



*"GOD'S PLAN OF
SALVATION!"*

BOOKLET 15

"Effective Christian Living" Series

By

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*THE BIG QUESTION
BOOKLET 15
"GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION!"*

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1.

*"CAN I EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF OPENLY
ACKNOWLEDGING CHRIST?"*

Many who have testified of a personal experience of God have spoken of 'God' in terms of Jesus. Those who seem to 'know' God best are those who speak most often of Jesus. Christians claim that the greatest fact of reality is this: what Jesus was as a human; God has always been eternally! Doubtless, the eternal God is more than the human Jesus was, but God is no less than Jesus was! Christians claim that Jesus was God in human form! Jesus gives God a face! When one sees Jesus, he sees God! These are startling claims!

Why believe in Jesus Christ? Because Jesus is believable! Jesus is believable because His unique claims were backed by His unique life and teachings and ultimately by His victory over death!

Why believe in Jesus? For at least five reasons. Using a series of rhyming words, it

can be said:

- (1) No man ever sought like this man.*
- (2) No man ever taught like this man.*
- (3) No man ever wrought like this man.*
- (4) No man ever fought like this man.*
- (5) No man ever caught like this man.*

We must look at Jesus' life in view of these five wonderful facts.

Jesus' claims are unique! If they are true, He is the greatest personality in History! You must honestly examine His claims!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

"Whoever acknowledges Christ openly before men, will be openly acknowledged before the Father in heaven!"

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"Master of men, attune my inner ears to hear your call, and give me faith to make an inner heart commitment to You. Let my inner commitment be outwardly expressed, in my decisive following of You!"

"God because You are infinite and I am finite, I need a visible, approachable God! I need a forgiving God, not a forbidding God!"

I need a tender God, not a terrible God! I need a God who has lived with humanity and who understands humanity! If Jesus is God, I need Him! Amen."

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

May you, the one I cherish, follow Christ joyfully and decisively all the days of your fruitful life!

2.

"CAN MY HUMAN NATURE REALLY BE CHANGED?"

Through the objective work of Christ on the cross all men are put into a savable relationship with God. Man's reconciliation with God is impossible without the cross. However, with the cross each man must respond to Christ's decisive accomplishment in order to make reconciliation real, personal, and workable. Through Christ's death God is once-and-for-all reconciled to lost humanity, but each individual member of that lost humanity must personally accept what Christ has universally accomplished. He who personally accepts what Christ has historically accomplished on the cross is put into a right relationship with God. Personal faith appropriation of the finished work of the cross means personal enjoyment of the benefits of reconciliation.

He who is reconciled with God through Christ is he whose sins are forgiven and whose guilt is resolved. He is no longer at enmity with God. The dividing walls of hostility have been broken down. He enjoys friendship and fellowship with God. One's

sins are hidden in the 'sea of God's forgetfulness'. Those sins are removed, 'as far as the east is from the west'.

He enjoys peace and rest with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 4:1-11) Although God's promise still stands - his promise that all may enter his place of rest - we ought to tremble with fear because some of you may be on the verge of failing to get there after all. For this wonderful news - the message that God wants to save us - has been given to us just as it was to those who lived in the time of Moses. But it didn't do them any good because they didn't believe it. They didn't mix it with faith. For only he who believes God can enter into his place of rest.

He has said, "I have sworn in my anger that those who don't believe me will never get in," even though he has been ready and waiting for them since the world began. We know he is ready and waiting because it is written that God rested on the seventh day of creation, having finished all that he had planned to make. Even so they didn't get in, for God finally said, "They shall never enter my rest." Yet the promise remains and some get in—but not those who had the first chance, for they disobeyed God and

failed to enter. But he has set another time for coming in, and that time is now. He announced this through King David long years after man's first failure to enter, saying in the words already quoted, today when you hear him calling, do not harden your heart against Him.

"This new place of rest he is talking about does not mean the land of Israel that Joshua led them into. If that were what God meant, he would not have spoken long afterwards about "today" being the time to get in. So there is a full complete rest still waiting for the people of God. Christ has already entered there. He is resting from his work, just as God did after the creation. Let us do our best to go into that place of rest, too, being careful not to disobey God as the children of Israel did, thus failing to get in."

He who is reconciled with God is he who is enjoying cleansing from sin's pollution. The blood that forgives sins is the blood which also cleanses from the pollution and stain of sin.

He who is reconciled with God is he who is increasingly enjoying victory over sin's power. The remaining harmful habits are being broken. Actions, attitudes, and relationships are progressively becoming

Christian. "If any man is reconciled to God through Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, all things are becoming new." "When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!" (II Corinthians 5:17) The power of sin is being broken in that man's life.

What does Christ do in His present reconciling ministry? He is saving us from the guilt of sin, the pollution of sin, and the power of sin.

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

The 'Way of Works' is weak! The 'Way of Faith' is strong!

The Law Magnifies Sin and Condemns the Sinner!

The Way of Works Leads to Judgment and to God's Holy Wrath.

The Way of Faith Leads to Forgiveness and Peace.

The Way of Faith is based on Human Submission to Divine Love, with the Result of Repentant adjustments to God's revealed will in the unfolding love relationship between the obedient believer and the caring

God!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, the more I attempt to justify myself by law-keeping, the more condemned I feel! The Law of God (The Ten Commandments) is perfect, but I am polluted; therefore, I cannot keep the Law. What the Law forbids, corrupt human nature desires. Is there no hope for me? None, if my human nature cannot be changed! But, thanks to God's transforming power, I can be inwardly changed in my heart and mind! I can be converted! I can become a new person in every way, through Christ's wonderful provision and by my 'faith response' to that provision! I can be cleansed in my inner soul - changed forever! All through my faith in the all-powerful Savior! Glorious reality! I receive your gift of eternal life, right now, in faith believing! Thank You! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember, that there is both initial new life and progressive new life when you make your surrender of your will to the Living Savior: What God Commands (supreme love for God and sincere love for all persons) your God-created nature demands,

and Christ's Grace supplies! Glorious Reality!

3.

"CAN I BE RECONCILED TO GOD?"

What more can God do than what He has done to save humankind from the penalty of sin - eternal death? God sent His Son to earth to live a sacrificial life, to die a substitutionary death, and to conquer death through the resurrection. God has spared His wrath and extended His mercy to every person - all because of what Christ has done! God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should be saved! God has highly exalted Christ and given Him a name, which is above every name! Christ is the KING!

Because of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and Kingly reign, God is prepared to save all humanity. God's plan for humanity's salvation has been accomplished in Christ! The sacrifice of a loving God has made possible the glory of a reconciled sinner!

Christ's death for helpless, despairing sinners: "When we were utterly helpless, with no way of escape, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners who

had no use for him. Even if we were good, we really wouldn't expect anyone to die for us, though, of course, that might be barely possible. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." (Romans 5:6-8)

Exercising faith in the living Christ results in Christ's reconciliation of sinful man with the sinless God. *"And since by his blood he did all this for us as sinners, how much more will he do for us now that he has declared us not guilty? Now he will save us from all of God's wrath to come."* (Romans 5:9)

The New Testament uses the word 'Reconciliation' to describe the changed relationship between God and humanity, which is the result of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because of Christ's historic death, sin's penalty for all humanity has been paid. The righteousness of God has been vindicated and the justice of God has been satisfied. By the one decisive act of Christ's death, all men are delivered from a condition of estrangement and restored to fellowship with God - not automatically but potentially, dependent upon each individual's personal appropriation of the purchased gift of grace. Reconciliation is universal as far as God is concerned, but not

automatic as far as man is concerned.

