

# Via

A person wearing a black hooded sweatshirt is sitting on a sandy beach, viewed from behind. They are looking out at a calm ocean with a light blue sky. The person's feet are bare and resting on the sand.

*Does  
anyone  
care?*



Do you need a friend? Are you lonely, afraid or tearful? Do you feel as though you are constantly searching for something more to satisfy you? Do you feel as though you have an inner void, causing you to be empty on the inside even though you have so much? Then this Via magazine is for you!

We will share the good news of God's Word and true stories that show us there is hope for this life and the next.

God cares about you! He is willing and able to save you through His Son, Jesus Christ. His arms of love are open wide. You will learn that nothing stands between the listening God and the praying soul. You can draw close to the comfort that God offers and He will wipe away every tear.

You need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He offers peace, rest and satisfaction to those who turn from their sins and come to Him. You will have a Friend who sticks by you... always!

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*All the Bible quotations in these articles are from the New King James version.*



# Instant Access

**W**hat marvels cell phone plans offer to new customers! Access - instant access - anywhere, anytime, unlimited data. But - instant? One may be able to “call home” across the continent from a moving car or plane or while hiking in the woods, but try a simple call to an office in the same city!

You will probably meet the familiar “press one - press two” set of choices, followed by a long and tiresome explanation of what a great company you have reached, interrupted by a different voice insisting, “Your call is important to us; please hold.”

Contrast that with the clear promise in the Word of God: *“Before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear”* (Isaiah 65:24). Incredible! *“Before they call,”* the answer is on its way. Then *“while they are still speaking,”* He hears. There is no “voice mail” — nothing between the listening God and the praying soul. Truly, *“My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts”* (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Then there is Caller ID. A glance at the ringing phone and you know whether to pick it up and say, “Hi!” or, if the number is strange to you, to

just ignore the call.

God has Caller ID too. He says of His own, *“I know them”* (John 10:27) and their calls reach Him at once. But there are others to whom He will one day sadly say, *“I do not know you, ... Depart from Me”* (Luke 13:27).

But your new cell phone must be “activated.” It is not enough to have the phone and to know all about its use, you must have it “activated.” Otherwise, the phone will be just dead and useless.

That is most important and so easy! The Lord Jesus paid the “activation fee” when He gave His life on the cross of Calvary. Now you simply have to accept - believe and receive - His sacrifice personally. *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”* (John 1:12). The activation - the power - is now the right of every believer, with all the everlasting benefits that accompany it.

*“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God”* (Romans 5:1-2).

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Bible Truth Publishers

# Satisfied at Last

## ***What would you do if you won a million dollars?***

In April of 2018, that dream came true for a man in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He bought a lottery ticket that won the prize of \$1.5 million. What makes his story so unique, and why it made headlines, is that it happened to him again! Five months later, he won another major prize, this time \$2 million. Few people even win once, so the odds of winning a combined \$3.5 million in one year are incredible! According to a CBC news article, the man bought a new home for his family, and plans to use his winnings to purchase a business and get a higher education.

What made me stop and think about this story was a detail that seemed strange to me. If this individual had already won \$1.5 million, why did he keep buying lottery tickets? Didn't he have enough? And now that he has won another \$2 million, is that going to be enough?

Perhaps you've never won the lottery, but have you ever met some personal goal, only to feel let down afterwards? You know you should be happy, because you've finally done what you wanted to, but the satisfaction just isn't there. The truth is, no amount of money can satisfy us completely. No matter how much we have, there's always something more that we don't have yet.

Many years ago, there was a woman who went through the same thing. It wasn't money that disappointed her, but relationships. Time after time, she had been let down, and nothing gave her lasting satisfaction. One day, beside a well, a man asked her to give him a drink. After talking with Him, she discovered that He was the Lord Jesus Christ, and He had something to offer her that no one else ever had.

The Lord Jesus wanted to give her "living water," which is a picture of the eternal life that He can give. He noted the difference between the water you get from a well, and the water that He gives: *"whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst"* (John 4:13-14).

Are you looking for something that lasts? Something that really satisfies? Money can disappear, and even people can disappoint you. There is only one person who can give you what you really need. The Lord Jesus offers peace and rest to those who will turn from their sins, and come to Him. He doesn't turn away anyone who comes to Him for salvation. The woman who met Him at a well discovered that He alone can give you what is truly satisfying. And He can satisfy you as well.

