

## FOR THOSE THINKING OF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN - *FIRST STEPS ON THE CALVARY ROAD IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.*

Thus says the LORD:

### Life or Death

" Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death " **Jeremiah 21:8**

" Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to Life, and there are few who find it ". **Matthew 7: 13-14**

### God or Satan

" And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD ". **Joshua 24:15**

" ...the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons " **1 Corinthians 10: 20**

### Heaven or Hell

" ..the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass... But I saw no temple in it, for the LORD God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple,. And the city has no need of the sun or the moon to shine in it for the glory of God illuminated it, and the Lamb is its light, But there shall by no means enter into it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. " **Revelations 21: 21b -23, 27**

" ...The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades (hell), he lifted his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried out and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may Dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in flame. " **Luke 16: 22b - 24**

### **Question 1: Why would anyone want to become a Christian?**

The answer is: To get into Heaven, to regain communion or fellowship with God, to walk in victory over sin, to break the demonic bondage of Satan over each one of us, to experience God's amazing grace and agape love, to have Him live in our bodies. The option is to go to Hell.

### **Question 2: Who is a Christian?**

Answer:

A Christian is a person who has welcomed Jesus Christ as THE LAMB OF GOD to dwell in their body. The word Christian means, literally "Christ in". Such a person

Is washed clean by the Blood of the Lamb - their sins have been washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ shed at the Calvary Cross on The Passover Festival , almost 2,000 years ago. **John 1: 29 Revelations 5: 6-14, 14:1-5**

A Christian is one who has REPENTED OF THEIR SINS ( turned their life around, changed their mind ) and believes that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin Mary, (His Father is the Heavenly Father God), died on the Cross for their sins - shed His blood to wash clean sins, He rose from the dead on the third day, and proved to his disciples, apostles, and family members that He had indeed risen from the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:3-19**

A Christian also welcomes Jesus Christ as both THE LAMB and THE LORD of their life, and is dedicated to following Him under the anointing power of the Holy Spirit who was poured out of Heaven into the 120 believers then later into thousands of others who believed, on the Festival of Pentecost [- The Harvest of Wheat celebrated 50 days after Passover]. **Philippians 2: 5-11** Control of the believer's life is now vested not in himself, but in Jesus Christ as Lord **Galatians 2:20.**

A Christian is LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, and not led and controlled by the dictates of men and the ways of this world. **Romans 8:1, 12:1-2.** The Holy Spirit's job description is to " *convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement* " **John 16: 8 -11.** The Holy Spirit's work is on-going in a Christian.

Thus a Christian is able to enter into heaven because his sins are washed clean by the blood of the Lamb. He is made holy - free from all contamination caused by sin - this is also an on-going process of refinement. Death of the flesh releases the Christian's Spirit to follow Jesus Christ and to enter into Heaven. At the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" **Revelations 19:6**, all Christians will be given a new, immortal body to reign with Him in Heaven which will be on earth. **Revelations 21-22, 1 Corinthians Chapter 15**

### Question 3: Who is Jesus Christ?

Answer:

The name **Jesus** means "Saviour", the name **Christ** means "Anointed One" or Messiah. Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity. His Father is God the Father. The third person of the Trinity is The Holy Spirit. **1 John 5:7, John 14: 16-31**

**Jesus, as Saviour or Lamb of God, John 1:29** means that He saves us from this dirty rotten world and leads us into Heaven. He does this by the fact that He died on a Cross as a Lamb sacrifice for the sins of the world, particularly your sins, by shedding His blood as The Lamb of God who is the ultimate sacrifice for every person who has ever lived - in the past, his present day, and the future ( which includes now). The death, resurrection and ascension into heaven of Jesus Christ is of central importance to the Gospel message ( Good News to mankind ) that there is a way to get to heaven and that is by believing or trusting in Jesus Christ as "The Way, The Truth and The Life" **John 14: 6**

**Jesus, as Messiah or Anointed One of God**, means that He is the one of whom God has anointed to be King of this world. Christians look forward to a new Kingdom on earth which is coming at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ ( His first coming was as a Lamb to be slain for the sins of the world **John 1:29** ). The Kingdom of God will be established in Jerusalem which will be God's dwelling place and centre of the Kingdom of God on earth - so watch carefully as the events leading-up to the third

world war happen around and in Israel. Israelites who do not believe that Jesus Christ came the first time ( as a Lamb to be slain) look forward to His "first Coming" as a conquering King.

#### **Question 4: What has Christianity got in common with Religion?**

Answer: Nothing. Christians believe in the One true GOD, God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit. Christians follow a living Lord Jesus Christ as revealed by God to man.

