



Let us be ready...



We might also note that hell was originally designed for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

... Wickedness burns as the fire

Isaiah 9:18

You are to be commended for taking the time to read this little article. It is to your credit, that you would consider the fate of the thanksgiving turkey (or “goose”) during this season. But, of course, our opening title does not really refer to the erstwhile goose, or bird, which is normally eaten during the holiday seasons . . . but to our own “goose” (ourselves) that will be cooked, quite literally if we refuse the offer to escape the heat.

We sometimes hear people questioning God’s intent, regarding the Scripture’s warning that if we do not repent we will all likewise perish (Dr. Luke 13:2-4). In fact, Jesus is credited with warning; “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be put out—where *‘Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.’* (Mark 9:43-44) In fact, within the King James Version, Jesus even makes this statement *three times*, at the close of this one particular chapter, and some translators have actually eliminated this statement about burning fires from verses 45-47, within their Bibles. (It does not appear in the NIV, ESV, NLT, . . . for example). —While some translators simply eliminate verses 44-46 altogether (as in the Message Bible).

Yet, if Jesus knew that people, made in the image of God (for whom He would die, on a Cross)—could actually end up in that place . . . does it seem logical for Him to *minimize* this danger, when speaking to us about it?

So let us try to put this into perspective, somehow, with a parallel story (a parable) of sorts. Let us say that police officers within your county are chasing a gang of bank robbers and recent serial killers, across town, and onto a highway. They are setting up a road block down the road.

Beyond the road

(continued . . .)

block there happens to be a suspension bridge that is being worked on (it's stuck open). The police really want to catch these desperate killers, who would rather die, than get caught—but mercifully, the police turn on their lights and are standing out on the side of the road, knowing that these "bad actors" are desperate, and really dangerous.

Now, let us suppose that you have also stopped on the side of the road to avoid going over that bridge, and someone heading your way gives you a call on your smart phone; you mention that it is dangerous to pass any further along this road, because there "is a problem with the bridge" ahead.

"Is the bridge open?" they ask.

"Yes," you reply, "but only a little bit."—

because you know that your friends are hurrying to a party, and you really don't want to offend them. Your friends decide that their brand new sports car can "bridge the gap" and save some time, on their way to the party . . . and they barrel on through, past the warning lights, etc. and then plunge into the raging waters below.

Have you done your friend a favor, by minimizing the danger ahead of them???

"OK. OK. I understand your point here, Frank," you say, "But why would a loving God allow people to go to *Hell*, in the first place?"

I could answer that it is because God is also just, and He is simply enforcing the Law given to Moses (Rom. 6:23), but that also ignores another factor. For as a descendant of Adam, Scripture states that we have been made in God's image, to rule over the earth (Genesis 1:26). —And as God's image bearers, the things that happen to us, in the end, are in some ways a reflection upon God. We may even note that this can form a basis for having the fear of God: like a child being concerned about shaming their parent's name, for example. But there is more: for if God's image bearers were to *spiritually cease to exist* . . . what would this say about eternal God, Himself??

One more point: I do believe that the Scripture in our opening quote describes what actually fuels the fires of Hell: it states that "wickedness" burns as the fire. In this respect, therefore, we might point out that in hell . . . one only gets their just due. If you are sinless, you will not burn, in other words. However, there is one small catch; and it helps explain why Jesus made an unusual statement when a rich young man came and addressed Him as "Good master."

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked (Mark 10:18). —Perhaps, we should dig into this a little further . . .

THE GOOD LIFE

"Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Daniel 3:25



As we look into the starry heavens, or experience the heat of the noon day sun, we are confronted by those balls of fire that dominate the sky. Of the stars, Holy Writ informs us in an amazing understatement: the Lord "made the stars also" (Genesis 1:16). Yet, of our own star (the Sun) there is an unspoken acknowledgement that life in this world would simply not be possible without its finely tuned thermostat. Its fiery character would simply consume us, if we were to get too close to it—and freeze us to death, if too far. People have worshipped its performance and both loved and hated its heat. Primitive peoples have thought of it as a god, while scientists study its surface and

seek to mine its secrets. We may have mastered its cousin (fission) within our nuclear power plants (an weapons) but have yet to create a power plant that can match the fusion that powers our sun. Truly our sun, like fire itself, demands our respect. We both fear and love it. No wonder the psalmist compares it to God and His very law that brings light and life into the heart of the believer.

