous life, His crucifixion and death, His burial and resurrection? Do you accept and agree with these facts?

CONVICTION

Knowledge and approval are still not enough. Are you under the conviction that in your helpless and hopeless state as a sinner, it is only Jesus Christ who can save you? You can know facts and agree with them but still lack conviction. After you have known facts about Jesus and even agree with them, do you have this conviction in your heart that it is Christ and Christ alone who can help you in your sinful state? Are you convinced that it is Christ and Christ alone who can save you? This conviction must be there.

PERSONAL TRUST

After knowledge, approval, and conviction, personal trust must come for your faith to be true and saving. Saving faith is trust in the living Person of Jesus Christ. It is trusting Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and eternal life with God. Saving faith is not just acknowledging and approving facts about Jesus Christ. It is more than that. It is resting on Jesus Christ. It is receiving and relying on the Person of Jesus Christ for our salvation. It is entrusting ourselves to Jesus. It is not just believing Him but believing in Him and on Him. It is holding and grabbing Jesus Christ Himself and telling Him, “I am damned and I will not let you go until you save me!” “I am condemned, save me!” “I am heading to hell, save me!” It is coming into direct personal contact and relationship with Jesus Christ Himself. It is not just intellectual understanding and believing facts about Jesus Christ but personal trust in Jesus Christ Himself. It is not faith that saves us; it is Jesus Christ who saves us through faith. Let me say this again; we are not saved by faith; we are saved by Jesus Christ through faith. So do not just believe facts about Jesus Christ. Come to Jesus Christ Himself.

Again I am not talking about faith in Jesus Christ to help you buy a car, buy a plot, build a house, start a business, or get a promotion at work. No! I am talking about faith in the Person of Jesus Christ to save you from sin and its consequences. That is the faith I am talking about. Faith in Jesus Christ to save you from sin. Not faith in Jesus Christ to give you material wealth and financial prosperity.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU BELIEVE IN CHRIST?

The moment you put your faith in Jesus Christ, your sins will be transferred to Jesus and the righteousness of Jesus Christ will be transferred to you. Jesus Christ will take your sins and He will give you His perfect righteousness. Remember we said that Jesus Christ perfectly kept the law of God. He obeyed God and kept God's commands perfectly. But you have broken all the commands of God. You have broken all the laws of God. So when you believe in Jesus Christ, His perfect obedience and righteousness are transferred to you and all your sins are transferred to Him. He takes your sins and gives you His righteousness. See what the Bible says:

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe... (Romans 3:22)

*...I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but that which is through faith in Christ- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.** (Philippians 3:8-9)*

When you stand before the judgment throne of God on the Day of Judgment, God will not see your sins but instead, he will see the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ that you are covered with. You will enter heaven not because of anything good you have done, not because of your good deeds but because of the perfect obedience and righteousness that Jesus Christ gave you when you believed in him.

PART THREE: GOSPEL WARNINGS



SECTION ONE: DEATH

Death! What a terrifying reality. Death is guaranteed! Being born has no guarantee but death is a must. You didn't know that you will be born but you know that you will die one day. You are very sure that you will die, aren't you? And whether you like it or not, whether you think about it or not, death is coming. You may even die today or tomorrow or even before you finish reading this book. Let's see briefly what the Bible says concerning mankind and death:

How much more those (men) who live in houses of clay, whose foundations are in the dust, who are crushed more readily than a moth! (Job 4:19)

See what the Bible says about man. We are made of clay. Our foundations are of the dust. We are easily crushed and destroyed; easily crushed than a moth.

So man wastes away like something rotten, like a garment eaten by moths. (Job 13:28)

Every day of our lives is a day closer to the grave. We waste away every day. We become older each

day. And as we waste away and grow older, the grave is more eager to receive us.

A man born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure. (Job 14:1-2)

Friend, we don't live for many years here. Even a hundred years is not many years compared to eternity after death. The few years that we live here are full of pain, suffering, and trouble. Life is hard. Life is tough. Life is really hard. We go through many difficulties. Just like a flower, we spring up so fast and then wither immediately. You were born only yesterday. In a few years, you will be gone. The Bible compares our lives to a fleeting shadow that does not stay long. A fleeting shadow is here this minute and then it is no more the next minute.

All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. The length of our days is seventy years or eighty if we have strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass and we fly away. (Psalms 90:9-10)

My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. (Psalms 102:11)

Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow. (Psalms 144:4)

ALL WILL FACE THE GRAVE

My dear friend, you don't even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while then vanishes. You can be involved in a terrible accident and die on the spot. People who looked healthy have died of a heart attack in a split second. Your brain could develop a tumor and you are gone. You can be mugged by robbers and die.

