



Vida

*Longing for
Freedom?*

BIBLE-BASED READING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

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We are born captives to sin. Perhaps you have tried to escape from sin by yourself and found it impossible. Are you worried about every failure, every wrong-doing, and every sin adding to your sin debt? You know that you don't measure up against God's absolute righteousness. Do you want to be able to face the future with total freedom from your sin? You need the Lord Jesus Christ to set you free. His death and resurrection provide the only way you can be fitted for God's presence.

People have different responses to the Gospel: Some hear and believe; others hear but don't believe. Listen to the words of the Lord Jesus, *"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). Believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross so that you can go free. You will be free from the judgment that your sin deserves.

Time rushes on! Where will you be for eternity? Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ so that there is no need for fear and uncertainty regarding the future. The last moment of your life on earth will happen but the best is yet to come!

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

It's Later than You Think

A man rushed into a train station one morning. Gasping for breath, he asked, "When does the 8:01 train leave?"

"At 8:01," responded the ticket agent.

"Well," the man replied, "it's 7:59 by my watch, 7:57 by the town clock, and 8:04 by the station clock. Which am I to go by?"

"You can go by any clock you wish," said the agent, "but you can't go by the 8:01 train, because it has already left."

God's time marches forward minute by minute, hour by hour. Yet, millions of people seem to think they can live by any schedule they choose and in their own time turn to God.

Our lives speed by. Time rushes on. We can't be sure we have another year, another day or even another hour to live before we must pass from time into eternity. It may be later than we think. The great question for each of us is: ETERNITY — WHERE?

God's time to prepare for eternity is right now. *"Behold, now is the accepted time: behold, now is the day of salvation"* (2 Corinthians 6:2). Tomorrow may be too late.

You may not have a peaceful death. The Bible warns that, *"The coming of the Lord is at hand"* (James 5:8).



Are you ready to meet this One into whose hands all judgment has been committed? He may come today! Do you belong to Him?

If you have not yet settled the question of your eternal destiny, don't put it off. Receive the Lord Jesus as your Saviour now. Then you will be among "His own" at His coming, and be *"caught up together with them ... to meet the Lord in the air"* (1 Thessalonians 4:17). But if you don't accept His offer of salvation, then you will be left behind when He comes. Your eternity will be excluded from Heaven.

Accept Him today. Even now it may be "later than you think"! *"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).

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From **Drugs** to **Christ**

I grew up in a happy home, the youngest of three boys. Both my mother and father were good parents who on occasion would go to church.

At the age of 15, I became curious about drugs. There were friends in my neighbourhood who were doing “dope” and seemed to be having fun. So I started experimenting with what some call “soft drugs” such as marijuana and underage drinking. Little did I know it was my sinful nature that propelled me to make this choice!

Romans 5:12 in the Bible says: *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”*

At the beginning of this road I chose, I was having fun being with the crowd and enjoying the experiences. However, late nights, heavier drinking and harder and more dangerous drugs inevitably led to less interest in school and my family.

While on a trip to Toronto at the age of 18, I overdosed and wandered the streets of the city. Thankfully, the police picked me up and recognized I needed help. I was admitted to the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital where I was constantly warned by the medical staff to stay away from drugs and drinking. I can recall even swearing on a Bible before my parents that I would never touch the stuff again!

But within six months of returning home, I returned to drugs and drinking with a vengeance. I was not consuming drugs and drink – the reality was they were consuming me! Over time, a despair crept in, leading to weeks of depression and hopelessness. I started to consider suicide as an answer to these feelings of hopelessness. After reaching age 23, there were times I wondered, “Is this all there is to life?” I remember going to night clubs and just standing among hundreds of people and feeling very alone and tired of life.

I decided to buy a Bible to see if there was anything in it that could help. Coming home one night, after a night of excessive drinking, I opened the Bible randomly and my eyes fell upon the parable of The Sower and the

continued...

