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don't tell you about the Bible

一个多数宗教没有告诉你的圣经事实

Cary Schmidt
克里·施密特 著

谷义昭 译
简翰龙博士 校审

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译者的话

克里·施密特牧师用平白、真挚的语言和生活化的例子，向读者阐明了圣经的真理，并且希望以此能帮助人们获得真知、走向上帝、获得永生。

译者本人觉得这是一本不可多得的福音小书，并祝愿上帝能照亮读者心灵的双眼，看到祂的爱和救恩，并且最终得到永生！

为了让读者便于理解本书，同时也为了消除许多人对圣经长期以来所持有的误解，使接下来的阅读能进行得顺畅，特此就以下几点进行说明：

本书中的用词

(1) “犯罪”和“罪人”

圣经的罗马书3：23节说道：“因为世人都犯了罪，

亏缺上帝的荣耀。”

见到“罪人”和“犯罪”等字眼，人们会马上联想起刑事案件或者或者某些滔天罪行。但是，圣经对这两个词语的定义要宽广得多，是指凡在言语、思想和行为上违背了上帝圣洁的法度的人和行为。这也涵盖了道德、心灵等层面。

当然，圣经中的“犯罪”和“罪人”也自然不排除触犯刑事案件的行为或者某些滔天罪行。世人在上帝的眼中，都是罪人。因为，人无法在语言、思想和行为上达到神的完全和圣洁的标准。

托玛斯·爱迪生说：“我发现自己是个大罪人。”他的意思并不是说他犯下了某些滔天罪行，而是深知自己在本性中有罪的存在，以及在上帝的眼中是何等的不完美。

(2) 人们对圣经道理的普遍误解

常听见有人说，基督教宣扬原罪论，“所以，他（她）的一生必须是一个赎罪和苦修的过程，才能上天堂。”

“人生下来就是个罪人”的确是圣经的道理，但是，“一生必须是一个赎罪和苦修的过程”却是个错误的教导。圣经所教导的并不是这样，而是上帝亲自降临到世间，取了人的样式，将自己献上，成了

人的赎罪祭，使凡相信祂的人都可以上天堂——并且是无条件的。作者克里·施密特牧师在整本书中都反复说明了这个道理。他说，并不是一个“人必须做什么”的问题，而是“上帝已经为人成就什么”的问题。意思就是说，人是不能凭自身的力量或者行善积德来上天堂的，唯有接受了上帝所成就的赎罪之功，单单凭着信心，才可以得到永生。总之，天堂的入场券是免费的，但必须按着上帝的方法方能取得。

这是本书反复表达，并且最终烘托出来的主题思想。

圣经的版本问题

华人教会普遍使用的是和合本圣经。本书作者使用的是英皇钦定本圣经(King James Bible)。两者在很多地方都有出入和差别。为了忠于原文，译者在翻译过程中将和合本不同于英皇钦定本的地方进行了修改，使符合英皇钦定本的原意。比如：

在本书中，作者为了表达“人生不仅仅是吃喝而已，而有更高的价值”的理念，引用了路加福音12：23节。和合本圣经此节的译文为：“生命胜于饮食，身体胜于衣裳。”但是，在英皇钦定本中，则是“The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.”可译为“生命不止饮食；身体

不止衣裳。”也可译为“生之需求不止于食，身之需求不止于衫。”

另一个例子就是在第8章《完全的偿付》中，作者引用了使徒行传1:3节：“他受害之后，用许多无可辩驳的凭据将自己活生生地显给使徒看，四十天之久向他们显现，讲说上帝国度的事。”作者在引用之后，还特别强调了“不可辩驳”。

但是，在中文和合本圣经中，在这一节中却没有“无可辩驳”(infallible)的字眼。为了忠于原文，译者将这字眼加上去。

翻译中的用词

“上帝”与神“

在英文中，有“God”和“god”的区别，人们可以从字母的大小写中辨认出这里是指真神还是假神。但是，中文却没有所谓的字母大小写的区别。因此，为了不使初步接触真理的人产生歧义和混淆，译者在翻译的过程中，将真神翻译为“上帝”，而假神翻译为“神”。