# Devastating Diagnosis!

**W**e've all experienced it: we are cruising through a phase of our lives and then something unexpected happens. What has been a priority for us plummets instantly and the new reality in our lives blasts its way to the number one position. Mark Saumure's jolting earthquake struck during his Grade 12 year.

Mark and his older sister had the privilege of growing up in a home where their parents loved the Lord and honoured God's Word, the Bible. He was privileged to memorize many verses about God's love, the human condition, Christ's death on the Cross and the availability of eternal life as a gift through Jesus Christ. But knowing all of this did not make Mark a Christian. Being raised in a Christian home and attending a Christian church does not make anyone a Christian.

In his teens, Mark was active in water and snow sports and had a job in a restaurant. But spiritually, Mark's teen years saw him take an obvious nosedive. Mark relayed, "I must admit that going to church as I called it was more a chore than anything else ... When I entered high school, I became ashamed of my parent's beliefs and I

rejected God's word. I did whatever I could to show my school friends that I was not a Christian."

Mark started to experience severe pain in his lower back and legs. He wrote: "I was diagnosed with a malignant form of cancer. This news really shook me up! It really made me decide what was important and what was not. However, I continued on in my ungodly ways for the next few months thinking, like most teenagers I know, that I was totally indestructible.

The real turning point came when my doctor looked at me very seriously and said: "Mark, your time is limited. My guess is that you have from one to two years left." His words stabbed me. This was the first time I ever really realized that I was going to die."



A jolting earthquake like Mark experienced, is bound to change one's thought patterns. During his months in hospital, Mark was searching his Bible, looking for peace and the forgiveness of sins. He wanted to be right with God.

Mark read Bible verses like these:

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16).

*"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him"* (John 3:36).

Rather than simply resting on the authoritative and reliable Word of God – he struggled with these two verses and others. He had memorized them in Sunday school years earlier and now he was trying to 'crack them open' – as if they contained some hidden and obscure meaning that he had to decode and figure out.

He finally faced the reality that he was powerless to save himself by achieving some deep understanding of these Bible verses. Mark said: "I really didn't understand what more I had to do to be saved. It was then that I understood: there's nothing for me to do! It has all been done! Christ died on the cross for me! That is enough! At that very moment, Christ became my Saviour!"

Mark, in writing about his own spiritual journey, asked his readers: "Christ did it all! He simply wants

you to believe on Him! Nothing more! What could be simpler? What a joy knowing Christ as my Saviour has brought to me."

The radiation helped for a short time. But Mark's days were numbered. The doctor was right; 411 days after he trusted Christ as his personal Saviour, he took his last breath and went to his eternal home in Heaven.

Will you be a Christian before you take your last breath? Actually, it's incredibly reckless to think you can wait until you're nearing the end to get right with God. Mark had some days to prepare. Most don't have that luxury.

Many people hope they will end up in Heaven. But with Mark – and for everyone else who has personally trusted Christ as their Saviour – there is 100% assurance and confidence about their eternal destiny. No one ends up in Heaven by chance or because God's scales tipped in their favour.

Do you have a conscious moment in your life when you appreciated Jesus Christ in a way you had never valued Him before? A moment when you understood that He died for your sins and you embraced Him as your Saviour? Without that moment – you are not yet prepared to die. Without that moment, you are not yet a Christian. Without that moment, you are not yet traveling the road to Heaven.

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# First Things First

**W**hat can I do?" is the immediate thought of most people when the question of going to Heaven is raised.

If someone asked you about salvation and the way to Heaven, would your answer be, "We each have to do our very best"? Then, if you were asked for something specific, would your list include being a good parent, attending church regularly, being honest, helping others, and any number of other requirements most people assume are on God's checklist?

Now, if I tell you that you're wrong, will you become angry and throw this magazine away?

There is a right answer to the question, "How can I get to Heaven?" No doubt good works are a necessary part of the Christian life, but according to what God tells us, good works don't come first.

When you were taught the alphabet, you learned the letters in their correct order. The letter D is in the alphabet, but its place is fourth, not first. In Matthew 18:3, Jesus says, "Unless you ... become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of Heaven." Following His instruction to learn as a little child, you must begin with God's A, B and C and not put D at the beginning.



## **"ALL HAVE SINNED"**

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*  
(Romans 3:23).

