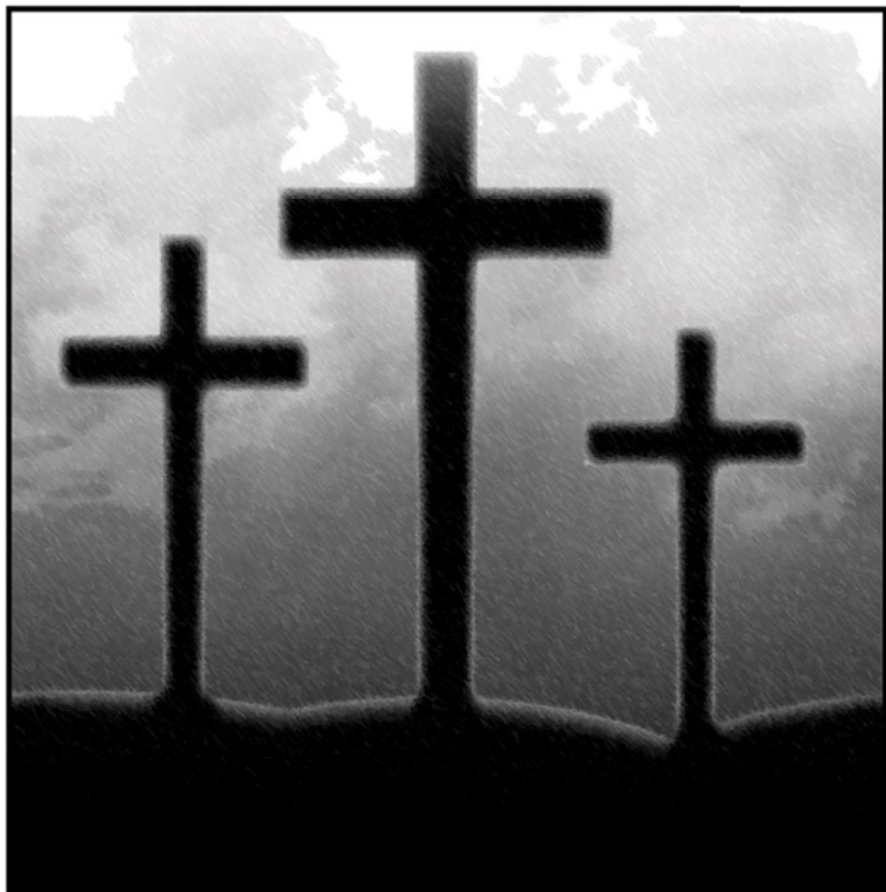


Faith Alone in the Lord Jesus Christ Alone

AND YOU WILL BE SAVED



PASTOR RORY CLARK

Barah Ministries, Inc.

AND YOU WILL BE SAVED

*They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus (Christ),
and you will be saved,
you and (everyone in) your household
(who also believes).” Acts 16:31*

by
Pastor Rory Clark

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>		
Provided for You in Grace		5
Dedication		7
Thanks		9
To the Unbeliever		10
<i>Chapter One</i>		
Stop for a Single Decision		13
<i>Chapter Two</i>		
The Way is Narrow that Leads to Eternal Life		25
<i>Chapter Three</i>		
There is Only One Way to Get to Heaven		37
<i>Chapter Four</i>		
The Way is Broad that Leads to Destruction		55
<i>Chapter Five</i>		
Beware of Counterfeits to Salvation		69
<i>Conclusion</i>		
About Barah Ministries		81
About Pastor Rory Clark		83
Exegesis		85
To the Believer in Christ		88

All Bible verses cited in this work are taken from the New American Standard translation of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

©®2011-2012 Barah Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved.

And You Will Be Saved

Provided for You in Grace

No price appears on material produced by Barah Ministries. Anyone who wants Bible study resources from this ministry can have them without charge or obligation. God provides the truth of the Word of God in grace. This ministry reflects God's grace policy.

While Bible study resources from this ministry are free of charge, they are not without cost. If, as you study the Word of God, gratitude to God motivates you to contribute to the continuation of this ministry and to the dissemination of this and other forms of Bible doctrine, you are welcome to participate.

Biblical verses cited in this work intend to reflect exegesis from the original languages and not the author's interpretation of a verse. See page 85 for a more detailed description of exegesis.

*Each one must do (giving) just as he has purposed in his heart (the right lobe of the soul), not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver. **2 Corinthians 9:7***

Giving is a "want to" not a "have to" proposition. You can't buy God with your gifts. Your giving does not encourage God to bless you. Everything you have, including your treasure, comes from God. You can share the resources He has given you for the purpose of His work. Give cheerfully as you wish, and your

contribution, which came from God to you, will be redirected by this ministry to the service of others.

'Truly I (the Lord Jesus Christ) say to you, to the extent that you did it (giving) to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' **Matthew 25:40**

Dedication

To the Goldberg Family...especially Lindsay

I have had the good fortune over my lifetime to meet many people of the Jewish race, and the even greater fortune to call many of them my closest friends. I have always had a tremendous affection for and affinity with Jewish people. Perhaps it is their wit. Perhaps it is their work ethic. Perhaps it is because when I was a kid, a Jewish businessman offered my mother a payment plan to get groceries when we had no money. Perhaps it was my two summers working at a Jewish day camp. Whatever the reason, there has been an intimacy with Jewish people during my lifetime that has made many of them seem like family members to me.

The Goldberg family is even more special to me. They are Jewish, **and** they are Christians.

*...For they are not all Israel (spiritual Jews) who are descended from Israel (racial Jews)... **Romans 9:6b***

The Bible makes a clear distinction between spiritual Jews and racial Jews. Spiritual Jews are the descendants of Abraham.

*Then he (Abraham) believed in the Lord (Jesus Christ); and He (the Lord...Jehovah Elohim...Adonai...Jesus Christ in His pre-incarnate state) reckoned (credited) it to him (Abraham) as (absolute) righteousness. **Genesis 15:6***

Abraham, the father of the Jewish race, was a spiritual Jew in that he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as He was revealed to Old Testament believers. Abraham's descendants, like the Goldbergs, are regenerate, spiritual Jews. It is my sincere hope this book makes it clear to my unregenerate Jewish friends that the Lord Jesus Christ **IS** their Messiah...their Adonai...their Yahweh...their Yeshua. This biblical fact will become clearer to them as divine history progresses, but the time is now for Jewish people who are alive today to claim their spiritual heritage and to know exactly who protects them today, when many on the earth want to destroy them. It is the Lord Jesus Christ who existed before He came to earth as true humanity. He made unconditional covenants with Abraham to preserve the Jewish race. It is the Lord Jesus Christ who will rule from Jerusalem in the future.

A special thanks to Lindsay Goldberg, my "art slave," for the illustrations and for the cover art. It is my privilege to know you and to work with you.

Thanks

To Pastor John Farley, Denise Jones, and others, my thanks for the excellent edit suggestions. I've done my best to incorporate every one of them into this work. Your time, your thoughts and your insights are much appreciated.

Thanks to my assistant, Jamie Mastrocola, for phenomenal attention to detail in proofreading this work.

To the Unbeliever

This book is for you. You may be unaware of the fact that you were born physically alive and spiritually dead.

*And (at physical birth) you were (spiritually) dead in your trespasses and sins... **Ephesians 2:1***

As a result of Adam's original sin, God placed you, from birth, on the team of His enemy, Satan. This is not your fault, but it is your circumstance. If you have yet to hear the Gospel Message, the good news of how God frees you from this predicament, or if you have heard the Gospel Message and rejected it, you are considered an unbeliever in the plan of God.

*For since the creation of the world His (God's) invisible attributes (His essence), His eternal power (omnipotence) and (His) divine nature (Deity), have been clearly seen, being understood (even) through what has been made (all created things), so that they (all mankind) are without excuse (before the justice of God). **Romans 1:20***

All will meet the Lord Jesus Christ face-to-face one day. While you are on the earth, the Lord makes Himself visible to you, both through created things and through the people He sends to evangelize to you. Are you listening?

Responding positively to God's invitation to be saved, the Gospel Message, is a simple conversation with God the Father. For one of the thieves crucified next to the Lord Jesus Christ, it was a nine word conversation.