其实，“神”这个词语（如果不能看出大小写的区别的话）是中性的，指的人所崇拜的对象。这个字眼可以指真神，但同时也可以指假神。在中国的传统节日春节期间，人们把拜祖宗也叫做“拜神”。有人

对我说：“过年的时候，可要回老家拜神啊！”我回答说：“我拜上帝，不拜祖宗。”

当然，基督徒知道惟有上帝是神，但是，许多尚未得救的人却不知道。因此，译者在翻译过程中，将这两个词语区别开来，以更精确地表达本书原文的意思。

Table of Contents

Introduction	x
ONE—More Than a Body	2
TWO—The Only Two Religions in the World	14
THREE—Knowing Where You’re Going	38
FOUR—Birth Defect	46
FIVE—God’s Only Accepted Method of Payment	62
SIX—Can I Get a Substitute?	80
SEVEN—God’s Only Miraculous Substitute	90
EIGHT—Paid in Full	102
NINE—The Greatest Gift	118
TEN—Believing on Christ	130
CONCLUSION—New Creature, New Life, New Future	150

目录

引言.....	xi
1 生命不止是血肉之躯	3
2 世界上只有两种宗教	15
3 知道你的永恒归宿	39
4 生之缺陷	47
5 上帝唯一接受的偿付方式	63
6 可有人会替代我赎罪？	81
7 上帝所差派的唯一代赎者	91
8 完成的清偿	103
9 上帝所赐的最好礼物	119
10 信靠耶稣	131
结语：新造的人、新生命、新征程.....	151

Introduction

If God was willing to sit down with you personally and allow you to air your questions, reason through your doubts, and pose any challenge—would you take Him up on His offer? Would you be willing to investigate His claims and understand His purposes? Would you be willing to believe Him?

Friend, He has given you just such an invitation. In Isaiah 1:18 the Bible says, “*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD...*” God isn’t intimidated by your questions, and He isn’t surprised by your doubts. In fact, quite the opposite is true. He is fully aware of every detail of your life, and still He invites you to approach Him personally and reason with Him through your life’s questions.

I hope you will do just that through the pages of this book. Find a quiet place, open your heart, and consider the message of the Bible—a message that is diluted and distorted

引言

如果上帝愿意与你坐在一起，让你提出问题，消除你的疑虑，并且提出激励，你愿意接受吗？你愿意用心来探究祂的话语、明白祂的旨意吗？你愿意来相信祂吗？朋友，上帝正向你提出如此的请求。

在以赛亚书1章18节，圣经如此说：“来，我们彼此辩论……”无论你提的是什么问题，上帝都不会退缩。你的任何疑虑、困惑都不会出乎祂的意料。事实上，祂充分了解你生活的每个细节，而祂依旧想邀请你与祂在一起，通过提出问题来辩理。笔者希望你能藉由阅读本书，来做到这一点。

请你找个安静的地方，敞开你的心扉，来默想圣经所传达的一个教义——这教义常被诸多宗教淡化或者扭曲，

by religious systems, but is simple and powerful to the human heart.

You see, there's a message in the Bible—one with incredible implications for your life, yet you won't find it in the pulpits of most churches or in the pages of most Christian books. It's a message understandable to a little child but missed by so many full-grown adults. It's a message that is verifiable by intelligent reason but only acceptable by simple faith. It could change your life forever. It's the most important message you will ever consider. It's literally life and death. Could you spare a few minutes to understand this message?

I don't know where this little book finds you or how it came to you, but I don't believe it's an accident. Perhaps you are searching for some answers about life. Perhaps you're cynical of organized religion but somewhat curious about the truth of God.

By now, you know there's more to this life than just time, and you know in your heart that you are more than just a body! There must be a purpose—a reason for it all. There must be hope. There must be more than just birth, life, death, and an endless evolutionary cycle randomly headed nowhere. You must be more valuable than that, and your future must mean more than that!

