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Change

You may have been told that in life, there are only two certainties, death and taxes - death once life is ended, and taxes a precursor to death while yet alive. But it has been my observation after working for many years, that a third certainty can be added. Change. Nothing changes like change.

In the case of my employer, change is so entrenched that we have dedicated Change Champions and Change Agents whose job it is to ensure that all workers adopt and conform to the required changes.

No different from building pyramids really. They are the new task masters responsible for ensuring that the labourers pull together and meet their quota of mud bricks or whatever the new task is.

The type of changes I am referring to are not those involving minor upgrades to the latest software, but wholesale changes that change the very nature of your work. Sometimes for no reason other than a new Manager has been appointed and they need to show they have done something new or different.

It has been my observation that change is essential to the world. With constant change you not only have uncertainty about what will change, but you will also build up a tolerance to change. So much so, that you will create in your mind an expectation of change. Once this happens you tend not to hang on too tightly to the way things are. If you do resist, you will be shamed into

changing. You are too old, too ignorant, you have a closed mind, unrealistic expectations, you are ignorant, and you have an unnatural phobia. You will either be ridiculed or castigated. Fined if possible or even thrown into jail.

By now you will know that the change I am talking about is that relating to our individual beliefs, morals and values. This reflects the society that we have. Thankfully, God's precepts, standards and statutes are unchanging, and that is a very good thing.

But not to the world it is not. They don't want to be reminded as to how far they have fallen and wandered away from God. They are the progressives, the liberals, the academics, who are being influenced by dark forces, encouraging them to do their own thing.

It got this way with God's own people before he punished them.



They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. (Isaiah 30:10).

But Jesus, being in complete agreement with the Father, is the same today as yesterday and forever more. They are unchanging. (Hebrews 13: 8)

The only change remaining concerns, when we ourselves shall be changed, in a twinkling of an eye, from mortal to immortal. To be as one with him who is to come. (1 Corinthians 15: 52)

Written by Richard Todd

Articles On Love and Salvation

by David Kidd

The greatest sign of the true God of love

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is *the greatest sign of all of the true God of love.*

Jesus' sacrifice, however, may not meet our expectations of God. We would never have imagined God doing such a thing. Perhaps a story about King Solomon's wisdom will help us understand why Jesus' crucifixion shows the love of the true God in a very special way.

You might remember the Bible story in 1 Kings 3:16 where two prostitutes sleeping in the same house each had a baby. One awoke to find her baby dead because she had laid on him. She craftily swapped her dead baby with the other woman's living baby. An argument over the living baby arose and the women wanted King Solomon to decide who the true mother was.

King Solomon knew how he would handle this sad case. He called for a sword and said, *Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other.* Of course, the true mother loved her child more deeply than the other woman, and to save her child's life she immediately urged the King to give the child to the other woman. King Solomon thus

immediately discerned who the child's true mother was.



Just as King Solomon was able to know who the true mother was by her willingness to sacrifice to save her child's life, we may know who the true God is by His willingness to suffer and sacrifice to save His creation.

The beauty of the way of salvation in Christianity

Someone not knowing much about Christianity might assume being a 'good person' would qualify a person for heaven. However, salvation, according to scripture, is a free gift we can't earn by our own goodness or good works. Trying to attain God's free gift by working or paying for it, would be insulting, just as it would be very offensive for a wife to offer to pay for flowers from her romantic husband.

Here are my meditations on why the way of salvation in Christianity is so wonderful:

. As Christians, we have great security and confidence in our salvation. We don't have to reach a certain level of goodness to be accepted by God. God counts as

our righteousness the righteousness of Christ, who we trust in alone for our salvation.

. We can be certain God won't change His mind given the great sacrifice and suffering of His only begotten Son on our behalf.

. Our way of salvation truly demonstrates God's amazing love toward us.

. It is God who saves us, not we ourselves. This is very comforting and reassuring as we all have many faults.

. We have God living in us through the Holy Spirit strengthening us to continue in faith to the end.



. We have a demonstration, strongly supported by many witnesses, of how the dead can be raised – namely, Jesus.

. Even a mass murderer can be forgiven by God. That's great news if we feel the things we have done in our life are unforgivable.

May these wonderful meditations encourage you!

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Love changes hearts better than anything

When we're feeling upset about the terrible suffering in the world and God's patience towards it, it's useful to contemplate God's options for ending it. Here are four possible options.

He could step in every time we were about to do something that could cause harm. How many of us would complain about Him being a terrible 'Big Brother' figure?

