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THE PROBLEMS IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM

1. I CANNOT SEE GOD.

a. We can believe in the invisible Creator by seeing the visible things He has created.

i. FROM CAUSE AND EFFECT: *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. - Jn 1:3*

ii. FROM DESIGN AND INTELLIGENCE: *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. - Rom 1:20*

By looking at the watch, we know that the watchmaker exists even though we have not seen him. Likewise, by looking at the complexity, beauty and orderliness in creation, we can know of the existence of an intelligent Creator even though we have not seen Him.

iii. All that I can see point to Him whom I cannot see.

b. Even if we can see God we may not automatically believe in Him.

i. MAN HAS REJECTED GOD: *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed (shown) it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead (nature of God); so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. - Rom 1:19-22*

ii. MAN HAS REJECTED THE TRUTH: *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. - Jn 3:19-20*

iii. Man will not go to God for the same reason a thief will not go to a policeman.

iv. As one man said, "My mind is made up, don't confuse me with facts."

2. I CANNOT UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT THE BIBLE.

- a. We make use of many things we do not fully understand.
- i. We do not understand everything about medicine or electricity, and yet we use them. Imagine a dying man saying to a doctor, "Doctor, since I cannot understand everything about medicine, I will not take it."
- b. We can understand our need to be saved from hell.
- i. We have sinned: The Bible teaches it, our conscience attests to it, and our experience confirms it. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* - Rom 3:23
 - ii. We will be judged: As moral beings, we judge each other all the times. One day, we will be judged by a Perfect and Moral God. *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.* - Heb 9:27
 - iii. We cannot save ourselves: We keep falling into sins and can never be perfect, no matter how much or hard we try. *For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.* - Eccl 7:20
 - iv. We will be sent to hell: A perfect God hates sins thoroughly and will send the sinner to hell forever. *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.* - Psal 9:17
 - v. We can be saved through Jesus Christ who died for us: Jesus Christ is God who came to die in our place as a sinless sacrifice for our sins. *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* - Rom 5:8
- c. Someone once commented, "It is not what I don't understand that bothers me. It is what I do understand that bothers me - I am a sinner without hope on my way to hell."
- d. Many things in the Bible I cannot understand; many things in the Bible I only think I understand; but there are many things in the Bible I cannot misunderstand. - Moody Monthly

3. THE BIBLE IS JUST A STORY; OLD FASHIONED AND OUTDATED.

a. The Bible is scientific.

- i. IT SHOWS US THE EARTH IS ROUND: *It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth...* - Isa 40:22 (740 B.C. - 680 B.C.)
- ii. IT SHOWS US THE ATMOSPHERE HAS WEIGHT: *To make the weight for the winds...* - Job 28:25 (2000 B.C.)
- iii. IT SHOWS US THERE ARE UNDERSEA CURRENTS: *... and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.* - Psa 8:8 (1020 B.C. - 970 B.C.)
- iv. IT SHOWS US THE EARTH IS HANGING IN OUTER SPACE: *He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.* - Job 26:7 (2000 B.C.) The sun and all the stars in the Universe are burning themselves out and the process is irreversible.
- v. IT SHOWS US THE UNIVERSE IS RUNNING DOWN (THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS): *Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment...* - Psa 102:25-26 (610 B.C. - 430 B.C.)
- vi. IT SHOWS US THERE ARE AS MANY STARS IN OUTER SPACE AS THERE ARE GRAINS OF SAND ON THE SEASHORES ON THIS EARTH: *That in blessing I will bless thee (Abraham), and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.* - Gen 22:17 (2090 B.C. - 1897 B.C.)

As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured... - Jer 33:22 (627 B.C. - 580 B.C.)

- vii. IT SHOWS US THE EXISTENCE OF BACTERIA AND GERMS, AND THE PRACTICE OF QUARANTINE: *All the days wherein the plague shall be in him (the leper) he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without (outside) the camp shall his habitation be.* - Lev 13:46 (1444 B.C.)

viii. All these and many other scientific facts in the Bible were unknown to the people in those days. This shows that God is the Author of the Bible.

b. The Bible is prophetic.

- i. IT PREDICTED THE DEMISE OF EGYPT AS A WORLD POWER:
And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt... It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations.
- Ezek 29:14-15 (592 B.C. - 570 B.C.)

To predict the demise of Egypt as a world power then is like predicting the USA will, in a few centuries, be as poor as present Vietnam or Cambodia.

- ii. IT PREDICTED THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN A.D. 70: *And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.* - Mt 24:2 (A.D. 58 - A.D. 68)

In A.D. 70, the Roman armies under Titus besieged Jerusalem for 143 days and thereafter destroyed it. Josephus, the Jewish historian, recounted that the city wall was, "so completely leveled with the ground that there was no longer anything to lead those who visited the spot to believe that it had ever been inhabited." It is said that through the burning of the city, the gold in the temple melted and the greedy soldiers literally took the stone apart, piece by piece, to find it.

- iii. IT PREDICTED THE REGATHERING OF ISRAEL AS A NATION BEFORE THE COMING OF CHRIST: *That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.* - Deut 30:3 (1405 B.C.)

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. - Ezek 36:24 (592 B.C. - 570 B.C.)

No country in the world has been more persecuted and hated than the Jews. Some six million Jews died in the holocaust in World War II. And in spite of this, they still exist as a nation. Israel was destroyed in A.D. 70 and became a nation again in A.D. 1948. The nation of Israel is a living fulfillment of the prophecy of God.

- iv. IT PREDICTED THE CRUCIFIXION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: ... *the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.* - Psa 22:16 (1020 B.C. - 970 B.C.)

And it was the third hour, and they crucified him (Jesus Christ). - Mk 15:25 (A.D. 55 - A.D. 65)

When it is remembered that crucifixion was a Roman, not Jewish, form of execution, the proof of inspiration is irresistible. - C. I. Scofield

Also, more than thirty Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross.

- v. In addition, there are hundreds of other biblical prophecies with specific fulfillments which, once again, attest to the credibility and validity of the Bible.

c. The Bible is futuristic.

- i. IT SHOWS US THE SPEED OF TRAVEL AND THE INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE IN THE END TIMES: *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.* - Dan 12:4 (605 B.C. - 536 B.C.)

- ii. IT SHOWS US THE COMING ONE-WORLD GOVERNMENT AND RULER - THE ANTICHRIST: *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name... and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb... - Rev 13:5-8 (A.D. 95 - A.D. 96)*

The latest trend in the world is towards the concept of "The New World Order", "The Global Village" and "Global Leadership". The UN (United Nation), WTO (World Trade Organization) and the WC (World Court), together with the formation of Common Markets like the EU, NAFTA, ASEAN, etc, are unwittingly laying the groundwork for the coming New World Order. We are inevitably gravitating towards a one-world government with a one-world ruler.

- iii. IT SHOWS US THE COMING IMPLANTATION OF MICROCHIPS IN OUR HANDS OR ON OUR FOREHEADS: *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save (except) he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six (666).*
- Rev 13:16-18 (A.D. 95 - A.D. 96)

We are heading towards a cashless society where eventually all economic transactions will be made through the microchips implanted in our hands or foreheads. The plastic card is the intermediate process which will eventually lead to the use of microchips. However, we acknowledge that we still do not know for certain the exact nature of this "Mark of the Beast." See appendix, page 80.

- iv. IT SHOWS US THE INVENTION OF TELEVISION AND SATELLITES: *And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer (allow) their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. - Rev 11:9-11 (A.D. 95 - A.D. 96)*

Practically the whole world will be able to view the bodies of these two prophets of God simultaneously through a live telecast. This is only possible through television and satellites.

4. WHY WOULD A LOVING GOD SEND A SOUL TO HELL FOREVER?

- a. God is a God of supreme love.
- i. *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. - Jn 3:16*
 - ii. *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. - Jn 15:13*
- b. God is also a God of justice.
- i. *Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne... - Psa 89:14*
 - ii. A nation has justice when her criminals are punished in accordance to the law for their crimes. A nation has no justice when every crime is excused and every criminal is freed. Likewise, God's justice demands that every sinner be punished accordingly.
- c. The more perfect and righteous we are, the more we will hate sins. God is one hundred percent perfect and holy, and He hates sins thoroughly. No sinner can dwell in His holy presence and He will send every sinner into hell forever.
- i. *For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing (falsehood): the Lord will abhor the bloody and deceitful man. - Psa 5:4-6*
 - ii. *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. - Psa 9:17*
 - iii. *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. - Mt 25:46*
 - iv. The very animals whose smell is most offensive to us have no idea that they are offensive, and are not offensive to one another. And man, fallen man, has just no idea what a vile thing sin is in the sight of God. - J. C. Ryle

- d. When a person dies, his character is fixed. This is another reason why hell is forever.
 - i. *He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. - Rev 22:11*

This verse is true only in the light of eternity where the human character becomes fixed.
 - ii. Death stamps the characters and conditions of men for eternity. As death finds them in this world, so will they be in the next world. - Nathaniel Emmons
- e. God does not desire to see any soul in hell.
 - i. *Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? - Ezek 18:23*
 - ii. *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. - 2 Pet 3:9*

5. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS SIN - EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE.

- a. Some things in life are relative.
 - i. Some things in life are relative: depending on the circumstances, the one who kills can be either a murderer or an executioner. However, some things in life are absolute: the one who kills because of greed is a murderer, while the one who kills because of justice as required by the State is an executioner.
- b. Some things in life are absolute.
 - i. Those who have convinced themselves that everything is relative still get mad at the wrongs done to them - when someone robs their homes, stabs their back or kills their loved ones. Why? Because they, in their hearts, still believe in absolutes - that these crimes are morally wrong. They would not smile at such injustices done to them and explain them away as, "everything is relative."

- c. In reality, those who advocate the idea that “everything is relative” just want to enjoy their sins without being made to feel guilty.
- i. *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents... Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. - Rom 1:29-32*
- d. Question: Do you believe that everything is relative and nothing is absolute? Yes! Is that an absolute statement? Yes! But, I thought you just said that there is nothing absolute?