Deep within, you *know* these things because they are written in your heart—etched into your conscience—like a deeply woven thread, impossible to remove. These truths are a part of your spiritual genetics. You know you were

但对于人心来说，却是强而有力的。圣经所记载的这个教义对你的人生具有重大而深远的意义，今天却极少能在教会的讲台上听到或在基督教的书籍中读到；这个教义连小孩都能理解，而大人却常将它轻忽了。这个教义禁得起验证，却只能以单纯的信心来接受，而又能永远地改变你的人生。你必须对此慎加思考，因为这是关乎生死的问题。你可愿意花几分钟来明白圣经所讲的这个教义？

笔者不知道这本小册是怎样到了你的手上的，但我相信这不会是个偶然巧合。也许，你正在寻找人生的答案；或者，你对某些宗教不能认同，却又莫名地对上帝的真理抱有一丝兴趣。想必你已经意识到，人生不仅仅是时间的流淌；你在心中也应察觉到，你不仅仅是个有血肉的躯壳！这一切一定有其必然性和理由；其间一定存在着希望！生存一定不只是出世、生活、死亡，以及所谓的“无休止的进化，及无目的地循环”而已。你一定还有更重要的价值，而你的未来也一定不尽于此！

在你的内心深处，这些意识被烙印在良知之中——犹如千丝万缕的细线和丝带，无法割舍或去除。这些事实正是你灵魂基因的一部分；你知道自己是

created because your world shows intelligent design. You know your Creator must be good because He created so many good things. Yet, you live in a world with pain and problems, with questions and doubts. You live in a world where God has given you enough information to know He exists—but deep within, you long for more. You *know* there's more, and God promises to give you more if you will seek Him.

Are you willing for a moment to consider the thought that God truly does exist and He cares about you? Are you willing to see reliable evidence and consider what it might mean for your life?

What if your conclusions about life, death, and eternity are established on faulty information?

Suppose for a moment that there truly is a God. Suppose that He created you and loves you intensely. Imagine that He has a perfect, eternal purpose for you, but that you are now held hostage by a ruthless enemy, whom you cannot see, and who is bent on destroying you. Imagine that this loving God is on a rescue mission to save you, and this is all going on behind the scenes of your life—behind the visible wall of your day to day existence. Maybe you've never given it a moment's thought.

If you could know for sure where you would spend eternity—if you could forever put away every fear you've ever had—if this incredible, loving God were knocking at your door right now, offering to rescue you from it all,

被创造出来的，因为你所处的世界正无可辩驳地显示出智慧创造的种种迹象。你知道你的创造者必定是善良的，因为祂创造出了那么美好的事物。然而，你同时却发现自己正生活在一个充满了痛苦、问题、疑虑及困惑的世界之中。似乎，上帝在这个世界中已经给你足够的证明，让你知道他的存在，但你在内心深处渴望了解得更多。你知道你还得明白更多的事情，而上帝也向你应许，只要你寻求祂，祂就会向你显明得更多。那么，你是否愿意稍花一点时间来思考上帝确实是存在的，并且很在乎你的这个事实？你是否愿意察考可靠的证据，并且思考这些证据对你的人生到底有何意义？如果你发现，自己过去对人生、死亡以及永恒的概念是建基于错误的理解之上，你会作何感想呢？

请稍微思考片刻，看看是否真的有上帝，而祂将你创造出来，并且热切地爱你。请想象一下，祂对你有一个完美和永恒的计划，而你却身陷圈套中，被一个肉眼看不见而全力摧残你的敌人所捆绑；与此同时，这位慈爱的上帝正在极力地挽救你，而这一切事情都无形地发生在你日常生活的背后，也许你从来就没有想到过。

如果，你能知道自己将来会在哪里度过永恒——而且能放下以前所有的恐惧的话；又如果，这位不可思议又充满慈爱的上帝正在叩你的心门，要将你從這一切里拯救出來，

would you let Him in? Would you even give Him a chance? Wouldn't you want to know this God?

If being loved by God matters to you, then all I ask is that you give Him a chance to connect with your heart through the pages of this book.

Keep reading—I think you're going to like this story!