Read no further until you accept the fact that what God says is true and that each of us is a sinner in His eyes. But He doesn't just give up on us because we are sinners; He loves us too much for that. He has a remedy for sinners, and it is explained under the letter B.



## **"BELIEVE"**

*"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved"*  
(Acts 16:31).

No one can claim they have salvation until they truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. If you will trust Christ for salvation and Him only, that is all that is necessary — salvation is yours! The letter C explains the wonderful work He did to provide salvation for you.



## **“CHRIST”**

*“Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18).*

If you acknowledge that you are a sinner according to A and if you believe on Christ according to B, C tells you that Christ has already suffered for your sins. You committed the sins; Christ bore the punishment in your place. Now God can give you — not the punishment, which Christ has already completely exhausted — but His gift of salvation, which is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

That’s how you can be sure you will spend eternity in Heaven. Now, are you going to just forget about what you’ve read here and go on as before — without God and without Heaven for your future? Or will you give this matter serious consideration and believe God’s ABC? It is God’s way of salvation and the only way to have a guaranteed future in Heaven.

The matter of doing good works has not come up so far, because Christ has done it all. All that is necessary for your salvation has been completed, and you may simply rest on what He has already done. The moment you trust in Him for salvation, you are saved from your sins and assured of spending eternity in Heaven.

Up to this point, there has been no mention of the fourth-place letter — D. This comes after you have understood and obeyed the first three letters.



## **Finally — “DOING”**

The following verse applies to those who, by faith, have received God’s salvation: *“We are ... created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).*

The doing part comes last, as the result of your having received eternal life. You can never receive eternal life by earning it; the good works now prove that you really possess it.

*“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).*

# INNER CAVITY DISCOVERED

– The Great Pyramid



**M**ost major news media covered the intriguing discovery of a large cavity inside the Great Pyramid of Giza, Egypt. Even without such a discovery, this pyramid is always newsworthy. It is the last of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World still standing.

Scientists, using an advanced imaging method, detected a large and mysterious internal structure inside the monumental tomb built around 2560 BC during the reign of Pharaoh Khufu. The 30 metres (100 feet) long ‘cavity’ or ‘void’ has archeologists searching for clues as to the purpose of the cavity and what it might contain – if anything.

The Great Pyramid, looming alongside other large pyramids, is a towering achievement, remarkable for its simple beauty and colossal grandeur. The emblem of one of the great civilizations of antiquity.

The void is the first large inner structure discovered within the 4,500-year-old pyramid since the 1800s—a find made possible by

recent advances in high-energy particle physics. Egyptologists and archaeologists have known about other corridors and rooms and contents inside the Great Pyramid – but this cavity came as a complete surprise.

Every time I read about a cavity or a void inside, I think of the late Michael Jackson. Externally, he climbed in fame and towered over other celebrities. Who would have thought that, covered up inside, was something of which he was painfully aware!

Michael Jackson made a rare speech at the prestigious Oxford University. As he spoke about greed and success, he said: “Generation ‘O’ let us call it, ... has now picked up the torch from Generation ‘X’”. The ‘O’ stands for a generation that has everything on the outside – wealth, success, lavish clothing and showy cars, but an aching emptiness on the inside. That cavity in our chests, that barrenness at our core, that void in our centre is the place where the heart once beat and which love once occupied.

Michael Jackson made his millions; collected his Grammys; travelled the world; wowed his fans; built his Neverland – yes, he had many things on the ‘outside’ – but who would have guessed that he was keenly aware of a massive, aching, empty cavity inside? He is now in eternity.

The greatest discovery related to The Great Pyramid since the 1800’s was this large gaping void inside. But the greatest personal discovery in one’s life is the discovery of the inner void – the cavity and how to successfully fill it. People run from the discovery. They deny the ‘why’ about the cavity’s existence.

They keep running from their Creator – God.

People jam-pack their lives with activities, pleasures, accomplishments and advancement. But the gnawing inner void at the core of their being, relentlessly craves to be filled. Sadly, many in despair, live wasted lives and often short ones. When they exhaust all their options of filling the cavity, they turn to more self-destructive behaviour.

Perhaps you have never thought of your unsettled, restless and discontented feelings as an inner void. But now you know what it is. Without God embraced at the core of your being, you will always have a void. The God-sized hole at the core is a very accurate portrayal of people who

are trying to live with God outside – with Jesus Christ outside, as opposed to inside.