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

*. . . In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,
5 Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.*

⁶ *Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

Psalm 19:1, 4-6

And, as we may cherish the sun's penetrating heat, to warm our bodies and lift our spirits, so too, with God's laws and guidelines (statutes):

⁷ *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;* ⁸ *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;*

Psalm 19:7-8

Finally, he links all of these spiritual gems to the very fear of God—and His judgmental decrees.

⁹ *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;*

The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Psalm 19:9

What is it about this awesome Power that draws us to Himself: how dare we even approach God's side? Yet Scripture opens its story of creation, itself, with us encountering this awesome One in an beautiful Garden that was perfect beyond all dreams—only, the ones who lived in its Paradise did not (really) know just how good they had it.

Consider this: When Adam and Eve “fell” in the Garden of Eden, through disobedience, what was the immediate result of their disobedience? Nakedness.

⁷ *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.*

Genesis 3:7

Notice how no one had to tell them that they were naked: they *sensed it*. The snake that appeared in the garden had promised to them god-like powers. Instead, disobedience allowed them only enough leeway to find themselves shut out (like the devil himself had been) from God's reviving Presence. And yet, even before a formal judgment by their Creator, they noticed that something had taken place *inside of them* that made their life together suddenly become uncomfortable. Things had suddenly gotten “too hot” for them, to continue in that state. —Almost as if to emphasize this fact, Scripture notes an extreme contrast between themselves and God. For the very next verse notes something about how God was walking around in the Garden.

⁸ *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the gar-*

den.

Genesis 3:8

Please notice the difference: they were naked, and uncomfortable: God was in the “cool” of the Garden, and fully in control. The fires that had started to burn within them, were threatening to destroy them, and had to be controlled; so that they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves coverings. Then God spoke into their emptiness:

Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

Verse 9

Adam answers, for them both:

So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Verse 10

The result would be the first example of death, mentioned in the Bible, as God engineered a more suitable covering for Adam and his wife.

²⁰ *And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.* ²¹ *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

Genesis 3:20-21

You don't “skin” and animal, without depriving it of life. They had been placed in a garden with everlasting life available, and residing within themselves. Their disobedience produced a deficiency, that resulted in the death (sacrificing) of another, to make their own existence tolerable.

¹¹ *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'*

Leviticus 17:11

Fire & sacrifice: When God appeared to Moses, it was also through a visible *burning bush*, that was not consumed.

² *And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.* ³ *Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."* ⁴ *So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*

Exodus 3:2-4

The end result of that encounter would be a Pass-

(Continued on page 7)

Breaking with a “phony” Faith

⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' . . .

Matthew 25:5-6, 11-12

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:6

It was late in the night, and as soon as the evening news signed off, so did the beautiful (and rare) young virgin: bobbing her head after a long day; mildly distressed by the unintended delay ahead of her: she relaxed, not thinking to take the time to apply a parking brake, as she mounted her phone in the charger. She sought to ignore, and barely take notice, of the flashing lights up ahead. It had been such a long day, at the office. She simply shut off the SUV, and dreamed . . .

She was dreaming again about her prince charming—only this time, he had entered politics in a glamorous(?) adventure. There was no question of his “winning the election”: He was the consummate free thinker; with a Teflon hide and silver tongue—Able to spin himself out of the most questionable tight spot; and that, with real class & style: And although shamelessly progressive, he also has a very religious bent: no Atheist this buck. In fact, he is a perfectly spiritual fellow: the perfect mix of MLK, BLM and Antifa—with a smattering of Prince Charles’ DNA thrown in, (just in case) for proper seasoning.

So what if the Italian Prime Minister seems too conservative, or Erdogan too primed for jihad; her knight in shining White (or Black) armor can link arms with the best of them: especially when it comes to what was once the US of A. —Or, what is left (or right) of America. He



never worries about cancel culture: He *is* the culture: For everyone now caters to him, as he does (of course) to each of us. He is “multi-headed” but not two faced: “well balanced” but thoroughly progressive. As the saying goes that “all are culturally merged in to one universe”: so are we, it would seem, into him. Everyone, it seems, is in love with this beast of a man.

⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" ⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies,

Revelation 13:4-5

Yes, he was a beast (or hulk) of a man; with no worries about election rigging, since he is unelected and pre-selected, on the international stage. Concerns about disagreements within the media have become moot. Scandals (or skeletons, in media closet(s)) are buried and joyfully forgotten within a homogenized and solemnized marriage of the day: For just as same sex marriage is now accepted, so are unelected elected officials.

There also appears be something amorously lustful about the politics of this new age that he represents: as if matters of conscience and so called “good and evil” have finally been conquered, so that all of society can now finally “get along with one another” to get the “important things” taken care of.

No more fighting, in other words, within the media: No more, “slinging mud” or accusations, across the aisle: One more back door conference (or two) will take care of whatever issue may arise upon a national, or international, stage. Each of us may now joyfully, and peacefully (we hope) go about the business of living (or dying: depending upon your personal “choice,” if you get my drift. . .).

After all, what else is left? We have plumbed the depths of Sodom and Transgenderism—what’s next, bestiality? No, being “mad at God” sounds far more religious & sophisticated. For, he is “the Man” who successfully cancels the cancel culture and awakens the “woke”—even within a virgin. All of which tends to make your heart race, your pocket book dance, and your neighbor swoon all over—even when having no holy oil, with which to light our way through the darkness.

And when supremacists target him, and lay him low—he revives miraculously. As was noted: the beast is multi-headed, but not two faced. No abortive issues. No unresolved problems.

They all simply disappear.

³ *And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.*

Revelation 13:3

And speaking of things miraculous; there now appears to be a reversal of recent medical malpractice -er, shortcomings, mandated by major governmental agencies (such as the WHO, NIH & CDC) that had begun to surface, most unfortunately. — For now, with the wave of a hand (or international mandate) new wonders of recovery are suddenly being reported. In fact, he has a side kick who seems to be part of an Elijah network: calling his fire out of heaven, while invoking the name of the Lord, in a twisted sort of way: “Lord, Lord,” many now say, while supposing their healing to be an affirmation of Sodom’s favored lifestyles (Rev. 13:13, Matt. 7:15-23).

So that persons in despair are encouraged to dispense with all forms of humility—while experiencing a new birth in the affirmation of one’s self-esteem. In fact, it would seem that this crew of new healers are determined to answer the old Jesus’ question of whether faith will really be found upon the earth, when Christ returns (2 Timothy 3:1-

8, 6:3-6, Luke 18:8)!

And, “getting mad at God”? That was a stroke of bold genius: experiencing a revival of raw crowd appeal: as masses join in unison to raise their mighty fists towards the heavens. Yes, my sister and brother, this mighty move of humanity is not anti-god since . . . our Man is God (???)

⁶ *Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.*

Revelation 13:6 (Daniel 8:23-25)

Of course! **There can no longer be a logical anti-god movement among those in the know—for in the scores of years since Time magazine’s cover story announced that “God is dead” in the 1960s, Atheism itself is dying—having been mortally wounded, quite accidentally, by a steady and almost covert advance of science and technology;** as astronomers and geophysicists have (sh-h-h) vainly searched the heavens for alternate life forms. —So that what was first thought to be so very obvious (of the universe having numerous “living planets” —each having the right kind of star, along with a planet at the proper distance therefrom)—has now actually been crowded out through what may be perceived as an increasing litany of necessities: requiring the *right size* planet residing within a “Goldilocks zone” —where the size of the sun, the planet’s distance from the same, along with just the right magnetic fields, and protective envelope, might support a life sustaining atmosphere (preferably, with the right size moon, at the right distance. . .) —not to mention the need for outer planetary gas giants (like our Jupiter and Saturn) within correct, planar orbits, to perform much needed “asteroid interference” operations —to protect life on that “living planet” from deadly planet killers (those very, nasty, asteroids that would subject the inhabitants of a living planet to a very bad day. Indeed, their very *last* day, alive . . .). There are now more than 200 such “fine tuning necessities,” that scientists have discovered; all necessary for the support of that special laboratory, wherein life may simply *survive*, let alone thrive . . .*

“Star ship *Enterprise*, where are you? Please return *Home!*”

