

The Big Question!

Ever noticed hazard signs when you drive along the road, walk along an industrial site, visit a hospital, go to the beach or take your children to an amusement park? In fact, everywhere you turn, you're likely to see one warning sign or the other. The government spends a huge amount of money, particularly in the civilised countries, to maintain safety standard and to ensure these warnings are in place wherever deemed necessary. This is done to safeguard and protect people from potential dangers or hazards.

Unfortunately, thousands of people still die each year from preventable deaths resulting from failure to pay attention to warning or crucial information. Like many other natural disasters, the many casualties that were recorded in the deadly May 22 tornado in Joplin, Missouri in 2011 were due to the failure of many of the residents to heed several warnings that were issued. As a result, a high number of the residents were caught unprepared. Hence the EF-5 tornado which hit the city left about 162 people dead and 9,000 homes destroyed. On the other hand, people who are wise would take all necessary precautions and protective actions, would abandon their homes and flee for their lives from the impending disaster. The Joplin's case is just one example of many instances in history. Therefore, responding quickly and in a timely manner to a warning is very crucial, and this can, in all respects, mean the difference between life and death.

The Untold Impact:

Sin is man's most serious problem resulting in the gravest of consequence- separation from God. How did sin come about? Sin came into the world when the first man, Adam, ignored warning and disobeyed God. This sin tragically brought punishment and separation from God because God is holy, just and will never condone sin. Many may feel, 'oh it isn't fair for God to judge us because of Adam's sin. Yet each of us confirms our heritage with Adam by our own sins every day. Do you want to think about that? You may ask, 'what is sin?' All disobedience to God's law and commands is sin. Being self-centred rather than God-centred. Sin is coming short of God's righteousness. God is righteous and holy. We break his law through stealing, cheating, hatred, anger, drunkenness, envy, jealousy, lying, committing fraud, adultery and fornication etc. In fact, we are not just sinners because we sin; but because sin is integral to the very nature of our very being. That's why the Bible says, 'For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard' Rom.3.23 Open in Logos Bible Software (if available). Our sin and sinful nature separated us from God who is pure, holy, righteous, and perfect. It cuts us off from God both now and in the life to come

The Unimaginable Cost:

But do you know that Jesus paid the greatest price on the cross-the only way to get us out of the mess sin has brought into our lives? Out of his great love, he stooped low, left his throne in heaven, set aside his divine royalty and privileges in heaven and became a man. He laid down his life, crucified on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin once and for all. This is what man's sin cost Jesus Christ- his sacrificial death on the cross. Billy Graham was right when he said, 'The cross shows us the depth of our sins'. After they handed him over to the Roman soldiers, they stripped him, platted a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the

head with it. They mocked him and led him away to be crucified. Finally, they nailed him with those big nails to the cross and left him hanging, underwent an excruciating pain and agony on the cross. Have you ever realised the depth of his suffering? This what your sin and my sin caused Jesus. The cost is unimaginable! The Bible says, 'For Christ also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, indeed being put to death in the flesh' 1Pet.3.18Open in Logos Bible Software (if available). Sin deeply offends God and separate us from Him. The toll of sin is grave and you can now realize what it has to cost Jesus Christ. This was the cross Jesus had to carry for You and I. What does this cross mean to You?

The Unfathomable Love:

God is a loving God and all He does bears witness to this. He sent Jesus Christ to die for you and I, not because we were good enough, but just because he loved us. Just look around you, see the beautiful nature, the animals, the moons and galaxies, do you still doubt the supernatural hand of the loving God behind all these? 'But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners' Rom 5.8Open in Logos Bible Software (if available). No one can fathom the depth of his love. He gave up his only begotten son to take our place in judgement who are sinners. On the cross, Jesus Christ carried the sins of the whole world; he bore the punishment that our sins deserved because God is a just and holy God who must punish sin. God gave up his son to take our place, he bled and died to take away the sins of the world. He became the propitiation for our sin. 'Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins' 1Jn 4.10Open in Logos Bible Software (if available). This is how God demonstrated his love. He cared enough about our sin problem and dealt with it once and for all. Now we can come to God for forgiveness through Jesus Christ. So, Jesus sacrificed his life so that you and I will not have to face God's judgement

The Imminent Judgement:

But God's angry judgement is imminent! I tell you things may look crazy now, but be assured, just like the day of Noah, it would surely come! God's judgement day is coming and He will judge every unrighteousness, injustice, disobedience and everyone who rejects his only provision of salvation, the only means of escape. That day man will see the abject, unredeemable ignorance and futility of putting their trust in man, material, and fame. No amount of money, possession or wealth will be able to save man from God's judgement. No amount of knowledge acquired or degrees, medals and awards hung on the wall will be able to deliver a man from the hand of an angry God. Science and technologies will be useless. The fame and allure of celebrity will disappear into oblivion and everything man has placed their trust on will fail woefully on the day of God's judgement. Still trying to make up your mind whether or not God exists will no longer be needed because everything will be laid bare, but tragically, by that time it'll be too late. Yes, today everyone has right to his own opinion, but that day your opinion will not count, man will realise that there is something bigger than his opinion. God would have given everyone ample opportunity to make a choice. This is a grave reality that you cannot avoid or continue to sweep under the carpet.

The Big Question:

Here comes the big question, 'how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard' Heb 2:3Open in Logos Bible Software (if available). In other words, what will be the fate of those who neglect the gospel that was handed down by the eyewitnesses of Jesus' ministry? why do you think you will be too smart for God to escape His Judgement if you ignore the message of salvation which the Lord Jesus began to proclaim himself? You may ask, how can we be so sure? How authentic? Where are the proofs? First of all, Jesus Christ started this message. He said, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'. Everywhere he went he was doing good, healing the sick, raising the dead, delivering those in one form of bondage or the other, healed the depressed, calmed the anxious, turned lives around, and gave hope to the hopeless because God was with him confirming the message of salvation. Those who heard Jesus speak, people like Peter, John and James who became his followers and personally witnessed Jesus' perfect life of servanthood, his death on the cross, his resurrection also proclaimed and passed on this message, and as they did so, God also began to confirm their message with signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The message of The Gospel is still the same till today, changing lives all around the world for those who believe. It's the same message you are encountering as you read this message. It is a message of God's unfathomable love who sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay for the penalty of your sin and mine. Jesus' death on the cross was God's ultimate, final and highest sacrifice paid to redeem man back and to restore the broken relationship with Him. God did not only empathise with us, he did something about our sin problem. He provided us solution. He gave us His best. This is why Paul said, 'For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..' Rom 1:16Open in Logos Bible Software (if available). The message is the Good news about Jesus Christ. It is a message of salvation, it has life-changing power, and it is for everyone. It is the one and only provision of God for salvation and escape from God's eternal punishment for those who continue to reject and ignore his path. Are you sincere enough to confront the question put to you by God's revealed truth? Can you see the warning signs? Your response to this question shall be an informed choice. However, I sincerely appeal to you; to consider this all-important question.

The Good News:

'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life' Jn 3:16Open in Logos Bible Software (if available) Here is the good news that the love of God has been revealed through the cross. The cross has brought a pardon and forgiveness. On that cross the full punishment for our sin was taken by Jesus Christ. The debt for our sins was paid in full. The way back to God is now open and Jesus is that way. So, what's holding you? God is saying to you right now. 'I love you, no matter what you have done or how bad you have been'. Are you ready to open your heart to Jesus and let him in? Today you can come to him by surrendering your life and inviting him into your hearts. You may ask, 'how about all my baggage? Just give them to Jesus. That's why he says, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and loaded down with burdens, and I will give you rest' Matt.11.28Open in Logos Bible Software (if available). He wants to give you rest from weight of sin, from care and worry, from daily load of anxiety and foreboding and give you a new beginning and hope of eternal life. He is the only one who died for your sin and my sin and rose up again. He has conquered death and has power to give life. He is the only one who can save your soul. Why don't you give him a chance? He is waiting to give you a new life. The right time is now. Right where you are you can say this prayer:

“Lord Jesus, I know that I have sinned and need your forgiveness. I am sorry for my sins and turn away from my old life, and I turn towards you. I believe you died for me and rose from dead. Please come into my heart and be my Lord and Saviour”

Congratulations for taking that decision to commit your life to Jesus. We'd like to send you some useful materials and a copy of The New Testament Bible as a gift. Could you please kindly leave with us your name, address and email using our contact form. Thanks

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