"O God, because of the 'Finished Work' of the Cross, you are at peace with the entire world! All enmity is gone and all walls are destroyed! I come, not to a God of wrath, but to a God of peace! Wonderful!"

The deep wounds of suffering revealed in the open hands of the Crucified Savior are for the healing of my deep wounds of sin!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Are you one among the multitude of humanity who believes that one (or more) of the following human activities is powerful enough to produce reconciliation between you and Almighty God? Morality, Religion, Baptism, Church Membership, Culture, Patriotism, Natural Birth, Charitable Deeds, Mere Sincerity.

The Bible has an unflattering (FRANK) estimate of human nature: "We humans are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (Isaiah 64:6)

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"It is not faith in man's works, but faith in God's work on the cross that justifies a sinner in God's Sight! O God, my own good works are not good enough to save me. But the good work of Christ on the Cross of Calvary is altogether sufficient to save me to the uttermost! Reconciliation is the divine objective accomplishment, ready to become a human subjective experience through faith in the resurrected Christ! Thank you that I, the alienated one, can become the reconciled one - to enjoy fellowship with the Triune God in time and in eternity. Glory! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

You cannot earn God's favor. Rather, you humbly and gratefully must simply accept God's favor. God, because of the work of Christ on the Cross and because of His Resurrection, has become reconciled to the entire human race. God now waits for you to accept that objective reconciliation, and thus to become personally reconciled to God!

4.

*"CAN HUMAN EFFORT LAND ME IN
HEAVEN?"*

"Because of God's kindness you have been saved through trusting Christ. Moreover, even trusting is not of yourself; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

"Why Did God Give the Law?" (The Ten Commandments)

- 1. The Law was given to define sin.*
- 2. The Law amplified sin and showed the exceeding seriousness of sin.*
- 3. The Law reveals the real nature of man's weakness.*
- 4. The Law even prods the old nature of the unregenerate man to cause him to sin even more.*

5. The Law causes man to rebel and to do the very thing which the Law forbade him to do.

6. The Law condemns man and shows his helplessness to save himself.

7. The presence of the Law gave man a chance to try to get to God by his own human good and diligent efforts, thus finally driving man to despair and helplessness into the arms of God's mercy and grace.

*Law Is Our Schoolmaster,
To Lead Us to Christ,
That We Might Be Justified by Faith!*

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, deliver me from my tendency to justify my behavior and to rationalize my sin! Thank you for your Holy Law, which clearly defines and strongly magnifies my sins. Your Holy Law drives me into your strong arms of mercy! I am helpless in myself, but hopeful in You. I surrender my carnal pride, which tragically declares that I am able to get myself to heaven - a very foolish and wicked idea. The blood, the blood of Jesus is my only 'salvation from sin', and is my only 'passport' to Your beau-

tiful heaven! I humble myself before you in total dependence and in deep gratitude for the salvation and security of my soul. Thank you, merciful Savior! Amen!”

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Choose the ‘Way of Grace’, not the ‘Way of Law’. The Law is the great magnifying lens of sin; the Lord is the great purging flame of sin. Always choose the FLAME!

5.

"CAN I LIVE A GRACE-FILLED LIFE?"

One of the predominant themes of John is eternal life. John makes it clear that this life begins now and continues forever after death.

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (John 6:51)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keeps my saying, he shall never see death." (John 8:51) *"And I give unto them (my sheep at the present time) eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* (John 10:28)

"Jesus said unto them, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth me shall never die." (John 11:25, 26)

Jesus spoke of a life which was eternal in quantity and Godly in quality. It is not mere length of life that Jesus promised, but a

quality of life that Jesus promised, which is patterned after the life of God Himself.

The Spirit's ministry is that of universal grace. Grace is the undeserved and unmerited favor of God towards humanity, and was made possible by Christ's sacrifice on the Cross.

One of the inseparable connecting themes of John is Life and Belief. Eternal life is found by exercising belief in Christ. It is "...whosoever believeth in him" that shall not perish. "And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life." (John 6:40) "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25) "He that does not believe in the Son shall die in his sins." (John 8:24)

The Gospel of John was written for this very purpose: "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." (John 20:31)

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Not mere intellectual assent, but total commitment of one's self to Christ, is the

Biblical meaning of belief. The exercise of belief is essential in coming to find eternal life. It is man's response to the Spirit's conviction and drawing.

*"For by God's Grace (favor)
You have been saved through
Faith (for a life of beauty);
And that not of yourselves,
It is the Gift of God,
Not as a result of works
(human performance) that no one
should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O Christ, you are altogether trustworthy in your character, and faithful to your promises. Abandoning all hope for salvation in myself, I cast myself helplessly and hopefully into your mighty arms!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember this: When you make a 'leap of faith', you are not leaping into the dark, but into the light of God's everlasting love!

6.

*"CAN FAITH PUT ME IN A RIGHT
STANDING?"*

"Because of God's kindness you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

*"Almighty God of the Universe, my life is weighed down with a terrible load of sin - sin because I have willfully transgressed all of your Holy Laws! My heart 'pants' for you, but I feel so alienated from You! How can I get into a right relationship with you? How can my terrible estrangement be taken away? How can I find peace and forgiveness? 'Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands.' Is there any way to be put right?" **There Is Only One-Way! The Way of Faith!"***

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

For too long, O God, I have tried to gain

your favor through human merit. I have tried to outbalance my bad works with my good works. It has all led to uncertainty and I come to thee now with an empty heart and with open hands. I receive your grace in simple faith.

The labors of my hands shall henceforth be, not to work for God's love, but instead to love God's works. I see now that I am 'saved' by God's grace, through my faith (trust), and the result of this is my involvement in the 'good works' in the Kingdom of Love. Thank you for my salvation - all because of Christ's 'finished work'! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Always remember that your biggest problem - your sin - is adequately met by God's greatest solution - Salvation - and is found by life's simplest method - 'Faith In The Loving Savior, Jesus Christ'!

7.

"AM I A MEMBER OF A FALLEN RACE?"

In the beginning of human history, our first parents disobeyed God's command, and consequently fell into terrible sin! Since that ancient time (and occurrence), all of their descendants have been born with a 'moral bent' (tendency) to sin. This 'carnal nature' of sin easily gives expression to sinful (rebellious) acts. Therefore, every human creature is a sinner by nature, and also a sinner by choice.

In the account of Humans' Fall into Sin, the consequences were quickly seen:

- (1) Sin replaced innocence with guilt, and the first couple felt shame because of their nakedness.*
- (2) Sin caused the first couple to run from God's presence and to hide; the couple no longer enjoyed intimate fellowship with God.*
- (3) The couple was not willing to accept personal moral responsibility for their actions. The man blamed his actions on the woman, and the woman, in turn, blamed her actions*

on the serpent.