And he (the thief) was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in(to) Your kingdom!" And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to him (the thief), "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise (you are saved by believing in Me)." Luke 23:42-43

After this conversation with God, you can move on to the next step of God's plan for you, which is for you to get to know Him.

...but grow in the (sphere of) grace and (in the) knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... 2 Peter 3:18a

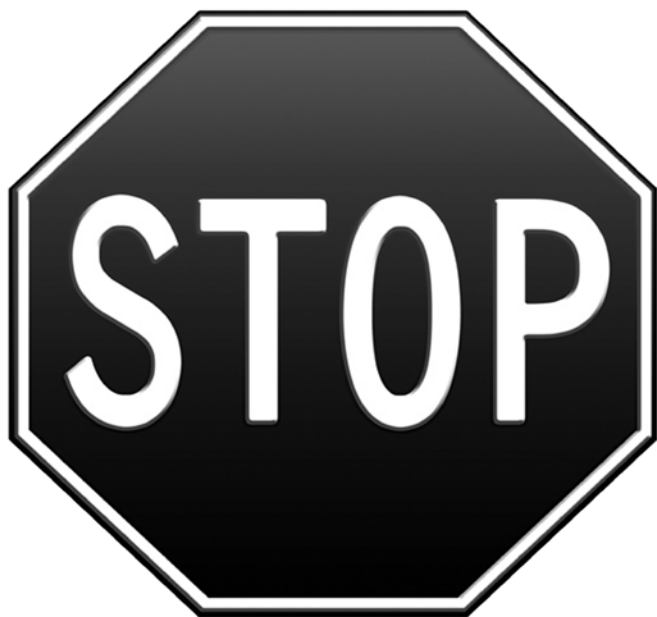
Through following the guidance of this book, you can establish a relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This book provides a detailed account of the issues of salvation. Read on. There is also an account of salvation on the Barah Ministries website at www.barahministries.com.

This book invites you to make the most important decision of your life.

This may seem "too easy" to be true. It is easy for you. But the accomplishment of your salvation was not easy for the Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified as your substitute to make salvation easy for you. You'll read about it in these pages. Study them. Decide. Join me in heaven.

CHAPTER ONE

Stop for a Single Decision



John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has eternal life; but he who does not obey the (command to believe in the) Son will not see (eternal) life (in heaven), but the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him."

And You Will Be Saved

Stop for a Single Decision

GOD WANTS YOU

Stop! A single decision determines your eternal future.

There is nothing as important as the decision you get to make when you are finished reading the words of this book. Of the hundreds of decisions you make on a daily basis, not many have eternal consequences. This one does.

But if you're like most people, you will read the words of this book in a judgmental way, deciding whether you agree or disagree with what it has to say. You will agree if the thoughts are consistent with a decision you made in the past, or with a belief you hold currently. You will disagree if the thoughts are inconsistent with your decisions or beliefs, or if they offer something new for you to consider.

New things make us think, and they make us doubt. The things you disagree with are the things you would do well to consider most. They are either true, or they are not. If they are true, then things you disagree with offer the potential for growth.

Studying this subject offers eternal life as a free gift from God.

You can choose to handle this book the way you handle most information in your life. You can handle it in subjectivity,

unduly focused on your own thoughts, feelings, opinions, and attitudes. You can handle it in overview mode, skimming the contents to find things which confirm what you already think, and choosing not to think very deeply about the subject. You can put it aside until you have more time to think about it. Most do. Or you can choose another way. You can be objective. You can stop your life for a brief period of time, you can focus, and you can consider the offer that is being made to you, not by a human, but by God Himself. This is the single most important decision of your life.

The Bible asks you the question this way...

“What do you think about the (Lord Jesus) Christ?...”

Matthew 22:42a

For many, it’s a controversial question. The answer divides. The Lord Jesus Christ declares...

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS (own) HOUSEHOLD.” **Matthew 10:34-36**

Isn’t that the way it is in your family? You may be inclined to make this decision with others in mind, yet this decision is yours alone. As with most decisions, your choice will bring some to your side and will set some against you. This decision is one designed for accuracy, not for “people-pleasing,” so as you consider the thoughts within this book, do your best to push others to the background. This book is

talking to you and you alone. This decision is for your life and no one else's.

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming... Ephesians 4:14

You can follow “the herd” and be carried along by peer pressure, family pressure, and the wishes of others in the matter of your salvation. Or you can make your own decision, a much better choice. This matter is between you and your Creator.

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THINKING OF YOU

The image of the three crosses on the front cover of this book depicts a scene that gives one example (of the millions available) of how much the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ cares for you. In fact, in all of divine history, the Cross is the greatest manifestation of the love of God.

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

During every moment the Lord Jesus Christ hung from the Cross on your behalf, He was paying intricate and intimate attention to the details of your salvation.

For since the creation of the world His (God's) invisible attributes, His eternal power (omnipotence) and (His) divine nature (His Deity), have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they (all mankind) are

without excuse (before the justice of God). **Romans 1:20**

Through the Cross, the entire Godhead; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; represented by the Lord Jesus Christ, the unique person of the universe as the Godhead's physical manifestation; made the possibility of salvation clearly seen, even during the Lord's impending physical death. Here is Luke's version of the last few hours of the Lord Jesus Christ's life on earth as He hung from a Cross.

*When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them (those who crucify Me); for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One." The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" Now there was also an inscription above Him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he (the thief) was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in(to) Your kingdom!" And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to him (the repentant thief), "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." **Luke 23:33-43***

NINE WORDS GOT A THIEF INTO HEAVEN

“Jesus, remember me when you come in(to) your kingdom!”

Luke 23:42

One of the thieves crucified next to the Lord Jesus Christ is in heaven today.

And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” **Luke 23:43**

The other thief who was crucified next to the Lord Jesus Christ is in Torments today, a compartment of Hades, and his final destiny is the Lake of Fire. The existence of Torments as a holding place for unbelievers is confirmed in this passage...

“In Hades he (the rich man) lifted up his eyes, being in torment(s)...” **Luke 16:23a**

At Calvary, both thieves hung on either side of the King of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each man had the opportunity to believe in Christ for salvation. One took advantage of the chance. One rejected the chance. For the thief who rejected Christ, his salvation was a “steal,” the best deal he was ever offered, yet the thief did not want it. Every person who comes to this earth is offered the same opportunity by God, the same choice, without the pressure of deciding while hanging from a Cross.

“He who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has eternal life; but he who does not obey the (command to

believe in the) Son will not see (eternal) life (in heaven), but the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him.”

John 3:36

Which choice will you make?

The purpose of this book is to give you the information to make a choice for or against an eternal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The choice you make is up to you.

This book simply lays out the issues for you so that you can make an informed choice. Since there is little worse in this life than contempt prior to examination, I hope you will give the God of this universe a hearing.

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

What you are about to read is called the Gospel Message. It's a message that virtually everyone who comes to this earth gets a chance to hear on multiple occasions. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself has said...

“This gospel (good news message) of the kingdom (the second coming of Christ) shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony (witness) to all the nations, and then (after the testimony) the end (the second coming of Christ) will come.”

Matthew 24:14

The Gospel is the “good news” concerning the free gift of eternal

life through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. After you hear the good news, and the issues of salvation...

CONDEMNATION

SALVATION

THE CONSEQUENCE OF YOUR DECISION

...you can make a choice, if you have not already. There are three critical things for you to learn.

First, we are all sinners from birth, and we continue to sin throughout our entire lives. Thus, we require a Savior.

For as in Adam (his genetic offspring) all die (spiritually)...

1 Corinthians 15:22a

It's not your fault that you were a sinner from birth, and it's not your fault that you were condemned by God from birth, but it is your circumstance.

Second, you must know that your Savior is the Lord Jesus Christ, who by His substitutionary spiritual death at the Cross, provided for you a "so great" salvation.

For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable (permanent...and it did), and every transgression and disobedience (of negative volition) received a just penalty (and it did), how (by what means) will we escape having disregarded so great a salvation?... Hebrews 2:2-3a

Finally, you must know there are consequences for rejecting God's reconciliation offer.

You'll learn more, perhaps, as the Gospel Message unfolds on these pages, than you have ever known before about God and His work on your behalf.

It is not enough to read this work as an intellectual exercise. After you read it, make a decision. Make whatever choice that suits you.

Enjoy the journey.