Seed (Mark 4:1-9). It illustrated the response of different people to the Gospel message: some hear and believe; others hear but don't believe. I did not understand, but I spoke to God and challenged Him, "If you are God and you are what the Bible says, show me the Truth!"

God was doing a work in my soul! At this time, a friend of mine found salvation in Christ and she started to witness to me. I was 24 when for the very first time someone actually told me about Christ and His saving grace. She invited me to witness her baptism and I accepted the invitation.

On that sunny Sunday afternoon, I felt that my prayers were heard. There were approximately 100 people at a lake witnessing a baptism and everyone looked different – they were happy. I thought to myself, "I want what they have!" That night I was invited to hear the Gospel message for the first time in my life. The preacher faithfully preached the good news. In my mind it seemed like the preacher knew everything about me. Of course he didn't, but God did, and He was continuing to do a work in my soul. No one had to convince me that I was a sinner, but the best part of the preacher's message was that God loved me and proved it by the Cross at Calvary. I realized that Jesus died for me!

The following Sunday I again attended a Gospel meeting. At this point an uninformed friend of mine warned me to stay away or I would get brain washed! That did not happen, but eventually my 'sins' - not my 'brains' were washed away!

The next day, I had to get this issue of my sin debt settled, so off I went to a cabin my uncle owned near the lake. In that cabin I found a book entitled, *By Searching*, which I began to read. This book had plenty of Scripture verses that pointed me to Christ: including Jeremiah 29:13, "*You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart*", and John 14:6, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*". These Bible verses touched my conscience and that evening with no one around for miles, I trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. Then and there I passed from death to life and found the satisfaction and purpose that I was missing all those years!

It's been close to 40 years now and I surely would still recommend Christ to anyone and everyone. He saved my soul, and He saved my life!



Ron Mills

DEBT RELIEF



BRIGHTENS THE FUTURE

Debt is a very heavy burden and carrying the load can cause depression. It can strain relationships. If financial analysts label the escalating student debt load as a crisis – how must the students feel as they embark on their future carrying such a heavy weight! Not only are there financial debts but there is the greater issue of spiritual debt.

In Atlanta, Georgia, 396 students were graduating from Morehouse College. Wearing their caps and gowns they respectfully listened to billionaire investor Robert F. Smith – a former graduate of the college.

Dwytt Lewis was one of the graduates listening to Mr. Smith’s speech. Weighing heavily on his heart was the \$150,000 of student loan debt he owed.

Smith, dressed in academic regalia to receive an honorary doctorate, signaled during his speech that he “was going to put a little fuel in their

bus.” Did he mean anything more than delivering a positive-thinking, up-beat word of encouragement with some sound advice? He did. He said: “This is my class, 2019, and my family is making a grant to eliminate their student loans.”

It took the students a few moments for the immensity of what he had promised to sink in. Then the place erupted, as the senior class shook hands and hugged one another in glee.

News of Mr. Smith’s gift stunned the higher education world. A former Morehouse college president called it “an extraordinary investment” that was “simply an act of high grace.”

There’s another kind of debt that’s heavy to bear and hangs like a dark cloud over one’s future. Some lay awake at night tossing and turning – haunted by their secrets. Some say it is a ‘mountain of sin’ blocking every ray of sunshine. It could never be successfully conquered. Others call

it a heavy burden - like an oppressive and depressing dead-weight - causing them to sink down in despair. Some think of their sin and guilt as a cancer eating away inside them. Their progress is plagued by the constant awareness of their sin-debt.

Is that you?

There is one 'act of high grace' that transcends all other gracious and kind and philanthropic acts the world has ever known. The amazing announcement is made repeatedly throughout the Bible. Using a financial analogy, we owe so much to God, we are literally unable to get out from under the debt-load of our sin. Every failure, every wrong-doing, every sin adds to our debt. We all come up short when it comes to the holiness God demands. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

God has intervened in the human family to provide full debt-relief for all. It's even better than debt-relief. It's total debt-removal. You can face tomorrow and your future with total relief from the debt of all your sin. To ignore the opportunity to have your debt wiped-out seems reckless.

