

RIGHT CHOICE

Your decision determines your destiny!

Only Two Roads

We are all travelers through life. The Word of God makes clear that there are but two roads to travel to our destination. Christ Himself declared this fact in Matthew 7:13-14:

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” There are but two ways, the

way to life and the way to destruction. There are but two roads, the narrow and the broad. Everyone is on one road or the other.

The Lord has not hidden from us the road to heaven, the way of life, or the path of salvation. In John 10:9 Jesus said, *“I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved.”* Again in John 14:6, He said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* Christ is the road to life. All who

receive Him as Lord and Saviour are on their way to heaven.

But the real fact is that not all men are willing to enter the door or go by the way of the Cross of Christ. Many seek their own way of salvation.

Isaiah 53:6 says: *“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way.”* Solomon adds in Proverbs 14:12: *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”*

Christ is the gate and the way that leads to heaven and everlasting life. Rejection of Christ is the way that leads to death and hell. On which road are you?

Only Two Destinies

There are but two destinies for everyone. Eternity is awaiting us all. Try as one might to dismiss the idea of eternity, it cannot be avoided. We all must spend eternity somewhere. Heaven and hell are clearly set before us in the Scriptures as the destiny of the saved and unsaved respectively.

Jesus announced to His disciples, *“In My Father’s house are many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am”* (John 14:2-3).

He also says, *“I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved...I have come that [you] may have life and have it to the full”* (John 10:9-10).

To those who reject Christ and will not go through the narrow gate Jesus warns, *“How will you escape being condemned to hell?”* He also warned, *“The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matthew 13:49-50).

Jesus said, *“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and*

closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us. But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’ There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth” (Luke 13:24-28).

There is also a time when Christ will turn to His people and say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!...Come and share your master’s happiness!”* (Matthew 25:21).

To others He will say, *“Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels”* (Matthew 25:41). Hell will be a horrible place. Words fail to describe the remorse and miseries of hell. Likewise words fail to describe the beauty of heaven.

Choose the right destiny today. Put your faith this moment in the crucified, risen, eternal Son of God. Take Him as your Lord and Savior! We are all but one breath away from eternity! This could be your last opportunity to make the right choice.

The Greatest Escape

“Anyone here!” I shouted, stumbling half-asleep through the small, sparsely furnished house located in the low-rent district of a large southern city.

I awoke to find the house empty. My two friends had disappeared. We were planning to begin our trip out West that day, and I couldn’t imagine where they could be.

I stepped out on the back porch, and to my surprise my suitcases were lined up against the wall. My eyes fell on a note attached to one of the suitcases. “Good luck, Charles. We owe everything we have to our god.”

Panic seized me. Slowly, however, my panic turned to bitterness. I had been used! My so-called friends had “flimflammed” me out of every cent I had except for the \$100 I still carried in my wallet.

A feeling of desperation swept through me as I reviewed my hopeless situation. I was a 25-year-old, college-educated drug addict and alcoholic. I had nowhere to go and to make the situation totally irreparable, I had lost everything I owned.

I felt trapped! Trapped by my own willful rebellion toward anything that was right and

good. My parents had begged me to reform, and friends had warned me to slow down my fast-paced living. But to them all, I had sullenly retorted, “Get off my back, I know how to live my life. I don’t need you to tell me how!”

As a child, I was exposed to religion through attending church with my family, but the formalism and “good works” doctrine only succeeded in confusing me. When the void in my life was not filled by religion, I had put other things in my life.

Sports had become my god, and I had involved myself in every sport possible. My athletic success culminated my senior year in high school when I was named an All-Conference basketball player in South Carolina and was awarded a scholarship to play basketball at a college in North Carolina.

College

Because of my popularity as a college basketball player, I encountered intense peer pressure to do things I had never done before. I succumbed to the pressure to drink, and by the end of my first year at college I was a confirmed alcoholic at the age of 19.

I returned for my second year to find many of my friends using drugs. Again wishing to gain their acceptance, I dropped my athletic scholarship and plunged into the drug culture for what was the beginning of six horrible, empty years.

During this time, I experimented with every drug imaginable – hashish, hash oil, qualudes, cocaine, heroin, barbiturates and amphetamines. I took over 100 LSD trips and smoked pot until my fingers turned brown. Through my drug connections, I easily learned the “business” of drug distribution and eventually became a successful drug dealer in order to keep up my own habit.