6. I AM SINCERELY DOING THE BEST THAT I CAN.

- a. Sincerity and truth are not identical. Sincerity is sincerity and truth is truth. Sincerity without truth is sincerely wrong.
- i. If, by accident, we board the wrong bus, will our sincerity and faith in that bus amount to anything? Will it bring us to our destination? So likewise, sincerity without truth is sincerely wrong.
- ii. In life, there are numerous examples of people who were sincerely wrong: hospital patients who sincerely trusted in their physicians and died because of wrong or overdosed medication, or airplane passengers who sincerely placed their faith in the aircraft they were traveling in and never made it to their destinations due to some mishaps. There is nothing great about sincerity if it lacks the truth.
- b. The Jews were sincere in going about to establish their own righteousness, and yet, they were sincerely lost in their sins.
- i. *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness*

which is of faith speaketh on this wise... That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. - Rom 10:1-9

- ii. *What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone. - Rom 9:30-32*
- c. What saves a soul is not sincerity alone but sincerity coupled with the truth.
 - i. *... Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. - Acts 16:30-31*
 - ii. *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. - Jn 8:32*

7. I CAN MAKE IT TO HEAVEN BY MY GOOD WORKS.

- a. In order to be saved by good works, we must keep all the laws of God without breaking any one of them. The breaking of just one law will render us guilty.
 - i. *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. - Gal 3:10-11*
 - ii. *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. - Jas 2:10*
 - iii. *Technically, most criminals have kept all the laws of the country and broke just a couple of them. Yet, they are guilty before society.*
- b. In reality, good works cannot wash away our sins.
 - i. *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. - Jn 8:24*

- ii. Imagine a robber who stole from a bank and, after feeling bad about it, decided to give away all his fortunes to the poor. What will happen when the law finally catches up with him? Will it say that since he has done such a noble and charitable deed, he should be forgiven? Of course not! Likewise, judicially speaking, good works cannot wash away our sins.
- c. Nobody in the world can do good perfectly.
 - i. *For there is not a just (righteous) man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. - Eccl 7:20*
 - ii. *For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do... I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me... O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? - Rom 7:19-24*
- d. No man can be saved by depending on their good works.
 - i. To be saved by good works is like a debt we attempt but could not repay. It is also liken to the strength of a chain which is only as good as each link. One broken link will render the chain useless.
 - ii. *Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. - Rom 4:4 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. - Jas 2:10*
- e. We are saved by grace through our faith in Christ and not by depending on our good works.
 - i. *... Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. - Acts 16:30-31*
 - ii. *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. - Eph 2:8-9*
 - iii. *And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. - Rom 11:6*
 - iv. *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. - Rom 1:17*

- v. If a man were to owe a creditor ten million dollars, and he can never in his lifetime repay that debt, then, the only logical option left is for someone else to help him pay that debt, and for him to freely receive with gratitude that generous help. Similarly, we can never repay our debts of sins and therefore, the only possible recourse left for us is for God to pay for our sins, and for us to freely receive by faith this gift of eternal life - "... *the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" (Rom 6:23)

8. DOESN'T SALVATION BY FAITH SOUND TOO EASY?

- a. In life, everything we do or refuse to do is due to our "faith" or innermost beliefs.
 - i. The reason why we want to make more money and lead a comfortable life is because we believe that it is good for us. The reason why we do not want to be poor or suffer hardship is because we believe that it is not good for us. All our thinking, attitudes, behaviors and actions are shaped and determined by our innermost beliefs or faith. This is why God would rather focus on our belief or faith than on our external works.
 - ii. In reality, it is harder to believe than to work. We can do many things in life without believing (like pleasing our bosses), but we cannot believe without doing (like giving our best to our loved ones).
- b. If God were to focus on our external works, then we can end up doing good works perfunctorily or artificially without any real personal conviction.
 - i. We can become hypocritical by doing good works to ease our conscience or to make an impression on others.
 - ii. *But all their works they do for to be seen of men...* - Mt 23:5
 - iii. *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess... Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres (graves), which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.* - Mt 23:25-28

- c. A true, saving faith will result in us doing the works of God.
- i. *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house... By faith Abraham, when he was called to go into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. - Heb 11:7-8*
 - ii. We are saved by faith without works, but never by a faith that is without works - *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” (Jas 2:17)*
 - iii. Faith and works are like the light and heat of a candle; they cannot be separated.
- d. Because we are saved by faith we can be free to love and obey God.
- i. *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. - Rom 5:1*
 - ii. *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. - Jn 8:32*
 - iii. If we were to be saved by good works, then we will have to keep on keeping on without any assurance that we will make it. It is like a burden we carry and cannot put down. The real motivation for our good works is more out of fear than of love. We are afraid that we will not make it. Whereas, because we are saved by faith through the perfect and sinless sacrifice of God for us, the Lord Jesus Christ, we will never be in hell - not because we are good or perfect but because of Christ's goodness and perfection. He died in our place and paid the penalty of our sins. This truly sets us free to love and obey Him.

9. WHY IS CHRISTIANITY THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?

- a. Religion is basically man's attempt to reach God, and it is hopeless.
- i. THROUGH GOOD WORKS: *The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess... for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. - Lk 18:11-14*

Those who seek to be justified by their good works will be condemned by their good works - because their good works will never be good enough - "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (Jas 2:10)

- ii. THROUGH SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS: *They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus... said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her... And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last...* - Jn 8:3-9

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. - Rom 3:10

- iii. THROUGH THE KEEPING OF THE LAWS OF GOD: *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.* - Gal 3:10-11

The system of the Law is such that either we keep all the laws or we are guilty of them all - "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (Jas 2:10)

The law of God is like a mirror; it can reveal flaws, but not remove them.

- b. Christianity is God's attempt to reach man. This is man's only hope to be with God.

- i. IT IS THROUGH HIS SON: *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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.* - Jn 3:16-17

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. - Rom 5:8

- ii. IT IS A GIFT OF GOD: ... *the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* - Rom 6:23

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. - Eph 2:8-9

The weakest hand can receive a precious gem.

Salvation is free, but it costs the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- iii. IT IS SURE: *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.* - Tit 1:2

... that ye may know that ye have eternal life... - 1 Jn 5:13

Salvation is sure because it is gift. Whereas, if it is a matter of works, then no one can be sure of getting saved.

- iv. IT IS JUST: *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (conciliation) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission (forgiveness) of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.* - Rom 3:24-26

In order for God to be just and righteous, sins must be paid for. We cannot pay for our sins and the Lord Jesus Christ came to die on the cross to pay for our sins with His blood. This is the only way in which God can be both "*just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*" Through this, God's justice is upheld, sins are paid for, and sinners can be forgiven and pardoned.

c. Jesus is the only way to God.

- i. *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* - Jn 14:6
- ii. What separates Christianity from the religions of the world is the sin question: how is our sin forgiven - through our good works or through the Savior Jesus Christ? All religions teach self-effort and self-righteousness, while Christianity teaches us the only way to God is through His sinless sacrifice for our sins - His Son, the Lord

Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. All our human attempts to reach God by our own effort will leave us with no guarantee, assurance or peace of mind that we will make it. At best, we can say, "I hope so." But would you want to jump off into eternity with a "I hope so"? Remember, a chance of eternal salvation also means a chance of eternal damnation.

10. ALL RELIGIONS ARE THE SAME.

- a. If all religions are the same, then why do they teach so differently, and in many places, contradictory to one another?
 - i. The belief of Christianity will exclude all other religions: *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* - Jn 14:6
 - ii. The belief of Hinduism will embrace practically all kinds of deities.
 - iii. The belief of Buddhism denies the existence of a personal, supreme God.
 - iv. The belief of Islam will preclude the belief and worship of all the other deities and "isms".
- b. All religions may teach us to do good but no one can do good perfectly no matter how much or hard we try.
 - i. Sooner or later, all religious leaders and their ardent followers will, like Paul, discover to their utter confusion and disillusion at their sincere but futile attempts to be perfectly good - "*For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I... O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*" (Rom 7:15-24)
 - ii. The problem is not with the religions but with us - our fallen, sinful and depraved nature can never keep the laws of God or of any religion perfectly. We can suppress our wicked desires for a while but we cannot annihilate them - like a spring, they will bounce back to life again when temptations avail themselves anew to us.
 - iii. If we can save ourselves, Jesus would not have to die for us. We can't and this is why He has to die and pay for the multitude of our sins.

c. Just as not every kind of medicine can heal a particular life-threatening disease, so, not every religion can save a soul from hell.

i. If we, by necessity, must be extremely careful in treating a life-threatening disease, how much more precautions must we take with regards to issues pertaining to our eternal estate.

ii. We can be wrong with our opinions but we cannot be wrong with our facts.

iii. If you die wrong the first time you cannot come back to die better a second time. - Robert Murray M'Cheyne

d. Since we have wronged God through our sins, we must come to Him on His terms and conditions.

i. NOT BY OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS: *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. - Rom 3:10 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. - Rom 3:23*

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. - Isa 64:6

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.... - Tit 3:5

ii. BUT BY GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS: *...This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD. - Isa 54:17*

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness... But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works. - Rom 4:3-6

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference. - Rom 3:21

11. I CANNOT FEEL I NEED TO ACCEPT CHRIST.

- a. We make many responsible decisions despite our feelings.
 - i. We go to work or school early in the morning even though we may not feel like doing so. This is not hypocrisy but responsibility.
 - ii. What would you do if you see a train coming at you? Do you say, "Let me feel first and then I will move aside," or do you simply step aside because you can see and visualize that you will be killed if you do not do so. Likewise, we do not need to feel first in order to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, but we can see that we are in danger of being in hell if we are to die in our sins this very moment.
- b. There is seldom any feeling before one dies and is sent to hell.
 - i. DEATH IS SILENT AND SUDDEN: ... *the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments... And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.* - Lk 16:22-24
 - ii. The man who is about to die of a stroke, heart attack or in an auto accident seldom has any feeling to warn him about his impending death. Death, judgment and hell come on padded shoes, quietly and silently, and very often without any sign or warning. This is why we must be prepared for it at all times.
- c. Feelings are often unreliable and unpredictable.
 - i. *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* - Prov 14:12
 - ii. *Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire...* - Eccl 6:9
 - iii. Most of our troubles come from following our feelings.
- d. Those who wait for feelings to decide will decide too late. In hell, there will be a lot of feelings but it will be too late.
 - i. *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.* - Lk 16:24

12. I NEED TO SEE A SIGN BEFORE I CAN BELIEVE.

- a. The sign-seeker errs in his search for God.
 - i. ... *Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he (Jesus) answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign... - Mt 12:38-39*
 - ii. Those whose faith is based on signs will fall with signs - when the signs are not forthcoming. Our faith is based on the unchanging Word of God.
- b. If we cannot believe the Bible, we will not believe at all - miracle or no miracle.
 - i. ... *but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he (Abraham) said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. - Lk 16:27-31*
- c. God has already given us many signs.
 - i. IN CREATION: *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. - Rom 1:20*
 - ii. IN SCIENCE: *He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing. - Job 26:7*
 - iii. IN PROPHECY: *That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. - Deut 30:3*

Israel is a living fulfillment of God's prophecy. They were scattered in A.D. 70 and returned in A.D. 1948.

13. I AM TOO BUSY - I STILL HAVE TIME TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST.

- a. Death is no respecter of age or health. People die in any and every circumstance - in health, in sickness, in old age or in youth. We are all living on borrowed time.