Jesus wants you to personally come to Him for full debt-relief and total peace. That's incredibly good news! Here is what He said to people with varying degrees of debt: *"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28).

Are you wondering if you were intended to be one of the beneficiaries of this amazing act of grace? *"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).

The Bible says that when Jesus poured out His blood on the cross, He *"gave Himself a ransom for all"* (1 Timothy 2:6) – for every single person.

"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). Yes! Wipes out, clears off, and purges all the sin on our personal record.

Peter, one of Christ's apostles wrote these words to real Christians who had their sin-debt wiped out: *"You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, ...but with the precious blood of Christ..."* (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Graduating students at Morehouse College wanting to benefit from the high act of grace announced by Robert F. Smith must be transparent about their student loans and debt. They must respond to the available offer. They must claim it personally to come into the good of the generous, gracious act. If you are going to benefit from God's kind gift of grace, you too must respond personally to have your sins removed from God's Record.

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When God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, they were perfectly free from sin. But it wasn't long before they disobeyed God and brought sin into the world. *"Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned"* (Romans 5:12). Since then every person is born a sinner, a captive to sin, and this includes you and me. Fear, unhappiness, illness and death are some of the terrible results of sin.

One morning we were surprised to find another bird beside the cage, a male of the same kind. I put him inside the cage with the female, and, after a few days, I decided to set him free. Impossible! To my surprise, he always came back. It seemed like the love he had for the other bird was bringing him back.

Perhaps you have tried to escape from sin by yourself and, like a bird born a captive, found it impossible. But there is One, the Lord Jesus, who came down from Heaven to die for you on the cross and to save you from your sins. He knew what it was to be hungry and thirsty, and He suffered much pain and then death. He understands your feelings, and He loves you. His love for you is so great that He willingly went to Calvary's cross. There God made Him sin for us. There Jesus suffered the judgment from God towards sin—our sin—so we could be set free from it.

continued...

When I was nine years old, somebody gave me a cage with a pretty bird inside. I didn't like to see that poor little bird in a prison like that, so I decided to let her go free. But I soon found out it was not that easy. You see, that little bird was born in a cage, and all her life was spent in one. Even with the cage's door open, she refused to escape! I even took her out of it, but when night came, I found her sleeping on the top of the cage. She could not accept her freedom because she was born a captive.

Born Captives

You and I are also born captives. Do you know why?

Completely Free

Since the male bird would not leave for the love he had for the one that was born in captivity, I decided to take both birds out of the cage. It was

After a few flying turns over the backyard, the two birds flew away together, and I never saw them again.

wonderful to watch! After a few flying turns over the backyard, the two birds flew away together, and I never saw them again. The same love that made the male bird come down to the

female's cage took her out of it forever. Since that day, the cage stands empty.

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. He went up to Heaven and wants to set you free from your captivity of sin and take you to His home in Heaven. He tells you in Jeremiah 31:3, *"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."* He is waiting for you to accept His loving offer to set you free. *"If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed"* (John 8:36). Will you let Him set you free?

Bible Truth Publishers

Anchorpoint Radio

The Anchorpoint Radio gospel outreach was launched in Kitchener, Ontario in 2008 and has since expanded to include six major broadcast areas across Canada: the Vancouver Lower Mainland, South Central Manitoba, Kitchener-Waterloo, Toronto/GTA, the Maritimes, and Newfoundland & Labrador. Including repeater stations, there are currently 56 broadcast frequencies and three satellite TV stations covering a large segment of the population of Canada. Listeners can download the messages from the website or subscribe to the podcast.

Anchorpoint Radio reaches a large audience weekly with the gospel, provides clear teaching for believers, and increases awareness of local church testimonies. Check out www.anchorpointradio.com.



I am a Christian. What that means is that there was a day in my life when I realized that I was a sinner, and that I had no way of fixing myself. I already knew that the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son came to the cross of Calvary to take the punishment for my sin. But that day, I put my trust in the work that Jesus did for me. By His grace, I am free from the judgment that my sin deserves. I am Heaven bound.