*The transgressors often are the 'scape-goats'. Blaming their actions on their background, on one's friends, society, or heredity. Humans seek to sooth their conscience through rationalization, but God 'cannot be fooled'! **"The heart of man is desperately wicked, who can know it!"** (Jeremiah 17:9)*

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Human's disobedience to God led to Man's fall. Man failed to stand the test and thus to prove his love for the Creator.

Man fell: From the height of splendor to the depth of despair. From the beauty of perfection to the vileness of distortion. From the joy of fellowship to the anguish of separation.

From the freedom of innocence to the bondage of guilt. From the strength of health to the weakness of disease. From the glory of life to the corruption of death.

From the richness of an heir to the poor-ness of an outcast. From the fullness of knowledge to the shameful-ness of ignorance.

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, I realize that my first parents

yielded to the temptation to play the part of God. They invaded the sacred (forbidden) territory of your personal knowledge when they ate from the God-restricted tree. They overstepped their God-made barrier and they disobeyed a specific command.

They attempted to usurp your territory, instead of enjoying the wide territory that You had given them! Because of not recognizing their place and position as dignified and blessed servants of their loving Master, and overstepping God's legitimate restraints, they miserably fell into SIN! O merciful God, the Story of Adam and Eve has been my own story—and the story of the entire human race! I am a fallen (disobedient and rebellious) 'slave' to sin, in desperate need for recovery, forgiveness, healing, and fellowship with my Creator and Redeemer!

O God, I know that I was made for greatness, and that I lost my greatness through my deliberate sinning! But, is there any hope for me? Yes, all because of my sincere faith in Jesus Christ, I can regain my greatness—a greatness that is greater than the greatness that Adam and Eve experienced before they fell! I, a fallen creature, can be saved!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember, the Redemption of Jesus Christ is greater than the Fall of Mankind was terrible! God's Grace is greater than Man's Sin!

8.

"HOW CAN I ESCAPE THE WRATH OF GOD?"

If you are a sincere believer in Jesus Christ, your sins already have been judged on the Cross!

Christ took the penalty for all your sins upon Himself. His death was a 'substitutionary death' - He took your place—the Innocent One dying for the guilty one!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

"Much more than, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Romans 5:9-10

When Paul uses the phrase 'much more than' in verses 9 and 10, he is engaging in interesting logic. To use this type of logic is like saying, "If the vast ocean is salt water, then one cup of that ocean water will be salt water. If the sun's energy can provide power to heat a thousand houses, then it can heat my one house."

If Christ died for all humanity, then he died for me. If one has made a friend of God now, he shall escape God's wrath hereafter.

"Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" (Romans 5:9)

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"God Almighty, I have a deep, reverential respect (wholesome fear) of You, for I know You have the 'keys of life and death' in Your hand! To those who accept Your Son as their Savior, mercy will be granted. To those who deliberately and regularly reject Your Son, they will face a terrible future of deserved punishment. I know that 'mercy spurned is judgment earned'! You are a merciful God, but you are also a just God. Your Will is that none should perish, but those who reject all of your overtures of love, will surely reap your just penalty in the end.

Moreover, as your Word states, 'It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God'. It is either repent or perish! I gladly choose repentance, even though it is hard for me to honestly face my many sins and to turn decisively from the practice of

those sins. I know that you will meet my 'godly sorrow' and my determination to make a 'moral U-turn', with your loving presence and with your transforming power! I want to experience your 'Smiling Approval', not your 'face of just wrath'! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember, your sins have already been placed in the forgiving hands of a merciful God, because of your total trust in the Living Savior! Judged on the Cross! You face, not a fearful future, but a fantastic future with your reconciling Savior! As long as you walk with God, you are secure in time and in eternity! Not the 'wrath of God', but the 'favor and mercy of God' rests upon you - all because you have placed your trust alone in Christ's atoning sacrifice!

9.

"HOW IMPORTANT IS MY FAITH?"

The Object of your faith determines the Value of your faith! Everyone has 'faith' in someone or in something, but how reliable is the 'object' of your faith? Putting your 'faith' in anything, or in anyone, other than in the Living God (Jesus Christ), will leave you 'high and dry' - disappointed and even abandoned!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except by ME!"

Dogmatic, but True! For Jesus was the only one Who Died and Who Rose again - to make forgiveness and reconciliation possible! Through the objective work of Christ on the Cross, all are put into a Savable relationship with God.

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Man's reconciliation with God is impossible without the Cross of Christ. However, with the Cross each person must respond to Christ's decisive accomplishment, in order to make reconciliation real, personal, and

workable.

Through Christ's death, God is once-and-for-all reconciled to lost humanity, but each individual member of that lost humanity must personally accept what has been universally accomplished on the Cross.

He who personally accepts what Christ has historically accomplished on the Cross, is put into a right relationship with God. Personal Faith Appropriation of the 'finished work' of the Cross means personal enjoyment of the benefits of reconciliation!

Faith is your "upward reach" to receive God's "downward reach" of His grace-gift of eternal life (forgiveness and reconciliation)!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, merciful and gracious as Thou art, I thank you that, all because of Christ's work on the Cross, my sins are forgiven and my guilt is resolved. I no longer am at enmity with You! The dividing walls of hostility have been broken down! I enjoy friendship and fellowship with you! All because of your grace, and because of my own sincere faith (trust) in You! My sins are hidden in the 'sea of your forgetful-

ness', never to be 'remembered against me!' Those sins of mine (as horrible as they are) are removed 'as far as the east is from the west'.

I enjoy peace and rest - a clear conscience, a renewed mind, a restored spirit, healed emotions, a strengthened will, a greater love for others, and a completely new perspective on my life! O God, why are You so good and so merciful to me? I am a 'new creature' in Christ Jesus! Abundant Life here, and anticipation of Eternal Life after I die!

A thousand 'Thank You's'. Help me, through all the 'ups and downs' of my future life, to always praise and to serve You! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Always remember that You will always enjoy a growing Christian Life as long as you daily experience the Power of Christ's Cleansing Blood!

10.

*"CAN GOD FORGIVE EVEN ME WITH ALL MY
BAGGAGE?"*

*"If we say that we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins."
(1 John 1:8-9; Living Bible)*

Remember: There is no 'sin-stain' that has gone so deep in your life, but what the 'blood of Jesus' goes deeper yet—to purge your life of all sin!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Only open, honest, and humble confession of your sins to God will bring forgiveness and peace with God. God, because of Christ's 'finished work' on the Cross, is prepared to renew your mind, to tender your heart, to quicken your conscience, to bring reverence to your spirit, to heal your emotions, to restore health to your body, to strengthen your damaged will, and to enable you to make 'right your wrongs' with

your fellowmen (restitution). All of these aspects of true conversion are possible because of Christ's sacrifice and because of your own faith and surrender to Christ's accomplished work on the Cross!

God will take all your 'baggage' (your sins), and give you, in return, His loving presence, His mighty strength in your 'inner self', His daily guidance as you learn to make wise decisions, His restoring grace and forgiveness when you make mistakes and blunders along life's way - and He will give you correction and discipline and instruction in righteousness!