I was further enticed into the drug scene as I partied with popular rock musicians and was captivated by their hedonistic existence.

Twilight Zone

I finally graduated from college with a degree in physical education. I was so “high” on graduation day, that my friends laughingly called me the “Twilight Zone.”

My drug-possessed life-style had begun to deplete me physically and emotionally. I decided to move back home and try to reform, but my problems followed me. Within months, I was involved in smuggling large

quantities of cocaine from South America to the States. I became a heavy cocaine user, and my life reached a new low. Often, I would cry myself to sleep at night, afraid of dying and of what life after death might reveal. I would awaken in the morning almost surprised to find myself still living. My memory became so clouded from drug abuse that I would function days at a time without recalling where I had been or what I had done.

One night I met a young lady who asked me, “Charles, you’re not happy, are you?” Outwardly I looked happy, but on the inside I ached.

Deciding to be uncommonly honest, I said, “No.” She replied, “You need to meet god!” I was stunned at her statement, for she was undoubtedly one of the most wicked young ladies I had ever met. I laughed and sneered, “A girl like *you* telling me *I* need to meet God? *You* need to meet God!” The girl warned me not to laugh, but handed me a phone number where I could reach her.

I had no intention of talking to the girl again, but for two weeks I couldn’t dismiss from my mind the thought of meeting God. “Perhaps this is the answer to my emptiness,” I ventured to think. I finally called the girl and set a time to meet her.

Satan Worshipers

When I arrived at the house, I was ushered into a strange-looking room. On the walls were pictures in praise to Beelzebub, Satan, Prince Most High. The girl introduced me to one of her friends who had a long, flowing black beard and the most piercing eyes I had ever seen.

As I spent time with these people, I witnessed their powers when they performed supernatural feats in their satanic rituals. I experienced deep fear at the pervading evil that surrounded them, but I was too intrigued to leave.

They attributed their powers to their “god” and explained that I could have the same power if I would quit my job, sell everything I had and give all my money to them. They would then take me to the West Coast and introduce me to god.

I was so excited about the prospect of meeting God that the next day I quit my job, sold my car and told my parents I was going out West. They tried to reason with me about the foolishness of my actions, but as usual I shouted, “Leave me alone, I know what I’m

doing!” and rudely left them standing at the door.

The next few days, I thought I had reached the ultimate high as I smoked dope and was awed by my friends’ supernatural powers. I felt secure in their friendship. The third night we collected our possessions and made plans to leave the following morning. I fell asleep that night greatly anticipating my new life out West. That evening was the last time I saw my two friends.

Reality

I continued to stand there on the porch and stare, seeing nothing but my futile plight. I had tried to find fulfillment in sports, popularity, unrestrained pleasures, and finally, the occult – only to find that I had trapped my life in complete despair.

Engulfed with anguish, I decided that I would find a drug dealer, purchase \$100 worth of barbiturates and go to sleep forever!

I turned from the porch and wandered aimlessly through the house. As I walked past the TV set in the living room, I absently flipped it on. I started to walk on, but my attention was arrested by the words, “Someone out there needs help.” I turned toward the TV screen. “God loves you,” the man continued. He seemed to speak directly to me as his kind face reinforced his compassionate, yet urgent words.

Tears welled up in my eyes. Nobody loves me, I thought. The preacher proceeded to affirm, “No matter who you are or what you’ve done, God loves you. If you will ask forgiveness for your sins and accept Jesus Christ into your life, He can change it.”

At these words, I fell to the floor, weeping freely. I understood for the first time that here was my escape from the void and the tragic circumstances in my life. “Dear God,” I cried aloud, “I’m so bad, so bad! I can’t see You, but I need You! And the best way I know how, I turn from my sins and give my life to You.”

Peace at Last

I stayed on my knees for a long time, sensing a great release from the guilt and sin of 25 years. Peace such as I had never known filled my heart.

I finally stood to my feet without knowing what to do or where to go. The name of a high school friend who was now a preacher flashed into my mind. I immediately called James and told him what had happened.