No one will ever escape death. Kings and presidents will die. The weak and the strong will die. The poor and the rich will die. But death is not the end. Many people think that when they die they will just rot in the grave and that will be the end of all things. Our bodies will indeed rot in the grave but our souls will still be alive and meet with God. Death does not end our existence. We have bodies and souls. Death is the separation of body and soul not the end of our personhood. When we die, our bodies become lifeless and are no longer the place where our souls 'reside' but we continue to exist as souls. You must

realize that you will meet the Creator of heaven and earth, the most holy and just God. Death will soon catch up with you. Are you ready to stand before the throne and face the most holy and just God? Death is not the end; it is the beginning.

SECTION TWO: ETERNAL HELL

Hell! Here is another extremely terrifying reality! Friend, hell is real. It is a real place in real-time. It is a place where sinners will be thrown to spend eternity there. Hell is not fiction, a legend, myth, tradition, or just some cleverly invented story meant to scare wicked men from sinning. No! Hell is real!

Consider what the Bible teaches about hell, and it is Jesus Christ Himself who teaches. Jesus Christ taught on hell more than any other teacher and preacher in the Bible. Even though you are not and probably will not hear sermons on hell in our churches today, that does not mean that the Bible does not teach on hell. The reason Christ came into the world was to save sinners from hell and bring them to God. He died on the cross to save us from hell. He drank our hell torments on the cross. Consider the following teachings on hell by Jesus Christ:

Matthew 8:12: "But the subjects of the Kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 10:28: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

Matthew 13:42: "They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"

Matthew 13:50: "...and throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 18:8: "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire."

Matthew 22:13: "Then the King told the attendants; 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Matthew 24:51: "He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:30: "And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:41: "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

My dear friend, when was the last time you heard a sermon on hell? The book of Matthew is in the Bible. Those teachings on hell are in the Bible. Maybe all that you hear is how you can become rich, drive a sleek car, prosper in business, and your career. Maybe you rarely hear preaching on hell. But that does not mean that hell is not real. There it is, taught many times by Christ Himself. Now, let us draw several things about hell from the above texts:

One: Thrown. You will not catwalk like a sly queen to hell. You will be thrown! In our daily lives, we throw that which is useless and has no value anymore. We throw that which is dirty and filthy. For God to throw you to hell, it means you are useless, without any value in His Holy Kingdom. All you deserve is to be thrown away to hell.

Two: Outside. You will be thrown outside; Out of the very presence of God. You will no longer see His beauty and splendor. You will miss the joy and delight of being in the presence of your Creator.

Friend, do you know why you were created? You were created to enjoy and rejoice in God and glorify Him forever. But outside in hell, you will never experience joy, delight, fulfillment, satisfaction, and happiness in God again. True joy is found in beholding the beauty and goodness of God. In hell, outside the presence of God, all that you experience is the fierce anger, wrath, and judgment of God. You will never again see and experience the love, mercy, grace, and kindness of God. Never! This is hell's greatest torment and loss; spending eternity away from the lovely and beautiful King of this cosmos. You will miss God. You will miss the greatest treasure of all time. Sinners are not just saved from hell. Sinners are saved from hell and brought into the very presence of God to enjoy Him, rejoice in Him, and glorify Him forever.

Three: Darkness. What terror comes with darkness! Just imagine you are thrown, thrown outside, and not into the light but darkness. You will grope like a blind man in hell. Darkness is not something good and desirable. Darkness brings to our minds all nasty and terrible things. You will never be in a favorable environment in hell.

Four: Weeping and gnashing of teeth. Of course, you will weep and gnash your teeth. You will mourn and weep in regret. Your conscience will be accusing you of all the foolish decisions you made in this life. You will wish that you had believed what is written in this book. You will wail and lament wishing you had believed in Jesus for the salvation of your soul.

Five: Blazing Furnace. It is always referred to as hellfire, not hell water. You will burn without being burnt out. You will burn without being entirely consumed. You will burn without going out of existence. There is nothing like annihilation. All of us will live forever whether we like it or not. The question is where will you spend eternity? Heaven or hell is your choice to make. At the resurrection, God will give you a body suited for hell. A body that can be burned without being consumed.

Six: Eternal. My dear friend, hell is eternal. Hell is forever. Once you go to hell, there is no second chance. Whatever goes to hell stays in hell. The darkness will be forever. You will weep and gnash your teeth forever. The fire will be forever. All the torments and sufferings of hell will be forever.

Seven: Soul and Body. You will consciously go through the eternal torments and sufferings of hell. You will suffer body and soul. You will feel it. There is nothing like soul sleep in hell. Both your body and soul will go through and feel the pains, torments, and sufferings of hell.

Eight: Devil and Fallen Angels. Apart from other sinners, you will spend eternity in hell with Satan and demons. These will be your eternal companions. The devil himself will keep you company. What a terrifying reality. Imagine spending eternity with the devil whose only work is to steal, kill, and destroy. What a misery that will be for you. Spending eternity with the devil who gets the greatest joy in robbing men of their joy.