As you 'walk in the light' of truth, God will give you greater understanding and greater growth, and He will give you greater responsibility and more work to do as a growing 'Child of the King'! Your future is bright with the promises of God, and the development of your God-given talents is almost unlimited!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O Christ, my sins are like an iceberg. My conscious mind - the tip of the iceberg - recalls only a small number of my total sins. Is there forgiveness for the large bulk of my remaining sins, which are submerged

in my subconscious mind? I dare to believe that you can forgive the sins I remember and the sins I do not remember! I confess, just now, all my 'recalled sins' and all my many 'repressed sins', in order that I can enjoy your unlimited forgiveness! I accept, with gratitude, your gift of eternal life, purchased by the sacrifice that you made on Mount Calvary! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember the encouraging words of an old hymn writer:

*"There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains."*

11.

"MAY I FLY TO THE BOSOM OF THE LOVER OF MY SOUL?"

Jesus wants you (weary and worn and worried) to 'fly to His bosom', but what must you do (humanly-speaking) to respond to Jesus' offer to comfort you in His "Divine Bosom"?

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

How do you find the "divine bosom?" If true and lasting help is found, you must sincerely repent of your sins.

That means, you must be truly sorry for all the sins you have ever committed, for your sins are not only transgressions against God's Known Laws (10 Commandments), but sins are also acts of defiance which bring deep sorrow to the very heart of God! Breaking God's Laws and breaking God's Heart!

Sin breaks God's Covenant of Love with Him! God weeps when you sin, so repentance means that you must respond to God's

broken heart, by weeping over your sins— and sincerely asking God to forgive You! Repentance means a 'moral U-turn' - turning your back upon your 'old ways of life'.

Then, after repenting, turn to Christ in simple faith. Believe God that He now accepts you as His child, and God will give you assurance of new life in Christ. God will daily give you the strength to live the life of righteousness, without willful, habitual sinning, and if (when), you fail (sin), God will quickly restore you to fellowship with Him. After all, God finds it easy to work with honest (struggling) believers!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, there is no name more precious to me than the name of our 'Lord Jesus Christ.' There is no other name under heaven whereby I can be saved! That name both convicts me and comforts me. Responding to His convicting power, I find 'peace with God'. Responding to His comforting presence, I find the 'peace of God' - I am comforted by 'the bosom of God'! Too good to be true—but this is the very Revelation of God! How Wonderful! Thank You! I am grateful. Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Jesus said unto all persons who know that they are 'weak and heavy laden' because of moral failures (sins) or because of life's sorrows (losses and grief and handicaps), that He offers soul and body rest and comfort.

Remember that Jesus is "the Lover of your Soul". May you today, in faith and confidence, 'fly to the bosom of Jesus'! He loved you so much that he died a substitutionary death for you. Greater love cannot be found!

12.

"IS THERE JOY FOR ME ON THE CHRIST ROAD?"

On the Christ Road, there is always a chance for a new beginning.

Past mistakes or sins can be used by God to teach lessons for the future. Stumbling blocks can become stepping-stones for future growth.

On the Christ Road, there is always a new adventure. When Christ gets a man's attention, Christ gives a new vision of new opportunities. Every problem becomes a project.

Around every corner, there is a new challenge and a new opportunity. God taps hidden resources and potential.

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

On the Christ Road, there is always new work. Man was created to be creative. Man was created to work. To work for God is man's greatest privilege. Reward for

work well done is more work to do.

On the Christ Road, there is always new friends. Christ promised that He would never leave or forsake His children. Because the believer is a member of the great growing family of God, he is given the privilege of broadening his friendships while at the same time he is ever deepening his friendships.

Every new believer is a potential new friend. One of the greatest joys of the Christian life is to cherish old friends and to form new friendships in Christ.

The Christ Road is open-ended because of constant newness, which is found in Christ!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, I have experienced many trials—all allowed by You, the Sovereign God, who has ultimate control of all events—even tragic events as results of evil choices by godless persons! But, in spite of many sorrows which I have experienced (some of which came to me as the consequences of my own foolish choices), I have been the recipient of so many blessings from your

hand of mercy! Of course, I have not deserved any of these choice blessings, but I want to thank you, from the 'bottom of my heart'! The 'Christ Road' is the road of joy and peace and fulfillment! The 'Christ Road' is the road to meaning and purpose. It is glorious! It is open-ended because of the 'Joy of Becoming'. I know that I am far from being 'fully made' ('fully mature'), but I am glad that I am a 'Christian-in-the-making'. I am constantly 'becoming' - becoming more like my Master! And that 'Joy of Becoming' includes my total being—my mind, my emotions, my will! I want always to stay on the 'Christ Road' - by Your Grace! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember that the greatest of all joys is the 'Joy of Becoming' - becoming more and more like Christ! Moreover, that will be the Joy throughout eternity in Heaven!

13.

*"WHY DO MY SINS MAKE ME FEEL SO
UNCOMFORTABLE?"*

Who is it that makes you feel so uncomfortable when you act in ways that you know are not right?

Someone said 'that it is God who deals differently with different people'.

God knows how to 'comfort the disturbed', and to 'disturb the comfortable'!

In mercy (with the purpose of bringing healing), God disturbs you when you sin! Sin not only breaks the Holy Laws of God, but sin also breaks the Heart of God!

Sin breaks a love relationship between the Creature and the Creator!

Sin is a violation against a 'Holy Covenant' - a love relationship between man and his Maker! Because sin is so serious, in its horrible consequences, God disturbs and convicts the guilty sinner. God pleads with the sinner to 'deeply repent', and to return

*to the covenant relationship of Love!
Conviction is uncomfortable! It is like the 'fever' which a sick person experiences! Fever does not feel good, but fever is good, for fever is clear evidence that a sick person needs treatment (needs a good doctor, etc.). To ignore the fever is to delay proper medical treatments. To ignore the uncomfortable 'fever' (conviction) caused by the Spirit, is to invite spiritual disaster!*

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

The Spirit of God, speaking through the Holy Scriptures, convicts man of inward attitudes and sinful desires against which there is no civil law.

Civil laws were made against murder, but only the Spirit can convict a man for anger. Civil laws can convict a man for perjury and fraud, but only the Spirit of God can convict a man for malice and resentment. There are civil laws against adultery, but who, other than the Spirit of God, can convict one of lustful desires and impure thoughts? Laws against stealing were made by society, but only God's Spirit can convict one of the wrong in covetousness, envy, and jealousy.

What passes the scrutiny of man does not pass the scrutiny of God. Jesus said that the Spirit convicts the world of sin because the world does not believe in Him. One may not be a murderer, or an adulterer, or a thief, but if he does not truly believe in Christ, that person stands condemned!

"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." (John 3:18)

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"Father, I come to you with a receptive heart and an open hand to receive your gifts of divine grace. I stand convicted of my own inadequacies, and convinced of the adequacy of your grace. What passes the scrutiny of man cannot pass your scrutiny. I confess my hidden sins in order to receive your revealed mercy."

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember that God's actions are always the actions of perfect love – even when He disturbs (convicts) people because of their sins. Accept His conviction as an act of

mercy, and as your opportunity to respond to His offer of forgiveness and healing and wonderful new life. Your conviction ceases when you repent over your sins, and when you open your heart to accept Christ as your Savior! Conviction is an important step towards conversion.

14.

"THE CROSS ON CALVARY IS THE UNVEILING OF THE CROSS, WHICH HAS ETERNALLY BEEN ON THE HEART OF GOD!"