Secondly, He could destroy all sinners, since greed, lying, stealing, adultery, murder, and all manner of self-centered attitudes and actions are by far the main reasons for suffering. We probably wouldn't like this option. Who would be left?

Thirdly, God could turn us all into robots with no free will who always behave exactly as programmed. I'm sure this option's not very appealing either.



The remaining option, as I see it, is to try and turn our hearts away from doing the wrong thing by loving us so much we would

never wish to hurt Him or others again. That's the approach God took through the Cross. Millions have been turned away from lives dangerous to themselves and society by giving their lives to their loving Saviour. Love changes hearts better than anything.

Sadly, however, because most aren't responding to His love, God will have to bring this world to a close, and apply the second option to those who refuse to accept His gracious free gift of eternal life through trusting in His Son. For now, we can just praise God for His free-will-respecting plan for ours and the world's salvation.

Written by David Kidd

**Righteousness And Peace
Have Kissed**

Recently in a newspaper column, Mary Rose asked how each of us can contribute to peace in 2017.

Psalms 85:10 says, *righteousness and peace have kissed*. When two people kiss they have a very intimate connection. This is true of righteousness and peace. Without righteousness in our lives peace is elusive. Common sense tells us this. Just think for example of the distressed criminal who winds up in prison or on the run, or reflect on the times you knew you did the wrong thing and lacked peace.

Obviously world peace is also to-

tally dependent on world leaders keeping control of their evil desires for power, territory or wealth. Blessed are the true peacemakers who encourage righteousness in their lives.

The Bible has some excellent verses identifying this righteousness/peace connection. Hebrews 12:11 for example talks of the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Most of us are familiar with the Bible expression *there is no peace for the wicked*. Therefore we can encourage peace in 2017 by living righteously ourselves and encouraging others to do the same. Thank God, because He can give us the strength to do this through His Son and through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is scripturally known, not only as the *Prince of Peace*, but also *Jesus Christ the righteous*. When we lay down our heavy burden with Him, take His yoke upon us and learn from Him, He knows how to give us true and lasting rest and peace.

Written by David Kidd

Answers To Test Your Knowledge

Esther and Ruth
 "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39)
 The fear of the Lord. (Psalm 111:10)
 Job. (See book of Job)
 Jeremiah. Jer 9:1
 He ascended bodily into heaven. (Acts 1:9-11)

The Sabbath From Genesis To Revelation

To whom was the Sabbath given?

Genesis the first book of the Bible tells us the Sabbath was given to man at creation; God blessed the Seventh day as soon as He had made man on the sixth day:

Genesis 1:26-27, 31 *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness....."*

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Genesis 2:2-3 *And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*

The Hebrew word for "rested" in verses 2 and 3 is "shabat" and it tells us that God "kept Sabbath" (Young's Concordance, under 11. *To cease, rest, keep Sabbath, shabath.*)

We can see from the Scriptures that the Sabbath, one of the ten commandments, was known to the ancients.

God said to Abraham's son, Isaac:

And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." (Genesis 26:4-5)

Abraham was born more than 400 years before Moses, yet he knew and kept God's charge, commandments, statutes, and laws, the same as those God gave to Moses:

"Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." (Deuteronomy 11:1)

The Hebrew words for "commandments" and "statutes" in Genesis 26:5 are the same as in Deuteronomy 11:1.

Exodus, the second book of the Bible has a reminder for people, linking the Sabbath with the creation:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Exodus 20:8-11



The words of Jesus to the Pharisees:

And He said to them, *"The Sabbath was made for man"*

The word "man" (anthropos, man, human being) here stands for "mankind", i.e. the Sabbath was made for all mankind.

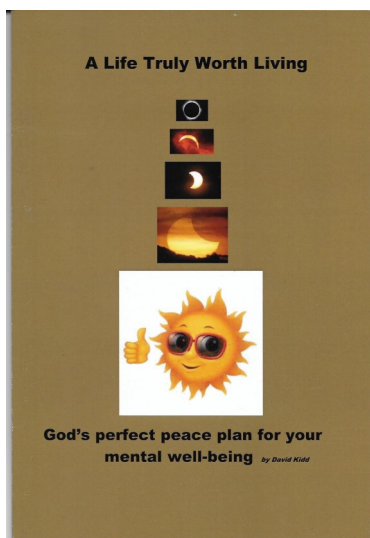
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God's Perfect Peace Plan for Our Mental Well-being

Many, perhaps even you, are having great difficulty coping with a whole range of disappointments, griefs or failures and even wonder if life is worth living. You've tried many sensible and not so sensible things, but nothing provides the mental stability you crave.

I want to urge you to deeply consider God's perfect peace plan for your mental well-being.