Sometimes, I hear a story in the news that reminds me of the care that the Lord Jesus showed when He came to rescue all who will trust in Him.

One of those stories concerns Jo Cox, a 41 year old wife and mother of two, who was a committed and caring Member of Parliament in Britain. In June, 2016, she was on her way to meet her constituents to answer any concerns and to offer her political advice.

While Jo was on the street near the political office, a man attacked her with a knife and a gun.

Bernard Kenny, a man in his 70's, had given his wife a ride to the library.

While he was waiting in the car, he saw the man attacking Jo Cox. The Mirror reported that Mr. Kenny ran from his car in a "desperate, last ditch bid to save her life." He couldn't stand by helplessly. As he tried to intervene, he was stabbed in the abdomen. He spent some time in hospital but recovered from his injury. Jo Cox, however, died of her wounds.

Even though Mr. Kenny was injured, he took the time to comfort his wife and tell her he was okay. He was a hero that day!

The Bible says, *"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man (or woman) someone would even dare to die"* (Romans 5:7). Bernard Kenny could well have died in his attempt to help Ms. Cox. He dared to help! The Bible also says, *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). The Lord Jesus Christ was willing to intervene for us, to die in our place although we didn't deserve it, so that we can be in Heaven for eternity.

GOD'S TIME IS NOW

*"Behold, now is the accepted time;
behold, now is the day of salvation"*
(2 Corinthians 6:2).

Someone might say, "I have to wait for God's time to be saved".

GOD'S TIME IS NOW! Yes, today!

Tomorrow may be too late. *"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth"* (Proverbs 27:1).

Every tick of the clock, every beat of your pulse, and every breath that you draw brings you nearer, nearer and **NEARER** still to **ETERNITY**.

Where would you be if you were to die this moment?

In light or in darkness?

In Heaven or in Hell?

With Christ or with Satan?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, **NOW**, and you are among those of whom it is spoken of in the Bible book of Romans:

"NOW been justified by His blood"
(Romans 5:9).

"NOW received the reconciliation"
(Romans 5:11).

"NOW ... set free from sin" (Romans 6:22).

"NOW ... delivered from the law"
(Romans 7:6).

"NOW no condemnation ... in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

Thousands are already in eternity, **LOST!** They failed to recognize the importance of that little word "**NOW**." They meant to repent and believe the gospel, but they put it off and put it off, until it was too late. So, we urge you, **NOW** is God's time; ignore it and it may be **NEVER!**

God's Simple Message

"Most assuredly, I say to you." In John 5:24, there are five things the Lord says.

1 The first thing is:
“He who hears My word.”
How simple to listen, to stop our efforts, to turn from ourselves, to pay attention and come to Him, to hear His voice speaking to us, showing us our need or telling of His love.

2 The second thing is:
“Believes in Him who sent Me.”
If anyone can truly say, “I have heard, and I believe,” what has he received? Everlasting life.

3 That is the third thing:
“Has everlasting life.”
And if you have the first and the second, you must have the third.

4 Then the fourth is:
“Shall not come into judgment.”

5 And the fifth:
“Has passed from death into life.”

For certain:

- The last opportunity of hearing God’s gospel WILL COME.
- The last opportunity of accepting it WILL COME.
- The last moment of your life on earth WILL COME.
- The judgment day WILL COME.

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Seven great facts from John 3:16:

1. **“God so loved”** — the most amazing Friend with the largest heart.
2. **“The world”** — the greatest number of sinners, and enemies too.
3. **“Gave His Son”** — the best of all gifts.
4. **“Whoever”** — the widest invitation.
5. **“Believes in Him”** — the easiest and the only way to be saved.
6. **“Should not perish”** — the greatest deliverance.
7. **“Have everlasting life”** — the most priceless and richest possession.

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Children's Feature

A Home for Joey

Have you ever visited the zoo and watched the strange looking animals with short front legs and long hind legs as they bounce around the enclosure? These animals are called kangaroos or wallabies.