—Although, of course, everything in this new day

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now appears to be *devolving*: for the devil himself is “pledging allegiance” to all that seems right and accepted; having been transformed into an “angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14)! Further, our world class Champion and wonder worker is not really against the Christ, for he believes that he *is* the Messiah. As Jesus Christ the Lord, has Himself declared:

... *"Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."*

Matthew 24:4-5

To which our “Champion” would utter a hearty “amen,” for the Apocalypse itself has declared:

⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:7-8

But our virtuous maiden has not awakened: not yet. She is enjoying her little nap, as is the case with much of the church world, is it not? For:

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

But, of course, we now we know that the only tabernacle mentioned within the context of this scenario . . . is the temple in Heaven (notice the context of Rev. 13:6).[∞]

For the temple that evil now seeks to dominate, in the closing hour, is none other than the temple comprised of *the living saints* (all real believers -- 1 Cor. 3:16-17). Thus, it is that a “laid back” church-at-large now allows the awakening of evil—to both flourish and proliferate at the end of the age.

It is when the lights grow dim, that the darkness dominates (2 Thes. 2:1-3, Matthew 25:1-4).

But we must hurry on, for new stats are rolling in, and slipping past the fake news, suggesting that an uncomfortable and excessive mortality rate is being discovered in our military; Among those charged with the protection of our freedoms and defense from all enemies, both foreign and domestic—i.e. among men mandated to receive the jab during the COVID crisis: ages 18-39.**

Of course, that mandate was a mere trial-run in 2020, and so now . . . just one more jab, and one more mandate: just one more dash for the finish line within a woke paradise(!) as humankind searches for the ultimate key to the promised Utopia—and our young virgin in waiting starts to

. . . our virtuous maiden has not awakened: not yet.

squirm just a bit within her coach, as the hour hand touches midnight, and she hears a more detailed warning of angels issuing the “midnight cry” (Matt. 25:6).

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach . . . --to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people--⁷ saying with a loud voice,

"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come;"

. . . .⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire . . . in the presence of the holy angels"

Revelation 14:6-7, 9-10

And now, our young virgin really has reached her point of “critical mass” within her dream state; causing her to erupt, even while sleeping in a cold sweat: “No, no, NO!”

Her cell phone has started ringing, as she awakens with a start, sweating and checking herself to see where she is. “Hello?” Wrong number—or was it?

“WHEW!” she sighed with relief. “‘thought I was a gonner” and, placing her vehicle in Park—“I need to find my Bible, to dust it off and *read it!!*

“ ‘need to find a good pastor,” she continues, now checking her phone. “No, *right now* . . .” and she opened the driver side door, to kneal on the cold pavement, by the side of the road, “Lord Jesus, I repent! Thank you for speaking to me—even in my sleep. I know I don’t deserve it. PLEASE FORGIVE ME!”

Flashing lights no longer offend her, now: nor do the worried stares of passers by. She has been spared.

Thank you, Lord. In Jesus’ name.

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:6

Amen.

+

[∞]Note also, that at the time the Apocalypse was written (~ 96 AD) *there was no temple on earth*. Nor does the Revelation mention its being rebuilt (Zech. 6:12-13)...

(Continued from page 3) *THE GOOD LIFE*

over experience, wherein an innocent lamb would be slain in the household of everyone who was to be delivered, as they took a hyssop branch, dipped it in a lamb's blood, and made the sign of a cross, on the lintel and two door posts (upon the top, left, and right sides) of entryway into their dwelling.

²² *And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.*

Exodus 12:22

“And when I see the blood,” the Lord said, “I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt” (verse 13).

Prophets, within Holy Writ, may also utilize extremes of human conflict to depict spiritual realities that exist beyond the veil. Satan's fall, for example, is compared by both the prophet Isaiah and Ezekiel—to wicked kings within the ancient world (in Isaiah 14 & Ezekiel 28). In a similar manner, the prophet Isaiah gives to us, I believe, the ultimate description of what happens in the fires of hell—with persons teetering on the edge of extinction, without any means of redemption (or escape).