CHAPTER TWO

The Way is Narrow that Leads to Eternal Life



Matthew 7:13a-14

“Enter through the narrow gate...for the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

And You Will Be Saved

The Way is Narrow that Leads to Eternal Life

GO TO HELL!

That's what you should say to all the people who warn you that you will go to hell if you don't believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Tell them to go to hell!

The Lord Jesus Christ does not want you to go to hell. Maybe a lot of Christians who have talked to you about God over the course of your lifetime have said, "If you don't believe in Christ, you are going to hell." Christians can be pretty stupid sometimes. While what they are telling you IS true, that is not a very inspiring offer. The Lord Jesus Christ would never want you to believe in Him out of fear.

The message that the Lord Jesus Christ has for you is much different. His message is simple: **"I want you."**

The Lord (Jesus Christ) is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you (unbelievers), not wishing (He is not willing) for any to perish (to go to the Lake of Fire) but (He wants) for all to come to repentance (a change of mind about the Lord Jesus Christ). 2 Peter 3:9

God does not want you to go to hell, the place the Bible calls the Lake of Fire.

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15

Therefore, anyone who ends up in hell is there for one reason only...**because they want to be there.** Sounds absurd, doesn't it? You may be thinking, "No one would want to go to hell!" If that is your thought, it makes perfect sense. But then, why would people put drugs in their bodies that harm them? Why do people avoid exercise when it helps them? Why do people eat foods that contribute to obesity? These things don't make logical sense. Yet people do emotional, self-destructive things, don't they? Choosing to go to the Lake of Fire by rejecting a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is one of those self-destructive things people do. In fact, it is the most self-destructive choice ever. Sometimes people let their emotions rule their mentality, don't they?

Keep reading.

What you need to know right now is that the Lord Jesus Christ **will** allow you to go to the Lake of Fire through His permissive will if you want to, but it is **not** His will for you. Christians who know the consequences of rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ would not wish the Lake of Fire on their worst enemy, and they get a bit zealous and frustrated at times when sharing the Gospel Message. That's why you hear the warnings about hell. They only want to keep you from destroying yourself. Unfortunately they can't. Only you can prevent self-destruction.

I have confidence that after a survey of the facts, you can decide your destiny for yourself.

By learning the Gospel Message, you get a chance to see how to

avoid everlasting life in the Lake of Fire **if you want to**. More importantly, you'll learn how to live with God for all eternity in a place where you will be happy forever and ever, but only **if you want to**. Your will is important. Nobody can decide your destiny for you. No one can "convert" you. This book certainly isn't interested in trying to convert you, simply because it can't.

I have had a chance to present the facts concerning salvation to thousands of people in my lifetime. The journey starts with a simple question. "How do you get to heaven?" It's a fun question to ask. The punishment of asking the question is that I've had to listen to the answers! Recently, one lady said, "You have to tithe (donate money to the Church), repent (of your sins), and be a good person." Yikes! I'll spare you the gory details of other "off the wall" answers I've heard, but the most frequent answer is, "You have to be a good person."

If that were true, and it isn't, you'd be screwed.

When I hear these answers, a song starts playing in my head.

You better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town.

He's making a list
He's checking it twice
He's gonna find out
Who's naughty and nice
Santa Claus is coming to town.

He sees you when you're sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake.

From a very early age we are taught that if we aren't "good," we won't get any presents! We're taught that if we aren't "good," we're going to get coal in our Christmas stockings. We're taught that impressing God means being "good." **Unfortunately, we KNOW we are not good.** Our plans seldom get accomplished. We couldn't keep a New Year's resolution if our life depended on it. We go to church and two minutes after leaving the service we're mentally "trashing" someone on the way home. We make decisions that are appalling, even to us! We constantly fail to live up to our own standards; we are acutely aware that we are not that good.

Once we know we are not good, the goal shifts to making sure we are "not that bad." We become relative in our thinking. We know we are not good, but we are not as bad as everyone else. **We compare ourselves to human standards instead of comparing ourselves to God's standards.** After all, we've never killed anyone, or car jacked anyone, or shot up a school like those people on the news. "I'm not that bad," turns into "Basically, I'm a good person." Delusion.

LET'S START WITH THE BAD NEWS

The Bible paints a much different picture of all of us at physical birth.

You were born with a problem. You were condemned by God at physical birth. You were born physically alive, but you were born spiritually dead...

For as in Adam (his genetic offspring) all die (spiritually)...

1 Corinthians 15:22a

The Bible calls itself the exact thinking of God Himself, “the mind of Christ...”

For who has known the mind of the Lord (Jesus Christ so well), that he will (be qualified to) instruct Him? (No one of course!) But we (believers in Christ) have the mind of Christ (the Bible, the Word of God, the inerrant Canon of Scripture).

1 Corinthians 2:16

The mind of Christ is saying that you are **not** “basically a good person.” The Bible says you are totally depraved, meaning you do not measure up to God’s perfect standards in any way.

For I know that nothing good (a sinful nature) dwells in me, that is, in my flesh (the physical body)... **Romans 7:18a**

Fortunately, it’s not your fault that you are totally depraved. It was God’s choice for you at physical birth. You were condemned. You were born physically alive, but you were born spiritually dead.

And you were (spiritually) dead in your trespasses and sins (at physical birth)... **Ephesians 2:1**

Being born spiritually dead means you were born on the wrong side of a barrier, totally separated from a relationship with

God. Being spiritually dead means you are born in a hopeless condition, and you are helpless to do anything to remove the barrier between you and God. From the condition of spiritual death, you can do **absolutely nothing** to impress God.

For all of us have become like one who is unclean (a woman who is menstruating), And all our (self) righteous deeds are like a filthy garment (a used tampon)... **Isaiah 64:6a**

The Bible uses pretty strong language to highlight the waste of time it is to try to get over the barrier between you and God based on your own merit. Your self-righteous deeds, also known as works, are as repugnant to God as a used tampon is to humans. This condemnation at physical birth is not your fault, but it is your circumstance, and God placed you in that circumstance. You are born in the equivalent of a prison because you are born with a sin nature in the cell structure of your body.

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits (personal) sin(s) is the slave of (the) sin (nature).”
John 8:34

Being born spiritually dead, thus condemned, is the equivalent of being born in prison, locked up, and unable to escape to a relationship with God.

All members of the human race are descended from Adam, the first man on the earth and the father of the human race. All have a sin nature because Adam developed one with his first sin and passed it on to you, his progeny.

Therefore, just as through one man (Adam, the) sin (nature) entered into the world, and (spiritual) death through

*(having a) sin (nature), and so (spiritual) death spread to all men, because all (mankind were considered to have) sinned (when Adam sinned). **Romans 5:12***

*So then as through one transgression (Adam's original sin) there resulted condemnation to all men... **Romans 5:18a***

*For as through the one man's disobedience (Adam's original sin) the many were made sinners... **Romans 5:19a***

You have a sin nature and it manufactures personal sins.

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory (essence) of God... **Romans 3:23***

Sin is an archery term. The Greek word originally used for "sin" in the Bible means to "miss the mark." In this case, when we sin, we miss the mark of God's plan for our lives.

You'll be happy to know that you are not alone in this predicament of condemnation.

*As it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one."
Romans 3:10*

At physical birth, all human beings are born into the same situation as you, spiritual death. Your sin nature and its production, personal sins, make you unable to have a relationship with a perfect God.

*For the wages of (having a) sin (nature) is (spiritual) death...
Romans 6:23a*

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again (the spiritual birth) he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **John 3:3**

You are born physically alive. One day you will experience physical death. You are born spiritually dead because Adam’s original sin was imputed to you at physical birth. However, you can choose spiritual life. That is why you have heard Christians referred to as “born again Christians.” The term is actually redundant. It’s like saying “born again born agains!” Christians have chosen to move from spiritual death to spiritual life. It’s called regeneration. They are born again. You can make the same choice.

As a result of God’s condemnation of all humans at physical birth, all of us are born without a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and without eternal life. Once your soul is born, it never dies. You get to choose where your soul spends eternity. When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father imputes to you eternal life, a life with no beginning and no ending, and you share His life in heaven.

You may be thinking, “But I didn’t do anything wrong! I was just a little baby and BAM! I was condemned! Why would God be so mean?” This apparent cruelty was actually a master stroke of genius.

How?