- i. ... *The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? - Lk 12:16-20*
- ii. All ages are threatened with death. - Thomas Manton
- b. There is only one step between us and death.
 - i. ... *but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.* - 1 Sam 20:3
 - ii. It takes only a moment for eternity to begin.
- c. The real picture of our danger before God.
 - i. Let us imagine a submarine that sank into the seabed. Air is running out. A rescue party came and opened the hatch. A voice boomed, "Those who want to be rescued, come up now!" Do you think that the crew inside the submarine will say, "Let me think about it, I still have plenty of time to decide, or let me be the first one out?" This is the real picture of our condition before God - we have only the present to decide for Christ and the future may never come. "Too late" is written all over hell.
 - ii. TO THE PHARISEES: ... *O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?* - Mt 3:7
- d. We will still have time to believe in Christ provided we know when the time of our death will be. The trouble is, we don't, and the truth is, that time can be any time now.
 - i. *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?* - Lk 12:20
 - ii. Those who seek to repent at the eleventh hour usually die at ten-thirty.

- e. The things we are often busy about will amount to nothing in the day of our death.
 - i. *As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.* - Ecc 5:15
 - ii. Someone once inquired of a relative of a very rich man as to how much he had left behind. "Everything," came the instructive reply.
- f. Our priority in life is to be saved first.
 - i. *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* - Mk 8:36-37
 - ii. He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever. - Tillotson
- g. Now is the accepted time to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Tomorrow may be too late.
 - i. *... behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* - 2 Cor 6:2
 - ii. You can't repent too soon, because you don't know how soon it may be too late.

14. I HAVE PARENTAL OR FAMILY OBJECTION.

- a. If we were to reject Christ because of our family, then we will have no eternal life.
 - i. *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... He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* - Mt 10:32-37
 - ii. Let us imagine a scenario where a whole family was drowning in a fast-moving river. A lifeline was thrown at them. One of the family members caught the line and said to himself, "Since all of us cannot be saved at the same time, I might as well let go the rope and we all

be drowned together.” Would it not be better that he got rescued first and then reached out for the rest of his family? Likewise, if he accepts Christ first, then God has a foothold in his family, and they will have a good chance to come to know and believe in Christ - “... *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*” (Acts 16:31)

- b. If God has saved us, then He will also be with us to help us through all our difficulties.
 - i. GOD WILL GUIDE US: *I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.* - Psa 32:8
 - ii. GOD WILL UPHOLD US: *... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, the LORD is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.* - Heb 13:5-6

15. I CANNOT HOLD OUT OR I AM AFRAID I WILL FAIL IF I TRY.

- a. In reality, no one can live up to the standard of the Bible by himself.
 - i. WE ARE WEAK: *... the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.* - Mt 26:41
 - ii. WE ARE WICKED: *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* - Jer 17:9
 - iii. WE ARE WAVERING: *For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.* - Rom 7:15
- b. It is through the Lord Jesus Christ that we can live by the standard of the Bible.
 - i. HE WILL SAVE US: *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.* - 1 Pet 1:5
 - ii. HE WILL SUCCOR US: *... but God is faithful, who will not suffer (allow) you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* - 1 Cor 10:13
 - iii. HE WILL STRENGTHEN US: *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* - Phil 4:13

16. THERE IS TOO MUCH TO GIVE UP.

- a. There is nothing more important than our souls.
 - i. *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? - Mk 8:36*
- b. God loves us enough to give up His Son.
 - i. *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all... - Rom 8:32*
 - ii. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son... - Jn 3:16*
- c. The things we love in this world will pass away.
 - i. *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. - 1 Jn 2:15-17*
 - ii. *To forsake Christ for the world is to leave treasure for a trifle... eternity for a moment, reality for a shadow, all things for nothing. - William Jenkyn*
- d. What we can get as believers will exceed all that we have given up.
 - i. *And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting. - Lk 18:29-30*
 - ii. *No man is a fool who gives up what he cannot keep and keeps what he cannot lose. - Jim Elliot*

17. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TOO HARD.

- a. The Christian life is not hard.
 - i. GOD'S WORK IS NOT HARD: *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest*

unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. - Mt 11:28-30

- ii. GOD'S COMMANDMENT IS NOT HARD: *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. - 1 Jn 5:3*
 - iii. All the "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not" when translated, mean, "Do thyself no harm."
 - iv. To obey God is perfect liberty, undisturbed peace and complete rest in our souls. To disobey God is everything otherwise.
- b. The way of sin is harder.
- i. THE LOST HAS NO EASY LIFE: *... but the way of the transgressors is hard. - Prov 13:15*
 - ii. THE LOST HAS NO ETERNAL LIFE: *For the wages of sin is death... - Rom 6:23 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? - Mk 8:36*
 - iii. THE LOST HAS NO PEACE OF MIND: *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. - Isa 57:20-21*
Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth (merrymaking) is heaviness. - Prov 14:13
- c. In reality, the Christian life is the better life.
- i. JESUS WANTS TO GIVE US JOY IN OUR SOUL: *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. - Jn 15:11*
 - ii. JESUS WANTS TO GIVE US PURPOSE IN OUR LIFE: *... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. - Jn 10:10*
 - iii. JESUS WANTS TO GIVE US PEACE IN OUR HEART: *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. - Jn 14:27*
 - iv. The lost have no life. They have only an existence.

18. MY HEART IS TOO HARD.

- a. God is able to give us a new heart.
- i. *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. - Ezek 36:26-27*
 - ii. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. - 2 Cor 5:17*
 - iii. *Come now, and let us reason together, 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. - Isa 1:18*
- b. If we do not repent now, our hearts will get harder. Later on, it will not be a question of whether we will repent or not, but we can't.
- i. *But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. - Heb 3:13*
 - ii. *Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil. - Jer 13:23*

19. I AM TOO GREAT A SINNER.

- a. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
- i. *... They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick... for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. - Mt 9:12-13*
 - ii. *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. - Lk 19:10*
- b. Paul, before his conversion, was the chief of sinners. Yet, he could be saved.
- i. *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. - 1 Tim 1:15*

- c. Jesus Christ turns no one away.
 - i. ... *and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.* - Jn 6:37
- d. The only people who cannot be saved are those who do not want to be saved.
 - i. *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.* - Jn 5:40

20. I MUST BECOME BETTER BEFORE I CAN BELIEVE IN CHRIST.

- a. We go to the doctor when we fall sick. We do not wait to get better before seeing the doctor.
 - i. ... *They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick... for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.* - Mt 9:12-13
 - ii. *And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other...* - Lk 18:13-14
- b. We will never become better before we receive Christ.
 - i. *For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord...* - Rom 7:22-25
 - ii. A sick man will generally get worse without immediate medical care. He does not become better. If we can be perfect and save ourselves, then Jesus did not have to die to save us. The truth is that we can't.

21. WHY DO THE LOST FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE IN GOD?

- a. BECAUSE OF SATAN: *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.* - 2 Cor 4:3-4
 - i. I believe Satan exists for two reasons: first, the Bible says so; and second, I've done business with him. - D. L. Moody

- b. **BECAUSE OF SINS:** *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.* - Jn 3:19
- i. Every man, like the moon, has a dark side which no one has seen, and in which he hopes no one will ever see - especially God. If God exists, then he is in trouble. This is why he subconsciously suppresses the thought that God might exist - "*For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*" (Jn 3:20)
 - ii. Man will not go to God for the same reason a thief will not go to a policeman.
- c. **BECAUSE OF SELF:** *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.* - Jn 5:40
- i. It is said that there are, in some parts of the world, natives who would use a hollowed coconut or gourd with a hole slightly smaller than the size of the fist of a monkey to catch it. They would fill it with some peanuts, and the monkey, upon seeing the peanuts, would put its hand into it, and grab them. But because its hand is clenched, the monkey could not extract itself from the secured coconut or gourd, thus allowing the natives to catch it. We look at this with much disbelief that these monkeys could be so incredibly foolish enough to lose their lives for just "a few peanuts". But we are just as foolish to lose our souls in hell for all eternity for just "a few peanuts of worldly enjoyment and sinful pleasures" which we cannot let go - "*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (Mk 8:36-37)
 - ii. We have to do our own thinking and then we have to do our own dying. Nobody is going to do them for us.

22. HOW ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD OF CHRIST?

- a. In the first place, these people are not innocent.
- i. *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.* - Rom 3:10
 - ii. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* - Rom 3:23

- b. Also, God's laws are already written in their hearts.
- i. *For when the Gentiles (non-Jews), which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew (show) the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another. - Rom 2:14-15*
 - ii. *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. - Rom 1:32*
 - iii. Even when there is no law, there is conscience.
- c. In addition, God is righteous in judgment.
- i. *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. - Deut 32:4*
 - ii. *... Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? - Gen 18:25*
- d. Lastly, perhaps God, in His foreknowledge, had already known these people would not believe even if they were presented the gospel.
- i. *... By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. - Mt 13:14-15*
 - ii. *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. - Rom 3:11*

23. WHO MADE GOD?

- a. Nobody made God. He is the First Cause and the Uncaused, the Creator of the universe.
- i. *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM... - Exod 3:14*
 - ii. *... I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. - Isa 44:6*

- b. If there is someone who made God, then by necessity, there must also be a “someone” who made that “someone” who made God. The list would go on and on indefinitely. But no matter how far back we go, there must still be a Self-Existent One by virtue of the visible creation we can see. The truth is that, God is the Self-Existent One, the Creator of all things and the Savior of mankind.
- i. *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.* - Jn 1:3
- ii. *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.* - Isa 45:22

24. I AM A FREETHINKER OR AN ATHEIST.

- a. An atheist has no explanation for his existence.
- i. NO EXPLANATION FOR CREATION: *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.* - Jn 1:3

The Universe is a vacuum. Where then did matter and energy come from? Where did the earth, sun, moon and the constellations of stars come from? Other than God Himself, something cannot come out of nothing. Every effect must have a cause. The energy in the Universe is the effect. What causes it? The Scriptures rightly show the foolishness and inconsistency of man - “*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...*” (Psa 14:1)

It isn't rational to argue that the world which is based on cause and effect is itself uncaused. - Michael Green

- ii. NO EXPLANATION FOR INTELLIGENCE: *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.* - Rom 1:20

An atheist cannot accept the fact that a car can exist without a maker or a house without a builder. But, at the same time, he can accept the myriad of living things which are millions of times more complex than cars or houses without a Maker or Designer. Where is the logic?

- iii. NO EXPLANATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF LIFE: *Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? - Eccl 1:2-3*

Why are we here? Where are we going? What is the purpose of life? An atheist has many questions but no answers.

An atheist is someone who is all dressed up but has no where to go.

b. An atheist has no excuse in life.