The Cross is the greatest of all revelations concerning God. For the revealed Cross in history is the result of the hidden Cross on the Heart of God!

The Cross shows that at the heart of the Universe is the self-giving sacrificial love.

God is love and the Cross on Mount Calvary gives concrete expression to that truth!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Because God is suffering love, the Cross is an absolute necessity. Only as man could see Jesus on the Cross of Calvary could man see the Christ of the ages who has always borne a Cross in His Heart!

Jesus reveals the nature of God. Everything Jesus was, God has always been. When Jesus was suffering on the Cross, God was suffering on the Cross!

Jesus' love for humanity was supremely expressed when He suffered for man's sins. "But God commendeth His love for us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"Jesus, Lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly. Looking at the Cross, I am looking at the Heart of God! Jesus, the Cross is thy magnet to draw me to God! 'The blood, the blood, is all my plea! O Hallelujah, it cleanses me'. 'There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins; sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.' There is hope for me, even for me with all my sins! I thank you, dear God, for the powerful 'Blood of Jesus'. Because He died in my place, I may live a new life, with no more guilt and no more condemnation!

There is no 'sin-stain' so deep but what the blood of Jesus goes deeper yet - to purge my conscience of all haunting memories of evil! My sins are 'hid in the sea of your forgetfulness'. 'As far as the east is from the west so far have my sins been removed from me!' I have assurance, because of

Christ's provision for me, that I can meet my Master in peace when I die! Thank you, Jesus, for Your Mighty Cross! Help me always to live within the 'Shadow of the Cross'. Amen!"

The 'Precious Blood of Christ' is God's most precious gift to all humanity—and to you specifically!

15.

"HOW CAN I BE ASSURED THAT ALL MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN?"

Provision has been made for your forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life!

What is the basis for that provision? Jesus' death for your sins and His demonstration of power over sin, death, and hell as shown in the powerful resurrection!

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:17, NIV)

You need forgiveness, but without Jesus' resurrection, there is no forgiveness of sin!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Because Christ died and arose from the dead, He has power on earth to forgive sins! Hallelujah!

The Christ who arose from the dead is the Christ who seeks to indwell in the heart of

every man.

The incredible power that raised Christ from the dead is the same incredible power that is available to convert, cleanse, comfort, and challenge modern-day man.

*"I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great his power is to help those who believe him. It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's Right Hand in Heaven."
(Ephesians 1:19, 20)*

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, what can wash away my sins? My sins have broken, not only your Holy Laws, but also your Holy Heart! Unless You, before whom I have grievously sinned, speak pardon for my sins, I cannot be forgiven.

What can wash away my sins? "Nothing but the 'Blood of Jesus'"! But I ask—"Why can Jesus' Sacrifice for me avail for my forgiveness?" Because Jesus' blood was 'sinless blood'! How can I know this about Jesus—that He was sinless rather than sin-

ful, like every other human being? Because a once-in-history event took place, a few days after Jesus died!

God raised Jesus from the dead to show the world that truth, justice, and godliness are stronger than the opposites of all these realities! Why then can I, dear God, be assured that You will forgive all my sins? Because You have told me to place my faith (trust) in One Whose Atoning Blood, (the only sinless blood) is powerful enough to wash away all my sins! The blood, the blood, O hallelujah it cleanses me!

No more condemnation for violations against God's Holy Laws. Thank you, dear God, for Your Son who has taken my just penalty for my sins, and has resolved all my guilt, and has given me assurance of eternal life!" Amen!

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember, the most beautiful word in all human language is 'forgiveness', but all talk of forgiveness is an illusion without the resurrection of Jesus! Because Jesus vanquished death, your sins are vanquished! Glory!

16.

*"CAN I BECOME A NEW PERSON WITHIN AND
OUTWARDLY?"*

Do you ever long to be different, self-controlled, serene, loving, contributive, winsome, faithful, and confident?

Do you ever wish that you could start life all over again?

Do you ever wish that your secret past would no longer haunt you?

Have you ever wished that your guilt could be resolved, and that your future could be bright with hope and cheer?

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

The Bible says that your past guilt can be removed and that you can be totally forgiven. Under the power of the resurrected Christ, your human nature can change! Everything can become new! An ugly worm can become a beautiful butterfly, and a dried up root can bloom into a sweet-smelling flower. A bad man can become a good man!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, and the new has come!" (II Corinthians 5:17; NIV)

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, for too long I have tried to 'patch up my life' through my own diligent efforts, but all my attempts at human change have proved inadequate, and sometimes out rightly futile and useless! I want my sins to be forgiven!

I want my raw and injured emotions to be healed! I want clarity of thought in my confused mind! I want my deadened conscience to be quickened and sensitized! I want my profane mouth and lips to be cleansed!

I want my resentments and my hate for persons to be removed, and your love to replace my foul disposition.

I want my hurtful memories to be replaced with the beautiful images of Jesus' love for all persons.

I want my depressed spirit to be replaced with that joy of the Lord that is 'unspeakable and full of glory'!

I want my body, which has been used as an instrument of unrighteousness to become a 'tool' for holy living - pure, noble, inoffensive, delightful, and radiant.

Henceforth, I want to recognize that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, not the tool for uncontrolled lust and unholy passions! Make me, O God, a 'fit vessel' for your loving possession! Convert me thoroughly - both my conscious and my subconscious mind! I choose not to become a better person, but a new person, through the transforming power of the resurrected Christ! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

If God can change a worm into a beautiful butterfly, then surely God is able totally to change you into the new beautiful person you want to become. The power that raised Christ from the dead is the same power available to resurrect you to a NEW LIFE!

17.

*"WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME TO BELIEVE IN
JESUS CHRIST?"*

Belief is the key to appropriation of God's salvation.

What Is Belief?

To Believe, according to the Amplified Bible, is to "trust in, rely upon, and adhere to." It is releasing one's weight upon God!

It is Commitment of one's heart, mind, and life to the all-sufficient power of Christ.

It is Transferring one's trust from self to Christ!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

The person who persistently, habitually, and continuously believes in the Son will not perish but will have eternal life. Eternal life is not a deposit, which God gives a person who momentarily believes, but eternal life is a relationship of love, maintained with God through obedience and faith.

God's faithfulness and power to save and to keep are never in question. It is a question of the continuance of the believer's commitment, trust, and belief. Can the faithfulness of God avail for unfaithful men? INDEED, NOT!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, enable me to 'believe' in you, not with a mere 'head consent' to certain doctrinal statements, but with a true 'heart commitment'. As one 'lets his body weight down on a chair to sit comfortably', enable me to 'put my weight down on You' to rest comfortably and reliably amidst life's trials!

You are trustworthy! Your character is spotless! You have promised eternal life to all who repent of their sins (i.e., to those who make a moral U-turn), and to those who place their trust and their confidence in you alone! To those who truly believe that you, O Christ, are the sinless Son of God (who died for the sins of all), to those believing hearts you have always spoken words of forgiveness and words of assurance of eternal life.

You have never turned anyone away from

You! You have said, 'Come unto me, all ye that are weak and burdened, and I will give you rest!' What you say, you mean! You are not a deceiver (liar); You are totally trustworthy! All of these above stated truths I accept as realities for myself. I believe, I receive, I trust, and I thank you! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Always remember that you are saved by believing, and you remain saved by believing - believing in the Son of God!