Because God condemned you at physical birth, He is now free to provide your salvation without compromising His own perfection. Once you realize that the Lord Jesus Christ condemned you, yet He wants to save you, the bad news

doesn't seem so bad. Once you begin to realize that God cares for you, and that God wants you, condemnation is okay because God provides a way out of it. That's good news!

CHAPTER THREE

There is Only One Way to Get to Heaven



John 14:6

"(The Lord) Jesus (Christ) said to him (Thomas), 'I am the way (to salvation), and the truth (of the Word of God), and the (eternal) life; no one comes to the Father but through (believing in) Me.'"

And You Will Be Saved

There is Only One Way to Get to Heaven

THE GOOD NEWS

God wants you.

The Gospel Message is the good news to unbelievers concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. It is dedicated to anyone who is without a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and as a result, is without hope, and without eternal life.

The good news is that the Lord Jesus Christ wants you. The Lord Jesus Christ is God. He created you, and He wants you.

*All things came into being through Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **John 1:3***

That includes you! You did not come into being without God. Now that you are here, He wants you. But wait...He condemned you...He put you in an awful condition at physical birth. You are spiritually dead and sentenced to the Lake of Fire at physical birth. Unfair!? Yes. It would be, if a just, righteous, loving God had not made perfect provision for your escape from the prison of spiritual death...if He had not offered to tear down the barrier between you and God.

For He Himself (the Lord Jesus Christ) is our peace, who... broke down the barrier of the dividing wall... Ephesians 2:14

FROM CONDEMNATION TO SALVATION

The good news for you, even though you were born condemned, is the Lord Jesus Christ had you personally in mind when He went to the Cross. Every sin you have ever committed, past, present, or future, was credited to His account, imputed to Him, and judged by God the Father. As a result, right where you sit right now, you can have eternal life. The Lord Jesus Christ paid a debt that was rightfully yours. Yet all members of the Godhead participate in your salvation, including God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

But God (the Father) demonstrates His own (unconditional) love toward us (all mankind), in that while we were yet sinners (unbelievers), (the Lord Jesus) Christ died (as a substitute) for us. Romans 5:8

“And He (God the Holy Spirit), when He comes, will convict the world concerning (the) sin (of unbelief in Christ) and (the requirement of absolute) righteousness (for admission to heaven) and judgment (the final evaluation of all)...” John 16:8

Even though God condemned you at physical birth, He provided a perfect way for you to shed the condemnation and to move to the deliverance of salvation. God the Father sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to be a sin substitute for you.

He (God the Father) made Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who

knew no sin (nature) to be (a) sin (substitute) on our behalf, that we might become the (absolute) righteousness of God (when) in (union with) Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

...so also in (union with) Christ all (who believe in Him) will be made (spiritually) alive. 1 Corinthians 15:22b

“For God (the Father) so loved the world (all mankind), that He gave His only begotten (uniquely born) Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), that whoever believes in Him should not perish (in the Lake of Fire), but have eternal life. For God (the Father) did not send the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) is not judged; he who does not believe (in the Lord Jesus Christ, however) has been judged (condemned) already, because he has not believed in the name (the Person) of the only begotten (uniquely born) Son of God (the Father...the Lord Jesus Christ).” John 3:16-18

The Lord Jesus Christ took your place on the Cross. You were sentenced by God in eternity past to the Lake of Fire, because your sin nature and your future personal sins would make you unable to have fellowship with a perfect God. The Lord Jesus Christ stepped in to take your punishment. He accepted the task of serving your sentence. He paid the wages for your sin nature and your personal sins. This is known as substitutionary spiritual death. The Lord Jesus Christ's substitutionary spiritual death was the perfect payment to God the Father for your sins. God is willing to move you from condemnation to salvation as a free gift, but only with your permission.

Now that the barrier between you and God is removed by Christ's work at the Cross, right where you sit, right this minute, you can

have eternal life. You can move from a state of condemnation to a state of eternal salvation. Because the Lord Jesus Christ was judged for you, the door of salvation is wide open and you can walk through that door anytime you want. The best time to do that is right this minute. Don't put it off. Right where you sit, right now, you can have eternal life.

AND YOU WILL BE SAVED...

God's condemnation of you was genius. By condemning you, His justice was free to bless you, if only He could find the perfect way to do so.

*For while we were still helpless, at the right time (the Lord Jesus) Christ died for the ungodly (unbelievers). **Romans 5:6***

The perfect way to save you was for the Lord Jesus Christ to go to the Cross to pay for the chance for you to be saved. If a perfect being could become a perfect sacrifice, totally pleasing to God the Father on your behalf, then you could be saved.

*...and He Himself (the Lord Jesus Christ) is the propitiation (the perfectly satisfactory payment to God the Father) for our sins; and not for ours (believers in Christ) only, but also for those of the whole world (all mankind, even unbelievers). **1 John 2:2***

The Lord Jesus Christ willingly laid down His life so you could move from condemnation to salvation by means of your free will choice. No one can convert you. No one wants to convert you. You must choose your eternal destiny for yourself.

*And being found in appearance as a man, He (the Lord Jesus Christ) humbled Himself by becoming (voluntarily) obedient to the point of death, even death on a Cross. **Philippians 2:8***

*...namely, that God (the Father) was in (by means of the Lord Jesus) Christ reconciling the world (all mankind) to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He (God the Father) has committed to us (believers) the word of reconciliation. **2 Corinthians 5:19***

*...(the Lord Jesus Christ) who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. **1 Timothy 2:6***

Because the Lord Jesus Christ laid down His life for you, you have the option of being saved. You have the option of choosing eternal life for your soul. You can walk through the door of salvation right where you sit, right this moment. Crucifixion on the Cross, the most gruesome, most painful, most difficult means of death ever invented, made it easy for you to be saved. But how do you walk through the door of salvation? **By simply believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

*They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus (Christ), and you will be saved, you and (everyone in) your household (who also believes)." **Acts 16:31***

*"For God (the Father) so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten (uniquely born) Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." **John 3:16***

(The Lord) Jesus (Christ) said (boldly) to him (Thomas), "I am the way, (to salvation) and the truth (through the Word of God),

and the (eternal) life; no one comes to the Father but through (believing in) Me.” **John 14:6**

In other words, eternal life is a potential which your own soul can choose right this moment. In your soul is a non-meritorious system of perception called faith, and a non-meritorious choice called believing. In a non-meritorious system, the **object** of your faith and the **object** of your believing are given the merit. For eternal salvation, the **object** of your faith, and the **object** of your believing, is the Lord Jesus Christ.

“...whoever believes in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), shall never perish, but have eternal life.” **John 3:16b**

WHO PROVIDES THIS “SO GREAT” SALVATION?

For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable (permanent...and it did), and every transgression and disobedience (of negative volition) received a just penalty (and it did), how (by what means) will we escape having disregarded so great a salvation?... **Hebrews 2:2-3a**

The Lord Jesus Christ provides your “so great” salvation! The Bible does a magnificent job of describing Him.

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved (except the name of the Lord Jesus Christ).” **Acts 4:12**

For there is one God (the Father), and one mediator also between God and men, the man (and Lord) Christ Jesus, who gave

Himself (up as a sin substitute), as a ransom for all (mankind).

1 Timothy 2:5-6a

“Truly, truly, I (the Lord Jesus Christ) say to you, he who hears My word (the Gospel Message), and believes (the command of) Him (God the Father) who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of (spiritual) death into (spiritual) life.” **John 5:24**

(The Lord) Jesus (Christ) said to her (Martha), “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me (through faith alone) shall live (with me for all eternity) even if he dies (physically), and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall (also) never die.” **John 11:25-26a**

For you (believers in Christ) are all sons of God (the Father) through faith (alone) in (the Lord) Christ Jesus (alone). **Galatians 3:26**

And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) is the radiance of His (God the Father’s) glory and the exact representation of His (God the Father’s) nature... **Hebrews 1:3a**

For the love of (the Lord Jesus) Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died (at the Cross when the Lord Jesus Christ died at the Cross). **2 Corinthians 5:14**

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope (absolute confidence) on the living God (the Lord Jesus Christ), who is the Savior of all men (everyone), especially of believers (those who have accepted salvation). **1 Timothy 4:10**

For the grace of God the Father, (the Lord Jesus Christ) has appeared, bringing salvation to all men. Titus 2:11

But we do see Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death (on the Cross) crowned with glory and honor; so that by the grace of God (the Father) He (the Lord Jesus Christ) might taste (substitutionary spiritual) death for (the benefit of) everyone. Hebrews 2:9

...the free gift of God (the Father) is eternal life in (union with) Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23b

But as many as received (believed in) Him (the Lord Jesus Christ through acceptance of the free gift of eternal life), to them He (the Lord Jesus Christ) gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. John 1:12

FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE FOR SALVATION

Faith + Nothing Added = Salvation.