- i. NO EXCUSE FOR NOT KNOWING HIS GOD: *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. - Rom 1:19-20*
- ii. NO EXCUSE FOR NOT KNOWING HIS SINS: *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. - Rom 3:23 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. - 1 Jn 1:10*
- iii. NO EXCUSE FOR NOT KNOWING HIS JUDGMENT: *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. - Rom 1:32*

c. An atheist has no escape in death.

- i. THE SURETY OF JUDGMENT: *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. - Heb 9:27*
- And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened... and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. - Rev 20:12*
- Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption... - Gal 6:7-8*
- ii. THE SEVERITY OF JUDGMENT: *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. - Rev 20:15*

... the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments... And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

- Lk 16:22-24

- iii. When we travel to a foreign land, we will be judged by the laws of that land no matter how severe they may be. We cannot demand that we be judged and punished accordingly to our expectations and thinking. Similarly, when we die and meet God, we will be judged by His high and holy standards, and not by our standards, or rather “substandards”.

We are so subnormal that when we try to be normal others will think that we are abnormal.

- iv. Dr Jacks tells the story of two friends who had rather blatantly proclaimed themselves to be atheists. When mortal sickness visited one of them, the other came to see him and, perhaps a little afraid lest at the last he should abandon his atheism, said to him, “Stick to it, Bill!” “But,” replied the stricken man, “there is nothing to stick to!”
- J.D. Jones

25. WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER AND THE RIGHTEOUS SUFFER?

a. Some of the wicked do prosper and go unpunished.

- i. *For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked... They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men... Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily... Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. -*
- Psa 73:3-12

b. Some of the righteous are bothered by this.

- i. *Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me. -*
- Psa 73:13-16

- c. However, the prosperity of the wicked actually seals their destruction.
- i. *Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. - Psa 73:17-19*
 - ii. Sometimes, those whom God wants to destroy, He leaves them alone.
- d. The wicked who went unpunished on this side of the grave will be punished on the other side. In death, all wrongs will be made right.
- i. *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption... - Gal 6:7-8*
 - ii. *There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores... And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am torment in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. - Lk 16:19-25*

26. HOW ABOUT THOSE CHRISTIANS WHO ARE HYPOCRITICAL?

- a. God will punish a true Christian who sins against Him.
- i. *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? - Heb 12:6-7*
 - ii. *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. - Rev 3:19*

- b. Some so-called "Christians" are not true Christians.
- i. *They profess that they know God: but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. - Tit 1:16*
 - ii. *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. - 1 Jn 2:4*
- c. These people will be accountable for their sins and we will be accountable to God for our own.
- i. *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. - Rom 14:12*
 - ii. *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened... and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. - Rev 20:12-15*
 - iii. The practice of blame-shifting will not work on the day of judgment. We cannot say that we did not believe in Christ because of such people. They will pay for their sins and we will pay for ours.
- d. A non-believer tends to be biased or partial in his judgment of Christians.
- i. He will not consistently apply the same rule of judgment to the non-believers - he will not be quick to point out or criticize them when they sin or act hypocritically by virtue of the fact that they do not believe in God. He will not harp on the multitudes of atheists or godless people in prisons today for their horrendous crimes because of their belief in atheism. Neither will he highlight his own sins and inconsistencies as an unbeliever.
 - ii. *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest (do) the same things... And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? - Rom 2:1-3*
 - iii. When judging others, there will always be one fact which we do not know.

27. WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DENOMINATIONS?

- a. This is due to the failures of man and not of God.
- i. BECAUSE OF OUR IGNORANCE - WE DO NOT KNOW: *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born in Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. - Acts 18:24-26*
 - ii. BECAUSE OF OUR INCOMPETENCY - WE DO NOT STUDY: *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. - 2 Tim 2:15*
 - iii. BECAUSE OF OUR IDEOLOGY - WE DO NOT CHANGE WHEN WE ARE WRONG: *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. - 1 Jn 4:1*

We can either study the Bible with our minds made up or we can study the Bible to make up our minds.
- b. Satan will do his best to discredit Christianity and to divide Christians.
- i. *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. - 2 Cor 2:11*
 - ii. If we have the capability to counterfeit a particular currency, which currency would we choose? We will probably choose the US dollars, or some other valuable currencies rather than some worthless monies to counterfeit. Satan, too, knows that Christianity is the only way to God, and he seeks to divide and confuse Christians as much as possible.
- c. However, most evangelical denominations have essentially the same fundamentals.
- i. Most evangelicals may have differences in some important issues but they have many of the fundamentals alike - Salvation by Faith in Jesus Christ, the Blood Atonement of Christ, Eternal Security, the

Verbal and Plenary Inspiration of the Bible, the belief in the Trinity, Special Creationism, the Literal Second Coming of Christ, etc.

- d. Interestingly, the multiplicity of denominations also reveals the love and tolerance in Christendom among the evangelicals.
- i. Although many evangelicals may not necessarily work with one another at the church level, yet there is a common love and respect for each other as the children of God.
 - ii. *... That ye love one another; as I have love you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.* - Jn 13:34-35

28. WHY ARE CHRISTIANS CONSTANTLY BOTHERING OTHERS ABOUT THEIR FAITH?

- a. It is a Christian's duty to warn others about their coming judgment.
- i. Ask him what would he do if he sees a blind man walking towards a cliff or a neighbor's home on fire? Should he walk away and turn a blind eye or would it not be his duty to warn them about their impending dangers? Likewise, every Christian has the responsibility to warn others about the coming judgment of God.
 - ii. *Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...* - 2 Cor 5:11
 - iii. *When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.* - Ezek 3:18
 - iv. When Christians evangelize, they are not engaging in some harmless and pleasant pastime. They are engaging in a fearful struggle, the issues of which are eternal. - Leon Morris
- b. It is out of love and concern that a Christian shares his faith with others.
- i. *Open rebuke is better than secret love.* - Prov 27:5
 - ii. Whenever a believer shares his faith, he stands to be misunderstood, embarrassed and ridiculed, a price he is willing to pay to see a soul saved - *"... though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved."* (2 Cor 12:15)

29. WHAT HAPPENS TO BABIES AND LITTLE CHILDREN WHO DIED?

- a. As far as the clear Scriptures have shown, these little ones will be in heaven.
- i. *But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him but he shall not return to me. - 2 Sam 12:23*
King David will one day go and meet his dead child but his dead child cannot come back to him in his lifetime. This shows that the child is in heaven as David is a saved man.
 - ii. *But Jesus said, Suffer (allow) little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. - Mt 19:14*
- b. However, there is an age of accountability in which the child will be answerable for his sins. This varies from child to child.
- i. *And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore (120) thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand (these are children); and also much cattle? - Jonah 4:11*
 - ii. If these little children cannot tell their right hand from their left hand how then can they be accountable for their sins? However, there will come a day when they will be answerable for their sins.
- c. Sometimes, God, in allowing these little ones to die, may want to spare them from the unnecessary or unbearable suffering and miseries to come.
- i. *... and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die. And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam. - 1 Kings 14:12-13*
 - ii. "Where was God when my son died?" asked a distraught mother. "The same place when His Son died on the cross," came the wise reply.

30. WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SATAN, SIN AND SUFFERING TO EXIST?

a. God did create a perfect environment twice, and on both occasions, the independent beings (Satan and Man) He created failed miserably.

i. THE PERFECTION AND PRIDE OF SATAN:

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. - Ezek 28:15

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. - Isa 14:13-14

ii. THE COMPLETION AND CONDEMNATION OF MAN:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. - Gen 1:27

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. - Gen 3:6

b. God did not create independent beings like us to be robots without a free will or choice, but rather He gave us the liberty to choose - either for Him or against Him.

i. *... choose you this day whom ye will serve... - Josh 24:14*

ii. *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. - Jn 5:40*

c. One day, all these things will pass away.

i. SIN WILL BE REMOVED: *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. - Psa 103:12*

ii. SATAN WILL BE DESTROYED: *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone... and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. - Rev 20:10*

iii. SUFFERING WILL BE HISTORY: *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. - Rev 21:4*

d. God allows all these things to test and reward us for our obedience.

- i. TO PROVE US: *And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. - Deut 8:2*

The whole of life is a test, a trial of what is in us, so arranged by God himself. - William S. Plumer

- ii. TO PERFECT US: *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. - 1 Pet 5:10*

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting (lacking) nothing. - Jas 1:3-4

God is not in the habit of changing our circumstances but in changing us.

The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor can man be perfected without trials.

- iii. TO PREPARE US: *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. - Rom 8:18*

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. - 2 Cor 4:17

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. - Mt 6:20-21

Over the triple doorways of the Cathedral of Milan there are three inscriptions spanning the splendid arches. Over one is carved a beautiful wreath of roses, and underneath is the legend, "All that pleases is but for a moment." Over the other is sculptured a cross, and these are the words beneath: "All that troubles is but for a moment." But underneath the great central entrance in the main aisle is the inscription, "That only is important which is eternal."

31. WHAT ABOUT THE BELIEFS OF KARMA, REBIRTH, NIRVANA, ETC?

a. The basis of these beliefs.

- i. Some Eastern religions and philosophies hold on to the belief that life is a process of birth, death and rebirth in which one's station in life depends on one's karma or the works he had done in his past life. If he has done good, then his next life will be good and vice versa. The ultimate goal is to escape rebirth through enlightenment and good deeds, and reach Nirvana which is to be absorbed back into the universe.

b. The fallacies of these beliefs.

- i. First, the end result of rebirth and reincarnation is to pay for all our sins or to have a zero account with regards to our sins. In short, to be pure or "sinless." But in the first place, when we first entered into the world, we have to be logically "sinless" because we have not committed any sins yet. If that being the case, then why did we come into this world to experience birth, suffering, death and rebirth? Why then did the process of birth and rebirth begin?
- ii. Secondly, why would an all-powerful and all-knowing God require so many births and rebirths to know who we are? God, because of His foreknowledge, knows who we are or what we will be like even before we are actually born. Our birth and existence is more for ourselves than for God - we will stand before Him inexcusable in the day of judgment. We cannot say that we were not given a chance to prove ourselves.

... I am God, and there is none like me. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. - Isa 46:9-10

- iii. Thirdly, life's suffering is not the result of bad past karma but rather in accordance to the foreknowledge and purpose of God. Some people are born blind, deaf or retarded, not because of some bad, past karma but because God may want to restrain them from their destructive potential or He may use such handicaps to help these people come to know Him. Don't we wish that men like Adolph Hitler who gassed six million Jews during World War II be born blind or deaf?

TO RESTRAIN MAN: *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. - 2 Cor 12:7*

TO REVEAL GOD: *... Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. - Jn 9:1-3*

iv. Fourthly, the Bible teaches eternal judgment rather than rebirth.