He was overjoyed as he explained that he had been praying for me for a long time. He realized the helpless predicament I was in and invited me to move in with his family.

Living with a preacher was quite an experience! It made me realize just how much needed to be changed in my life. With the Lord's help I overcame my addiction to drugs and alcohol with little trace of any permanent physical damage.

Gradually, my habits, language and interests changed. I became an avid reader of God's Word and books concerning practical Christian living. A consuming desire to tell others of God's love grew within me, and I developed into an aggressive, successful soul-winner.

Because of my love for sports, I felt that I could best serve the Lord as a Christian coach in a college athletic program. Yet, deep inside, I was convicted that God was calling me to preach. Finally, after an intense struggle, I unreservedly surrendered my life to the ministry.

In preparation for that call, I commenced my seminary training. While at seminary, God continued His direction in my life by blessing me with the wife of His choice. The Lord's blessings were endless as He met our financial needs, provided ample opportunities for Christian service and eventually gave us a wonderful gift of love – a beautiful baby boy!

Purpose in Life

The Lord has continued the renovation process in my life – replacing old habits and desires with a new motivation to please Him. I am fully convinced that those whose lives have been trapped through the enticements of Satan can experience the escape that is provided in the redeeming love of our Saviour. I have found that the fulfillment for which I had so ardently searched is found only in complete surrender to His will.

“He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord” (Psalm 40:2-3).

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Make The Right Choice Now!

No Adjustments Later

The woodsman stood by the stump of a large, tall tree which he had just felled, surveying his work with regrets. He had made no effort to investigate the nature of the terrain hidden by heavy underbrush and now found to his dismay that the tree lay in a very narrow, rocky gully which made recovery of the logs an impossibility.

While the tree was standing, the woodsman had the power of decision to determine in which direction it would fall, but once it was separated from its stump, a change in its position was beyond his ability no matter how earnestly he desired it.

My friend, you are approaching the day when you will wish that you had the opportunity that is yours at this moment, but your ability to make adjustments will, like the woodsman just mentioned, be forever past. Your condition at death, saved or unsaved, must remain eternally fixed.

Many people mistakenly believe that death is annihilation (end of existence), when in reality it is separation of the soul (the real person) from the body. When that time comes, there will be great rejoicing for those whose names have been written in the book of life, and utter sorrow and woe for the ones who have neglected or refused the way of salvation provided through Jesus Christ.

The Scriptures were given by God for our admonition and they are full of warnings that death is the deadline, the end of our probationary period. There will positively be no adjustments after the soul is separated from the body. *“...in the place where the tree falls there it shall be”* (Ecclesiastes 11:3).

If you are waiting for a more convenient time, be assured that it will never come, for God makes no mistakes about the time when He calls. *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Corinthians 6:2). *“Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts”* (Hebrews 3:15).

Some people say that they will attend to these things when they come to them but do not wish to be troubled about them now. To such let us say: You have read these lines and thereby received knowledge of the urgency

of this matter. If you delay action and death overtakes you, you will die in your sins and will be accountable to God for the light that is in you. *“He, who being often reproved hardens his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy”* (Proverbs 29:1). If you have sufficient courage to face the facts, you will make your choice now! In order to assist you, six steps are listed below:

FIRST: You must be thoroughly convinced in your own mind that you are a sinner and helpless to do anything to merit your own salvation.

SECOND: Repent, that is, turn with sorrow from all known sin.

THIRD: Confess to God that you are a sinner in need of salvation and ask Him to receive you and write your name in the book of life for Jesus Christ's sake.

FOURTH: Believe that Jesus Christ died in your stead in order that you might have eternal life. Then, in faith, thank God for saving you even though you do not feel any different. You have met His conditions and are under the blood protection as were the children of Israel when the death angel passed over the land of Egypt (Exodus 12).

FIFTH: Be baptized. *“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord”* (Acts 10:48). Baptism is the biblical way by which we proclaim our death, burial and resurrection with Christ (Romans 6:4).

SIXTH: Fly your colors! Do not hide your profession. You are now a Christian by the grace of God. Tell others about it.

You will suffer persecution, but God will give you the joy of winning others to Him if you are faithful with your testimony.

Jesus said: *“Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven”* (Matthew 10:32).

Your confession clinches it. *“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Romans 10:10).