Religion, is man's ideas of how to get to God or into Heaven. The god of religions is called Satan as revealed by God in the Bible. Pagans worship demons **1 Corinthians 10: 14-22, especially vs 20, Deuteronomy 18: 18::9-14, 32:17, Exodus 20 4-6 - the 2nd of the Ten Commandments.** Jews or Israelite worship YHWH or I AM ( God The Father in the New Testament ) and those who reject Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God, actually worship Satan according to Jesus Christ **John 8: 37-47, especially vs 44.**

Religion is basically Satan's deceptive thoughts on how we can get to God in Heaven. Actually, Satan's ways lead us into Hell, not Heaven. Thus Satan is the god of Buddhism, Hinduism, Moslem, Taoist ( The Chinese Way to Heaven ), Animism, Ancestor Worship, and even many Church based "Christian Church systems, as deceptions of Satan, such as Jehovah's Witness, Mormonism, Anglicanism, Presbyterianism etc. to name but a few. .

Christianity is concerned ( or should be ) only with the resurrected person of Jesus Christ who said "I am the Way, The Truth and The Life, no man can come to the except by Me". **John 14:6.** In saying these words, Christ was either an extreme bigot or He was telling the Truth. Christians believe that Jesus was telling the Truth, simply because Christianity is rooted in history and the historical record. When the facts of the circumstances of His death, resurrection and ascension are put under the historical microscope the most plausible explanation to the missing body is that He did indeed rise from the dead.

He is the only one who has risen from the dead, returned to earth to prove it to His disciples, apostles and family members. It is possible to trick your friends and acquaintances, but you cannot fool your family. Jesus' brothers and sisters became staunch believers in His resurrection and the fact that He was the Son of God, and Saviour of this world's people. Jesus' brother, James, became the head of the *Ekklesia* ( 'called-out ones' which has been translated as Church in most Bibles ) in Jerusalem.

To understand what God has done for us to enable us to achieve the most important goal of getting into Heaven, God has left us with a **\*\*The Holy Bible** - a book of 66 love (agape) letters which encourages all mankind to believe in Him and in His provision ( His own Son Jesus Christ, the third Person of the Trinity ) to enable us to enter into Heaven - to regain paradise lost!

We read in Genesis Chapters 1-3 that our ancestors, Adam and Eve were created by Almighty God as the crown of creation of the heavens, earth, and the animals, insects, birds and fish. We were created in the Triune God's image so that He could enjoy our company, and we His ( "fellowship" or "communion" ). **Genesis Chapter 2.** He placed Adam and Eve, the first husband and the first wife, in the beautiful Garden of Eden,

paradise, and they fed from the abundance there. They did not have to work as we know the meaning of the word.

SATAN and SIN disrupted this beautiful relationship **Genesis Chapter 3.**

Adam and Eve chose to serve Satan rather than their creator. Sin causes death. Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden so that they could not eat of the fruit of the tree of eternal life. Not surprisingly, Adam and Eve produced the world's first murderer (Cain murdered his brother Abel). The seed of sin and rebellion produced Satanic fruit.

The history of the Israelites as recorded by God in the Old Testament reveals the devastating consequences of the rebellion by Adam and Eve against God - all the offspring, with few exceptions, continued on the disobedience trail of life. Disobedience to God's commandments is the natural manifestation of anyone who serves and worships Satan. God says rebellion is as witchcraft and stubbornness as iniquity and idolatry **1 Samuel 15:23**. God, known as YHWH, the I AM, provided a temporary means for dealing with the massive problem of sin and instituted an animal sacrificial system centered around a Levitical priesthood and the Tent of The Tabernacle until

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**\*\* Holy** - means to be set apart. Bible - Greek =biblios - or books. **The internal evidence** that God authored Holy Scripture is found in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:20. In addition, Bible Prophecy attests to God's existence (about 1/4 of the Bible is prophetic)- every prophecy uttered has been fulfilled to the letter. Isaiah 48:3-5. [eg Sodom & Gomorrah c.2,300bc - Genesis 19, Babylon 783 BC to be utterly destroyed Isaiah 13:19-22, Tyre to be destroyed and never to be rebuilt - a place for spreading nets Ezekiel 26:1-14, Egypt prophesied never to rule over nations, destitute, desolate Ezekiel 29:14-15, 30: 6-7, 32: 12-15. Over 100 prophecies were fulfilled with the advent of Jesus Christ, and 33 prophecies were fulfilled on the day Jesus Christ died. We await the fulfillment of the final end-times prophecies.

**External evidence is presented by:**

**Ivan Panin (1855-1942)**, a Russian mathematician, discovered the complex interlocking mathematical patterns contained throughout the Bible, Old and New Testament. The Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) languages use the alphabet as the numeric system [In the English language the alphabet is distinct from the numeric system]. So he was able to replace the words with numbers to discover the mathematical complexity of even lists of genealogies such as in Matthew Chapter 1, and symmetry from Genesis to Revelations. His calculations prove absolutely, that there is one true living God and that He did indeed inspire the writers to write down His words. It is impossible for any man to write what Panin has discovered in the Holy Bible.