18.

*"CAN I EVER REGAIN MY LOST
GREATNESS?"*

Man is made for the stars! Man may wallow in the mud, but he can never forget the stars!

Man was born for greatness! However, man has lost his greatness, but he can never forget the destiny for which he was created. The God-shaped image upon man may be distorted, but it can never be totally destroyed! Man can never really forget that he was made for Godlikeness!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Carl Jung, the great psychiatrist, said, "The central neurosis of our time is emptiness." But man cannot stand a vacuum. That vacuum is meant to be filled with God!

A caged eagle wishes to be free to soar in the heights. Man is made for the spiritual heights and will never be satisfied to remain in the cage of his sins.

It is possible to attain everything that life can physically offer, and yet be deeply dissatisfied and disillusioned.

Man lost his greatness in the Fall of Adam, resulting in the problem of inherited moral depravity and a propensity to overtly sin against God's laws. Man can regain his greatness by confessing his sins and by committing his life to Christ. Sin's power is great, but God's grace is greater!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, nothing can satisfy my soul – worldly knowledge, worldly pleasures, worldly powers, and worldly wealth! I was made for 'greatness' (for nobility and for godly living); I lost my 'greatness' (through willful transgressions against divinely-given commands), and I am truly helpless and hopeless unless You extend your mercy, O God, unto me – a lost and undone sinner! 'As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.' "As the deer pants for water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. Where can I find him to come and stand before him?" (Psalms 42:1-2)

Satisfy my parched soul with the Water of Life! I believe that you, O God, just now are able to forgive my sins, and to restore 'greatness' to my soul - now and forever! Greatness in my soul means that I will 'do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before my God!' By God's grace, I intend to live a 'great' life! Thank You! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Even though the entire human race lost its 'greatness' because of the historic Fall of Man, it is wonderful that Jesus' work on the Cross brought new hope and life to every one.

You can be restored to a greatness that is greater than what Adam and Eve experienced before they fell! Your greatness is found through your new life in Christ as you walk obediently in His 'footsteps of Holy Love'! March Forward - in Gladness and Humility!

19.

*"HOW SHOULD I FACE MY ULTIMATE
ACCOUNTABILITY?"*

GOD IS IN HEAVEN and we are on earth, but this does not mean that God is far removed from this earth and oblivious to humanity's moral actions.

There is an 'all-seeing eye' watching every move of each human being, an 'unseen person' listening to every conversation, and an all-knowing judge scrutinizing every secret motive, hidden in every man's heart!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

The worldly man who dies, not believing in a hereafter, will have the grimmest of all grim days to face when he dies and then faces God at the Great White Throne Judgment. (Revelation 20:11-15)

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31).

Therefore, the conclusion of the whole matter is this: "Fear God and keep His Commandments, for this is the whole duty

of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13b-14)

"I said to myself, "God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man," for a time for every matter and for every deed is there." (Ecclesiastes 3:17)

For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. "Young man, it's wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it! Do all you want to; take in everything, but realize that you must account to God for everything you do." (Ecclesiastes 11:9)

Ecclesiastes 12:14 teaches us that man is ultimately accountable for his moral actions: "God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, help me to fear you so much that I will walk obediently before you, and to love you so much that I will fellowship intimately with you. If I am ready to die, I am then ready to live - and to live abundantly! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Always remember that: "...the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom, and Knowledge of the Holy One understandings." (Proverbs 9:10)

20.

*"IS MY PERFORMANCE OF GOOD WORKS
IMPORTANT TO GOD?"*

Christ has commanded us to love Him with our hand (soul). The 'Hand' is the expression of man's will, the vehicle of acting. To love God with our hand is to respond with our will, made possible because 'Christ is the Way'.

Through His Holy Spirit, Christ is able to help believers "to do those things which are pleasing to God."

"God is at work within you (believers), helping you want to obey Him and then helping you to do what He wants." (Philippians 2:13, Living Bible)

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Jesus Christ gave Himself to us "...to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds!" (Titus 2:14, RSV)

We are not saved by works, but by grace alone. Because of his kindness, you have

been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it. (Ephesians 2:8-9), but the result of man's salvation is good works: For God has made us what we are, created in Christ Jesus to do those good deeds, which He planned for us to do.

"It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others". (Ephesians 2:10)

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Corinthians 15:58)

Wrote James, (the brother of the Lord):
"Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." (James 2:17-18, 24)

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"Father, I see now that I can never earn your favor by the performance of good deeds. But I also see that, while I am not saved by good deeds, I am saved for good deeds. My faith is not real until it moves me to grateful actions - actions which are expressions of my eternal indebtedness to you for your unmerited favor and mercy towards me."

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Make sure you understand what the Bible teaches regarding the proper relationship between 'Saving Faith' and 'Good Works'.

It is possible for you to perform some 'good deeds' without having true faith, but you cannot have a true faith without the natural expression of good deeds, unless of course, you happen to be one of those sinners who is saved just before you die.

21.

"AM I SAVED BY MY FAITH OR BY MY GOOD WORKS?"

Good works do not save us, but good works are pleasing to God, for they are expressions of love, loyalty, and obedience to God.

Some people falsely reason that if they are saved by grace alone, then they can relax their own efforts in the Christian life.

Such thinking is dangerous, however, for "...we (Christians) must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II Corinthians :10)

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

We are not saved by good works, but we are saved to do good works. True saving faith is a working faith.

Jesus' parables teach the importance of loving Jesus with one's will (hand). The

parable of the talents (Matthew 25:4-30) teaches that fear to invest talents for God leads to uselessness and eventual disaster. The Master wants our lives to be invested to produce good fruit for Him! Eternal life is gained, not just by believing, but also by doing. (Matthew 25: 31-46) Mere intellectual assent to a certain set of religious beliefs will not save anyone.

Wrote James, "Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God, good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder!" (James 2:18-19)

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"Father, help me to be a Doer of the Word and not a Hearer only. Help me to translate good feelings into good actions, dreams into realities, good intentions into fruitful labors. No farmer would store his grain seed in his barn, never to be planted, and then wonder why he did not get a good harvest. So help me to liberally sow the seeds of love and hard work, and then I shall ultimately reap a mighty harvest of souls for your Kingdom! In Jesus' name! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember that he who is most in love with another, naturally wants to do pleasing things for that loved one. When you are deeply in love with the 'lover of your soul', you naturally and spontaneously want to please your lover! Surrendering all of your time and talents and possessions to Christ is what you want to do, not to make yourself worthy before Him, but to give yourself away to the One who gave His All for You!

Remember: "Only One life, I will soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last."

22.

*"WHAT FREEDOM CAN I ENJOY IF I BECOME A
CHRISTIAN?"*

It is the glorious message of the Bible that man can be freed from his sinful bondage! Christ gives liberty to man. If the Son makes you free, you are free indeed! This liberty, however, is not a selfish liberty, but it is a liberty to serve Christ, instead of self!

The paradox of the Christian's redemption is that he is redeemed to become a slave! A slave, not of passion, but of love; a slave, not of self-will, but of Christ's will; a slave, not of sin, but of righteousness!