The Holy Bible tells us humans were designed with an inner capacity to enjoy an intelligent and fulfilling relationship with God. Sin destroyed this relationship. Sin caused this disconnect with God and created the inner void. The big story of the Bible is God’s incredible and amazing response to our sin. He loved us and sent His Son from Heaven to be our personal Saviour. Jesus died here on this planet – on a cross on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

The Bible says:

*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners,*

*Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).

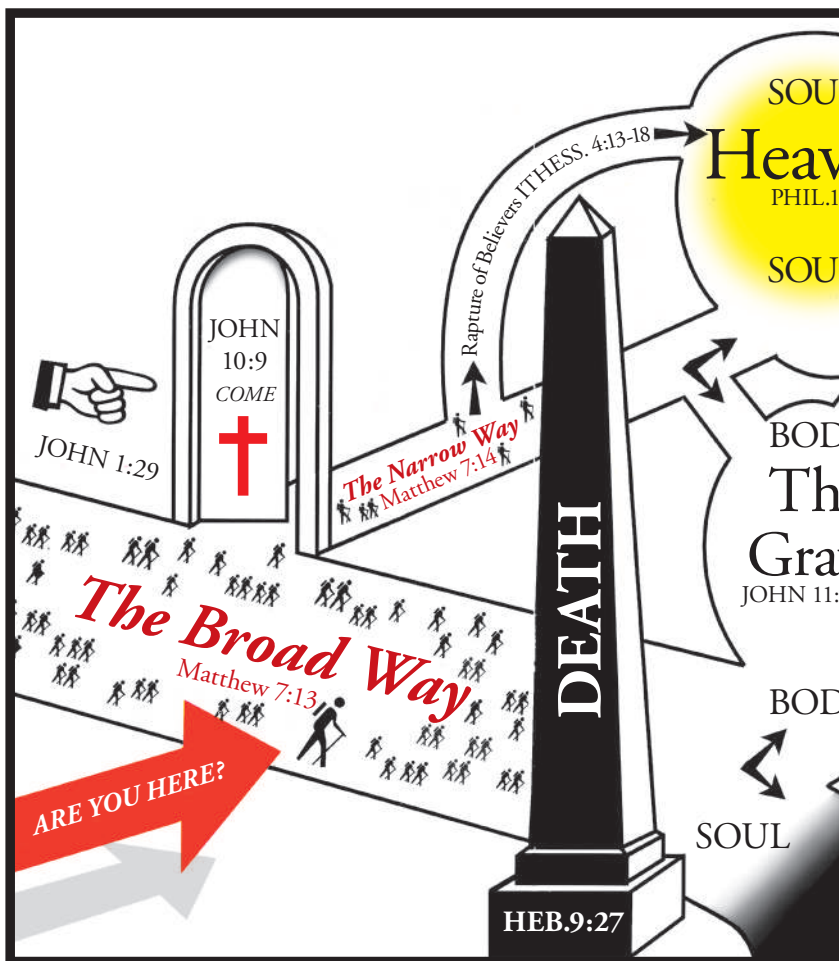
A Christian (an authentic one – not a nominal or ritual one) is one who has had a precious moment in their life, when they had their inner cavity filled-up with the love of God. Of Christians, the Bible says: *“the love of God has been poured out in our hearts...”* (Romans 5:5).

Will you open-up and allow the Holy Spirit to pour into your inner cavity the love of God and experience the joy that only a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can bring?