Adapted from Evangelical Tract Distributors.

Christ Our Substitute

God could have made no greater sacrifice than He made when He gave His own dear Son to bring a lost world back to Himself.

Adam's transgression had brought condemnation and death to the whole human race. *"By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"* (Romans 5:12).

God's holy law has decreed, *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die"* (Ezekiel 18:4). His holy law had been broken. God's great heart of love was grieved that He had made man, for man by his own deed had separated himself from God, the very source of life.

Sin separates from God. *"Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear"* (Isaiah 59:2).

There is only one way to approach God. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me"* (John 14:6).

Sinful though we are, Christ is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). God, in His infinite mercy and love, has provided a way by which every lost repentant soul who will, may be saved.

To save lost, sinful man from the penalty of God's broken law, a substitute had to be provided. So Jesus, God's own dear Son, came to earth to become man's substitute, to suffer the penalty for God's broken law.

The judgment man's sin deserved fell on Jesus, God's spotless Lamb. Hear Him in Gethsemane as He was nearing the Cross: *"My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death...O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done...And what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour"* (Matthew 26:38-42; John 12:27).

Behold Him on the cross in agony. Hear Him cry, *"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"* (Matthew 27:46).

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all"

(Isaiah 53:5-6). When Jesus cried on the cross, "It is finished!" the work of redemption was complete. The penalty for God's broken law had been paid in full. *"Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit"* (1 Peter 3:18).

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3). He had said, *"I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father"* (John 16:28). *"When He*

had by Himself purged our sins, (He) sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high...By His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Hebrews 1:3; 9:12). *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name"* (John 1:12).

You can open your heart's door to Him by confessing your sins and your need of His cleansing blood. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). *"The blood of Jesus Christ [God's] Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7).

Christ's Saving Blood

There is only one thing that will remove the stain of sin that is deeply embedded in the soul of every man. That is blood. But not just any blood. It must be the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. It is the blood that was appointed by God to make atonement for the soul – to remove the sin stain from the soul of man. It was shed blood, and not the blood in the veins of the sacrifice, but the blood upon the altar.

"The life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul" (Leviticus 17:11).

If there is no blood, there is no salvation. If no blood, there is still a sin-stained soul. If there is no blood, there is no eternal life. It is written in God's Word, *"Without the shedding of blood is no remission"* (forgiveness of sins) (Hebrews 9:22). There is utmost importance in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, for it is the only thing that will separate the sin from the sinner.

Many depend on other things to remove the stain of sin from their souls, but God said: *"It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul"* (Leviticus 17:11). Before Jesus came to earth, animals were used as the innocent sacrifice in the place of the guilty person. After Jesus came, He made the supreme sacrifice. He willingly became the *"Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29).

The blood of the sacrificial animals did not take away the sins of the people (Hebrews

10:4), but only pointed to One who would come and take away the sins and make adequate atonement so that no more sacrifices would be necessary. The blood of Jesus Christ, the sin-remover, was supplied for all who would avail themselves of the privilege of using it.

Today many are depending on things other than the blood of Jesus to cleanse their souls. They want to feel their salvation, to earn it, to really work for it, to merit it by some outstanding act or acts, by living entirely by the Golden Rule, by clean morals, good works, coming from a religious family or doing the best they can. But salvation is free. You cannot earn it, and it is within the reach of all.

Man's theories do not cleanse the soul from sin; nor do they remove the stain of sin. God Himself appointed a sin remover, but unless it is applied in faith, the stain remains. God has done His part in supplying the blood of Jesus as the remover. It is up to man to use it, or it is of no value to him.

"Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18-19).

For a man to do his part, he must realize his need. Regardless of his station in life his soul bears the stain of sin, and God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). He is a just God and has prepared the same remedy for all. – C. Morgan

What Is It To Repent?

What does it mean to repent toward God? Speaking broadly, it means a change of mind. Take the example of a man who thought that whatever he did was right. Later he discovered that he was mistaken, and he repented – he changed his mind and his whole attitude toward the course he had formerly taken.

There are people who are utterly irreligious, self-willed, self-indulgent. They go on in their own way, utterly careless of God or of His law. They say, “I do not care. I will have my own way.” What such people need is a change of mind. They need to learn that they are on the wrong course.