你是否会开门让他进来？你会给他一个机会吗？
你会不想认识这位上帝吗？

如果你在乎上帝是否爱你，那么笔者就在此请求你给他一个机会，在阅读本书的过程中，让他触摸你的心灵。请继续读下去！我想，你一定会因所读到的而喜悦的！

More Than a Body

He sat across the table from me openly admitting that for the first time in his fifty years of life he was searching. “In the last three years, I’ve gone from being an atheist to being a believer. I’ve come to the conclusion, with all the good and bad in my life, that there’s no reason I should have had it this good. I’m starting to believe in God.”

He was the manager of a restaurant I like to visit, and one day I felt impressed in my heart to introduce him to the message you hold in your hand. This was our third conversation together, and for the first time in his life he was seeing that there must be more to life than just the passing of time and a meaningless string of circumstances and events. He admitted to having questions and hoped that there was more to life that he didn’t yet understand.

生命不止是血肉之躯

他就坐在我对面；已经50岁的他，第一次承认自己正在寻求上帝。“最近这三年，我从一个无神论者变成基督徒。我已体尝了人生的好坏、得失，能挨到这份上，已经是够好了的。我开始相信上帝。”

他经营一家餐馆，我常喜欢到那光顾。有一天，我心有感动，便向他介绍起你现在所读到的内容。那是我跟他的第三次谈话。言谈间，他开始看，人的生命不仅仅是时间的流逝或毫无意义的日常琐事；人生应该比这更多。他承认自己有困惑的地方，希望生命不会只是这些，而他也希望能够了解更多。

As our conversation ended, I politely asked him if I could continue addressing his questions and pursuing these topics with him. His answer? “Absolutely, so long as you don’t mind me asking them!”

From there I promised to give him plenty of “food for thought,” and I promised to support those thoughts with Bible references so that he could verify them himself.

In the same spirit, I would ask you to consider this first important truth as we take this journey together.

Friend, you are more than a body!

Contrary to the message of pop culture, deep in your heart you know that there is more to you than just flesh, blood, and randomly evolved biological substances. You must understand that there is much more to you than what you shave, shower, and dress every morning!

Jesus said this, “*The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment*” (Luke 12:23). Again God said in His Word, “*I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thessalonians 5:23B). In James 2:26 God says, “... *the body without the spirit is dead...*” In 2 Corinthians 4:16, God distinguishes between the “outer man”—our body—and the “inward man”—our soul and spirit, “... *though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*”

More than a body—why is this so important?

他说完后，我很有礼貌地问他，是否可以就他所提出的问题进行解释，并且继续所谈的话题。他是怎么回答的呢？他说：“完全可以，只要你不因为我问问题而感到烦就行！”

于是我跟他说，有很多事情值得思索，而他可以从圣经的角度来看待这些问题，并验证其真实性。

照着同样的思路，在你读下去的时候，笔者想请你思考以下这一重要的事实：

朋友，你的生命不仅是血肉之躯！事实恰好与主流文化所宣扬的物质论调相反，在你的内心深处，你知道自己绝非只是血肉之躯和一堆毫无目的进化而来的“生理组合”。你必须明白，活着，不仅仅是每天起来刮胡子、冲凉和穿衣服之类的日常琐事！

主耶稣是这么说的：“生之需求不止于食物，身之需求不止于衣服。”（路加福音12：23另译）使徒保罗说：“愿赐平安的神亲自使你们全然成圣！又愿你们的灵与魂与身子得蒙保守，在我主耶稣基督降临的时候，完全无可指摘！”（帖撒罗尼迦前书5：23）雅各书2章26节说：“身体没有灵魂是死的。”在哥林多后书4：16，上帝将人的外表和内心用“外体”（我们的身体）与“内心”（灵魂）分别开来，说：“所以，我们不丧胆。外体虽然毁坏，内心却一天新似一天。”

“不只是个躯壳！”——为什么懂得这一点很重要呢？

Well, first of all, this means you have more than just death to anticipate! Think about it. If you're nothing but a body, then all you really have to look forward to is death. How could anybody really be happy if that's all the future holds? If that is to be the ultimate final destination of your life, why would anything else matter?

Secondly, it means you have value. If you are more than a freak biological accident, then you are created. If you are created then you have value to your Creator. He made you for a reason—a purpose. You have significance and meaning—and life is more than random events strung together by fate.