¹⁸ *For wickedness burns as the fire; It shall devour the briars and thorns, And kindle in the thickets of the forest; They shall mount up like rising smoke.*

¹⁹ *Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts The land is burned up . . .*

Isaiah 9:19a

Notice the metaphor of “wickedness” fanning these flames, in a place where the “trees” seem to remain unconsumed (as the burning bush was, in Moses' encounter). Yet, the worst is yet to come, as the prophet describes the effects of this fire of wickedness—upon our neighbors, in the second half of verse 19.

And the people shall be as fuel for the fire; No man shall spare his brother.

But there is more: a craven hunger also exists, that is always unsatisfied—as well as the destruction of one's closest friendships; as everything that is “heart warming”—disintegrates in the flames.

²⁰ *And he shall snatch on the right hand And be hungry; He shall devour on the left hand And not be satisfied; Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm.*

²¹ *Manasseh shall devour Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh; Together they shall be against Judah. . . .*

Isaiah 9:20-21

Note: Manasseh and Ephraim were blood brothers. Judah, was a half-brother. This is describing the total disintegration of the very foundations of societal harmony.

Yet, to take all of this a step further, in Babylon—which in Scripture depicts as the ultimate expression of pagan worship (as the Apocalypse in the last book of the Bible describes it, in Rev. 17 & 18)—God saw fit to give us a living example of the utter reversal of evil, as Babylon's “cancel culture” sought to wipe out all worship of the one true God: throwing three Hebrew young men into a literal, fiery furnace, to “teach them a lesson.” Yet it was king Nebu-

chadnezzar who would learn something invaluable:

²⁵ *“Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”*

Daniel 3:25

Yes, it was indeed the Son of God, stepping out of Eternity to teach us a lesson: that God is always in control, and even the fires of Hell (or the flames of that inferno) can not stop, or destroy, those who truly trust in Him.

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*

Romans 8:35-36 (see also Psalm 139:8)

So, now we understand why the title of this article is “The Good Life” —for only the goodness of God can make us “fireproof” with a destiny of eternal life with Him, in Heaven!

³¹ *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

vss 31-32

Just think about that, sometime: The One who made those stars, and placed them in the heavens, came to earth to die for us!

What a God.
What a Savior!

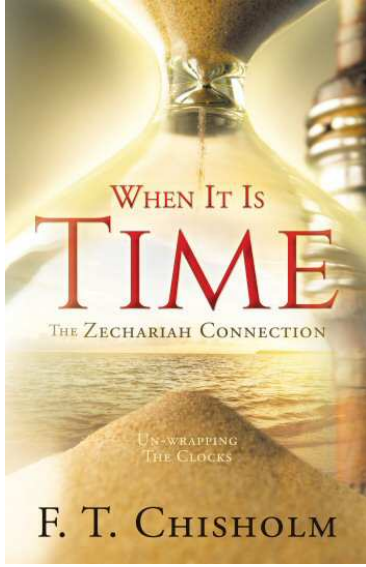
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*See *IS ATHEISM DEAD?* by NY Times best selling author, Eric Mataxis—as well as books by Astronomer, Hugh Ross; *IMPROBABLE PLANET & the Creator of the Cosmos*

** *Florida Surgeon General Recommends Against mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines for Males Aged 18–39*. Epoch Times. 2022/8/10. Mimi Nguyen Li. <https://www.theepochtimes.com/florida-surgeon-general-recommends-against-mrna-covid-19-vaccines-for-males-aged-18-39_4783372.html>

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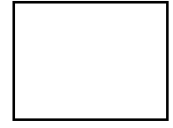
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What Must I Do?

FIRST: THINK!—then BELIEVE!

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. . . . Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Genesis 1:1,3

God created the universe, not visa versa.

God is eternal, not the universe!

- God created the universe by His Word (John 1:1-3) — *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.* [John 1:14]
- This is not something easy to understand, but we must realize that we are talking about God: Someone who is above, and greater, and beyond us, in His abilities (Col. 1:15-18, Isaiah 9:6-7, 48:16, Hebrews 1:1-4, etc.). And yet: God loves us.
- *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
John 3:16
- This is why Jesus went to the cruel Cross, to die for our sins—and rise again, proving that He really did have the power to conquer death and the grave—*for you*, if you will place your trust in Him.

In Other Words

If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9,10

For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be ashamed."

Romans 10:11

ENDNOTES;

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