When one is led to repentance, he comes to see from the light of God’s Word that the course he has taken is wrong, that he is going in the wrong direction, and if he is going to arrive at the proper destination, he must turn about face, and go back. It is a great thing to recognize that we are wrong, and a still greater thing to be willing to acknowledge that we are wrong. Repentance is to see that we are wrong and to acknowledge it to ourselves.

And then, in the biblical sense, it means, too, an element of sorrow. It is not only the intelligence that is instructed so that I know that I am wrong, but my emotional nature is touched, and I am made to feel that I am wrong, and I am sorry. I regret it. Repentance means real sorrow for sin. I am genuinely sorry at heart that I have done wrong. What I want is to be cleansed from sin – not merely to escape its consequences and its punishment, but I have come to abhor it.

Sorrow does more than move the emotions. Sorrow deepens until it touches the will. You say, “I am sorry for my sin.” How sorry are you? Are you sorry enough for it to be willing to turn away from it? You are not sorry for sin unless you desire to be done with it. Are you willing to give up the thing that you know to be wrong? That is true repentance.

True repentance causes a man to say, “I know I am a sinner. I am sorry for it, and God helping me, I shall seek to do His will henceforth.”

True repentance is repentance toward God, toward a personal, transcendent God. I have not merely broken one of His statutes. I have not merely violated law in the abstract, but I have sinned against the Lawgiver Himself, and I repent toward God. I see that my attitude

toward God has been wrong. I am sorry and I am determined henceforth to obey God if I can only find out what He wants me to do. That is genuine repentance.

After repentance we must put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour. We must see that God has come to us in the person of Christ. Christ died not for His own sins, but for the sins of others. All the sins of the world were laid on Jesus. Sin was laid on Christ that we might be forgiven.

Religion is what man does for God; Salvation is what God does for man.

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).

Religion says: Something in my hand I bring; Salvation says: Nothing in my hand I bring.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Religion is trusting in a work we do; Salvation is trusting in a work that has been done.

Jesus said, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:28).

Religion depends on our behaving; Salvation depends on our believing.

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household” (Acts 16:31).

Religion depends upon the sufficiency of character; Salvation depends on the sacrifice of the cross.

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Religion is striving for a better attain-

Perhaps someone reading this has said to himself or to someone else: “I wish I could be better. I wish I could gain the mastery of the evils in my life – the things that I know are wrong. Unless something happens to enable me to be better, I shall get worse and worse.”

Such a one can say, “I am sorry I am a sinner. I will be saved from sin.” And then you can look to Jesus dying on the cross and say, “I know why He died. He died for my sins, to cleanse me from sin. I am sorry for my sins. I will trust Christ to be my Savior.”

– T. T. Shields

Salvation Or Religion?

Religion is secured through a perfect atonement; Salvation is secured through a perfect atonement.

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Religion tries to bring us from darkness to light; Salvation does bring us from death unto life.

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24).

Religion consists in attention to rites, forms, ceremonies, precepts, laws and commandments; Salvation consists in the imparting of a new life by the receiving of a Person.

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God” (John 1:12-13).

Religion provides us with a robe of righteousness of our own making; but God says all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...” (Isaiah 64:6).

– F. M. Eagleson

Facts To Help You Decide

"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6).

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart" (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

You Cannot Save Yourself

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25).

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10).

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

Your Salvation Has Already Been Provided For

"God commendeth His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

"We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

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

RIGHT CHOICE

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"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God's Word Shows You How To Be Saved

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7).

"He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

"Then they that gladly received His word were baptized...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:41-47).

You Must Confess Christ As Lord Before Men

"Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33).

"For whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory and in His Father's and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26).

If You Choose Not To Believe

"He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

But If You Believe

"He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me...shall not come into condemnation" (John 5:24).

"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17).

The Bible Is God's Inspired Word

The Bible is God's testimony to all mankind everywhere, and it points the way of the abundant life to all who will prayerfully read it. *"Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens" (Psalm 119:89).*

Although God used men to write the Bible, the message is direct from God and it will never change. It is from everlasting to everlasting. *"The word of the Lord stands forever" (1 Peter 1:25).*

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away" (Luke 21:33).