There are several species of kangaroo. Red Kangaroos are the largest of the species and can reach a height of two metres. There are roughly 30 species of wallaby. Wallabies are smaller than kangaroos. One type of wallaby, the Parma, is about the same size as a small house cat.

The kangaroo, which is found in Australia, is a wonderful animal. It has strong hind legs and a tail which enables it to bounce gracefully over the ground. The female kangaroo has a pouch. When a baby kangaroo, or joey, is frightened it runs to its mother and jumps head first into this pocket of flesh and fur where it is perfectly safe.

A newborn joey is blind and naked, with undeveloped legs and ears. It



measures about 2.5 centimetres (one inch) long. But it still finds its way unaided into the pouch to find its mother's milk. How does it know where to go for food and safety?

Only a wise Creator-Designer God could give the little joey the instinct to survive. The same Creator knows the needs of each boy and girl. He knows that we are sinners and need a Saviour. The Lord Jesus took the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross. Just as the joey has a place of safety and protection, we can find shelter in the Lord Jesus Christ if we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. He said, "*Let the little children come to Me*" (Mark 10:14).

The Powerful Reminder

A friend of mine came into a drop-in centre the other day waving an item in her hand and announcing that the new phone books had arrived. At that moment, another friend was reminded of a comedy movie in which actor Steve Martin's character showed a whole lot more excitement about the arrival of his phone book. I had to go to YouTube to watch the clip, since I wasn't familiar with the movie.

In the scene, the actor jumped up and down excitedly as he had received a copy of the updated, newly published phone book. He frantically searched through the pages until he found his name. We laughed together as we watched the clip, but as I thought about it, I couldn't help but be reminded of a vital book.

Your local phone book is full of many names. Did you know that each person in that book is personally known by God and extremely valuable to Him. It is an amazing truth to consider that we were created, on purpose, by God. We are loved by Him, and wanted by Him, despite the fact that He knows all of our disobedient deeds, words, and actions. We are naked before God and He *"will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil"* (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

Teen Talk

Not one of the people named in your phone book has the ability to cleanse you of your sins or to put your name in the most important book of all. The most important book is also filled with millions of names. God does not need to keep such a book since He is infinite and knows all, but such a book does exist. It is called the Book of Life.

The people whose names are in this book are children of God and joint heirs with Christ. These people have eternal life that can never be taken away. In the Bible the Lord Jesus Christ said, *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand"* (John 10:28-29). They will have the greatest privilege of all people who ever lived. They will serve and worship the King



of Kings, in a perfect place with no sorrow or pain, for all of eternity.

How did these people get their names in this book? Did they earn the right? Were they born into the right family? Neither is true. According to God's Word, these people were born again into God's family, through faith in Christ. These people were saved from their sins. They had a moment in their lives when they looked to the cross and understood that they were the guilty sinners for whom Christ died.

Many people – to their utter horror – will not have their name written in the Book of Life. They thought they could earn God's favour, but that is impossible. Salvation is not found in any name in your phone book, and in *"no other name under Heaven"* (Acts 4:12). It is only achieved through the work of Jesus Christ, who took the punishment for your sins at the cross. Is your name in the Book of Life?

God promises your name will be there if you repent from living life your way and turn to Christ as the One who can cleanse you and give you new life with Him. New life that lasts forever. If you refuse Christ as your Saviour, as the only One who can bring you to God, Revelation 20:15 tells the result: *"Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."*

Please accept Christ as your Saviour and become a child of God!




Two friends were talking about religious topics. They discussed the question of punishment for sin in a future life. They settled to their own satisfaction that there was none. They decided that Hell was a myth. They argued that there was no need for God or a Supreme Being since scientists say that the universe and life and man could have come into being through "natural" causes. And they agreed that even if there were a God, He would be a God of love and thus could not consign His creatures to everlasting punishment.

The conversation dropped when a Christian, who had been a silent listener to the discussion said, "Suppose it is true after all?"

The words seemed to fall on the ears of the other two with crushing force. The power of God seemed behind those words, as it always is behind the truth. Solemn silence reigned for many minutes. God had spoken.