... the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes being in torments... and he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. - Lk 16:22-24

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. - Heb 9:27

v. Fifthly, practices like being a vegetarian, very often associated with these beliefs, are found to be inconsistent.

If vegetarians are honest and objective enough, they will realize that plants and vegetables are not "lifeless forms" but are just another form of life. In short, they are still killing lives, albeit a different form of life. Also, it has been scientifically proven that plants and vegetables, when attacked, do send out some kind of distressed signals.

Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving. - 1 Tim 4:3-5

32. WHAT ABOUT IDOL WORSHIP?

a. The worship of idols is the result of the rejection of the one, true, invisible God.

i. *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. - Rom 1:20-25*

b. The worship of idols is a worship of convenience.

i. A CONSCIENCE TO APPEASE: Man, being made in the image of God, has a moral consciousness in which he must appease and atone for his sins and crimes. He must do something that says that he has duly paid for his wrongdoings and misdeeds. Since he has subconsciously rejected the one, true, invisible God whose standards and demands are just too high for him, he then resorts to the worship of something more to his convenience. He wants a god whom he can worship on his own terms and conditions, and the worship of idols fits that mindset - idols have no standards or demands placed on their devotees. The worshippers can, to a certain extent, do what they please and subsequently appease the idols with a regular offering for their sins and, in turn, seek their (the idols') blessings.

ii. A CONVENIENCE TO SIN: Generally speaking, the bulk of idol-worshippers have little compunction about lying, cheating, gambling, womanizing and the many other vices they are fond of indulging in. As long as the idols are appeased, they have some liberty to continue in their sins.

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever, Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections... And even as they

did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters... - Rom 1:25-32

c. The worship of idols is also a worship of superstition.

- i. A WRONG PERCEPTION: *Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD**. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things. - Acts 17:22-25*

God, who made the whole universe, cannot be contained in a statue nor does He need to be “fed” with offerings or be carried about everywhere.

- ii. A WRONG MOTIVATION: The two main motives for the majority of idol-worshippers are for “protection” and “prosperity”, or because of “fear” and “favor”. Generally speaking, there is no real, personal or love relationship with the idols.

d. The worship of idols is, in reality, a worship of the devils.

- i. *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. - 1 Cor 10:20*

e. God hates the worship of idols.

- i. *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them... - Exod 20:3-5*
- ii. *Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD... - Deut 27:15*

33. WHAT ABOUT ASTROLOGY, NECROMANCY, PARANORMAL ACTIVITIES, UFOS, EXTRATERRESTRIAL BEINGS, ETC?

a. The potential of Satan.

- i. SATAN CAN PERFORM MIRACLES: *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew (show) great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. - Mt 24:24*

The elect will not be deceived and the deceived will not be the elect.

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world... - Rev 16:14

One of the characteristics of the end times will be the proliferation of demonic miracles and deceptions.

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. - Deut 13:1-3

- ii. SATAN CAN PRETEND TO BE GOOD: *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. - 2 Cor 11:13-15*

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils... Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. - 1 Tim 4:1-3

Satan does not mind that we be religious as long as we do not have the Savior - the Lord Jesus Christ.

- iii. SATAN CAN POSSESS HUMAN BEINGS: *And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils. - Lk 8:2*

Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being number of the twelve. - Lk 22:3

b. The purpose of Satan.

- i. SATAN SEEKS TO BLIND: *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. - 2 Cor 4:3-4*
- ii. SATAN SEEKS TO DECEIVE: *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. - 2 Thess 2:9*
- iii. SATAN SEEKS TO DESTROY: *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. - 1 Per 5:8*
- iv. Satan promises the best, but pays the worst; he promises honor and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure and pays with pain; he promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death. - Thomas Brooks

c. The possibility of Satan.

- i. ASTROLOGY: *Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee (the coming Babylonian invasion of Israel). - Isa 47:13*
- ii. WITCHCRAFT: *And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shall have no more soothsayers. - Mich 5:12*
- iii. NECROMANCY: *Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am your the Lord your God. - Lev 19:31*

34. HOW ABOUT EVOLUTION?

- a. In reality, life, with its complexities, cannot come from inorganic matters without any external intelligence or help.
- i. Can plasters, timbers and nails, when left on their own, organize themselves into a house or an apartment? Can an explosion in a printing shop result in an unabridged dictionary being produced? They can't and neither can the complexity of life evolve from inorganic matters by itself without an external intelligence, no matter how long the time element may be.
 - ii. Every living thing is made up of trillions of living cells. The simplest living cell consists of millions of parts put together simultaneously without which it cannot live. All our technology and know-how today cannot even create "a fraction of a fraction" of a living cell.
 - iii. Each cell has a DNA which is the genetic code of the species. It is estimated that there are enough information in each DNA to fill up 1,000 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Every creature has its own DNA. The DNA will determine what species it will be, how it will grow and develop, when the parts will be formed, what parts each cell will produce and what parts it will not, etc. Can such a highly complex DNA exist through the process of chance or accident? No, it can't!
 - iv. The Second Law of Thermodynamics, simply stated, teaches that all things, living or non-living, are heading towards disorderliness rather than to something more organized or complex. If we were to leave an apple or a dead animal alone, it will rot and decompose. It will not evolve into something more complex. Likewise, if we left alone a car or a house for a long time, it will rust and break down.
- b. One species cannot evolve into another.
- i. There are variations (micro-evolution) - crossbreeding of dogs or cats will produce different kinds of dogs or cats. But cats do not evolve into dogs (macro-evolution).
 - ii. The DNA of each species actually fixes the species and determines whether it is a dog, cat or plant. Changes in the DNA are known as mutations. 99.7 to 99.9 percent of all mutations are harmful. Babies born with defective or faulty livers, lungs or hearts seldom live long. The remaining percentage in mutation is neutral. The commonly

propounded theory of the “survival of the fittest” is, in reality, the “preservation of the species” - the strongest and fittest of the species survive within the bounds of their original, God-created DNA. They do not evolve into another species.

- iii. Fossil records are a fly in the face of the evolutionists as they do not show any of the millions of missing links supposedly to have existed between the species. The problem with the missing links is that they are still missing. Fossil records simply show that all these species existed just as they are today. It is just that some of these species have gone extinct.
 - iv. Microbiologists realize that the genetic gaps between species are just too great for evolution. It is like a man trying to do a long jump, two miles long, over the Grand Canyon in one go. He cannot do it in a series of jumps. Similarly, for one species to “evolve” into another, it must achieve it with one transformation or it will not survive. No fish will become a land animal with a series of changes. It must change its gills into fully developed lungs in one move or it will die on land. It cannot have half-developed or “semi-evolved” lungs and still survive.
 - v. If evolution is true, then we will still be witnessing life being formed from inorganic matters or some creatures still in the evolutionary process. We can't see any of them today in spite of the tens of thousands of varieties of species around us.
- c. The fallacy of the “Geologic Column.”
- i. In the realm of nature, the neatly-drawn, textbook version of the complete geologic column of the fossil records does not exist. Polystrata fossils, missing layers, layers out of order, misplaced fossils, and layers in reverse order, all invalidate the geologic column. For example, all over the world, undisturbed sedimentary layers of the more complex fossils have been found beneath those with the simple ones, proving that the theory of the simpler forms of life evolving into the more complex ones is not true. Worst still, fossilized trees have been found to cut through several strata of fossils showing that all these fossils were deposited at the same time and not over “millions of years.” Likewise, footprints of dinosaurs and man have been found together on the Paluxy River bed near Glen Rose, Texas, USA, disproving the theory that man and dinosaurs were separated by millions of years apart.

- ii. There is a circular reasoning in the dating of the age of fossils and their corresponding rock strata. The evolutionist dates the age of the rocks by the fossils found in them, and then in turn, dates the age of the fossils by the rocks identified with them.
- d. The Carbon 14 radiometric dating method is not accurate.
 - i. It assumes the C 14 is in equilibrium. This assumption has been proven wrong and the C 14 in the atmosphere is still increasing.
 - ii. It assumes the decay rate remains constant. Again, this has been shown to be uncertain many times.
 - iii. It assumes the initial amounts of C 14 can be known. Again this has been proven wrong time and again. Different parts of the same sample often yield different ratios. Various living samples give very different ratios. Living penguins have been carbon-dated at 8000 years old!
 - iv. If the C 14 date supports our theories, we put it in the main text. If it does not entirely contradict them, we put it in a footnote. And if it completely “out of date,” we just drop it. - T. Save-Soderbergh and I. U. Olsson, Institute of Egyptology and Institute of Physics respectively, Sweden.

Adapted from “Dinosaurs, Creation and Evolution” by Dr Kent Hovind, Florida, USA.

- e. “Creationism” is more credible than “Evolution.”
 - i. *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* - Gen 1:1
 - ii. *All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.* - Jn 1:3
 - iii. If all the living things in the world which are so highly complex cannot exist by chance, then the only logical explanation left is that an intelligent Creator has made them just as they are today. It is like looking at a radio or a computer and realizing that they cannot exist by chance, and thus logically concluding that an intelligent being must have made them. The obvious alternative to chance is an intelligent Designer. In addition, all living and non-living things in the world have a “symbiotic relationship” - they complement and

need one another in order to make life possible. If there were no sunlight or oxygen or water or the ozone layer, life would have been impossible. If all the parts in a cell did not exist simultaneously or all the vital organs of a man were not present at the same time, life would have been impossible. All these show the existence and reality of God behind His creation. Evolution demands progression and progression demands that there was at one time, a semi-developed heart, lung, liver, or an imperfect and incomplete immune, digestive or reproductive system. But we know that no living animal will survive for a moment with half a heart, kidney or any of its vital organs. Either they come complete or they die. It is not that an atheist cannot believe in God, it is he won't. It is not an intellectual problem, it is a heart problem. As the Bible says, *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”* (Rom 1:20-22)

- iv. Reproduction is essential for the continuity and survival of any species. But the obvious question is: how is it possible for the species to reproduce when their reproductive organs are still in the process of evolving?
- v. Scientists who go about teaching that evolution is a fact of life are great con-men, and the story they are telling may be the greatest hoax ever. In explaining evolution, we do not have one iota of fact. - Dr T. N. Tahmisian, Atomic Energy Commission, USA.
- vi. Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it because the only alternative is special creation which is unthinkable. - Sir Authur Keith, British evolutionist (*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God* - Psa 14:1)
- vii. Scripture answers three basic questions to which the evolutionary theory has no answer whatsoever. These questions concern the origin of matter, the origin of life and the origin of man as a religious being. - R. B. Kuiper

35. WHERE DOES THE BIBLE SHOW THAT JESUS CHRIST IS GOD?

a. HIS DIVINE ATTRIBUTES.