"But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." (Romans 6:22)

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Liberty is not to be abused. Christian liberty is liberty to serve Christ, and the motiva-

tion for this service is LOVE! Christ loved man so much that He bought man with the price of His own blood! "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:20)

How can God be glorified? By living a life of love and service to God and to our fellowmen!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, forgive me for my selfish ideas of freedom! Freedom to do as I please leads me to bondage to my self-centeredness (a very cruel slavery). I am 'sick' of my own self-centered ways - ways that result in my bringing great hurt to others, and great disillusionment to me. I see now that I was made to serve, not to be served; not to center attention on myself, but to center attention on the One who made me, and on the ones who live all around me. I am presently a 'mess'; please save me, and make me a 'message' (of unselfish love)! Please transform me from within me! Give me what I most need - love for hate, a cool head for a hot temper, forgiveness for resentment, confidence for fear, relaxation for anxiety, peace for guilt, integration for

divided loyalties, direction for confusion, companionship for loneliness!

You alone can truly change me - for time and eternity. Give me that 'abundant life' that you, Jesus, promised so long ago! The greatest freedom of all is the freedom from the tyranny of myself. I have found, Dear God, that myself at the center of my life, makes my life off-center and very miserable! Crucify my self-centered self, and give me resurrection to my 'new self' which is centered in the mighty and beautiful Christ! Then, my new self will daily bow low at the feet of Christ, and then (in humility and in confidence) I will stand tall before everything else! Freedom in Christ is the only true (and glorious) freedom there is! Thank you, a thousand 'Thank You's'! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Always remember that you are free to choose your master, but you are not free to accept or reject the consequences of your choice!

23.

"WHY SHOULD I LIVE MY LIFE BY GRACE?"

In spite of man's terrible predicament, in his sinful rebellion, God has an answer and a hope for sinful mankind!

What is God's method for man's rescue?

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Is it man's diligent efforts to obey the written Laws of God? No man can be made right with God by attempting to keep external Codes and Laws!

Man is too weak and sinful to keep a Perfect Law!

*Breaking some of the Laws is to be totally guilty as a 'Lawbreaker'! **"And the person who keeps every law of God but makes one little slip is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is!"** (James 2:10)*

Attention to the letter of the Law without obedience to the spirit of the Law is useless!

The spirit of man needs cleansing before he can keep the spirit of the Law! (Love for God and love for fellow humans).

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God of grace, I know that a mirror can reveal dirt, but a mirror cannot remove dirt. Your Law, O God, is like a mirror. It reveals my sin, but it cannot remove my sin.

For by the Law is the knowledge of sin, "True, some of them were unfaithful, but just because they broke their promises to God, does that mean God will break his promises"? (Romans 3:3).

But only by the Son (Jesus) is the knowledge of sins forgiven! How very wonderful! Saved, not by the righteous Law of God, but only by the incomparable Love of God! Hallelujah! Thank you, my merciful God! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Always dwell on God's grace and mercy! Take hope and remember that your guilty speechlessness before your sin and before

God’s perfection and holiness, shall give way to your shouting before God’s mercy and before God’s forgiveness. God’s all-sufficient grace avails for all your insufficiency and your moral loss! Turn your eyes upon the altogether lovely CHRIST!

24.

*"IS GOD'S GRACE ALL-SUFFICIENT FOR ALL MY
HUMAN NEEDS?"*

God is in heaven and we are on earth, but this does not mean that God is far removed from this earth and oblivious to mankind's moral actions.

There is a familiar saying:

*'All-seeing eye' watching every move of
each human being;
An 'unseen person' listening to every
conversation; and an
'All-knowing' judge scrutinizing every
secret motive, hidden in every man's heart!*

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

God's Grace (Favor and Power) is Freely Offered to All Persons - All Because of the Bloody Cross and the Empty Tomb of Jesus!

God's grace is all-sufficient:

- To Resolve Your Guilt!*
- To Cleanse Your Polluted Nature!*
- To Redeem Your Sin-Caused Scars*

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, it is never too early and never too late to come to thee. As long as there is physical breath, there is hope of receiving eternal life. Today is your day of salvation! Tomorrow may be too late! I place my full trust in Christ's atoning blood to save me from the guilt of my sins and to deliver me from the pollution of my sinful nature. In Jesus' Name! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Always remember that God's grace is all-sufficient for all your daily needs. There is no sin-stain that is so deep but what the blood of Jesus can go deeper - to forgive, to cleanse, to heal. Dear one, trust your saving and sanctifying Savior to meet all your needs. God loves you with an everlasting love!

25.

"HOW CAN I FIND THE NEW LIFE?"

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, Living Bible)

Your sin is like quicksand. The more you struggle to get out of your sin, the deeper you sink into its mire.

Christ, the Living Savior, is the extended hand of God! Christ alone can save you from your sinking death!

Taking your hand of faith (in your helpless condition), Christ lifts you onto the solid rock of His salvation and deliverance and health!

It is all because of Christ's initiating grace, which calls for your response of trust and faith!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"My sin is like quicksand. The more I

struggle to get out of my sin, the deeper I sink into its mire! Thou O Christ, art the extended hand of God! Thou alone canst save me from my sinking death! I take your strong hand, O God, and I now feel your powerful grip on my weak grip. Pull me out of the quicksand of my many sins—sins that I have long committed with thoughtless abandon and sins that have nearly destroyed my entire life. I am helpless and hopeless without your extended hand of mercy and forgiveness. Just now, I believe - I believe! Thank you for your powerful rescue of me! I love you Jesus! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

I am confident that the above stated prayer truly expresses the deep desire of your heart! If it does, you can expect to enjoy great inner transformation of your life - both quickly and gradually! And for sure, authentically! How amazing!

26.

*"WHY IS THE PREVENTING GRACE
OF GOD IMPORTANT TO ME?"*

Have you ever heard someone say that they regretted that they did not become a Christian earlier in life?

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

After God forgives a person of his many sins, have you ever noticed that the 'scars' (consequences) of these sins are still apparent? Is a person ever too young to accept Christ as his/her Savior?

The preventing grace of God is as great as the healing grace of God!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, I cannot come to you soon enough! To know you is to experience happiness, health, and holiness! Save me not only from sin, but also from sin's telling consequences! In Jesus' Precious Name! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Remember that the longer you serve Christ, the sweeter are His Blessings to you! You can't begin to serve Him too young, and you will never tire in serving Him for a lifetime. The treasures of His love for you are exhaustless!

*"ARE THERE ONLY TWO CHOICES IN LIFE
FOR ME?"*

Jesus has come to give every person an 'ABUNDANT Life' - a life rich, full, and free! Choosing the 'High Road' means choosing the road that leads one to the 'Gates of Heaven'!