Here's a thirteen-fold package of great things Christianity has to offer in this respect: (1) *Effective tools for overcoming destructive emotions*; (2) *A solution to guilt*; (3) *A solution to worthlessness and lack of identity*; (4) *A loving family*; (5) *Supernatural strength (God's) to deal with things human resources have failed to resolve*; (6) *Daily purpose and activities to keep you meaningfully occupied and bring joy and satisfaction*; (7) *Exciting long-term hope to look forward to and to motivate you to endure life's troubles*; (8) *A special restful day of the week to look forward to every week*; (9) *A helpful framework for understanding why the world is like it is and for believing why violence and suffering will finally end one day*; (10) *Wise proverbs and teachings for healthy and happy living*; (11) *Accountability to a loving God*; (12) *Power over satanic/demonic influences on the mind*; and **best of all**; (13) *The greatest leader, Saviour and role model ever – Jesus the Christ*.



By **David Kidd**, author of devotional book ***A Life Truly Worth Living*** – God's perfect peace plan for your mental well-being freely available on request.

I AM A CHRISTIAN

by Carol Wimmer

When I say, "I am a Christian"

***I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost!"
That's why I chose this way".***

When I say, "I am a Christian"

***I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble -
Needing God to be my guide***

When I say, "I am a Christian"

***I'm not trying to be strong
I'm professing that I'm weak
And pray for strength to carry on.***

When I say, "I am a Christian"

***I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed
And cannot ever pay the debt.***

When I say, "I am a Christian"

***I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
Asking humbly to be taught.***

When I say, "I am a Christian"

***I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are all too visible
But God believes I'm worth it.***

When I say, "I am a Christian"

***I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache,
Which is why I seek His name.***

When I say, "I am a Christian"

***I do not wish to judge
I have no authority...
I only know I'm loved***



Continued from page 4

And in verse 28 Jesus added:

“Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”

Jesus, the Son of Man, is Lord of all mankind and also Lord of the Sabbath.

The Sabbath was given as a day of rest and worship

In Leviticus, the third book of the Bible, the Sabbath is called a *“holy convocation”*. (A calling together, sacred assembly)

“Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.”

We should note that the Sabbath is a joyous occasion.

God wants His people to rest on the seventh day just as He did:

There remains, then, a Sabbath — rest for the people of God; (New International Version)

God’s people were urged to not forsake assembling together on the Sabbath in order to stir up love and good works and to exhort one another:

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Jews as well as Gentiles would go to a synagogue to hear the preaching of Paul and Barnabas:

So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the

grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. (Acts 13:42-44)

James, a brother of Jesus, spoke to the church and the apostles and the elders in Jerusalem:

Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.” (Acts 15:19 & 21)

Here we see that Gentiles were hearing Moses being preached and read in the synagogues every Sabbath throughout many generations.



*“Synagogue During Torah Reading”
By Edouard Moyse (1867-1906)*

The church would also meet in houses:

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. (Romans 16:3-5)

God’s people keep all of His commandments—the Sabbath included. We find God’s people described in the last book of the Bible:

..... who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:17)

God’s people are also called saints:

Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (Revelation 14:12)

Written by Ernie Klassek

(Scripture verses from the New King James Version except where noted)

Youth Vibe



One of the greatest obstacles to becoming a committed Christian is that *Christianity is challenging*, specially for young Christians. Young Christians are challenged very early in their walk by the exposure of the values and things of the world, which are in opposition to Christian values.

Suggestions to help you with the challenges ahead

Set Your Alarm Clock

Mark 1:35

Now in the morning,, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and
NKJV

What Is One Thing You Keep Putting Off For God?

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of desires, and has nothing; But the soul of be made rich. NKJV

Practice Forgiveness, Learning To Let Go

Colossians 3:13

Bearing with one another, and, if anyone has a another; even as Christ forgave you, must do. NKJV

Find A Christian Friend's Support

Proverbs 27:17

As iron, So a man sharpens the friend. NKJV

Write Down The Names Of People Who Add To Your Life In A Positive Way

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not: "Evil company habits." NKJV



Jesus the Messiah:

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What two Old Testament books are named for women?

What is the second Greatest Commandment?

What is the beginning of wisdom?

Which person was afflicted with terrible trials but trusted God through it all?

Who was “the weeping prophet?”

What are epistles?

What happened to the Lord Jesus 40 days after His resurrection?



Prophecy Fulfilled

Bible prophecies offer convincing evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Old Testament predictions about Jesus' birth, life, and ministry are quoted by New Testament writers to identify Him as the Messiah.

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