Now, let me ask you something; as you read Christ's teachings on hell, did you find Bibles in hell? Did you find the cross of Jesus Christ in hell? Did you find His blood in hell? Did you find a preacher in hell? No! There is no Bible in hell. No cross of Christ in hell. No blood of Christ in hell. No preacher in hell. No second chance in hell. You go to hell and your story comes to an end. Your chapter is forever closed; never

to be opened again. You are damned. Condemned. Judged. Cursed. Forever. It is this side of eternity that you will find a book like this. The only time you can run to the cross and blood of Jesus Christ is now. The only chance you have to repent and believe in Jesus Christ is now.

NOT JUST FROM HELL

Jesus Christ saves sinners from hell. However, you need to know that salvation is not just from hell but from hell to God. You are saved from hell so that you can be brought to God. You are saved from hell so that you can have a right relationship with God now and spend eternity rejoicing in His presence having communion and fellowship with Him. You should and must fear hell and run to Jesus for salvation. However, don't just run to Jesus out of fear of hell alone. Run to Jesus because you want to be saved from hell and be brought to God to enjoy a right relationship with Him. Come to Jesus because you desire God, you treasure God, you thirst, pant, and hunger for God and you want to be in His presence and enjoy Him now and forever. *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, **to bring you to God...** (1 Peter 3:18)*

EPILOGUE



Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened which is the book of life. The dead were judged...The sea gave up the dead that was in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that was in them, and each person was judged...Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.... Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

Friend, the above passage is more real than what you can feel, touch, smell, or hear at this very moment. A day is coming when you will stand before the throne of your Maker. You will stand before the thrice-holy God to give an account of the life He gave you. Your wealth, riches, or material prosperity of whatever kind will not count on that day. God will not ask you whether you have good health, a fat bank account, a mansion, private jets, or a fleet of cars. The issue on that day will simply be; did you repent of your sins and believe in Jesus Christ? Did you prove your

repentance by living a holy, godly, and Christlike life?

You have read this book to this point. I have told you again and again that God is thrice holy. Being holy, He hates sinners and cannot have communion and fellowship with them. Sinners will and must stay out of His presence. He is also a just God. Being just, He will and must punish sinners in hell. He cannot and will not let sinners go unpunished.

You know that you are a sinner. You have a sinful nature and have committed actual sins in thought, word, and deed by breaking the laws of God (Ten Commandments). Now, a holy God hates you. A holy God cannot have communion and fellowship with you. You are separated from God in this life and you will be separated from God forever if you reject Christ and remain in your sins. A just God must and will punish you by condemning you to eternal hell.

But God, out of His love for His people, became man. God, in His Son Jesus Christ, took on flesh. Jesus Christ, the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary. He was and is sinless. He lived a perfectly righteous life on behalf of His people. The holy and perfectly righteous life His people could not live, Jesus

Christ lived it for them. Jesus Christ perfectly kept God's moral law (Ten Commandments) on behalf of His people. Then He was crucified and died on a cross. Jesus Christ died on behalf of His people. Jesus Christ suffered the torments of hell on the cross on behalf of His people. On the cross, Jesus Christ was crushed under the full force of the wrath of God. He drank the torments of hell itself. He was judged by God. He was damned, condemned, and cursed by God on behalf of all those who would believe in Him. He was buried but rose again on the third day defeating sin, death, and the grave, hell, the Devil, and the entire kingdom of darkness. He ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of God, praying for His people and reigning as King of the universe at this very moment. Jesus Christ will not remain in heaven forever. He will be back at the end of the age. He will return to judge the living and the dead and consummate His Kingdom. This is the true biblical gospel.

In my feeble attempt, I have shown you what hell is and how it looks like as Jesus Christ taught. I have also explained to you the commands of the Gospel; that the Gospel commands you to repent and

believe in Jesus Christ. I have explained what biblical repentance is and what biblical faith is in this book.

You know that God is holy and just. You know that you are a wretched, depraved sinner heading to hell. You know who Jesus Christ is and what He has done to save you. You know what true, biblical repentance and faith are for I have explained them in this book.

My dear friend, I urge you, come to Christ today. I beg you, believe on Jesus Christ for the salvation of your soul. I plead with you friend, trust in Jesus. I appeal to you, rest in Christ. Commit yourself to Jesus Christ. Rely on Jesus. Hold on to Jesus. Repent and turn to God. Jesus Christ will receive you. He will not cast you away. Come and collapse in His hands now. Come with your many sins and lay them on His head. He will take your sins and give you His righteousness. He will remember your sin no more. Friend, today is the day of your salvation. Now is the time of your salvation. Do not harden your heart. Jesus Christ says, *“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28-30).

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He is a sinner and ex-Muslim saved by grace through the power of Jesus Christ who opened his blinded eyes, giving him the heart to believe and is now called a child of the Most High God. He is a husband to Maria and father to two lovely children Shamsa and Tamani. He is the pastor of Christ Bible

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