When God used men to write the Bible, He breathed upon them and gave the message for them to write. *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

Make Your Decision For Christ By Praying To Him

Dear Lord Jesus,

In obedience to Your command, I do here and now turn from every known sin. I know I am a lost sinner. I believe You died for sinners. I therefore receive You now as my personal Lord and Saviour. As God's only Son, You shed Your blood for the remission of my sins. I take You as my guide to whom I will commit the direction of my life and as my risen Saviour whom I will trust to keep me from falling. Resting on the assurance of Your Word, I believe my sins are forgiven, for Jesus' sake. I now receive from You everlasting life. (2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 2:24; Mark 2:10-12; John 6:68; Jude 24).

Jesus Is Lord



Helps For New Christians

1. You should read your Bible daily. *"I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You"* (Psalm 119:11). *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15).

2. Spend time in His presence, praising and praying. *"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits"* (Psalm 103:2). *"Men should always pray and not give up"* (Luke 18:1).

3. When conscious of having failed Him, confess it. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). *"He who conceals his sins does not prosper; but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy"* (Proverbs 28:13).

4. Be a witness to others. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). *"Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you"* (Mark 5:19).

5. Meet regularly with other Christians. *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching"* (Hebrews 10:25).

6. Fill your life with good works. *"This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone"* (Titus 3:8).

7. Undertake some project for the Lord. Distribute tracts. Use your means to further the work of the Lord. Use your talents for Him in church, chapel, mission, hospital, jail, orphanage. — Tom Olson

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

— John 14:6

JESUS, I COME!

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee;

Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee;

Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

— William T. Sleeper

Some Blessings Of Being A Christian

Now that you have received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you have had a definite transaction with Him, and He has received you!

1. You have become a child of God. *"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God"* (John 1:12-13).

2. Your sins are forgiven. *"All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name"* (Acts 10:43).

3. You have passed from death. *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life"* (John 5:24). See also 1 John 3:14.

4. You have received eternal life as a gift. *"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).

5. You shall not come into condemnation. *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"* (Romans 8:1).

6. You have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, our High Priest. *"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One"* (1 John 2:1).

I hereby make my decision public:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

If you have made your commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, you may send us your decision and we will mail you the book, *There's Hope*, free of charge.

Please mail your coupon to:

RIGHT CHOICE
P.O. Box 279
Seelyville IN 47878
U.S.A.

My Arrest And Rescue

It was during Christmas week that I was placed under arrest and dragged into court. I was a very small boy, in my fourteenth year. I was caught in the act; there was no excuse; there seemed to be no help or hope. I was guilty. I was thrust into the prisoner's dock. The gate was slammed, and a big policeman leaned on the gate, and seemed to look at me with a degree of satisfaction at the thought that he had me, and that I was sure of punishment.

I felt utterly helpless. I could not even weep. I had wept all the tears out of my system. I was dry and emotionless, except I was crushed to the very earth with a sense of my guilt and lostness. The judge sat in his big chair but I did not dare look at him. I had no hope for mercy, and I knew that justice would be my ruin.

The courtroom was packed with people. As I crouched in the corner of the dock, they were gazing at me with looks of accusation which seemed to say, "Judge, give him the full penalty of the law and save society from further trouble." Finally the clerk announced the opening of the court and my case came first. The judge asked the clerk if the boy had anyone to represent him. "Represent" was a new word to me. I supposed my representative was to be my executioner. The clerk answered that I had no one.

The judge then said to a lawyer within the bar, "I appoint you to represent this boy." The lawyer rose up and walked slowly forward, picking his way among the chairs, approached the dock, pushed the policeman to one side, opened the gate and stepped inside the dock.

I, withered with fear, crouched closely in one corner, and with eyes wide open with horror, gazed up at my lawyer. He had a wonderful face; it was strong and calm, full of kindness and marvelous beauty. I noticed a tear hanging on one eyelash. That tear helped me wonderfully. He sat down and slipped his arm around me. It seemed that my very bones had dropped out of their sockets and I was scarcely breathing below my collar button.

My attorney drew me up to him. The pressure was so gentle, and yet so strong. It seemed to restore and readjust my bones, relax my nerves, and I commenced to breathe more deeply. Stooping down, his silken beard brushed over my suntanned face, and placing his lips close to my ear, he said, "My little friend, are you guilty?" I could not have lied to him if it had been to save my life.