Books available from British-Israel Bookshop 242 Dominion Road, Auckland Tel (09) 6300982, or website "Ivan Panin", or The Association of the Covenant People 7730 Edmonds Street, Burnaby, B.C. Canada. V3N 1B8, or P.O.Box 1478, Ferndale WA. 98248, U.S.A.

In addition, Three Hebrew Mathematicians **Doron Witztum, Eliyahu Rips, and Yoav Rosen Burg (1996)** wrote a paper entitled "Equidistant Letter Sequences in the Book of Genesis" published in the "Statistical Science" August 1994, Vol.9, No.3, pp.429-438 which proved that the Bible is encoded. Their scientific discovery has been made subject to rigorous peer group review, and has not been rebutted. For instance, using the Gulf War as an example they asked the computer to search for "Saddam Hussein" in the Torah. They then looked for words to see if they came together in a way that was mathematically significant. With "Gulf War" came "Scuds" and "Russian missile" and the date of the war was encoded with the name "Hussein". There is an infinite amount of information encoded in the whole Bible. Each time a new name or word or phrase is discovered in the code, a new crossword puzzle is formed. Related words cross vertically, horizontally, and diagonally. [Read: The Bible Code (1997) by Michael Drosnin, pub. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London]

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a Temple of "bricks and mortar" was built when the children of Israel settled in the Promised Land. All this was temporary as God planned from the outset to reveal Himself in history, in the person of Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead.

Jesus Christ's entry into the world stage was gently explosive. Kings and wise men worshipped Him at His birth. Jesus Christ was both fully man and fully God ( born of a virgin, Mary, and His Father was God ). After a brief three years or so of public ministry proclaiming the arrival of the Kingdom of God, He was crucified, died, was buried, then He rose from the dead, He uttered the words "IT IS FINISHED" just before He gave-up His spirit to His Heavenly Father. His words ended all temple cultus, for both Jew and non-Jew alike. **John 19:30.**

Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven some 50 days after His death on the day of the Festival of Pentecost.( 'Pente' in Greek = 50 ). The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity was poured out of heaven and onto the disciples and apostles, 120 in all, and He is promised to all of us believers under the same "pouring" and anointing.

Let us Recap:

1. Being a Christian means what the name implies - "having Christ in" , that is, Jesus Christ lives in my body. This means that you want have Him as Lord of your life - body, soul and spirit. If He is The Lord then He controls you- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
2. You must therefore give-up control of your life, and let Him ( Jesus the Christ ) take control of your life.
3. You have to want to become a Christian with all your mind, heart, soul, and strength. **Luke 10:27.** *"You shall love [agape] the LORD with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself"* The operative word is the Greek word agape - a pure, unselfish love which comes from God and is in a Christian. See also **1 John 3:16** for the Christian response to experiencing God's agape **John 3:16.**
4. You must want to become a citizen of heaven, and not of this world. **Acts 26:18, Ephesians 2:19 Matthew 6:19-21**
5. You must want to turn your back to this world and its ways - everything the world has to offer - and count it all as nothing! **Matthew 13: 1-30**
6. You must surrender everything that you own and hold dear to your heart to our Lord Jesus Christ.
7. You must hate this world and want to follow Jesus Christ. **1 John 1: 15-17**
8. You must be so tired of your present life that you will lay down all your burdens and give them to Jesus Christ **Matthew 11:25-30, Romans Chapter 6**
9. You can enter heaven only through a narrow gate, and then walk along a difficult path which leads to eternal life **Matthew 7: 13-14**

Well, this is the background. Now, let us get down to the "brass-tacks", down to business.

**How do I become a Christian?** The answer is simple - not easily. This is because of the key word **Repentance**. In Greek the word repentance, or *metanoia*, means to have a change of mind. Repentance also involves the matters of the heart as Jesus reveals thorough the lives of those forgiven of their sins. Here are a few pointers.

Jesus Christ said: " **Come follow Me** and I will make you fishers of men"  
So let us follow Him, forsaking all.

Jesus said: " *Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*". Jesus repeated what John the Baptist announced to the known Roman and Jewish world of the day - and the people flocked to the Jordan river to be baptised to escape the wrath of God ( His judgement on this world and its peoples ).  
**Matthew Chapter 3, Matthew 3:2 and 4:17**



Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin **Romans 6:6**

diagram by Anna Vulatton -  
taken from the Good News Bible, pub. NZ Bible Society

## **REPENTANCE - Jesus Christ's road to holiness, and Heaven.**

**Repentance** is knowing that **I am a dirty rotten sinner** and that there is nothing I can do change myself. It is the realization of my own helplessness to cleanse my conscience of secret (and some not so secret ) sins.