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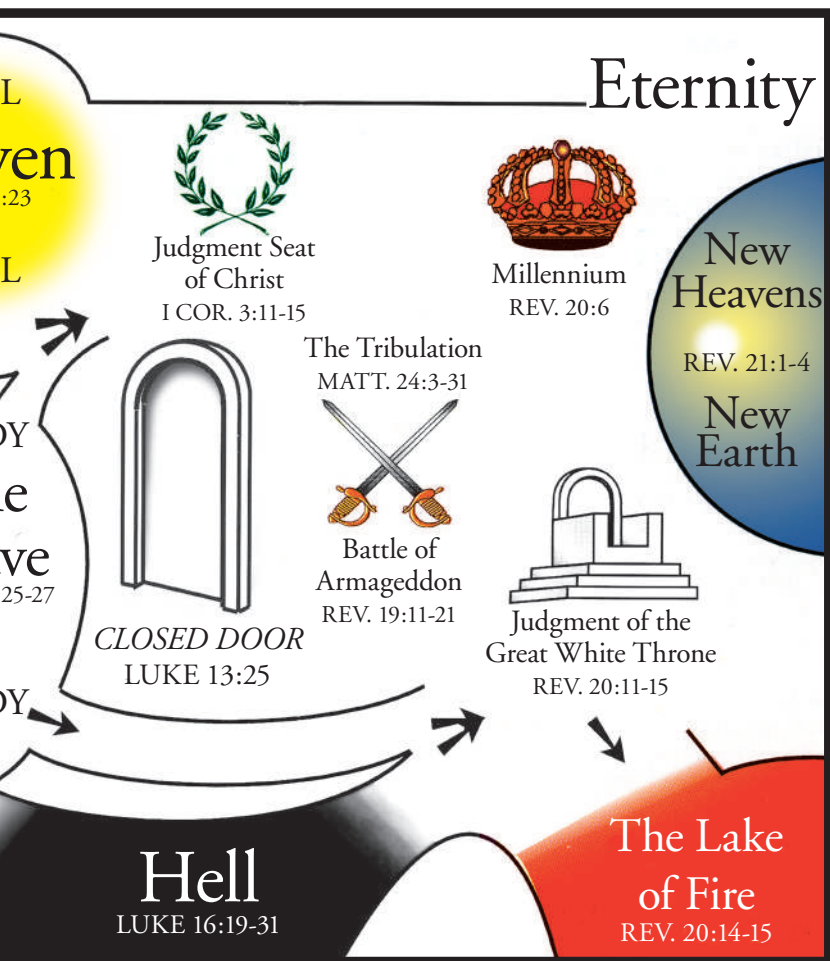
# TWO ROADS AND TWO DESTINIES



This chart depicts the two roads referred to in Matthew 7:13-14: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate...which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” We are all on either the **Broad Way** or the **Narrow Way** - there is no middle path. Death crosses both the Broad

and Narrow Way. The bodies of both believers (those who have accepted Christ as Saviour) and unbelievers (those who have not received Christ) go to the **Grave**. The believer’s soul goes to **Heaven**; the soul of the unbeliever to **Hell**. The **Rapture**, when Christ returns to the air and “catches up” all living believers, could happen at any time. When this takes place, the bodies

# TINIES CHART



and souls of those believers who have already died will be reunited to stand before the **Judgment Seat of Christ**, where their lives will be evaluated and rewarded. Then begins a seven-year period called the **Tribulation** in which judgment occurs on the earth, culminating in the **Battle of Armageddon**. The Tribulation will be followed by the **Millennium**, when Christ will reign

on the earth for 1,000 years. At the end of this period, the bodies of unbelievers will be resurrected and reunited with their souls to stand at the **Judgment of the Great White Throne**, and then cast into the **Lake of Fire** for eternal punishment. **New Heavens** and a **New Earth** will then be created which will last for eternity. **On which road are you?**

# The Greatest Journey



Picture Credit ID 91434234 © Inna Zhukova | Dreamstime.com

**A**bout 2,000 years ago, Jesus, the Son of God, left His home in Heaven and came to Earth. It was the beginning of the greatest journey ever made.

**How Did He Come?** Jesus didn't travel in a spaceship, or ride a shooting star. He was born as a baby to Mary, who was told by an angel of God that she would be His mother.

**Where Did He Come?** Mary and her husband Joseph lived in a small town called Nazareth in the country of Israel. But they had to take a trip to Bethlehem, and that is where Jesus was born.

**Why Did He Come?** Jesus made the long journey from Heaven because it was a very important part of God's plan. He came to Earth and became a man so He could save us from our sins and we could go to Heaven. God loves us so much that He gave us the best gift ever!

**How Did He Grow Up?** After He was born as a baby, Jesus got bigger and stronger, just like you. What made Him different, though, is that

He never did anything wrong. He never cheated at a game, or told a lie, or disobeyed His parents.

**What Did He Do?** After Jesus grew up, He started teaching people about God. He also did many miracles, like healing the sick and even bringing dead people back to life.

**Why Did He Die?** The most important thing Jesus did was die on the cross to take away our sins. Because He was perfect, He had no sins to be punished for. But He took God's punishment for our sins instead.

**Where Did He Go?** After Jesus died, He rose again and went to Heaven. How can we go to Heaven with Him? First, we need to realize that we are sinners who need God's help to be made ready for Heaven. Then we must trust what Jesus has done for us, by believing that He died for us and rose again.