With trembling voice I answered, "Yes, sir, I am guilty of much more than you know about."

"Well," said he, "do you not think it will be best for us to confess judgment and throw you on the mercy of the court?"

I did not know what it meant to be thrown on the mercy of the court, but I felt sure that if he would throw me I would alight in the best place there was for me, and I at once answered in the affirmative. My lawyer gave me a gentle pat on the head, and stood up facing the judge.

He said, "Please, your honor, it has been my privilege to practice for many years in your honor's court, and I have been glad to notice that when the ends of justice can be secured, and society can be protected, it has been your honor's prerogative to show mercy. I thank the court for appointing me to plead in the interest of this little boy. He confesses his guilt. His heart is broken. He is full of contrition. He has been an orphan from his infancy and is dependent and moneyless and begs for compassion."

I reached out my soiled, lean fingers and caught hold of the skirt of my attorney's coat. I clung to him with the feeling that if I would hold on to him he would pull me out. I thought his speech was finished but it was a mere introduction. A deep stillness fell upon the great gathering and his mellow voice rose until it filled the room with a most marvelous appeal. He spoke of orphan children, of their loneliness, of their unprotected condition, of the temptations to which they were subjected, of their desolation – like lambs without a shepherd, in a world full of hungry wolves seeking to destroy.

He spoke until the harsh people softened, old men groaned aloud. He spoke until the tears trickled down the policeman's cheek, who, looking kindly at me, whispered to inquire if I did not want a drink of water. I was too busy clinging to the coat tail of my attorney, gazing into his wonderful face, and listening to his marvelous words, to want anything else. I was breathing deep. New life and hope were creeping into me. I was falling desperately in love with my lawyer.

My attorney said, "Please, your honor, if you in the spirit of mercy, will dismiss the charge and set the lad free, I pledge myself to become his guardian, to see to it that he has a home and protection. I will look after his education and I promise to give to society a good and useful citizen."

I could scarcely keep from crying aloud for joy. It seemed my heart would burst within me for gratitude. I felt that if they would let me place my ragged shoes on the bench upon which I sat, and throw my ragged coat sleeves around the neck of my attorney and kiss his

cheek one time, they might take me out and hang me, and I would die shouting.

In the midst of his wonderful address, my attorney, instead of addressing the judge as "Your Honor," said, "My Father." This shot through me. I saw that if the judge had appointed his own son to plead for me, it was more than likely that he would heed his pleadings and show me mercy.

Men were weeping all over the courtroom. I had both hands full of the skirts of the coat of my lawyer. The policeman had laid aside his cap, had gotten out his handkerchief, and had buried his face in a flood of tears. It was a powerful moment in my trial. My attorney had reached his climax.

He exclaimed, "My Father, this child for whom I plead is none other than my brother." I saw at once that if the judge was the father of my attorney, and the attorney was my brother, then the judge was my father also.

I could restrain myself no longer. I gave a great cry of joy, leaped out of the dock, rushed up to the judge's stand and flung myself upon his bosom. He embraced me with a long, tender pressure that seemed to make me through and through a new creature.

Folding me into his arms, he stood up and said, "Rejoice with me, for my son who was dead is alive, who was lost is found."

The entire crowd in the courtroom broke into tears and laughter. The people embraced each other. They all seemed to want to shake hands with me. They congratulated my attorney, and we laughed, and wept, and shouted together.

I hardly need tell you that the courthouse was a Methodist Church, that the trial was an old-time revival, that the Word of God arrested me and brought me, convicted and guilty, to the bar of justice; and the eternal Father was the Judge upon the throne, and that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Attorney who pleaded my case, won my pardon, and secured my eternal salvation.

I look back with fondest memory to that great occasion when bowed and burdened with guilt and bound with sin, Jesus Christ undertook for me, broke my chains, swept away my guilt, and at the throne of the universe, secured for me a full and free forgiveness, a blessed and glorious pardon, and revealed the blessed fact that the great God – the Judge of all the world – was, and is, my Father in Heaven. – H. C. Morrison

Think not your sins are too many or too black. *"Come now...saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"* (Isaiah 1:18).