**Romans 3:23** *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*

**Romans 3:10** *As it is written: there is none righteous, no, not one;*

**Romans Chapter 7** The climax of Chapters 1-7 is found in the statement  
...*O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God - through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.* **Romans 7:24- 8: 2.**

**Hebrews 9:14** ....*how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

The purging process is not without pain in the natural physical world, and likewise in the spiritual world. It is a process of being made pure. But you must take the first steps yourself!

**Repentance** is knowing that **Jesus Christ gave His life** and died on the Cross for me so that His shed blood washes clean my sins as I place myself under Him, as the Lamb of God. **1 John 1:7-9**

**Repentance** is knowing that **God loves me ( agape** - a pure love which comes only from God ) so much that He willingly gave His most precious Son to die in my place - for my sins which prevent me from entering into heaven. I am destined to go to hell.

**Ezekiel 18:4, 20** *The soul that sins shall die*

**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*



**John 3:16** *For God so loved [agaped] the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

**Repentance** is allowing the **blood of Jesus Christ** to cleanse me from all my unrighteousness so that I become righteous - washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ.

**I was once unrighteous. I am now** righteous.

**1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*

**Revelations 1:5** *...Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved [agaped] us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever, Amen.*

**Repentance** is knowing that I have been **redeemed** out of the pawn shop of this world by Almighty God, my Father - He come into the world's pawn shop and has bought me! The price? His own Son, Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 1:7** *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*

**Revelations 5:9** *....For you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood*

**Repentance** is being **sanctified by the blood of Jesus**, set-apart, purified, cleansed, so that I can enter into heaven. Just as a surgeon or dentist has to sterilize his utensils and work tools, so we must undergo a "sterilization" process through the blood of Jesus Christ, before we can be let into Heaven.

**Hebrews 13: 12** *Therefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify [set apart] the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.*

**Repentance** is knowing that my sins are forgiven. **I have been purchased by His blood.** God has paid the ultimate highest price for me - He gave His son to die in my place. I deserve to die because I sin and keep on sinning. God has purchased me through His Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour.

**Acts 20: 28** *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church [Ekklesia - called out ones] of God which He purchased with His blood*

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** *...do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's*

**Repentance** is having **a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart.** Only God can cleanse me as I submit myself to His judgement. It is a desperate crying out to God for mercy once I realize that I am a sinner, for forgiveness and then knowing that God almighty forgives me for every sin I confess with my mouth **1 John 1:7-9 (as above)**

**Psalm 51: 10** *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence.*

**Psalm 51: 17** *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart - these O God, you will not despise.*

Read this whole Psalm of King David's repentance for his sin of adultery with Bathsheba, and, for murdering her husband Uriah in an attempt to cover-up his sin. If King David, a man after God's own heart, can find rest in His soul in repentance, so can you and I !

**Repentance** is being **made clean**. My sins which made me dirty and contaminated, are washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, and made as white as snow. **Proverbs 20:9** *Who can say 'I have made my heart clean I am pure from my sin?'*

**Isaiah 1:18** *'Come now, and let us reason together', says the LORD, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.'*

**Revelations 7:14** *... These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.*

**Repentance** is **non conformity to this world** and a change of mind-set.

**Romans 12:1-2** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

**Repentance** allows me to **see things from God's perspective** rejecting the world's values.

**Luke 16: 15b** ....*What is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.*

Comment: Status, prestige, power, riches/money, ownership of status symbols, are just some of the more obvious things of this world which God says are an abomination in His eyes - from His point of view. Do I agree with Him? If I don't then I have a major problem!! I will not make it into heaven.

**Repentance** allows me to **reject the flesh** or attitudes and behaviour which I have been inculcated with by my parents and society which are contrary to the Spirit of God and His leading.

**Mark 8: 31 - 33** *But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter saying: 'Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men'. vs 33*

**1 Corinthians 3: 1-3** *But I could not speak to you as to spiritual people, but as to carnal ( Greek = flesh, sarx ), as to babes in Christ.. for you are still carnal ( of flesh ). For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal ( of flesh ) and behaving like mere men? For when one says " I am of Paul" and another , "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal ( of flesh )?*



**Read Galatians 4: 21- 5:6** Two Covenants - Ishmael ( of the Flesh - under the Law, bondage ) and Issac ( of the Spirit, free, liberty from the Law, walking in the Spirit ).

**Repentance** makes me **shun and turn my back to idolatry**. God's word teaches us that idolatry, (worship of idols) or paganism, witchcraft, consulting mediums, astrology etc. is an abomination **Deuteronomy 18:9-14**. God absolutely forbids idolatry which is worship of devils or Satan. **1 Corinthians 10: 14- 22**

Comment: If you have a background in the occult, or temple worship of idols or Satan ( including Catholicism, or any Church institution which does not place Jesus Christ as the Head and His word as the sole guide to heaven), then you will need to repent of this! A religious mind-set is as bad as idolatry - hence Jesus' full-on battle against the Jewish Temple system and its hypocrisy. Following the leading of the Holy Spirit is following Jesus Christ's spirit.