It's faith alone, in the Lord Jesus Christ alone...the ticket to eternal life. You can have eternal life, right where you sit, right now. You can believe in the Lord Jesus Christ in a single moment in time, right now, and in that moment in time, God provides you with eternal life, and you will have a relationship with God forever and ever.

“He who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has eternal life; but he who does not obey the (command to believe in

the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) shall not see (eternal) life (in heaven), but the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him (by his own choice).” **John 3:36**

YOU CAN'T LOSE YOUR SALVATION

Here's the coolest part. Once you have salvation, you cannot lose it.

...and I give eternal life to them (believers in Christ), and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.
John 10:28

(At salvation you are) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. **1 Peter 1:4**

And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) shall wipe away every tear from their eyes (for believers who have died physically); and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain (when you are in heaven)...
Revelation 21:4a

There is therefore now no (more) condemnation for those who are in (union with) Christ Jesus. For the law of (God) the (Holy) Spirit of life (who placed you) in (union with) Christ Jesus (the Lord) has set you free from the law of (the) sin (nature) and of (spiritual) death. **Romans 8:1-2**

For if by the transgression (the original sin) of the one (Adam), (spiritual) death reigned through the one (and it did), much

*more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of (absolute) righteousness will reign in life through the One, (the Lord) Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression (Adam's original sin) there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness (by the Lord Jesus Christ) there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through (Adam) the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One (the Lord Jesus Christ) the many will be made (absolutely) righteous. The (Mosaic) Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as (the) sin (nature) reigned in (spiritual) death, even so grace would reign through (absolute) righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 5:17-21***

When you believe in Christ you are placed into union with Christ, a guarantee that **you cannot lose your salvation**. Why? Because God saves you, and God never changes His mind. He is immutable.

*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from (God) the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. **James 1:17***

YOU CAN'T SAVE YOURSELF...YOU ARE A SHEEP

Your own works are not good enough to save you. You can't earn eternal life. A lost sheep does not find itself.

The Bible uses an analogy to describe the relationship between the creature (you) and the Creator (God); the analogy is the

sheep and the Shepherd. Sheep need a Shepherd. Sheep are the most helpless animals on the planet, and they are probably the dumbest as well. They have an absolute knack for getting themselves into predicaments. What a fitting analogy for us humans! We are sheep. We are always in predicaments. Yes, in God's eyes, you are a sheep.

Because you are condemned by God at physical birth, your worst life predicament, you are also a "lost" sheep. Imagine that! You are helpless at physical birth, just like a baby, and you're lost. How does a lost sheep find himself?

It doesn't. You can't.

The lost sheep is helpless and hopeless without the Shepherd. God is our Shepherd, and He is intimately interested in the lost.

"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the Good Shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." **John 10:11**

Fortunately, when we are lost, the Good Shepherd comes to find us.

"For the Son of Man (the Lord Jesus Christ) has come to seek and to save that which was lost." **Luke 19:10**

Not to suggest that God is partial, but He is easily more interested in a sheep that is lost than one who is saved!

"What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when

he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents (an unbeliever who changes his mind about believing in the Lord Jesus Christ) than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance (because they are already believers in Christ)." **Luke 15:4-7**

God does all the work of salvation and you receive all the benefit.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that (grace, faith and salvation is) not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

...nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified (given absolute righteousness +R as the admission ticket to heaven) by the works of the (Mosaic) Law (self-righteousness) but through faith (alone) in (the Lord) Christ Jesus, even we (believers) have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith (alone) in (the Lord Jesus) Christ (alone) and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh (no man and no woman) will be justified. **Galatians 2:16**

...for all (creatures) have sinned and fall short of the glory (essence) of God, being justified (given absolute righteousness... the admission ticket to heaven...+R) as a (free) gift by His (God the Father's) grace through the redemption which is in (the Lord) Christ Jesus; whom God (the Father) displayed publicly as a propitiation (a perfectly satisfactory payment) in His blood (through substitutionary spiritual death) through faith (alone in Christ alone). This was to demonstrate His (God the Father's) righteousness, because in the forbearance of God (the Father) He passed over the sins previously committed; for the

*demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in (the Lord) Jesus (Christ). Where then is boasting (for having salvation)? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith (alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation). For we maintain that a man is justified by faith (alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone) apart from works of the (Mosaic) Law. **Romans 3:23-28***

LIFE'S ONLY REAL GUARANTEE

Salvation is a guarantee, directly from the most powerful being in the universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You can be saved once and for all time.

*Therefore if any man is in (union with the Lord Jesus) Christ, he is a new creature (a new spiritual species); the (power of the) old things (the sin nature and personal sins) passed away; behold, new things have come. **2 Corinthians 5:17***

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us (believers in Christ) from the (unconditional) love of God, which is (ours by being) in (union with) Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:38-39***

How do you become saved? You have privacy. Privacy means freedom. Freedom gives you the chance to express your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life. Right now, in the privacy of your own soul, forming the words in thought only, you can tell

God you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that's the moment of eternal life for you.

“He who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has eternal life; but he who does not obey the (command to believe in the) Son will not see (eternal) life (in heaven), but the wrath of God (everlasting life in the lake of fire) abides on him.” **John 3:36**

“There is salvation in no one else, and there is no other name which has been given among men by which we must be saved (except the Lord Jesus Christ).” **Acts 4:12**

If salvation sounds too easy, that's because it **IS** easy...for you! It was accomplished for you by a just, righteous and loving God who died on a Cross for you. So while salvation may be easy for you, it was very difficult for the Lord Jesus Christ to accomplish on your behalf. It's not just good news, it's great news that God wants you!

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you (set you apart for privilege) entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

And the testimony is this, that God (the Father) has given us eternal life, and this life is in (believing in) His Son (the Lord Jesus Christ). He who has (belief in) the Son has the (eternal) life; he who does not have (belief in) the Son of God does not have the (eternal) life. **1 John 5:11-12**

CHAPTER FOUR

The Way is Broad that Leads to Destruction

**WRONG
WAY**

Matthew 7:13

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it."

And You Will Be Saved

The Way is Broad that Leads to Destruction

Where are you going when you close your eyes in this life?

One of my favorite places to vacation is Hawaii, specifically the island of Kauai, one of the most beautiful places in the world. Breakfast is my favorite meal. In Kauai you'll be joined by birds who boldly land on your table and walk toward your plate to share your breakfast. Once, I made the mistake of feeding one of my visitor friends. He must have done a silent bird whistle, because immediately my table was inundated with other birds looking for a handout. Since that mistake, I have always enjoyed their company but I have never made the mistake of feeding the birds again. I simply enjoy watching their prancing and their antics.

At other tables, most of the guests are shooing the birds away with violent swats. It's not every day that a bird joins a human for breakfast, so I hardly understood why people would scare the birds away. I met a man, shook his hand, and asked why he didn't welcome the birds. He said, "Do you have any idea how much disease those birds carry?" I said, "I do...a lot less than the guy who just shook your hand!" He was not amused. Everywhere I looked, a bird would land and a bird would be shooed away.

I can relate. To the bird, that is!

Offering the Gospel Message is a similar experience. Most people simply shoo the message and the experience of hearing the gospel away. “No thanks!” “Not interested!” “Don’t go there!” “Don’t talk about religion!” “I’ve already got it covered!” People always seem too busy to appreciate what God has done for them, the free gift of salvation.

I agree with their approach. Maybe that’s a smart way to handle your life. Okay. I’m being sarcastic. Should an intelligent person put off a discussion of God until the time it is really necessary, like the time when your car is hit head on by a semi-trailer truck? Will there be plenty of time in the moments while you wait for the ambulance to consider eternity? Is it time to think about God when you are on your death bed, while surrounded by your relatives and gasping for air, as the last moments of your life here on earth slip away? Is that the time to think about your eternal destiny? Hardly.