Thirdly, it means you have hope. There's more than just physical life and death. There's hope that you can get past your present difficulties and someday enter into something far better.

Ever heard that little phrase “Life's hard, then you die”? Well, that's a pretty hopeless outlook on life, and it's definitely not what the Bible clearly teaches. Yes, life is sometimes very hard and very unpredictable. Yes, everyone eventually dies. But in God's message to you, there's more to it! There's more to life than what you can see and more to your story than just time itself.

You want proof? Okay. Conscience.

You have a conscience.

Here's what I mean. How can biological matter spontaneously develop conscience? That's like saying I can hurt my refrigerator's feelings! Conscience is a

首先，这意味着人生的尽头不仅仅是死亡！好好想想，如果你的生命，除了肉体之外，什么都不是，那么，你唯一所要担心的就是死亡而已了。如果对每个人来说，未来不过如此，有什么值得高兴的呢？如果这不过是你人生的终点站，那么，人生在世还需要顾忌那么多吗？

其次，这意味着你是有价值的。如果你的生命不是所谓的“奇异的生理巧合”，那么，你其实就是被创造出来的。而你既然是被创造出来的，对于造物主来说，你就是有价值的。祂之造你是有原因的、有意义的。你的生命是有价值的，而不是命运盲目拼凑的产物。

第三，这意味着你是有盼望的。生命不仅是肉体的生与死。这盼望使你能穿越今时的困难，而最终能走进一个更美之境地。你是否听过人们老是挂在嘴上的“人生苦短”这句话呢？这其实是对人生极其消极的看法，圣经是不会这么教导的。人生有时诚然显得艰难和无常；也的确，人生自古谁无死？但上帝要让你知道的，却远远胜过这些！生命不仅仅是你的肉眼所能看见的，连时间也不足以涵盖你生命的全部。

你也许会觉得，这么说有什么证据呢？我还是从人的良知说起吧。你是有良知的。我的意思是说，如果人的生命是偶然自发地进化而来，那么生理机制如何能产生良知呢？这就如同说“我会伤了电冰箱的感情”一样地荒谬无稽！良知乃是

soul thing—a spiritual thing—and meat doesn't generate spiritual events. Meat is just meat—it doesn't feel good or bad—it just sits there and rots once life has departed. I'm not trying to be crude, just clear.

Friend, your conscience proves your soul's existence. Conscience is your internal knowledge of right and wrong. Conscience is your God-given knowledge of your Creator and His moral standard in all of creation.

The fact that human beings all over planet Earth intuitively worship something is proof that God has written this in our hearts. It's a part of our spiritual genetics. No matter where you go you will find every man worshipping someone or something. Even the atheist who denies God's existence chooses to worship self—and self becomes god.

In Romans chapter one, God brings an indictment against men who deny what He has clearly written on their hearts and revealed in them.

He says in Romans 1:20, *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”* In verse nineteen of that same chapter God says that He has revealed Himself inside of every human being, and in verse twenty-one He explains that when we willfully choose to deny this inner knowledge, our hearts become darkened.

Once again, in Romans 2:15 He says that His law is written in our hearts: *“Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness....”*

属于灵魂的范畴，而肉体是不能产生灵魂的。肉体不过是肉体而已，它不能分辨好坏；一旦生命离逝，它便朽坏腐烂了。这么说不是露骨，只是想把事情表达得清楚罢了。

朋友，你的良知本身就证明了你灵魂的存在。良知就是内在对好坏、是非的判断能力。良知包含着造物主所赋予的道德律法，以及祂赐给受造物的标准。世上所有的人都本能地崇拜着什么，这事实也证明了人是有良知的。这是我们的灵魂基因所决定的。无论在哪里，你都会看到人们在崇拜着某人或者某物，就连否认上帝存在的无神论者也选择了崇拜自我，因为他们的自我成了他们的神。

在罗马书第一章中，上帝谴责那些在内心中明明知道祂的律法、却顽固地加以否定的人。罗马书1：20说：“自从造天地以来，上帝的永能和神性是明明可知的，虽是眼不能见，但藉着所造之物就可晓得，叫人无可推诿（没有借口不承认）。”同一章的19节说，上帝已经将自己显现于每个人的内心深处，而21节则说，人们执意地否认这个良知，于是，内心就变得昏暗了。

罗马书2：15说，上帝的律法已经写在人的心中：“这是显出律法的功用刻在他们心里，他们是非之心（良知）同作见证。”

So, what does all this mean? God says it quite simply in Romans 1:20. We are “*without excuse.*”

To deny the existence of a Creator or His interest in our lives is to literally ignore our conscience and the truth that God has written in our hearts.