**Repentance** allows **God's axe**, to cut off my roots, and all things which tie me to this world and its ways.

**Matthew 3: 10** *And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

**Repentance** is an **about turn, U turn**, in my thinking about life to take on board Jesus Christ's way ( God's way ) of living and looking at this world, and accepting the values and norms of the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Repentance** is **surrendering control of my life** and giving control over to God, our Creator. Not so easy to do as the lives of many "Christians" proves. You have to last it until the end of the Calvary road!

**Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved [ agaped ] me and gave himself for me.*

**Repentance** frees me to be **led by the Holy Spirit**.

**Romans 8:1** *There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

**Galatians 5: 24-25** *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Comment: The crucifixion of our self, takes place at the baptism in Water unto repentance ( full immersion in water). Walking in the Spirit takes place after our baptism in the Holy Spirit ( full immersion in the Holy Spirit ). The Baptism in Fire ensures that we have do not have a trouble-free walk following after Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit desires that we be continually cleansed. Easy to say, but the experience is difficult and hurtful to our flesh!

**Repentance** permits Jesus Christ and the **Triune Godhead to live in my body** ( God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit ) which is the New Testament Temple of God the Holy Spirit

**John 14:23** *If anyone loves [agapes] Me, he will keep my word; and Father will love [agape] him, and We will come to him and make our home in him.*

**1 Corinthians 3: 16-17** *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

**Repentance** leads me to be **born again!** Read John Chapter 3. I must be "born-again" to get into Heaven. The 'born again' experience occurs in the Spirit, by the participation in the three baptisms of Jesus Christ. **Matthew 3:11.**

Jesus Christ was both fully God , and, fully man, and yet He was baptised by John the Baptist, even though He had no sin (He did it to fulfill all righteousness).

**Baptism in Water** - He was fully immersed in Water as a symbol of dying to Himself and a prelude to His ultimate baptism - crucifixion on the Calvary Cross. We participate in His brutal death and resurrection in our baptism by full immersion., by faith **Isaiah Chapter 53.**

**Baptism in the Holy Spirit** - He was baptised in the Holy Spirit ( fully immersed and anointed again in the Holy Spirit who came upon Him in the form of a dove coming down and out of heaven. [ The Holy Spirit alighted upon Him and remained upon Him ]. Similarly we too receive the Holy Spirit which is poured out of heaven into us.

**Baptism in Fire.** He was baptised in Fire - Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the fiery wilderness and tempted by Satan for a period of 40 days and 40 nights. He came back into the world under the full anointing of The Spirit of God to confront the world with the Gospel - full of Grace and truth **John 1:14** , teaching, preaching, healing, and delivering people from Satanic possession and Satan's grip **Luke 4:18**. We receive this baptism as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ and take our orders from Him. This is when the "rubber-hits-the-road". We will receive persecution for His name's sake, just as He was persecuted.

**1 Peter 1: 3-7** *...that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

**Malachi 3:3** *He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver, He will purge the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness*

**Repentance** makes me want to **carry in my body the dying Christ** so that He can continually manifest His life in me

**2 Corinthians 4: 7-11** *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed - always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life of Jesus may be manifest in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

**Repentance** leads me onto the **road to Heaven** and gets me into Heaven.

**Matthew 7: 13-14** *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it, Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

**Luke 15: 11-32** Parable of the eldest son and the prodigal son - a true story of repentance, of one son who becomes a repentant sinner - is saved, and, one "good" dutiful, filial son who thinks he is saved but is not.

**Mark 4: 1-20** Parable of the Sower The influence of: Satan, who snatches the word of God from the hearts of men; of shallow belief by the "Christian"; and, of the World - with the cares of this world, deceit of riches, and desires for other things. The road is long and hard, not for the faint-hearted, and only for those who are fully focused absolutely determined to get into Heaven, and, who have stamina. Only a few can be saved. Only a few can make it to the end of the road!

**Luke 16: 19 - 31** Lazarus and the rich man - describes what happens when we fall asleep ( Christians do not die in the New Testament - they merely fall asleep ). Hell is a real place in the spiritual realm, just as Heaven is. When I fall asleep, I will go to Heaven (if I continually humble myself and carry Jesus' Cross daily). The rich man could see Lazarus, but could not talk directly with him. The rich man who made it to Hell, could not return back to earth to warn his brothers that they too were headed in the wrong direction and walking along the broad way.