Where are you going when you close your eyes in this life?

Another way I ask the question is, “How will you get to heaven?” It’s a worse question than the first. All I get, when I ask it, are looks of confusion. Actually, perhaps it is contemplation. “What IS going to happen to me when I close my eyes in this life?” It’s a question worth thinking about. More importantly, it’s a question worth answering with absolute certainty. It is certainly NOT a question to shoo away.

Maybe the time to consider God is **right now**.

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 1 Thessalonians 5:2

And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—for He says, “At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you.” Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation” 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

Your soul will spend eternity somewhere. You get to choose. Your will and God’s will coexist in human history. You can act independently from God.

You have two choices in response to the Gospel Message. What are the consequences of each choice? God’s enemy, Satan would have you believe that “hell,” the Lake of Fire, is a punishment God holds over your head to scare you, then He sends you to eternal damnation. Yet the Bible says it’s Satan who wants you to fear death and the Lake of Fire.

Therefore, since the children (believers in Christ) share in flesh and blood, He Himself (the Lord Jesus Christ) likewise also partook of the same, that through (substitutionary spiritual) death He (the Lord Jesus Christ) might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil (Satan), and might free those (by giving them salvation) who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. Hebrews 2:14-15

There is no need to fear physical death if you accept the reconciliation offer of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lake of Fire is actually a grace provision of a just, righteous, and loving God, who provides an eternal home for those who do not choose to live with God for all eternity.

The Lord (Jesus Christ) is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing (willing) for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (a change of mind about Christ). 2 Peter 3:9

If the Lord Jesus Christ is not willing for anyone to go to the Lake of Fire, there must be only one way to get there...you have to **WANT** to go there. You want to go to the Lake of Fire if you reject the reconciliation offer of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's enemy, Satan, would have you believe that the Lake of Fire does not exist. He'd have you believe that the Lake of Fire is not a literal place. The biblical story of the wealthy man and the poor man, Lazarus, paints a different picture.

And he (the rich man) cried out and said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus (the poor man I used to feed when on earth) so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame (in Torments, a compartment of Hades)." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your life you received your good things (you were wealthy), and likewise Lazarus bad things (he was poor); but now he is being comforted here (in Paradise because he believed in Christ), and you are in agony (in Torments because you didn't believe in Christ). And besides all this, between us (in Paradise) and you (in Torments) there is a great chasm fixed (a large gorge), so that those who wish to come over from here (in Paradise) to you (in Torments) will not be able, and that none may cross over from there (in Torments) to us (in Paradise)." And he (the rich man) said, "Then I beg you, father (Abraham), that you send him (Lazarus) to my father's house — for I have

five brothers — in order that he (Lazarus) may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.” But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the Prophets (great teachers on earth); let them (your brothers) hear (the Gospel Message from) them.” But he (the rich man) said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead (a miracle), they will repent (change their minds about Christ)!” But he (Abraham) said to him, “If they (your brothers) do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.” **Luke 16:24-31**

Torments is a literal place, as is the Lake of Fire. In eternity future, those in Torments will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Then I (John...the writer of the book of Revelation) saw a great white throne and Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who sat upon it, from whose presence (unbelievers on) earth and (in the) heaven(s) fled away, and no place was found for them (to live). And I saw the dead, the great (in stature... famous people) and the small (in stature... everyday people), standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds (not their sins). And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life (because of rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ's reconciliation offer), he was thrown into the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:11-15**

*And the devil (Satan) who deceived them (the fallen angels and all unbelievers) was thrown into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. **Revelation 20:10***

More about the literal place called the Lake of Fire...

*“Then He (the Lord Jesus Christ) will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared (in eternity past) for the devil and his angels.’” **Matthew 25:41***

*...For their (the unbeliever’s) worm (the conscience) shall not die, And their fire shall not be quenched; And they shall be an abhorrence to all mankind. **Isaiah 66:24b***

*“So it will be at the end of the age; the (elect) angels will come forth and take out the wicked (a reference to unbelievers) from among the righteous (a reference to believers in Christ), and will throw them (unbelievers) into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **Matthew 13:49-50***

*“But for (those unbelievers distracted from believing in Christ by these categories of sins) the cowardly (subjective and arrogant ones) and (all the) unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars (who reject the reconciliation offer), their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” **Revelation 21:8***

This verse is not a reference to sins being the cause of going to the Lake of Fire. **Your sins do not take you to hell.** It is a reference

to categories of sins that cause distractions that take the mind away from responding positively to the Gospel Message so that you can have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

“...but the sons of the kingdom (Jewish unbelievers) will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **Matthew 8:12**

“His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat (believers in Christ) into His barn; but He (the Lord Jesus Christ) will burn up the chaff (unbelievers) with unquenchable fire.” **Luke 3:17**

“And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night...” **Revelation 14:11a**

The Lake of Fire is a real place that no one in his right mind would wish on his worst enemy.

Heaven is a real place as well. It is described in many ways. It is a joyful place...

“Set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where He (the Lord Jesus Christ) sits beside God (the Father) in the place of honor and power.”

Colossians 3:1 (Living Bible Translation)

It is a place set aside for those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ...

“Then the King will say to those on His right (believers in Christ), ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the

kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Matthew 25:34

It is described as a place filled with God’s glory...

Look down from heaven (God), and see from Your holy and glorious habitation (heaven)... **Isaiah 63:15a**

It is described as a jewel...

“(heaven is a)...pearl of great value.” **Matthew 13:45-46**

It is a place of purity...

And nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying (a reference to unbelievers, not sins), shall ever come into it (heaven), but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life (believers in Christ who have God’s absolute righteousness). **Revelation 21:27**

It has a capital city...Jerusalem...

And the street of the city (the New Jerusalem in heaven) was pure gold, like transparent glass. **Revelation 21:21b**

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal clear jasper. **Revelation 21:10-11**

It’s a place where believers want to go...

*For me (Paul), living is (occupation with) Christ, likewise dying (and going to heaven) is profit. **Philippians 1:21***

It's a place where believers will have a resurrection body...

For we know that if the earthly tent (our physical body) which is our house is torn down (and it is at physical death), we have a building (a resurrection body) from God (the Father), a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. **Philippians 3:20-21***

It's a place where believers will have outstanding living arrangements...

*"In My Father's house are many dwelling places (mansions); if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you." **John 14:2***

It's a place where we will be with God forever...

*...we (believers in Christ) are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home (face to face) with the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:8***

God is a gentleman. He offers you a choice. Hell or Heaven. In most circumstances, there is no one who comes to this earth who does not get to hear the Gospel Message.

*There was the true light (the Lord Jesus Christ) which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. **John 1:9***

However, if there is anyone who does not hear the Gospel Message, he is an automatic salvation. I have friends who have had children die at a young age, and a just, righteous, and loving God takes these children who have not reached the age of God consciousness directly to heaven.

What about all the people who never had a chance to believe? God does not will for that to happen. He sends missionaries throughout the world to act as Shepherds who are seeking the lost and inviting them to salvation.

*“...but you (apostles) will receive power (access to divine omnipotence) when (God) the Holy Spirit has come upon you (at the day of Pentecost); and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” **Acts 1:8***

God is able to find the lost sheep no matter where in the world they live.

WHAT'S YOUR CHOICE?

Because you are reading this book, God is landing on your table (like the birds in Hawaii) with the good news concerning your salvation.

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden (by religion),

and I will give you rest (salvation).” **Matthew 11:28**

Will you welcome Him to your table? Or will you shoo him away as if His message of the free gift of eternal life is “diseased?” Many have heard, and many have rejected the reconciliation offer of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe.” **Luke 22:67**

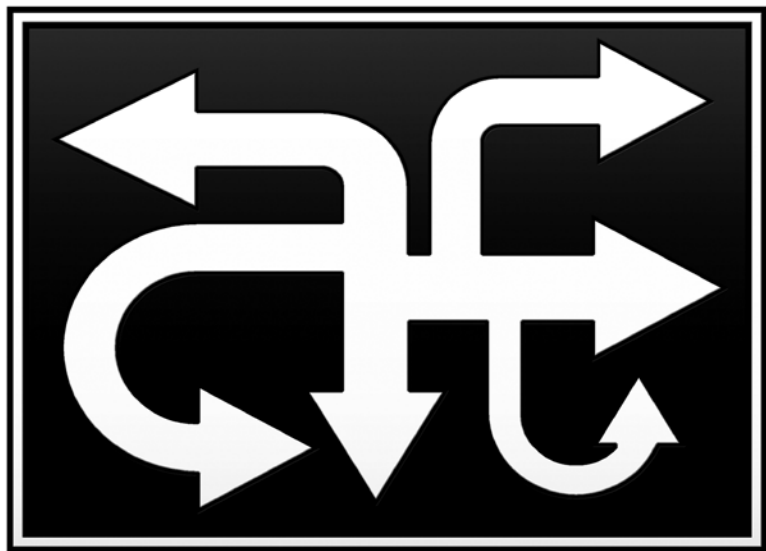
What’s your choice?