- i. HE IS ETERNAL: ... *whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.* - Mich 5:2
- ii. HE IS OMNIPRESENT (ALL-PRESENT): *And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.* - Jn 3:13
- iii. HE IS OMNISCIENT (ALL-KNOWING): ... *of Christ. In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.* - Col 2:2-3
- iv. HE IS OMNIPOTENT (ALL-POWERFUL): *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.* - Jn 1:3

b. HIS DIVINE TITLES.

- i. GOD: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* - Jn 1:1

The New World Translation of the Jehovah Witnesses would translate this verse as “a god” instead of “God” because they claim that there is no article “the” before the word “God”. However, in the Greek, Jn 1:6,12,13 & 18 also do not have the article “the” before the word “God”, and yet they are translated as “God” and not “a god” in the NWT.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. - Tit 2:13

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. - Heb 1:8

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh... - 1 Tim 3:16

- ii. THE SON OF GOD: *The Jews answered him We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.* - Jn 19:7

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto (until now), and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. - Jn 5:17-18

To the Jews, the Son of God is also God, the Son - "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father...*" (Isa 9:6)

- iii. **THE MIGHTY GOD:** *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.* - Isa 9:6

Jehovah is also called the mighty God - Isa 10:21 & Jer 32:18.

- iv. **THE ALMIGHTY GOD:** *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.* - Rev 1:7-8

Here, the Almighty is referring to Jesus Christ as there is no such thing as the Second Coming of the Father.

c. **HIS DIVINE ASSOCIATION.**

- i. *I and my Father are one... The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.* - Jn 10:30-33
- ii. *... Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.* - Phil 2:5-6
- iii. *... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father...* - Jn 14:9

d. **HIS DIVINE WORSHIP.**

- i. *And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.* - Heb 1:6

The footnote in the New World Translation (Large Print 1971 edition) states that "obeisance" is also translated as "worship".

- ii. *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.* - Phil 2:10

THE PICTURE IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM

CREATION AND THE CREATOR

The Earth is “Anthropic”

Many scientists today are coming to the conclusion that the earth is “anthropic”. By this, it means that this earth bears evidence that it was designed by an intelligent Being to allow life to exist within a very narrow scientific parameter. The following extract gives us an idea of why this is so:

In researching the size of the earth we discover that the mass and size of the earth are just right. If the earth's diameter were 7,200 miles instead of 8,000, almost the whole earth, due to a lessening of its atmospheric mantle, would be reduced to a snow and ice waste. If there were a variation of only 10 percent, either in the increase or decrease of the size of our world, no life as we know it on earth would be possible! If the average temperature of the earth were raised but two or three degrees you could bid goodbye to many of the big cities of the earth, for the glaciers would melt, and that in turn would flood many of the big cities... The earth's axis, which now points toward the North Star, is titled just right - at the strange angle of 23 degrees from the perpendicular, that is, in relation to the plane of its orbit. Because of this tilt the sun appears to go north in the summer and south in the winter, giving us four seasons in the temperate zone. For the same reason, there is twice as much of the land area of the earth that can be cultivated and inhabited as there would be if the sun were always over the equator, with no change of seasons. Think what would happen if the earth were titled any other way than it is. We live miraculously on this planet, protected from eight killer rays from the sun, by a thin layer of ozone high up in our atmosphere. If that little belt of ozone, approximately forty miles up and only one eighth of an inch thick (if compressed), should suddenly drift into space, all life on earth would perish. The first miracle, in the light of what the rest of the universe is like, is that there is an ocean here! In the universe as a whole, liquid water of any kind - sweet or salty - is an exotic rarity. Contrary to common belief, the liquid state is exceptional in nature; most matter in the universe seems to consist either of flaming gases, as in stars, or frozen solids drifting in the abyss of space. The amazing accuracy and smoothness with which the Universe revolves - as a flawless, perfect machine - can be seen in the perfection that characterizes the journey of our earth around the sun. It

takes the earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 48 seconds to make its journey around the sun. And in this circuit... the earth has varied in only the slightest degree. None but an infinite GOD could achieve such flawless, continuous perfection. I believe as God states in the Bible (*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.* - Rom 1:20) that nature and creation itself reveals that there is a Creator. We know that for every design there is a designer, and for every law there is a lawgiver. "In the beginning God created" is still the most up-to-date statement on the origin of the universe and all that it contains. - Duane T. Gish, Ph.D. (Biochemistry, University of California, Berkeley) Adapted from the tract "Have you been brainwashed?" (Gospel Tract Distributors)

The Existence of God fits the Facts

"Belief in a self-existent, personal God is in harmony with all the facts of our mental and moral nature, as well as with all the phenomena of the natural world. If God exists, a universal belief in his existence is natural enough; the irresistible impulse to ask for a first cause is accounted for; our religious nature has an object; the uniformity of natural law finds an adequate explanation, and human history is vindicated from the charge of being a vast imposture. Atheism leaves all these matters without an explanation, and makes, not history alone, but our moral and intellectual nature itself, an imposture and a lie. - F. L. Patton

Footprints in the Sand

Many years ago an atheistic French scientist was crossing the Sahara desert with an Arab guide. The Arab believed in God and prayer. When he was uncertain of the way, he would kneel and ask God for guidance. This annoyed the scientist. Contemptuously he asked, "How do you know there is a God?" Solemnly the Arab asked, "How do I know that a man and not a camel passed by our tent last night in the darkness?" "Why, by his footprints in the sand," said the atheist. "I see God's footprints in the things He has created - the sun, moon and stars. They proclaim His power and greatness! These things just didn't happen!" said the Arab. - W. B. Knight

SIN AND THE SINNER

Sin has no Logic

A scorpion, being a poor swimmer, asked a turtle to carry him on his back across a river. "Are you mad?" exclaimed the turtle. "You'll sting me while I'm swimming and I'll drown." "My dear turtle," laughed the scorpion, "if I were to sting you, you would drown and I would go down with you. Now, where is the logic in that?" "You're right," cried the turtle. "Hop on!" The scorpion climbed aboard and halfway across the river gave the turtle a mighty sting. As they both sank to the bottom, the turtle resignedly said, "Do you mind if I ask you something? You said there'd be no logic in your stinging me. Why did you do it?" "It has nothing to do with logic," the drowning scorpion sadly replied. "It is just my character." - Horizons

Spiritually Blind

A minister faithfully proclaimed the gospel in an open-air meeting in Glasgow. At the conclusion of his message, an unbeliever stepped from the crowd and said: "I don't believe what the minister said. I don't believe in heaven or hell. I don't believe in God or Christ. I haven't seen them." Then a man, wearing dark glasses, came forward and said: "You say there is a river near this place - the River Clyde. There is no such thing. You say there are people standing here, but it cannot be true. I haven't seen them - I was born blind! Only a blind man could say what I have said. You are spiritually blind and cannot see. The Bible says of you, *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* (1 Cor 2:14) - W. B. Knight

Can't feel the Weight of Sin

A flippant youth asked a preacher, "You say that unsaved people carry a weight of sin. I feel nothing. How heavy is sin? Is it ten pounds? Eighty pounds?" The preacher replied by asking the youth, "If you laid a four-hundred-pound weight on a corpse, would it feel the load?" The youth replied, "It would feel nothing, because it is dead." The preacher concluded, "That spirit, too, is indeed dead which feels no load of sin or is indifferent to its burden and flippant about its presence." The youth was silenced.

The King's New Clothes

Many of us are accustomed to the legendary story "The King's New Clothes". As the story goes, a king who, one day, desired to impress his people on a certain occasion with some very ethereal garments. He secured the services of two very able tailors in the kingdom who happened to be tricksters out to deceive the king. They presented to the king a make-belief, invisible "garment", and having convinced both the king and his attendants that only the noble and men of good character were able to see this "clothes of grand design", the king put it on and paraded himself before his subjects. Not wanting to appear foolish, everyone pretended to be able to see and admire this "elegant dressing". Finally, a little child exclaimed, "The king has no clothes." In no time, the giggling and laughter of the common folks sent the king back in a hurry to his palace red-faced and very much embarrassed by his foolishness. The world too, would pat each other on the back and assure each other that they are alright. But, in the eyes of God, we are like this foolish king, naked in our righteousness before Him - "*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags...*" (Isa 64:6)

Death Tracks

Two men were lost in a blizzard in a forest. They kept walking and after a long while, they chanced upon two pairs of human footprints. They congratulated themselves that they were on the right track to safety. Traveling on, they saw more footprints and were even more sure of finding their way back home. However, a lone Indian who saw all this stopped them and warned, "White men, don't follow those tracks. They are your own tracks. You have been going round and round the forest. We call those footprints 'death tracks.'" In a similar manner, the lost are following their own tracks, going round and round in life, not knowing that these will lead them to a Christless eternity. Their philosophies are: "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die", "do what feels good", "grab all you can in life", "don't think about the future and God, there is no such thing as hell judgment", etc. Soon, like these men who could have followed their own tracks to their death, they will find that in no time, they are "over the hills", "what you see is not what it appears to be", "after every party is the same emptiness again", "*vanity of vanities; all is vanity*" (Eccl 1:2), and finally, as they draw their last breath, God will say to them, "*Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*" (Mt 25:41) While we still have the time, let us turn back to the Savior who assures us that, "*... the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*" (Lk 19:10)

DEATH AND THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

A Strange Encounter with Death

An old legend tells of a merchant in Baghdad who, one day sent his servant to the market. Before very long the servant came back, white and trembling, and in great agitation said to his master, "Down in the market place I was jostled by a woman in the crowd, and when I turned around I saw it was Death that jostled me. She looked at me and made a threatening gesture. Master, please lend me your horse, for I must hasten away to avoid her. I will ride to Samarra and there I will hide, and Death will not find me." The merchant lent him his horse and the servant galloped away in great haste. Later the merchant went down to the market place and saw Death standing in the crowd. He went over to her and asked, "Why did you make a threatening gesture at my servant?" "That was not a threatening gesture," Death said. "It was only a start of surprise. I was astonished to see him in Baghdad, for I have an appointment with him tonight in Samarra."

A Covenant with Death

A man once made a covenant with Death. The covenant was that Death should not come on him unawares - that Death was to give warning of his approach. Years rolled on, and at last Death stood before his victim. The old man blanched and faltered out, "Why, Death you have not been true to your promise, you have not kept your covenant. You promised not to come unannounced. You never gave me any warning." "Not so!" came the answer. "Every one of those gray hair is a warning; everyone of your lost teeth is a warning; your eyes growing dim is a warning; your natural power and vigor abated - that is, a warning. Aha! I've warned you - I've warned you continually." And Death would not delay, but swept his victim into eternity.