Suppose it is true after all that the God of the Bible is real and living? Would you, a mortal being, be willing to risk your eternal destiny by arguing against the eternal *"God, who cannot lie"* (Titus 1:2)?



Suppose It's True After All?

Suppose it is true after all that *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1)? When you stand before the Creator-God on the Day of Judgment, what reason will you offer for having given all the glory and credit for the beauties and glories of the earth and the universe to the impersonal "god" of chance and nature rather than the personal Creator-God?

Suppose it is true after all that God must punish sin? How would you stand before Him? What could you say to Him? How would you measure up before the Judge? *"Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead"* (Acts 17:31).

Suppose it is true after all that Hell is a reality? What lies at the end of the life you are now leading? The Scripture says, *"It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27).

Suppose it is true after all that the Lord Jesus is the only Saviour and His death and resurrection provide the only means by which you can be

fitted for God's presence? What if you neglect Him? *"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"* (Hebrews 2:3).

Suppose it is true after all that the much-despised "blood of Jesus" is the only thing that can cleanse you from your sins? Has it cleansed you before God, or are you still in your sins going on rapidly to the eternity of the lost? *"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7).

Suppose it is true after all, as Scripture states, that salvation is not of works? *"By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). All the church-going, Sunday school teaching, sick visiting, and the like are worse than useless. They are a fatal mistake, if you rely on any of these good works to save or to help to save you? *"To him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness"* (Romans 4:5).

Suppose it is true after all? If it is true, your doom will be terrible if you *"die in your sins"* (John 8:24). Come to Christ today and be saved. *"Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire"* (Revelation 20:15).

It is true. Act on it!

Moments with the Book

NEVER TURNED AWAY



PLEASE
DO NOT
DISTURB

There are times when we feel like putting that sign up! Life gets busy, and we'd like nothing more than a little rest. But it isn't a message that we want to see. For example, you wouldn't want to see it when you were desperately needing help. Can you imagine how it would feel to go for the help you needed, and to be denied? You go to the emergency room, and the door says, "Closed." You call 9-1-1, and the line is busy. You try to talk to a friend, and they are unavailable. You went looking for help, but you could not reach the ones you turned to.

We have a problem that no other person can help us with, even if they wanted to. It's the problem of our sin and it's a problem that we all have. The Bible says that, "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). Our sins — the things we have done to disobey God — have left us far away from God. Unless these sins are forgiven, we will be judged for them. Why can't any other person help us? Every one of

us has the same problem of sin, so I can't help you, and you can't help me! Unless our sins have been taken away, even the best person on earth is still a guilty sinner in the eyes of God.

Even though we can't help each other, I am so thankful that there is someone who can help us with the problem of our sin. And not only is He able to help us, He wants us to come to Him! The person I'm talking about is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God, and He came to Earth because we needed a Saviour. On a cross, He died in the place of guilty sinners like you and me, so we could be forgiven. Now, He invites every sinner to come to Him, and find salvation in Him. This is a direct quotation from the Lord Jesus: "*Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28). If you are looking for the answer to this problem, the heavy burden of your sin, you will only find the answer in Jesus Christ. And He never turns away anyone who comes to Him!



A Donation?

Donating intentionally to charities is a common occurrence. People donate money and gifts-in-kind to charities of their choice. But Jane and Brian Lowe in Halifax, Nova Scotia have major regrets about the gift they didn't intend to give. They never intended to donate \$50,000 worth of diamonds, pearls and gold jewelry to Diabetes Canada. It was a huge gift and they are trying to reclaim it.

The Lowes were heading out-of-town for a vacation. As a precaution in case of a break-in, they thought it would be wise to secure their valuables in an unlikely place in their home. Jane asked her husband to look after it. He carefully gathered up the valuables in a freezer bag.

Mr. Lowe took the Ziploc bag of precious valuables to their attic and found a larger bag filled with older clothing. He placed the valuables deep inside that bag. No criminal would bother with a bag of clothing

eventually destined for a second hand store.