This all points to one primary conclusion. Our relationship to God must be intentionally designed to function by faith rather than sight. God says it this way, “*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear*” (Hebrews 11:3).

Things which were made (that’s you and me) were not made of things which do appear (that’s the world around us). In other words, who you are, where you came from, and where you are going has more to do with what you cannot see than with what you can see.

You cannot see the wind, but you know it exists. You cannot see air, but you depend upon it for life. You cannot see hope, joy, or peace—but you desperately long for these in your heart. You cannot see God, but you know He exists and your heart longs to be loved and accepted fully by Him.

More than a body? You bet! Your body is just a temporary dwelling place for the real you! God even calls it a “tabernacle” or a tent (2 Corinthians 5:1)! Just as you take off one set of clothes each night and put on another set the next morning, one day you will vacate your body. We call this death, which literally means “separation.” Your soul

这一切都意味着什么呢？上帝在罗马书1：20中已经说得很清楚了，我们“无可推诿”。不认造物主的存在、否定祂对人类的关心，其实就是漠视自己的良知，以及上帝在人心中所写的律法。这一切都指向了一个结论：上帝的用心，就是要以信心来维持我们与他的关系，而不是凭着肉眼所见的。圣经是这么说的：“我们因着信，就知道诸世界是借上帝话造成的。这样，所看见的，并不是从显然之物造出来的。”（希伯来书11：3）

请注意，“所看见的”（就是你我）并不是从显然之物（周围的物质世界）造出来的。换句话说，与你的存在、起源及未来的归宿有关联的，不是物质性的事物，而是肉眼不能看见的事物。

你看不见风，却知道它的存在。你看不见空气，却依赖它生存。你看不见上帝，却晓得祂的确是存在的，并且从心里就渴望得到祂的爱和悦纳。

你问：“生命不仅是血肉之躯吗？”的确如此！你的躯体不过是你真正自我的暂时居所！上帝甚至将它称为帐棚（哥林多后书5：1）！正如你每天晚上脱下衣服，第二天早上又穿上一套新的，有一天你将会脱离这个躯体；我们称之为“死亡”，而其实意为“隔绝”；你的灵魂

will vacate its tent. In that moment, your body will cease to breathe and move and function, but the real you—the inner man—will very much continue to live!

Yes, you are much more than a body! Take care of yours while you have it, but don't focus so much on the physical that you miss "what you cannot see with your eyes"! You are soul. You have a conscience. You are created and you matter. You have value. You have an eternal purpose. You have a Creator who longs for you to read the clues—to see with your heart what you cannot see with your eyes. He has given you plenty of information to put two and two together, and He is waiting for you to come to Him personally.

As we close this chapter, I have a short assignment for you. In Ephesians 1:18, there is a prayer that states the following: "*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling...*" In other words, you have a second set of eyes—the eyes of your understanding, and they may or may not be functioning correctly.

Would you pray this simple prayer from a sincere heart to God before you continue reading?

"God, I understand and accept that I am more than a body and that perhaps there is much about the spiritual life that I do not see or understand. As I read about these things, would you open the eyes of my understanding, and help me see what I am missing? I sincerely want to know the truth. Amen."