*"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).*

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Moments with the Book

# How Many Birthdays?

**Y**our birthday is a special day that is all about you. It's a time of fun and celebration—a day to enjoy special treats and open presents.

## HOW MANY BIRTHDAYS?

How many birthdays have **you** had? I don't mean how many times have you blown out candles or gotten a year older. I mean, how many times have you **been born**? You see, even if you celebrate your birthday 13 times, 21 times, or even 100 times, it's just **one birthday**—the day that you were born into the world.

Jesus talked about being born, and said that it was important to have **two birthdays**: one *physical* birthday, and one *spiritual* birthday. He told a man named Nicodemus that he needed to be **born again**. Jesus said to him, *"Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3). You might be wondering what Jesus meant—don't feel bad, Nicodemus wondered, too.

## BORN TWO TIMES?

What does it mean to be born again? It has to do with *spiritual* life. Each of us enters this world as a sinner. Sin is doing bad things and things that are not what God wants us to do. The Bible says, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). Our sin keeps us from God.

The Bible goes on to say that we are all spiritually *"dead in trespasses and sins"* (Ephesians 2:1). This is why being born again is **absolutely necessary** if you want to spend eternity with God in Heaven.

## THE GOOD NEWS

Being born again is all about having our sins washed away and receiving new life from God. How can we do that? The good news is that God loves us **so much** that He sent His Son (Jesus) to take away our sins and give us new life. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16).

When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment that we deserve for **all** of the bad things that we have done (and will do) during our lives. Then He rose from the dead to prove that He can save us and give us eternal life.

## WHAT ABOUT YOU?

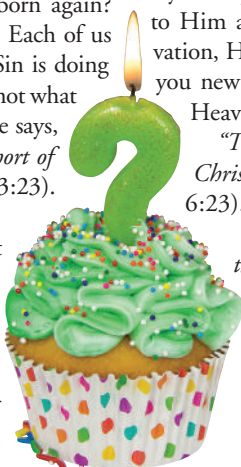
Have you had your second birthday? If you're not sure, now is the time to confess that you are a sinner, believe that Jesus died on the cross for you, and put your total trust in Jesus to take you to Heaven. When you do that, it's your second birthday! God promises that when you call out to Him and accept His free gift of salvation, He will take away your sins, give you new life, and someday take you to Heaven to live with Him.

*"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23).

*"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10:13).

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Moments with the Book





# The Miracle of Tears

**T**ears are real. They happen every day all around the world. Tears protect us from infection and they lubricate our eyes. Humans are the only ones who shed tears as a result of an emotion.

Have you ever noticed that when you cry, you feel better? That's the miracle of tears! If we couldn't cry, we would feel increasingly stressful.

What does God say about tears? Tears and our suffering always have a purpose. The Bible says that God is near to those who cry out to Him and who desire His will. *"His ears are open to their cry"* (Psalm 34:15). God remembers our tears, keeps them in a bottle and writes them down in His book (Psalm 56:8).

Tears of the past, present and future are also recorded in God's book, the Bible.

Why do we have tears? We have to look to the past, in God's word, for the answer. In Genesis, we read about Adam and Eve, who first disobeyed God (Genesis 3). In the beginning, Creation was perfect - with no sorrow or dying. When sin entered the world so did tears! Adam and Eve would have been very sorrowful when God drove them out of the paradise of The Garden of Eden. Their perfect relationship with Him was changed forever. Since then a sacrifice has been required to enable each of us to approach God, because we chose to separate ourselves from our God. Death has come to

mankind because “*all sinned*” (Romans 5:12) and the payment for sin is death.

Tears of the present: God’s ears are open to those who are crying at this moment. His desire is that we draw close to Him in our sorrow and pain. He wants us to turn to His Word so that we can learn to do His will. Then He can make beauty out of our ashes. He can strengthen us in our weakness and do miracles through our tears!

The Bible says that there is “*a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance*” (Ecclesiastes 3:4). Jesus Christ is touched with the feelings of our weaknesses; He was tempted in all things as we are; yet He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15). During difficult times, He understands, and if we surrender to His will and let Him into our lives, He will do new things that could never have happened without our tears.

The Lord Jesus cried Himself, as He considered the waywardness of mankind and the hardness of their hearts (Matthew 23:37). He groaned in His spirit when He saw the results of death. He knew that death and pain are the results of sin. He came to be the answer for our sin problem! “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 6:23).