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

HIGH ROAD

LOW ROAD

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>1. Walk in Light.</i> | <i>1. Walk in Darkness.</i> |
| <i>2. Fruitful Life.</i> | <i>2. Barren Life.</i> |
| <i>3. Life of Freedom.</i> | <i>3. Life of Selfishness.</i> |
| <i>4. Life of Confidence.</i> | <i>4. Life of Despair.</i> |
| <i>5. Life of Prayer.</i> | <i>5. Life of Carelessness.</i> |
| <i>6. Life of Humility.</i> | <i>6. Life of Pride.</i> |
| <i>7. Clear Conscience.</i> | <i>7. Guilty Conscience.</i> |
| <i>8. Peace-Maker.</i> | <i>8. Troublemaker.</i> |
| <i>9. A Giving Life.</i> | <i>9. A Greedy Life.</i> |
| <i>10. Joy-filled Life.</i> | <i>10. Misery-Filled</i> |

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | <i>Life.</i> |
| <i>11. A Generous Life.</i> | <i>11. A Grasping Life.</i> |
| <i>12. A Quiet Life.</i> | <i>12. A Boisterous Life.</i> |
| <i>13. A Life of Service.</i> | <i>13. A Life of Selfishness.</i> |
| <i>14. An Honorable Life.</i> | <i>14. An Ignoble Life.</i> |
| <i>15. A Life of Honesty.</i> | <i>15. A Life of Deception.</i> |
| <i>16. A Life of Forgiveness.</i> | <i>16. A Life of Resentment.</i> |
| <i>17. Life of Optimism.</i> | <i>17. A Life of Pessimism.</i> |
| <i>18. Life of Growth.</i> | <i>18. A Life of Degeneration.</i> |

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, ever save me from wrong moral choices! There is the broad road which seems easy at first to travel, but that road becomes rough and finally ends in perdition. Help me to take the narrow road which seems difficult at first to travel, but which leads to an abundant life here and an eternal life hereafter! In Jesus' Name.

Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

May you always remember that every person is offered a choice in life - either the 'low' road or the 'high' road. I am very confident that you are resolved always in life to travel the 'high' road with your loving Savior!

28.

"CAN SOMEONE SUMMARIZE GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION FOR ME?"

Because God through Christ has inaugurated a new age of grace and has established his community of love which encompasses all mankind, and because Christ has offered his gift of salvation, and will judge each man according to whether he accepts or rejects that gift, in light of all the foregone facts, it behooves man to repent of his sins.

One who turns his back on his sins and receives Christ, is offered forgiveness and is promised the Holy Spirit and Eternal Life.

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

To summarize:

- (1) God's purpose in history is to establish a new order of grace to replace the order of law.*
- (2) God has inaugurated that new order through Jesus Christ, whose life, death and resurrection has made it possible for all*

to become members of the family of God.

- (3) Because Christ has been exalted to the right hand of God, He is the Christ of the Ages, forever contemporary and a very present help in time of need. Christ is not a historical remembrance but He is the present reality and personal Comforter (through the Holy Spirit).*
- (4) Christ is not only the Savior of all mankind, but He is also the Judge of all humanity, before whom all must give an account of their lives.*
- (5) Because response to Christ determines personal eternal destiny, it is imperative that all persons repent of their sins, and accept Christ's standards for their lives.*

To do so, results in a rich reward—present forgiveness and new life, and future hope and eternal life!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"My sin is like quicksand. The more I struggle to get out of my sin, the deeper I

sink into its mire! Thou O Christ, art the extended hand of God! Thou alone canst save me from my sinking death! I take your strong hand, O God, and I now feel your powerful grip on my weak grip. Pull me out of the quicksand of my many sins - sins that I have long committed with thoughtless abandon and sins that have nearly destroyed my entire life. I am helpless and hopeless without your extended hand of mercy and forgiveness. Just now I believe - I believe! Thank you for your powerful rescue of me! I love you Jesus! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

I am confident that the above stated prayer truly expresses the deep desire of your heart! If it does, you can expect to enjoy great inner transformation of your life - both quickly and gradually! And, for sure, authentically! How amazing!

29.

*"HOW CAN I RESTORE MY BROKEN
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?"*

SUPPOSE A SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN, caught off guard, does yield to temptation and sins.

John's words are most instructive: "My little children I am telling you this so that you will stay away from sin. But if you sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. His name is Jesus Christ, the one who is all that is good and who pleases God completely. He is the one who took God's wrath against our sins upon himself, and brought us into fellowship with God; and he is the forgiveness for our sins, and not only ours but all the world's." (1 John 2:1-2, Living Bible)

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

According to 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Christ's atonement is sufficient for both your sin (sinful nature) and your sins (sinful practices).

As long as you habitually pattern your life after the life of God (i.e., 'walk in the light'), You may be assured that God will continually cleanse you from all unrighteousness and keep you in close fellowship with Christ. "... but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7).

Jesus is both our advocate and our atoning sacrifice. The believer may have his broken relationship with the Father restored quickly and completely! The blood of Jesus cleanses from all unrighteousness! When sin comes into your life, plead the Blood of Christ immediately!

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER:

"Father, help me to guard against sin. Help me to 'watch and pray' constantly. You know, O God, where I am especially weak and vulnerable. You know also the subtleties of the devil. Give me the good sense to honestly and quickly confess when I sin, and to surrender my life anew to the 'cleansing stream' of the Blood of Jesus! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

If you falter, or fail to live up to the high and holy standards which God has given to you, remember that all you need to do is to humble yourself, confess all your sins, surrender your will to Christ, affirm your faith wholeheartedly in your Savior, listen carefully to the Holy Spirit as He speaks words of reassurance to you! If you 'fall' into any kind of sin, be sure to 'fall forward' towards the Cross! Jesus is both your 'atoning sacrifice', and your loving advocate! Because Jesus paid the penalty for all your sins, He will 'plead your case' before the Father! Forgiveness and Restoration!

30.

"HOW CAN I DEAL WITH MY DEEP FEELINGS OF ALIENATION?"

MAN WAS MADE TO BE FILLED WITH GOD, but sin empties one of God's inner presence and leaves one void, estranged, and lonely. Man is lost without God. The ultimate consequence of sin is hell, and hell is separation from everything that is good. Sin results in driving one away from God, away from the One for Whom man is made!

"...and they (the human couple) heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: And Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden." (Genesis 3:8)

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

This century might well be called the Age of Estrangement. Many today rub shoulders in large crowds, but they still feel alone. Many today manifest their deep restlessness by frequent movement from one location to another, or from one job to another, or from one wife to another. Many

are madly pursuing pleasure, hoping to fill the void of loneliness. A fear of death plagues many.

Is there any peace, any hope for a person upon whom the wrath and condemnation of God rests? Yes, there is hope and peace in Christ!

"Yet now God declares that we are good in His eyes if we trust in Jesus Christ, who freely takes away our sins. For God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and end all God's anger against us. He used Christ's blood and our faith to satisfy God's wrath...For God declares sinners to be good in His sight if they have faith in Christ to save them from God's Wrath". (Romans 3:24-25, 4:5, Living Bible)

TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O God, all attempts to find peace through human efforts have left the human heart restless. I see that peace is more than a right set of external circumstances. Lasting and true peace is an internal condition of the human heart, given as a gift from God upon entering into a new relationship with Christ! Amen!"

TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

You and I know that God created mankind for greatness, but we also know (from the Genesis account) that mankind lost its greatness when mankind fell into sin. But the Good News is this: Mankind (and each person as a part of mankind) can be restored to greatness, all because of what Jesus did on the Cross and through the empty tomb. "Yet now God declares that we are good in His eyes if we trust in Jesus Christ, who freely takes away our sins. For God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all God's anger against us. He used Christ's blood and our faith to satisfy God's wrath...For God declares sinners to be good in His sight if they have faith in Christ to save them from God's Wrath." (Romans 3:24-25; 4:5, Living Bible)

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