到时就会脱离它所居的帐棚。那时，你的躯体就会停止呼吸、活动和运行，但是你真正的自我，就是那“内心”（在原文中作“里面的人”）还将继续存在！

是的，你不仅是血肉之躯！当你还拥有它的时候，要好好的保养，但请不要因过于注重物质上的需要，而错过了“肉眼所不能见的”！你真正的自我就是你的灵魂；你是有良知的，你受造而活在世上是有价值的，并且有永恒的意义。你有一位造物主；祂渴望你能观察大自然的蛛丝马迹，用心灵来察看肉眼所不能见的，而下一个理智的判断。祂等待你亲自来到祂的面前。

在本章告一段落前，我想请你做一件小事情。以弗所书1：18是一段祷告文：“照明你们心中的眼睛，使你们知道祂的恩召有何等指望……”也就是说，你有着另一双眼睛，就是心灵的双眼，你也许用得正确，也许用得不正确。在祂继续阅读本书之前，你愿意用诚挚的心向上帝做这个简单的祈祷吗：

“上帝啊，我明白了，也接受了这个事实，就是我不仅是血肉之躯。也许还有许多关于灵魂、生命的事情，我还没有看见或明白。您是否能开启我心灵的眼睛，使我看见自己以前从未看见的事物？我诚挚地希望能了解真理。阿们。”

The Only Two Religions in the World

How many religions are there in the world? Hundreds? Perhaps thousands? Just trying to comprehend all the various belief systems and religious structures in America alone can be mind boggling. Most people have their fair share of confusion and frustration trying to figure out which religion believes what and in what ways they are different.

In fact, it seems that the latest craze is to just toss them all into the same category and say, “They’re all the same. We’re all going to the same place—just as long as we believe”! While that’s convenient, it doesn’t really make sense. What these religions believe from one to the next varies widely. In fact, some are diametrically opposed in belief. It sounds nice to conclude that “all roads lead to the same place” but that theory doesn’t hold water, and it isn’t supported by the Bible.

世界上只有两种宗教

世界上到底有多少种宗教？成百？还是上千？单是要了解美国的宗教信仰，就够使人头疼了。而论到要了解哪种宗教相信什么教义，以及它们之间有何区别时，许多人也同样会感到踌躇和茫然。

其实，现在有一种思潮，就是将它们都统统归于一类，说：“宗教都是一样的。我们可以殊途同归，只要诚心就行！”这样的归类固然很方便，却不合理。这些宗教的信仰可谓是千差万别。事实上，“殊途同归”的理论虽然好听，却是站不住脚的，圣经绝不如此教导。

So how do you sift through all the religious “fluff” and cut to the heart of the matter? How can you know truth from error—fact from fiction? How can you discern between God’s true design and man’s cheap substitute? The answer to these questions are more simple than you could ever imagine.

Back to my original question. How many religions are there in the world?

Would you believe two?

The truth is, you can categorize every single religion of the world into one of two basic categories. You can strip away all externals—from minor differences to major theological divides—and cut right to the heart of the matter rather easily.

Think of it this way. Most religions agree on what we discussed in chapter one. Most people acknowledge a creator and a spiritual world. It’s defining that creator and understanding that spiritual world that starts to reveal the differences.

More importantly, it’s how to *know* the Creator and how to enter into a peaceful “afterlife” that really separates the groups. In other words—how do we reach God, and how do we get to Heaven? In some form or fashion, most religions of the world are attempting to answer these two basic questions.

So, how can we take so many complicated systems of belief and simplify them down to two basic belief systems?

那么，我们该如何透过错综复杂的表象，来直接检视事情的本质呢？我们该怎样判断对错与虚实呢？我们如何来分辨上帝的真理和人为的虚假宗教呢？要回答这些问题，其实要比我们所想象的简单多了。话说回来，世界上到底有多少种宗教呢？你相信只有两种吗？

事实上，你可以把世界上任何一种宗教归类到两大基本范畴；只要拨去复杂的表象——从微小的区别到主要的神学纷争，就可以轻而易举地直接进入它们的本质中。

我们不妨这么看待问题。大部分的宗教都一致赞同我们在第一章讨论的问题，大多肯定有一位造物主和灵魂世界的存在，而其中的区别则在于如何定义造物主和灵魂世界；更重要的是关于如何才能认识造物主以及对灵魂归宿的教导，才是各个宗教的区别所在。这就是说，关键所在是看待“人该怎样才能到上帝那里去，以及如何才能上天堂？”这问题。大多数的宗教都在不同程度上试图解答这些问题。

那么，我们该怎样才能将复杂的宗教系统简化而归类到这两大基本范畴呢？

Two words: DO or DONE. Remember those words, because by the end of this book, they will be very important!