“All that (God) the Father gives Me (believers in Christ) will come to Me (through faith alone in Christ alone for salvation), and the one who comes to (believe in) Me I will certainly not cast out (he will not be denied salvation).” **John 6:37**

Accepting or rejecting God’s reconciliation offer is your decision and no one else’s.

CHAPTER FIVE

Beware of Counterfeits to Salvation



Revelation 20:10

“And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

And You Will Be Saved

Beware of Counterfeits to Salvation

There is a message underlying this book. Sometimes it is obvious. Sometimes it fades to the background. Let it be loud and clear in your soul right now. God wants you. God is always thinking of you. God always has been thinking of you. God cares for you. God laid down His life for you.

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” **John 15:13**

God loves you.

**THERE IS A GOD...THE CREATOR OF THE HEAVENS
AND THE EARTH.**

The first four words of the Bible confirm His existence.

In the beginning God... **Genesis 1:1a**

“I am the Lord your God, And there is no other (God)...”
Joel 2:27b

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN WAYS THAT MAKE SENSE TO HUMAN BEINGS

What kind of God would He be if He didn't? He makes Himself known in many ways, most prominently in the Word of God, the mind of Christ, which is the exact thinking of God...

...But we (believers in Christ) have the mind of Christ (the Bible)... **1 Corinthians 2:16b**

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book (the Bible); but these (things that) have been written (are here) so that you may believe that (the Lord) Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have (eternal) life (by believing) in His name. **John 20:30-31**

For since the creation of the world His (God's) invisible attributes (His Essence), His eternal power (omnipotence) and (His) divine nature (Deity), have been clearly seen, being understood (even) through what has been made (all created things), so that they (all mankind) are without excuse (before the justice of God). **Romans 1:20**

God reveals Himself to us because He wants us to know Him. It is not an impossible task for God to help us get to know Him. It is frustrating when I hear people say that we can never really know all there is to know about God. It demonstrates an absolute lack of common sense, and a specific ignorance about the character and nature of God. We may be finite, but God is infinite. An infinite God can definitely reach and teach the finite mind of man in such a way that we have full understanding of Him.

We can have a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with God because God is a Person, and He loves us, and He gives us the power to know Him. We can know Him if we have the desire to know Him and if we have the humility to be taught.

With God there is no coercion. He is not going to use His power to intimidate you into following Him. With God there is no begging you to believe. God is not going to scare you into believing in Him. With God there is no pleading with you to comply. With God there is only...**IF YOU WANT TO**... your Creator wants an intimate and personal relationship with you.

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR MANKIND

...the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God...

Acts 2:23a

God is organized and He laid out His plan for all mankind in eternity past.

GOD HAS A PERSONAL PLAN FOR YOU

“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

Matthew 10:30

God is a personal God. He knows you intimately. He knows you better than anyone knows you, and He custom made your

life just for you, taking ALL things into account concerning you. He also custom made a provision for your salvation.

GOD CREATED YOU.

Then (the) God(head) said, "Let Us (the Trinity) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." **Genesis 1:26a**

If God created you, and He did, then you are a CREATURE. He created you for a purpose. He will reveal that purpose to you in due time.

YOU OWE YOUR CREATOR A HEARING

If you are a CREATURE, and you are, the least you can do is to investigate the CREATOR to see who it is that made you and why...

God makes eternity and Himself apparent in the soul...

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart (the souls of all mankind)... **Ecclesiastes 3:11a**

Now is the time for you to know how much God wants you and how much God loves you.

WARNING: GOD HAS AN ENEMY, SATAN, WHO DOES NOT WANT YOU TO GET TO KNOW GOD

*For even though they (unbelievers) knew God (consciously in their souls), they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. **Romans 1:21-23***

Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers...

*...in whose case the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **2 Corinthians 4:4***

He uses religion, psychology, and a host of other distractions to counterfeit and to distort the Plan of God. Religion IS NOT CHRISTIANITY, and **Christianity is not a religion.**

But, if you have been exposed to a religion, you have been taught that if you are “basically a good person,” if you do some kind of work, like getting baptized with water, or inviting Christ into your heart, you will help God save you. These counterfeits are not salvation! There are no works of any kind necessary for salvation. In fact, anything you add to faith as a condition for salvation means that salvation is denied.

*But if it (salvation) is by (means of) grace (and it is), it (salvation) is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace (God’s free gift of salvation) is no longer (by means of) grace. **Romans 11:6***

Salvation is a free gift from the grace of God. There are no reforms necessary for salvation, no changes of life required, no feeling sorry for your sins, or joining the churches, or running to the mission fields, or major financial contributions, or psychological hoops or gimmicks for salvation. Salvation is free of charge. Right now in your soul you have faith and that faith can be used to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you become the instant possessor of eternal life. Like the thief on the cross who used only nine words, you can have a simple conversation with God, and He will provide your salvation.

And he (the thief) was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to him (the thief), “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise (you are saved by believing in Me).” **Luke 23:42-43**

When you express positive volition to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, it's the moment of eternal life for you. No one can force you to believe, no one can make up your mind for you. It's your choice. It's your option. It's your opportunity.

Rejecting the reconciliation offer of the Lord Jesus Christ will send you to the Lake of Fire.

“Then He will also say to those (unbelievers) on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared (in eternity past) for the devil and his (fallen) angels’”
Matthew 25:41

So, you can spend eternity in the Lake of Fire, or you can spend eternity in relationship with the one and only eternal God, the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Because of the mass rejection of the Gospel Message today, many Christians have stopped spreading the good news. Unbelief has silenced many Christian voices. Not mine. Eternity is a really, really, really long time. There are unbelievers in my periphery every day, and I talk to them, both personally, and through this book, about eternity. I will not be a “Closet Christian.” I will not hide my Christianity in the cloak room. Nor will I let my voice be silent about the salvation of Christ. Nor will I allow God’s Gospel Message to go unsaid. If that offends people then I’ll be unpopular.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **Romans 1:16***

You are important to God. Because of that, you are important to me. God and I are of one mind about you. United. We invite you to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to experience all the treasures of unity with God for all eternity because of your positive decision...faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for eternal life.

*The one (the Lord Jesus Christ) having saved us, and having elected the royal family (Church Age believers) into the holy destiny in life, not according to (because of) our works, but according to (because of) His own predetermined plan, even (because of His) grace, which has been given to us in (union with the Lord) Christ Jesus before human history. **2 Timothy 1:9***

Thanks for considering this information.

A single decision determines your eternal future. Now that you know the issues, what’s your choice?

A quick conversation with God gives you eternal life in heaven, an eternal inheritance you cannot lose.

“...and I give eternal life to them (believers in Christ), and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

John 10:28

A short conversation seems like a small request to initiate God’s provision of your salvation.

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” **Matthew 16:26**

You’re smart enough to make the decision that is right for you. Enjoy it, whatever the decision. Here is my prayer for you...

Almighty God and Father...

Thank You for those readers whom You brought to this book. I thank You especially for those who have persisted in reading it to the end. Thank You for Your graciousness in agreeing to send Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Cross, to make a “so great” salvation possible for whomever wishes to receive it.

I pray that You may open the hearts of the hearers to Your truth. Enlighten them, no matter where they are in the decision process. Help them overcome and discard the human obstacles to their salvation. If they are unbelievers, I pray that You might bring in the circumstances to their lives which might give them the best chance to hear this message with objectivity so they

can make the decision that suits them. For believers, I pray that these words inspire them to share Your graciousness with members of a lost and dying world.