**John 14: 1-6** Jesus has already prepared a place for us in heaven. All we have to do is to follow Him in.

**Revelations Chapters 21 and 22** - what heaven is like

**1 Corinthians 15: 1-19** - Jesus Christ, lived, died, rose from the dead - The "Statement of Faith".

**Jeremiah 18: 1-11.** God is the potter and we the clay. He has predestinated who will be saved and who will go to heaven. He knows everything. He knows who will be saved and who will go to Hell. We do not know. It is by Grace that we are saved, not by works. **Ephesians 2: 8-9**

**Repentance** is getting **into the God's Ark**, and turning the boat ( my mind and mind-set ) the right way up!! Many are called but few chosen.

**Matthew 20: 16** God's two or three plan. **Matthew 18:20.** Salvation is for my own household. **Acts 16: 31.** Household by household is God's plan of salvation.

**Hebrews 11: 7** *By faith, Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

See also **Acts 2:38-39**, **Acts 10** Cornelius the God fearer,

**Acts Chapter 16** - Lydia, and the Philippian Gaoler.

Getting saved, and keeping my salvation involves strenuous effort, and constant vigilance. I am responsible for keeping and working out my own salvation in fear and trembling **Philippians 2: 12.**

***The call to repentance:** Acts 2: 37-39* Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let everyone of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call".

In this way a new convert becomes a new creature, re-created in the image of God - just as in the original creation of Adam!

" Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
old things have passed away;  
behold, all things have become new. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

" The inward man is being renewed day by day **2 Corinthians 4: 16b**

" And you shall know the truth,  
and the truth shall make you free.....  
Therefore  
if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed  
**John 8: 32, 36**

" The Peter said, " Silver and gold I do not have,  
but what I do have I give to you:  
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."  
And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up,  
and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.  
So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them -  
Walking, leaping, and praising God. "  
**Acts 3: 6-8**

**The purpose of life, of living is to do His will, James 1:22 , to be reflectors of His glory 2 Corinthians 3:18. and to experience His agape love.** In this way we will ensure that we obtain the crown of life and enter into Heaven!! Praise the Lord!! May His wonderful name be praised, now and forevermore!! Hallelujah !! Alleluia !! And may your heart be filled with His overflowing joy!!

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you, fill you with His very being and Spirit, now and forever, And, may the love [agape] of our dearest heavenly Father envelop you with His tender grace. Amen.

## PICTURE SUMMARY OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST - THREE LIFE CHANGING CHINESE WORDS

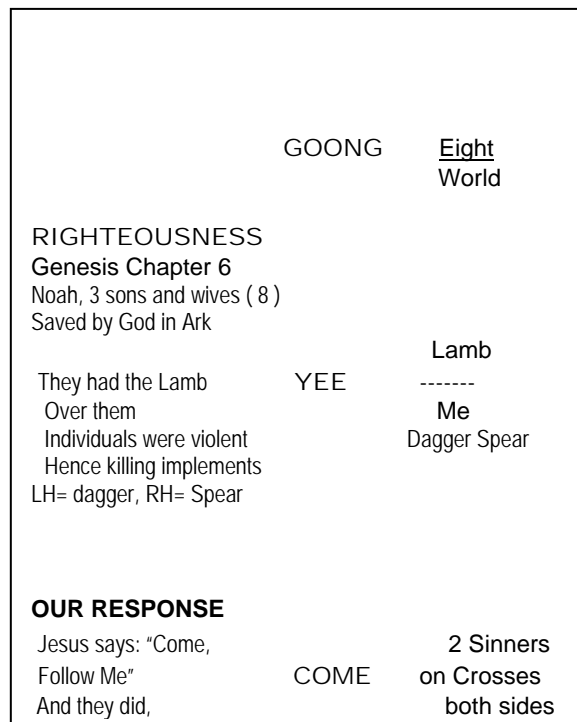
These Chinese pictograms summarise the Gospel message beautifully.  
They are a delight to the eye, and enlighten the soul.

*Only a few will achieve Salvation through Jesus Christ* **Matthew 20:16** ; *Salvation is by households* **Acts 16:31** ; *Individuals are accountable to God for their own salvation* **Philippians 2:12**. *Salvation is from an act of God through pure agape love* **1 John 4:8, John 3:16**.

'Goong Yee' = Righteousness – only a few households can be saved –  
(8 souls out of the whole world) **Genesis 6,**  
**Acts Chapter 10 & 16:32**

'Loy' = Come - follow Me ( Jesus Christ ) **Matthew 4:19**  
 - to the Cross **Galatians 6:12**  
 - Carry your own Cross, daily **Luke 9:23**  
 - Die to yourself, as a living sacrifice **Romans 12:1-4,**  
**Galatians 2:20**  
 as a grain of wheat **John : 12:24**

*“ You do not delight in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart – these O god you will not despise ”*  
**Psalm 51: 16b - 17**



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## **Postscript: Our Heavenly Father's Heart of Love for us - the fusion of agape, phileo, and eros ( three Greek words for " love " in the Bible ).**

**Agape is love which originates only from God. It is pure in that it comes with no fish hooks. It is totally unselfish. It is mentioned in the most famous verse in the Bible -**

***" For God so (agaped) loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life "***  
John 3:16

This *agape* permeates the whole Bible - from Old Testament through to the New Testament. *Agape* is the most powerful expression of God's deepest concern for humanity.