Just as Adam and Eve needed a sacrifice, so do you and I. Those who

take God’s gift receive everlasting life. When someone comes to Christ in faith and trusts Him as Saviour, it is worth all of the moments of temporary pain and tears in his or her whole lifetime, because the person’s eternal future is secure. God promises He “*will wipe away every tear from their eyes*” (Revelation 21:4).

Can there be tears in the future? The Bible says that for those who die without a Saviour, weeping and gnashing of teeth will be their portion forever in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:15). God doesn’t want this to happen to anyone. This

**He can  
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is why Jesus went through the most pain that anyone has ever endured. The pain intensified when God forsook the Lord Jesus as He suffered the wrath for our disobedience to God.

Jesus cried out, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*” (Mark 15:34).

God knows pain. He sent His innocent Son to die so that you could have real hope in this terribly wicked world. You can have His peace to carry you through your pain. Please accept Him as your sacrifice for the judgment of your sins. He loves you and wants to be there for you when you cry, to strengthen you and make you a blessing during life’s most difficult times.

You are not alone! God sees your tears.

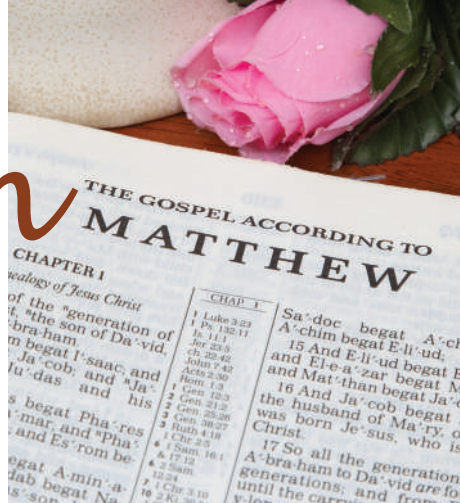
# The Search

**M**y father died when I was 7 years old. He was a singer who had done a lot of worldly things, and had worldly successes. He had toured Canada with Hank Snow, Sons of the Pioneers, and Don Messer, along with Ann Murray and other such names.

I tried to carry on the legacy for singing and writing songs, so at a very young age I was travelling with a band. I created a French album and won a few awards. I thought this would make me happy. However, no matter how I succeeded in the music world, it never gave me anything more than temporary joy and excitement. I always felt that there had to be more. But, even after having four children, I kept trying to obtain more success in music and also in my teaching career.

Then my second son René called us from Halifax to tell us that he was leaving university to "search for Jesus". He had made contact with someone who he hoped to learn from, and he was leaving the province to go live with this stranger. He was 19 years old. This was, to say the least, devastating news. I cried for days and honestly thought we had lost our son to a religious cult, or worse.

In the following weeks, he would call and ask me to read the Bible. I



would tell him that I had tried to get him to attend mass regularly (being Catholic) and that he didn't even want to come. So who was he to tell me to read the Bible! I was very angry with him and would tell the kids to tell him I wasn't home when he called.

Well, something ...somewhere deep inside of me was curious enough, or lost enough... to start reading. I had read a bit of the Bible in my early 20's and I had been thinking about God at different times in my life. But now it was different. My son's search seemed to change him. He was interested in us. He telephoned often, and seemed to care about the things of God. This spoke to me.

After I finally started reading the Bible, it did not take many days before God convicted me of my sin and made me understand the seriousness of it. I did not believe that I deserved forgiveness of any kind. But God saved me!

I was alone in my bed, crying while thinking of all that I had done in the eyes of a holy and righteous God. I

knew where I would be if I died that night – lost for eternity! I did not have any verses memorized, but I knew that I had read somewhere in the Bible that God loved the whole world and that He sent His Son to die for everyone in the world. At that moment, I knew that I was part of the group of sinners that He came to save. I felt so much peace and joy. Words could never describe this moment. It was about 2 o'clock in the morning and I called René and said, “René, don't worry about me anymore. Everything is going to be alright”. He said, “What do you mean, Mom?” I said, “I don't

know, exactly. I just know that everything will be alright”. We found out much later...months later, that René was saved the same day, after a gospel meeting he attended.

The morning after I was saved, I can say that I was a new creature. I was so happy...so very happy! I caused quite a stir in my school. I am also very glad to say that my mother was saved ten months later, at age 84. My son André was saved a few months after me. And about eight years later my husband was also saved. Praise the Lord!