Just before they headed out on their trip, Jane decided to call Diabetes Canada and have them pick up a few bags of clothing they no longer needed – six bags to be exact. She placed the bags from the attic on the doorstep for pick-up.

The Lowes headed out on their vacation. A couple of weeks later, after their trip, Jane was getting dressed for a party. Jane asked: "Where's my jewelry?" Brian said, "It's in one of the bags in the attic." "And then we realized what had happened. I felt sick. Because there's no getting around it. I had gotten rid of the bags of clothes," Jane said.

It's true – much of the jewelry could be replaced if one had the money, but then there were some other treasures that money could never replace — the ones saturated with memories.

continued...

Lowe called Diabetes Canada and shared her predicament with them. To the best of their knowledge, the bags had been shipped to a store in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Staff were unable to trace the mistaken gift and wondered if the bags may have been shipped off to Africa where summer clothes were needed.

In addition to the family offering a reward of several thousand dollars for the return of the jewelry bag, Jane Lowe has contacted regional stores and the headquarters. She has been in touch with pawn shops, and has been watching internet sales sites. She also filed a police report.

The bottom line is this – Diabetes Canada was given a huge gift but there was nothing intentional or altruistic about it. In fact, the donor is doing all in her power to rescind and recover the gift and have it returned. It was a total mistake.

Contrast that mistaken gift with a far greater gift – and consider it from a spiritual perspective. The big story of the Bible is that God gave the Gift that defies all human measurement and appraisal values. He gave the Gift to be an incredible eternal blessing to people who never deserved the slightest favour from God – not to mention the greatest Gift. And, He gave the Gift intentionally and deliberately – out of amazing love for poor sinners.

Some show utter disdain for the Gift and actually curse the Gift. Others ignore the Gift and get on with their

lives – placing absolutely zero-value on the greatest Gift of all time ever given. But despite such a miserable and unthankful response – God never canceled the Gift. God never recalled the Gift.

His Gift was intentional and purposeful. He gave the Gift out of love, whether the intended recipients ever reciprocated by embracing the Gift with gratitude.

More valuable than the purest gold, the whitest pearls or the rarest diamonds – God’s Gift to you and to me is nothing less than His Son, Jesus Christ and eternal life through Him.

Consider carefully what God wants you to know. Here is His Word – the Holy Bible.

“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).

“This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

“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).

What is your response to God’s Gift?

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What about the Future?

Though we are concerned about the young today, this article is especially written for those who are getting on in years and whose life lies mostly behind them. It seems like yesterday, doesn't it, since we were young ourselves, with life brightly before us? How quickly the years have flown! How brief the time has been! Maybe you agree with the saying, "I have too much past and too little future."

We can, however, dwell too much on past and present circumstances, so that we give little or no thought to the future. After all, the all-important question is, "Where will you be for all eternity?"

Perhaps some of you are not concerned about such things. You are vaguely hoping that it will be all right in the end. Maybe you feel that you are as good as, if not better than some others, and have lived a respectable life as things go, so why should you have anything to fear?

The Bible says "*there is none who does good, no, not one*" (Romans 3:12). Many die in their sins because they do not humble themselves before God. They compare themselves with others but remain indifferent to their own need of salvation through God's grace.

It may be, however, that you are not deceived in this way. You know that you are a sinner in God's sight, and that you need something more than your own righteousness and respectability to stand before God.

If this describes you, then we have good news because "*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*" (1 Timothy 1:15). He was punished for your sin when He died on the cross. The Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man, calls you to come to Him and find rest for your soul. If you draw near to God in repentance, He will receive you for He says, "*the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out*" (John 6:37).

Then instead of fear and uncertainty regarding the future, peace and forgiveness will possess your heart. When death finally calls you away it will not be to die in your sins, but to "*depart and be with Christ, which is far better*" (Philippians 1:23).

With Christ as your Saviour, the best is yet to come! The future is not "too little" but bright, glorious and eternal.



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*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