After committing the above discussion "to paper" ,I was reminded that God The Father is *agape* love. 1 John 4:8.

Our Heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus The Christ to die on the Cross as the ultimate act of unselfish - God spared Abraham the agony of killing his dearest son Issac, but did not spare Himself of allowing men to murder. His own Son Jesus Christ. The Holy Bible is God-breathed with love.

Our heavenly Father created the first man and woman in the image of himself. Since no man has ever seen His face, it was Jesus Christ who blew in the "breath of life" into the best clay model ever made, and man became a living being, created as a special act of his love, in God's own image. This Godly image was wrecked when Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God's instructions - humanity has reaped the devastating consequences of their actions.

Whilst Satan wrecked the intimate relationship that existed between God and man and grossly distorted the perfect image, Jesus Christ, was sent by God The Father as the ultimate expression of His unfailing *agape* love, to heal the breach, the distorted image, ill-health in all men and women, restore and make whole our minds, and to loose us from the bondages of Satanic power and demonic invasion into our bodies.

The re-creation of our own image to the likeness of God happens when we become Christians 2 Corinthians 3:18. It is completed fulfilled when we are literally transformed with a glorified body and spirit. 1 Corinthians Chapter 15.

*" Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new "* 2 Corinthians 5:17



To do this God The Father gave His most cherished Son to die for you and for me. **John 3:16**. Jesus is the pearl of great price, given to redeem us back to an intimate relationship with our Creator. God is agape love **1 John 4:7**. He desires to have an intimate relationship ( fellowship or *Koinonia* ) with each one of us. He initiated the healing, deliverance, and salvation of each one of us. **Luke 4:18**. We must choose to be reunited with him. Whilst He is the definition of pure agape love, He is also The Great Judge and disciplinarian. He demands instant obedience from each one of His children. But what wise father is not like this - loving kindness mixed with discipline?

We are not left without witness of His amazing grace and love for mankind and individuals like you and me.

**Witness** Joseph in the second meeting with his brothers when, overcome with emotion, he had to go into his private chambers to weep alone **Genesis 43:30**.

Joseph wept aloud when he revealed himself to his brothers - even the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard him! **Genesis 45:2 to 47:31** The eventual meeting and embracing with his father Jacob was highly emotive. Joseph is like Jesus, his brothers are us sinners, and his father Jacob is like our Heavenly Father. How God's heart must ache for each of us to meet with Him!

Witness the saving of Noah and His family - only one household out of the whole world, with the creation of the rainbow as a reminder for God of His love for His creation, man, and that He covenanted never again to obliterate mankind from the face of this earth ( He saved only 8 souls) **Genesis Chapters 6 -7**.

**Witness** The Song of Solomon - Here is a beautiful picture of the intimate fusion of Love in it's three Godly aspects – *Agape*, *Phileo*, and *Eros*.

### ***Eros love***

The narrative is, on the surface, an extended description of a beautiful, intimate, description of uninhibited *Eros* or physical love between a man and woman. Most Christian commentators decline to comment on this book for this very reason – it cuts embarrassingly, “too-close-to-the-bone” ! But why shouldn't our Father not give us a lesson on the language of love, of the “birds-and-the bees?” After all, He created man and woman, men and women.

The language is that of the revealing of the most private thoughts which come from the beautiful hearts of an intimate married couple who are "at one" with one another.

### ***Phileo love***

We also understand that this couple enjoy a very healthy *Phileo* love relationship which is as exists between a brother and sister, parents and siblings, and friends. This is a very open relationship where feelings and thoughts are easily shared and responded to. Brotherly love is what we must share with one another in our own homes and in true Christian fellowship as a proof of our live in Christ. This is the very essence of *koinonia* - intimate

fellowship enjoyed in the family and meetings together with other Christian brethren and their households.

### **Agape love**

We feel that God, our Heavenly Father, is involved with this couple. His covering arms shelter them with His presence and warmth. He envelops this couple in His warm embrace, and they in turn reciprocate in likewise manner with each other. Hence we read the words and repeat them in our hearts and minds:

*My beloved is mine and I am His 2:16 and His banner over me is love ". 2:4*  
Song of Solomon

It is like going into the inner sanctuary of God's own tabernacle or into the Throne room, to receive instruction and visions from The Lamb of God as did John The book of Revelations. It is like being granted the privilege of eavesdropping on Jesus Christ as he talked agonizingly, sweating droplets of blood such was his anguish, with Father God before submitting Himself to the dreaded pain of the Cross Luke 22:39-46. Or being allowed into the bedroom to listen to conversations of the heart.