Mercy not Justice

An aged Negro was arraigned. In court, charges of a serious nature were placed against him. As court preliminaries were getting under way, it was evident to the young lawyer that his client was ill at ease and under great tension. In his effort to impart comfort to the man and allay his fears, the young lawyer said, "Charlie, you need not have any fear. I'm going to see that you get justice in this court today!" A mediative look displaced the hitherto look of fright on the man's face. In measured words, he said, "White man, it isn't justice that I want in this court today. It's mercy!" - Rev. T. F. Callaway

The Bigger Fool

A king sent for his jester one day, and presented him with a stick. He said, "Take this stick and keep it until you find a bigger fool than yourself." Lying on his deathbed, the king again sent for his jester. "I am going away," the king said. "Whither?" asked the jester. "To another country," replied the king. "What provision has your majesty made for this journey and for living in the country whither thou goest?" the jester asked. "None," was the answer. The jester handed the king the stick. "Take it," he said. "I have found a bigger fool than myself, for I only trifle with the things of time while you trifled with things of eternity." - Gospel Herald

Sincerely Wrong

A nurse on night duty in a great hospital in Chicago mistakenly gave a lethal dose of wrong medicine to a little boy. Her error was not detected until it was too late to save his life. Was she not sincere in what she did? Certainly! Was she not conscientiously performing her duties? Certainly! She was sincerely - wrong! She was conscientiously - wrong! Many sincerely say, "All religions are good. They all lead to heaven." Many say, "Let your conscience be your guide. If your conscience tells you a thing is all right, it is O.K." But they all are wrong! All religions are not good. All religions do not lead to heaven. There is only one way to heaven. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn 14:6) - W. B. Knight

No Escape by Silencing the Messenger

An African chief had done something for which the English government wished to punish him and sent a gunboat for this purpose. A runner brought him word that the boat had entered the river. He had the courier killed. The next day a second runner arrived to tell him how far the boat had come up the river. This poor fellow also lost his head. And the same fate was met by the other couriers who arrived the following days. This did not, however, keep the English boat away nor delay the day of judgment. Suddenly the jungle echoed with thunder of cannon and the huts of his kraal collapsed as if made of cardboard. How do we treat the messengers of God who come to tell us of approaching judgment? We may have silenced them, but the judgment day is coming. You may have silenced your conscience, grieved the Holy Spirit, left unopened the Holy Bible, and turned your back to your Christian friends - but the judgment day is coming. - The Sunday School Times

The Violin Player

A probably fictitious story was told of a man who could not play violin. He joined an orchestra and pretended to play with them. He would fake all the movements to look like he knew how. This went along for a while till one day he was required to give a personal audition. For this, he ran off. Today, we merge with the crowds. We do the things they do. We talk their talk. But some day, we will have to stand before God alone. Are we ready to give an account of ourselves before God? We live in crowds but we die one by one. *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened... and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.* - Rev 20:12-15

How shall we Escape?

A Welsh minister, beginning his sermon, leaned over the pulpit and said with a solemn air, "Friends, I have a question to ask. I cannot answer it. You cannot answer it. If an angel from heaven were here, he could not answer it. If a devil from hell were here, he could not answer it." Every eye was fixed on the speaker, who proceeded, "The question is this, How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb 2:3)

He always said He would Retire

He always said he would retire,
When he had made a million clear,
And so he toiled into the dusk,
From day to day, from year to year!
At last he put his ledgers up,
And laid his stock reports aside,
And when he started out to live,
He found he had already died! - Selected

Found on a Tombstone

Pause, Stranger, when you pass me by,
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so you will be,
So prepare for death and follow me.

GOD'S LOVE AND PROVISION

Eluding God's Rescue

In 1981, a Minnesota radio station reported a story about a stolen car in California. Police were staging an intense search for the vehicle and the driver, even to the point of placing announcements on local radio stations to contact the thief. On the front seat of the stolen car sat a box of crackers that, unknown to the thief, were laced with poison. The car owner had intended to use the crackers as a rat bait. Now the police and the owner of the VW Bug were more interested in apprehending the thief to save his life than to recover the car. So often, when we run from God, we feel it is to escape his punishment. But what we are actually doing is eluding his rescue.

The War is Over

In the Philippines, the newspaper once ran a story about a Japanese soldier who had hidden in the jungles to escape capture after Japan had lost during World War II. For more than thirty years he had been living in fears and eluding capture not knowing that the war had ended. When he was finally discovered and told that the war had ended some thirty years ago, he must have felt he had wasted those precious years unnecessarily. He was finally flown back to Japan, grateful to be reunited with his family again. Likewise, when Jesus died on the cross for our sins, the "war" between God and man was over - man now can be reconciled to God through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. But like this Japanese soldier, many sinners are still running and hiding away from God unnecessarily, not knowing that they can be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Dream

A man once dreamt that he was transported back in time to witness the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In his dream, he saw how the crowds would jeer at the Savior and the Roman soldiers lashing Him. The agonies and cries of the Lord Jesus Christ so moved him that, in his dream, he lunged forward to prevent the soldier from hurting Him. As he jerked at the soldier's back, he got the shock of his life - for he saw that he was that soldier who was whipping Christ! At the end of the day, it was not the Romans that crucified the Lord Jesus Christ or the Jews that demanded His death, but it was you and I who caused Him to be nailed on the cruel cross at Calvary - *"But 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."* (Isa 53:5)

Don't you care that my Son died for You?

Back in the days of the Great Depression a Missouri man named John Griffith was the controller of a great railroad drawbridge across the Mississippi River. One day in the summer of 1937 he decided to take his eight-year-old son, Greg, with him to work. At noon, John Griffith put the bridge up to allow ships to pass and sat on the observation deck with his son to eat lunch. Time passed quickly. Suddenly he was startled by the shrieking of a train whistle in the distance. He quickly looked at his watch and noticed it was 1:07 - the Memphis Express, with four hundred passengers on board, was roaring toward the raised bridge! He leaped from the observation deck and ran back to the control tower. Just before throwing the master lever he glanced down for any ships below. There a sight caught his eye that caused his heart to leap poundingly into his throat. Greg had slipped from the observation deck and had fallen into the massive gears that operate the bridge. His left leg was caught in the cogs of the two main gears! Desperately John's mind whirled to devise a rescue plan. But as soon as he thought of a possibility he knew there was no way it could be done. Again, with alarming closeness, the train whistle shrieked in the air. He could hear the clicking of the locomotive wheels over the tracks. That was his son down there - yet there were four hundred passengers on the train. John knew what he had to do, so he buried his head in his left arm and pushed the master switch forward. That great massive bridge lowered into place just as the Memphis Express began to roar across the river. When John Griffith lifted his head with his face smeared with tears, he looked into the passing windows of the train. There were businessmen casually reading their afternoon papers, finely dressed ladies in the dining car sipping coffee, and children pushing long spoons into their dishes of ice cream. No one looked at the control house, and no one looked at the great gearbox. With wrenching agony, John Griffith cried out at the steel train: "I sacrifice my son for you people! Don't you care?" The train rushed by, but nobody heard the father's words, which recalled Lamentation 1:12: "*Is it nothing to you, all who pass by?*" - Dr James Kennedy, quoted from Illustrations for Biblical Preaching, Michael P. Green, Baker Book House.

The things Undone

It is not the things you do, friend,
It's the things you left undone,
That cause the heartache,
At the setting sun.

SALVATION BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

Wesley's Ignorance

A humble Moravian workman asked John Wesley before his conversion the searching question, "Do you hope to be saved?" "Yes, I do," replied Wesley. "On what ground do you hope for salvation?" asked the Moravian. "Because of my endeavors to serve God," said Wesley. The Moravian made no reply. He only shook his head and walked silently away. Wesley, in speaking of the incident later said, "I thought him very uncharitable, saying in my heart, "Would he rob me of my endeavors?" Later, Wesley saw the light - that salvation is solely of grace, "*not by works of righteousness which we have done*" (Tit 3:5), or can do. He saw what his brother, Charles, saw and expressed in these words:

Could my tears forever flow,
Could my zeal no languor know,
These for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone:
In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling. - W.B. Knight

Only two Religions

While presenting the Gospel on the street of a Californian city, we were often interrupted about as follows: "Look here, sir! There are hundreds of religions in this country, and the followers of each sect think theirs is the only right one. How can poor, plain men like us find out what really is the truth?" We generally replied something like this: "Hundreds of religions, you say? That's strange; I've heard of only two." "Oh, but you surely know there are more than that?" "Not at all, sir, I find, I admit, many shades of difference in the opinions of those comprising the two great schools; but after all there are but two. The one covers all who expect salvation by doing; the other, all who have been saved by something done. So you see the whole question is very simple. Can you save yourself, or must you be saved by another? If you can be your own savior, you do not need my message. If you cannot, you may well listen to it." - H. A. Ironside

The Captor and the Captive

An ancient fable once told of a sovereign who held a prisoner at his will in his castle. One night, wishing to be malevolent, he said to the prisoner, "I will give you a chance to escape. You have one night to do so. There is a way out of this place." Having said that, he left him. The hopeful prisoner felt his way around his cell and discovered a hidden panel which eventually led him from one secret passage to another. He spent the whole night searching eagerly for a way out of his prison. Upon daybreak, he stumbled into his own cell again. The door flung open and the sovereign announced, "I have given you a chance to escape but you failed." "You lied," cried the prisoner, "there was no way out!" "There is," came the reply, "I did not lock the door of your cell last night and you could have just walk out a free man." Just like this nameless prisoner, we too, tend to think that the salvation of God is something complex, like the doing of endless good works, or through some extreme personal sacrifices, or prolonged and intense meditation, or some esoteric and mystical practices, et al. But the way of salvation ordained by God is incredibly simple, like the possibility of this prisoner going through an unlocked door - "... *Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...*" (Acts 16:30-31)

The "Done" Religion

"There is a great difference between your religion and mine," said a Christian to his neighbor. "Indeed!" was the reply. "What is that?" "It is this: Yours has only two letters in it, while mine has four." "What do you mean?" said he. "Well, yours has 'DO'. Mine has 'DONE'."

Half-Century learning 3 Things

D. L. Moody told: "An old man got up in one of our meetings and said, "I have been forty-two years learning three things." I pricked up my ears at that. I thought if I could find out in three minutes what a man had taken forty-two years to learn, I should like to do it. The first thing he said he had learned was that he could do nothing toward his own salvation. "Well," I said to myself, "that is worth learning." The second thing he found out was that God did not require him to do anything. Well, that was worth finding out, too. And the third thing was that the Lord Jesus Christ had done it all, that salvation was finished, and that all he had to do was to take it. Dear friends, let us learn this lesson. Let us give up our struggling and striving, and accept salvation at once." - Moody Monthly

SOUL-WINNERS AND SOUL-WINNING

Why don't you hurry?