And I pray that all the messages You send forth from my pen are an accurate reflection of Your person, Your thinking, Your work, Your reputation, and Your essence.

I ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name...Amen.

Here is a prayer you can pray...

Almighty Father...

I want to join You in heaven when my life on this earth is ended. Right now I am following Your direction. I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life. Thank You for sending Your Son to die for me. Help my unbelief. Make my positive volition effective for salvation through God the Holy Spirit.

I ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name...Amen

Have a great life. I hope to meet you in heaven.

About Barah Ministries

*And God created [barah] (the soul of) man(kind) in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **Genesis 1:27***

Barah Ministries is a Christian Church, created by God. Our objective is to accurately represent the person, the thinking, the work, the reputation, and the essence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1. We evangelize to unbelievers, providing the accurate Gospel Message, the Good News about the Lord Jesus Christ's salvation work at the Cross.
2. We teach Bible doctrine accurately using the **I-C-E** method of teaching...**I**sagogics, **C**ategories and **E**xegesis. We use **I**sagogics to illuminate the Bible in the time it was written. We **C**ategorize scripture and compare scripture with other scripture. We use **E**xegesis to consult the original language translations of the Bible which are divinely inspired in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek, for clarity of translation.
3. We conduct missionary activity, raising Pastors and sponsoring the creation of independent, self-sustaining Christian Churches throughout the world as God provides the opportunity.

Barah is a Hebrew word. It means to produce something out of nothing...to call into being some material thing without the assistance of existing material...it is the materialization of a thought of God...it is the Word of God going forth in the command of His desire. When we use it, it is a reference to God's creation work with the soul. When we study Bible doctrine, we are allowing God to make something of the nothingness of our human life without a relationship with Him...

*"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." **John 15:5***

Barah Ministries conducts face-to-face Bible teaching in Gilbert, Arizona. For more information visit our web site at www.barahministries.com. All audio lessons taught by Barah Ministries can be downloaded to your computer free of charge in MP3 format.

About Pastor Rory Clark

Reflecting on this life, one constant has made it special. It is my relationship with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My claim to fame is a “three yes lifestyle.”

I said **yes** to the Gospel Message...

They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus (Christ), and you shall be saved, you and (everyone in) your household (who also believes).” Acts 16:31

I said **yes** to the daily study of Bible doctrine...

...but grow in the (sphere of) grace and (in the) knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... 2 Peter 3:18a

I said **yes** to the use of my spiritual gift.

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ... Ephesians 4:11-12

Promotion to the office of Pastor-teacher was granted by my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on January 13, 2008 in Tucson, Arizona.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt (promote) you at the proper time...1 Peter 5:6

The ordination was performed by my lifelong friend Pastor John Farley under the direction of another lifelong friend, Pastor Robert McLaughlin.

I am a diligent student of the Word of God, having learned under two dedicated men...Pastor Robert Thieme, Jr. of Berachah Church in Houston, Texas and Pastor Robert McLaughlin of Grace Bible Church in Somerset, Massachusetts. Both have taught me the entire realm of Bible doctrine, and I am ever grateful to them for the benefit derived from their hard work.

I have passed a written examination privately, and an oral examination publicly, for the privilege of serving my Lord in the capacity of Pastor-Teacher. My life aim is to live a fourth “yes.” I say “yes” to accurately reflecting, through my teaching, the person, the thinking, the work, the reputation, and the essence of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through isagogic, categorical, and exegetical teaching of scripture to the hearers God provides.

Exegesis

A Pastor's job is to study and to teach the Word of God to the members of a congregation to which he has been assigned by God. A Pastor is also charged with providing the Gospel Message to people who know nothing about the Word of God.

A critical skill in the teaching of the Word of God is called exegesis, an explanation of biblical text. The Bible has no need of interpretation, only explanation. The Bible is inspired by God in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek. The Bible is not inspired in English. Therefore, the English translation of the Bible may or may not coincide with what the original languages communicate.

The diligent Pastor is familiar with exegesis, developing expertise with it over time. The diligent Pastor is also familiar enough with the original languages or with resources that clarify the original languages, so he can pass along accurate explanation of biblical text.

It is important as you read this work to be clear on one thing: this work is **not** Pastor Rory Clark's opinion. This work is simply an explanation of what the Bible, the Word of God, the inerrant Canon of Scripture has to say.

In that regard, you will see verses with (parentheses) offering clarification of biblical text. These parentheses are intended to explain what the original languages communicate. For example, the New American Standard translation of **Acts 16:31** says this:

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

I have heard Pastors teach, based on this English translation, that if a person believes in Christ, his whole family is saved. That is incorrect. An accurate exegesis of this verse from the original languages says this:

They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus (Christ), and you will be saved, you and (everyone in) your household (who also believes).” Acts 16:31

This explanation is intended to make the verse clear. Why? Because the original languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek, are perfectly clear languages that are easily understandable and easily translatable into any other language. In fact, Koine Greek, the original language in which the New Testament is inspired, is so clear, that every expression in the language has **one** and **only one** interpretation. Nothing is more clear than that! It is almost as if there is a God who thought out the best way to get His exact thinking, in writing, to all mankind!

Therefore, when you see parentheses in the Bible verses contained in this work, please be clear that this is **not** interpretation of biblical text, but simply explanation of the very clear original languages.

If there is an error, please be assured that it is my error, and not an error in the Bible. There is no mistaking the accuracy of the Word of God.

To the Believer In Christ

As a believer in Christ, the word “doctrine” may be foreign. Doctrine is simply a system of teaching related to a subject. Every discipline has doctrines. The Bible is no exception.

And without faith (pistis in Greek...that which is believed... Bible doctrine) it is impossible to please Him (God)...

Hebrews 11:6a

When you are positive to learning Bible doctrine, you open up a world of possibilities. You let God transform you into a person who receives the highest and best God planned for you in eternity past. When you are negative toward Bible doctrine, you are rejecting the heritage and the privileges of being a believer in Christ, instead letting everything in this nutty world come between you and the truth. Allowing distractions prevents you from getting to know God, and prevents you from getting to know God’s thinking, which is revealed in Bible doctrine.

All Scripture is inspired by God (literally ‘God breathed’)...

2 Timothy 3:16a

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own (private) interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved (carried along) by the (God the) Holy Spirit spoke (directly) from (the exact

thinking of THE) God (the Lord Jesus Christ). 2 Peter 1:20-21

All you have to do to be a doctrinal believer is to study Bible doctrine under your assigned Pastor Teacher. When you study Bible doctrine, you open a world of understanding about life that gives your life purpose and meaning and truth.

“...you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
John 8:32

Truth leads you away from a life of slavery, away from religion, and away from empty religious practices.

It was for freedom that (the Lord Jesus) Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm (in the freedom) and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery (like religion). Galatians 5:1

You can't say you know God or that you love God if you don't know and love Bible doctrine. When you study Bible doctrine, your spiritual life will bear fruit...

“My Father is glorified by this, that you (believers in Christ) bear much fruit, (divine good production) and so prove to be My disciples (technical students).” John 15:8

Therefore study!

Be diligent (in the study of Bible doctrine) to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling (rightly dividing) the word of truth (Bible doctrine). 2 Timothy 2:15



Pastor Rory Clark

Barah Ministries

Gilbert, Arizona

Pastor Rory Clark leads Barah Ministries, a Christian Church in Gilbert, Arizona. He laid aside a twenty-one year relationship with Roman Catholicism for a lifestyle devoted to studying and teaching the Word of God. He provides his congregation with an accurate representation of the person, the thinking, the work, the reputation, and the essence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He teaches the Word of God from the original languages by illustrating the Bible in the time it was written, by comparing scripture with scripture, and by exegesis of the verses presented in his studies. He was ordained by Pastor John Farley of Lighthouse Bible Church (Deerfield Beach, Florida) under the direction of Pastor Robert McLaughlin of Grace Bible Church (Somerset, Massachusetts). He studied under Pastor R. B. Thieme, Jr. of Berachah Church (Houston, Texas) for nearly two decades. "I provide serious students of the Word of God with accurate Biblical knowledge which gives them the opportunity to have a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am happy to lay down my life in diligent study for the hearers God provides."

how do I get to Heaven?

Act 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,
and you shall be saved, you and everyone
in your household who also believes."

Faith Alone In The Lord Jesus Christ Alone