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Michelle Samson



**T**he plight of the homeless is not limited to one nation, culture or age group. Homelessness is a huge problem that is greater than society can remedy. Many people search through garbage for their food and clothing, and sleep under bridges and stairs, in packing boxes, or shelters built of even more garbage.

Did you ever think that you could become homeless? What about your future eternal (forever) home? The Bible tells us of just two destinies:

either a home in Heaven or banishment from God in Hell.

Some homeless people have lost a home they once had. Some will never acquire a home. Spiritually we all have the same problem. Our sins have left us with such a great debt to God that, on our own merit, we will be homeless for eternity. In order to remove that debt, the Lord Jesus Christ paid sin's penalty.

Before going back to Heaven, the Lord Jesus assured His disciples of an

## HOMELESS? *continued...*

eternal home when He said, *"I go to prepare a place for you"* (John 14:2). He explained the way to this eternal home: *"Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:15). In order to prepare that place, He had to be rejected by man and shamefully nailed to a cross where His precious blood was shed and His life given. There, as the Apostle Peter wrote, He *"bore our sins in His own body on the tree"* (1 Peter 2:24).

As a result of His death, burial, resurrection and return to Heaven, the Lord Jesus has made an eternal home in Heaven available to all who place their trust in Him. We can't buy this home or work for it. We can't rely on our own merits to give us a claim to it (Ephesians 2:8-9). All that God requires is that you receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith as your own Saviour. He assures us in His Word, *"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life"* (John 3:36).

Unlike an earthly home, the home provided by the Lord Jesus Christ can never be lost! He said, *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand"* (John 10:28). This is a title deed that can never be foreclosed or transferred. Why not claim a home in Heaven now while you have the opportunity? You do not want to be homeless for eternity.



Let me tell you the story of Johan van Hulst of Amsterdam, Holland. He lived to be 107 years old. He was famous for the remarkable and daring rescue of more than 600 Jewish children from the Nazis. He received many awards and accolades. But did he die a contented man? No! He died a haunted man with many regrets. How could this be?

Van Hulst was a teacher at a college in Amsterdam. His heroic work took place in 1942-43, during World War 2, when Holland was occupied by the Nazis. Jews were being rounded up and 'processed' for sending to concentration camps where most of them would die.

Next door to van Hulst's college was a preschool. He learned that it was used by the Nazis to house young Jewish children who had been taken away from their parents to await deportation and almost certain death. A secret operation began. In between the college and the preschool was a big hedge. Nurses in the preschool would pass little Jewish children, one by one, through the hedge to van Hulst and his helpers. From there, he would have them smuggled to a safe



location. It was a slow, painstaking process, but necessary to avoid arousing suspicion: Nazi officers were patrolling the street outside.

What a wonderful work, you say. But for van Hulst, it was painful in the extreme. Why? Was he afraid of being caught? No. Was he worried that a child would betray them? No.

It was the sad fact that, because of the logistics involved, only some of the children could be saved. And it was van Hulst himself with his helpers who had to decide which children would be saved. ‘We had to make a choice,’ he said in an interview just a year before his death in March 2018. ‘One of the most horrible things was to make a choice.’

Imagine what it would be like for the children... those old enough to understand the situation waiting and wondering, ‘Will he choose me?’ And poor, haunted Johan van Hulst! Not long before he died his words were, ‘I only think about what I have not been able to do, about those few thousand children that I could not save.’

Step back for a moment: imagine what it would be like if God couldn’t save everyone! What if we poor sinners had to wait while God looked

us over and chose which of us He could take into Heaven, leaving the rest to perish eternally?

But no, the contrast is gloriously striking. God is able to save the whole world and, just as important, He’s willing. He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to rescue sinners from eternal damnation. The Saviour died so that anyone at all, by trusting in Him, can have their sins forgiven and be sure of Heaven. The Bible says, “*Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16). “*Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (Romans 10:13). Is there anyone left out of this word “whoever”?

So it is not a case of God choosing whether you can go to Heaven. Instead it is YOU choosing whether you will go to Heaven. God sets before you the way of life and the way of death. He says, “*Choose life*” (Deuteronomy 30: 19). Dear friend, take heed. There is too much at stake to make the wrong choice. God’s arms of love are open wide. The Lord Jesus calls you to come to Him but, in the end, it is your choice.

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L M Thompson

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