When a father, who lived on the Western prairies, came home one night, his little boy ran through the long grass to meet him. Suddenly the boy disappeared. Running through the grass to the point where his boy vanished, the man heard a gurgling cry. His son had fallen into an old well. The father barely reached the well in time to save his boy. When the lad revived from his fright, he asked, "O Daddy, why didn't you hurry?" Said the father later, "That boy's question made a missionary out of me. I seemed to hear the piteous, pleading cry of myraid in the regions beyond, "Why don't you hurry? We are dying without God and without hope. Why don't you hurry with the gospel?"

Could it be your Son?

Some years ago, Dr. Daniel Poling returned home after an absence of a few days. He entered a taxicab. As he rode along, the taxi driver, who did not know Dr. Poling, asked, "Have you heard about the boys who are adrift in a rowboat, and who, at latest reports, have not been found?" "No," replied Dr. Poling, seemingly not too much concerned. Then he added, "The boys should have been more careful." After a moment, he asked, "Do you know the names of the boys?" "No, not all of them. I know only one. His name is Poling." Instantly Dr Poling became all attention as it dawned upon him that one of the lost youths was his own boy! Oh, that we could feel deeply moved toward every lost soul, taking each upon our hearts, and doing everything to bring him to Christ. - Rev. C. Leslie Miller

The Joy of Salvation

Bruce Crozier, a seven-year-old boy, wandered from his father's hunting camp in Arizona. He was lost for six days and six nights. At last he was found, thirty-two miles from the camp. When the mother embraced him, she exclaimed, "It is almost impossible to believe I have my boy back!" Then she fainted. The father, who had directed a thousand searchers for the boy from his hunting camp, received by phone the joyous news, and he, too, lapsed into unconsciousness. We cannot measure the greatness of the joy of that mother and father. Nor can we measure the "joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repented." - Adapted from Now

In the Morning, Sow thy Seed!

Years ago, in the city of Toronto, Canada, a young man passed a street meeting. He heard only one verse from the Bible: "Son, give me thine heart." At the time, the verse apparently went in one ear and out the other. More than fifty years later, the verse, which had lain dormant in his heart, became accusingly and convictively alive. Then he fell on his knees, crying to God for His mercy and forgiveness. Let us be alert and aggressive in obeying the command, "*In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.*" (Eccl 11:6) Even the weakest and unworthiest ones may sow the seed, remembering that the life lies not in the sower, but in the seed! - W. B. Knight

Man on the Railway Track

Dr. John McNeill once told a group of ministers how he had come upon a drunken man fast asleep between the railway tracks - and the midnight express was due. "What would you have done?" he demanded of the ministers. One said, "Man, I would get him off the track. I would not be mild in dealing with him. I would not invite him to get himself off. I would be rough and seize him, and by my strength I would drag him off though I dropped exhausted by his side." "Even so," said McNeill, "that is the state of every unsaved soul - asleep between the tracks, and God's judgment express is almost due." - United Evangelical

The blind Man going over the Cliff

Suppose I were to see a blind man unknowingly approaching the brink of a high precipice, and that I were to sit by without concern or any effort to warn or save him from certain death, would I not be as guilty of his death in God's sight as though I had murdered him outright? The death of a body, which might have been (but was not) prevented, is a terrible thing, but what about the preventable death of a human soul - perchance of many souls - for which God may hold me responsible? - Alan Redpath

Indifferent Christians

Some Africans were getting on a riverboat, carrying in their hands sacks and baskets of vegetables. They were going to market. One of them slipped and fell into the water. She grabbed for the side of the boat and held on until her fingers became numb. Finally she could hold on no longer and sank beneath the turbid

waters. Not one native made a move to rescue her. They were stonily indifferent to her cries for help. When the boat captain learned what had happened, he swore and cursed at the heartless natives. "Why didn't you reach down and lift her from the water?" he asked. They replied in chorus, "If we had, what would have become of our fruits and vegetables?" Before we pass judgment on these cruel, benighted heathen, let us do a bit of heart-searching. All around us are those who are going into eternity without God and without hope - forever lost. Too many Christians sing about rescuing the perishing, but do little or nothing about it. - Told by a missionary

Is it True, Madam, that You are not a Missionary?

Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, medical missionary to Labrador, was guest at a dinner in London, together with a number of socially prominent British men and women. During the course of the dinner, the lady seated next to him turned and said, "Is it true Dr. Grenfell, that you are a missionary?" Dr. Grenfell looked at her for a moment before replying, "Is it true, madam, that you are not?"

The Gospel Work

The work is solemn - do not trifle.
The task is difficult - do not relax.
The opportunity is brief - do not delay.
The path is narrow - do not wander.
The prize is glorious - do not faint.

What is the Gospel according to You

You are writing a Gospel,
A chapter each day,
By deeds that you do,
By words that you say.

Men read what you write,
Whether faithless or true,
Say! What is the gospel
According to you?

THE PLAN IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM

CREATION AND THE CREATOR

1. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. Rom 1:20
2. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Psa 19:1
3. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. Jn 1:3
4. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. Heb 3:4
5. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. Jn 1:10
6. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Psa 14:1

SIN AND THE SINNER

1. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Rom 3:23
2. For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. Eccl 7:20
3. But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags... Isa 64:6
4. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. Jas 4:17
5. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. Mk 7:21-23
6. Shapen in iniquity - Psa 51:5 Fools make a mock at sin - Prov 14:9
 Can the Ethiopian change his skin - Jer 13:23 To lust after her hath committed adultery - Mt 5:28 He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her - Jn 8:1-9 Being filled with all unrighteousness - Rom 1:28-32 For that all have sinned - Rom 5:12

DEATH AND THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

1. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom 6:23
2. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. Heb 9:27
3. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Gal 6:7
4. The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. Psa 9:17
5. No peace to the wicked - Isa 57:20-21 The soul that sinneth - Ezek 18:20 Nothing covered - Mt 10:26 Destroy both soul and body in hell - Mt 10:28 Wailing and gnashing of teeth - Mt 13:50 Gain the whole world, and lose his own soul - Mk 8:36 Fire that never shall be quenched - Mk 9:43-44 The rich man and Lazarus - Lk 16:19-31 Men loved darkness rather than light - Jn 3:19-20 Sinneth without law shall also perish without law - Rom 2:12-16 Shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point - Jas 2:10 The dead, small and great, stand before God - Rev 20:12-15 The second death - Rev 21:8

GOD'S LOVE AND PROVISION

1. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8
2. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Lk 19:10
3. 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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. Jn 3:16-17
4. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Jn 15:13
5. Like sheep have gone astray - Isa 53:5-6 Christ died for our sins - 1 Cor 15:3-4 Taste death for every man - Heb 2:9 Without shedding of blood is no remission - Heb 9:22

SALVATION BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

1. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Rom 10:9-10
2. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Jn 14:6
3. Verily, verily, I say unto you, 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. Jn 5:24
4. Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. Acts 16:30-31
5. 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. Eph 2:8-9
6. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Psa 103:12
7. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Cor 5:17
8. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Rev 3:20
9. Though your sins be as scarlet - Isa 1:18 They that be whole need not a physician - Mt 9:12-13 The prodigal son - Lk 15:11-24 The Pharisee and the publican - Lk 18:9-14 Whosoever believe in him should not perish - Jn 3:15-16 Hath everlasting life - Jn 3:36 I and my Father are one - Jn 10:30 The just shall live by faith - Rom 1:17 Abraham believed God - Rom 4:2-8 Justified by faith, we have peace - Rom 5:1 They sought it not by faith - Rom 9:30-32 No more of works - Rom 11:6 Under the curse - Gal 3:10 No man is justified by the law - Gal 3:11 Christ is become of no effect - Gal 5:4 One mediator - 1 Tim 2:5 Not by works of righteousness - Tit 3:5 Cleanse us from all unrighteousness - 1 Jn 1:9 He that hath the Son hath life - 1 Jn 5:12 Ye have eternal life - 1 Jn 5:13

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO BE SAVED

1. Repentance: Trust the Lord Jesus to give up your sins.
 - a. I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Lk 13:3
 - b. Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance - Mt 3:7-8 Repent ye, and believe the gospel - Mk 1:15 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out - Acts 3:19

2. Acceptance: Accept the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour and Lord.
 - a. 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. Jn 1:12
 - b. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life - Jn 3:15-16 And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out - Jn 6:37 He that hath the Son hath life - 1 Jn 5:12-13

3. Obedience: Trust the Lord Jesus to obey God's commandments.
 - a. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 1 Jn 2:4
 - b. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven - Mt 7:21 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God - 1 Cor 6:9-11 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. - Jas 2:17
 - c. Obedience or good work is not the basis of our salvation but the fruits or manifestation of our salvation. We do good works because we are already saved and not to get ourselves saved. We are saved by faith and a true saving faith will produce the works of the Bible.

A SINNER'S PRAYER

Dear God, I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me of my sins and help me to forsake them. Thank You for sending Jesus Christ who died for my sins and rose again on the third day. Now I accept Jesus to be my Saviour and Lord. Please help me to love You and to obey You from this day onwards. I thank you for saving me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

1. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom 10:13
2. Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. Acts 16:30-31
3. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved Rom 10:9-10
4. 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. Jn 1:12
5. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. Jn 6:37
6. Verily, verily, I say unto you, 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. Jn 5:24
7. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 1 Jn 5:13

SECURITY OF SALVATION

1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Rom 8:1
2. And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. Jn 10:28
3. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Rom 8:29-30
4. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Pet 1:5
5. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Jude 24
6. In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began. Tit 1:2

Fast Forward

No more cards, just a chip in your head

YES, no more anxiety about PIN numbers and other personal details. Everything can be stored on a chip implanted under your skin, in your head. This is not sci-fi, but something that can come about in 10 years' time, says FT Laboratories' Peter Cochrane.

Great Story
PAGES 1 and 2



Take out your wallet and count the number of cards you carry. Your IC, credit card, ATM card, not to mention all the personal identification numbers (PINs) that you have to memorise for every possible transaction. Then there is your passport, driver's licence, insurance documents, not to mention details like home and work addresses, phone and fax numbers. All that information, Prof Cochrane said, can be put into a single silicon chip on a smart card. Everything from employment and medical records to financial status can be written into the chip. Add a short-range wireless transmitter-receiver, implant the whole thing under your skin, and you have a personal transponder, just like those in aeroplanes. A chip like that can give you total freedom, according to Prof Cochrane. You walk into an airport and clear Customs and immigration in minutes because all your personal information will be processed by computers instead of humans. Since all your financial information is also in the chip, you can simply walk up to an ATM machine in any country and withdraw money as and when you need it. Even grocery-shopping could be easier. Just walk into a store and pick up whatever you want to buy. No more queues at the cashier's counter. All these could be reality in 10 years' time.

And he caused all... to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save (except) he that had the mark... - Rev 13:16-17

Prejudices are not based on reasons and, as such, cannot be overcome by reasons.