This is the revelation of the intimate spiritual relationship between God and Israel, God and His *Ekklesia* ( called-out-ones). God and His households, and God and married men and women who become as one flesh, and God and individuals - each one of us in whom He dwells because of His great agape.

We can read about the *agape love Christ has for the Ekklesia* and how Our Heavenly Father expects a man to *agape* Jesus Christ, and in turn his wife, in Ephesians Chapters 5 & 6. Whilst the wife has to submit to her husband in all things, the husband is given the godly task of agaping his wife ( the word *agape* as a commandment for the husband is repeated 6 times in a few passages from verses 25 to 33). **Submission** and **agape** - the two essential ingredients of a Christ-filled marriage, plus one word, **obey** for the rest of the household. Satan is ever present, hence the discussion in Ephesians Chapter 6, and the vigilance needed to keep him at bay!

**Witness** the restoration of King David in the beautiful Psalm 51 - a song of absolute repentance. Read the events leading up to his sins which were revealed by the prophet Samuel 2 Samuel Chapters 11-12.

**Witness** the Father's description of His son's murderers - the gracious, prophetic words in Zechariah 13:6 "*And someone will say to him, ' What are those wounds in your hands?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends' "* In Hebrew, "my friends" is literally "Those who love me" Amazing grace and forgiveness which gives flesh to the words in John 1:14 "*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth "*.

**Witness** The Good Shepherd John 10 - Jesus Christ is The Shepherd who is constantly vigilant and mindful of His sheep - He knows us all by name! **Psalm 139**. Our names are also inscribed on the palms of His hands ! **Isaiah 49:16**

**Witness** the parable of the Prodigal son. We are shown a picture of a Father who just spoils his sons, and then anxiously awaits the return of the Prodigal going to the gate everyday to see the eventual return **Luke 15: 11- 32**. The tremendous rejoicing and feasting at the return by the Father mirrors the words of rejoicing when the lost sheep is found " *I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance* ". **Luke 15: 1-7** ; the woman diligently finds the lost coin, and shares her joy by rejoicing with her friends and neighbours - " *...there is joy in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents* " **Luke 15: 10**.

**We discover** that our heavenly Father watches and is lovingly involved with us from the time we are conceived, and that His thoughts continually bombard us with agape love

*" O Lord, You have searched me and known me, You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. You understand my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.....For You have formed my inward parts; you have covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made... my frame was not hidden from You.... How precious also are our thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake I am still with you.*  
**Psalm 139: 1-3, 13-14, 15, 17 - 18**

*" For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart "* **Jeremiah 29: 11 - 13**

**He assigns** to each one of us a special protective angel. **Matthew 18: 10**.

**He dwells in us**. We learn that Jesus wants to make His home in our body, (along with our heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit, simply because He loves ( agape) us ). **John 14:23**. This is intimacy, agape love in action.

Thus, there is hope and healing for us all - the poor, the psychologically and physical abused, the sick, the battered wife, the wife beaters, the lame, the deaf, the dumb, the sick, the lonely, the downtrodden, the desperate, the demon possessed, the prostitutes, drunkards, robbers, the drug addicts, adulterers, the fathers and mothers who have failed their children by not bringing them up in the ways of the Lord God, rebellious and naughty children who have grown-up to become adults and parents in a similar vein - the number, names, and types of sinners is endless. No one is forgotten. No one is beyond the tender loving arms of our Heavenly Father. All He wants to do is to wrap His arms around us to protect us from all harm. All we have to do is to reach out and cry out for His help, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. We can most certainly experience His agape love within - he wants to possess us, to reclaim us for Himself !!

### He says this to each one of us:

*"...neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love (agape) of God which is in Christ Jesus our LORD". Romans 8: 38-30*

*"Come to Me all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden light"*  
Matthew 11: 28-30

Come beloved to Jesus!  
Why would we ever want to refuse Him?

Amen.

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#### Other discussions:

**"The Bride and The Great Harlot":** - a summary of the full discussion entitled 'The Bride and The Harlot, which one do you belong to? A discussion of the Church in history. Some criteria for determining affiliation'

**"The Three Most Important Life Changing Chinese Words"**

**"The Beatitudes"** The eight blessings from God to individuals and their families.

**"The Baptism of Jesus Christ"**

**"Countdown to Midnight"**

**"Chinese Calligraphy and God's Revelation in His Holy Bible"** - a summary of the book by C.H. K and Ethel R. Nelson (1979), "The Discovery of Genesis: How the truths of Genesis were found hidden in the Chinese language", Concordia Publishing House St Louis. Available from: Operation Mobilisation, 425 Great South Road, P.O. Box 72914, Papakura, Auckland, New Zealand Tel: (09) 298 9990.

**End**