First let's look at the DO religions. These religions are, in truth, *systems* of religions. Their central message is “what you must DO to gain the approval of God and to earn entrance into Heaven.” The general agreement among these religions is that man is somehow separated from God and must DO something to be restored to Him. In these systems God is like an upset substitute teacher—and He's really angry that people are misbehaving. He's somewhere up in Heaven, upset with the whole human race for doing things that displease Him, and He's expecting everyone to make up for their wrongs by DOING good things. He's sitting on His throne, arms folded, expecting humanity to compensate or atone for their failures by doing good deeds or religious things for him.

Now, the *definition* of “what God wants us to DO” varies widely, and thus we have so many differing systems of belief, but the core—the essence is still the same. The message is simply this, “DO.” Do the right stuff, don't do the wrong stuff, and somehow God will grant you acceptance into Heaven.

It's like having the same macaroni and cheese cooked fifty-two different ways. The substance and central message of each of these religions are identical— “God is upset at you, so you'd better start doing good things to make Him happy!”

我们只要针对两个词就可以了，那就是“去做”（强调人的工作）和“成了”（强调上帝已经成就的作为）。请牢记这两个词，因为随着本书的陈述，它们会变得越来越重要！

先来看“去做”类型的宗教。这些宗教都有各自的一套教规系统。它们的中心主题就是“你必须做些什么才能讨神的欢心，才能上天堂去。”这些宗教的共同之处，就是教导“人已经与神隔绝了，所以必须通过做些什么事情才能重新回归神面前。”在这些信仰系统的教导中，神俨然是个“不开心的代课老师”，对大家调皮捣蛋的行为感到愤怒和不满；他高高在上，俯视全人类，不喜悦他们的作为，所以要求人们做些事情来补偿自己的罪过。他在宝座上，一副神圣不可侵犯的模样，要人类借着行善来弥补自己的罪孽、苦修忏悔或履行某些宗教义务来抵消自己的过失。

当然，“神要人做些什么”的定义就各不相同，因此就产生了诸多不同的宗教系统。但是，事情的中心——也就是本质，是不变的。其中所表达的思想，简单来说，就是“去做”（强调人必须做什么），就是“要做好事，而不要做坏事，那么神就准许你上天堂。”

这里面的错综复杂，就好比意大利通心面和奶酪可以有52种做法般。但这些宗教的本质和中心思想却是一致的：“神发怒了，你最好做点好事让他开心！”

In this DO category, every religion has a different list of “DOs” and “DON’Ts.” For some, the list is extremely long and tedious—confess your sins, get baptized, give money, get confirmed, shave your head, sell flowers at the airport, sell literature door to door. The list is as endless as the imaginations of men. And with every passing decade new religions are popping up with new lists.

For other systems it’s more basic and general—be good, be nice, generally try to outweigh your bad works by your good works.

For some systems, the list is extreme and even bizarre—instituting rituals of self-mutilation, child sacrifice, suicide, murder, and painful forms of bondage or penance.

Either way, the basic intent and the central message is the same—you must work your way to God. You must perform God’s list, DO God’s demands, appease God’s anger, and earn God’s forgiveness. These systems are the ultimate form of religious bondage for millions of people all over the planet. They are held hostage to fear and are bound to intricate systems of religious behavior that they are convinced will restore them to God and give them eternal life.

The DO religions vary widely in style and structure—they come in many different flavors—but they all add up to performance-based acceptance. God is the taskmaster and we humans are the slave labor. In order for God to

在“去做”的范畴中，每种宗教都列出许多“当做”和“不当做”的规条。有些宗教的规条就特别冗长，比如：要忏悔、接受洗礼、捐献钱财、接受坚信礼¹、剃发、在机场卖花、挨家挨户派售传单或书籍等。若要全部列举出来的话，很难想象会有多长。

每隔约十年，就会有新的宗教诞生，带着一长串的规条。有些宗教所宣扬的不外乎简单和基本的原则，如积德、做好人，用更多的善事来抵消自己的过失。有些宗教的要求则很极端和怪异，甚至有自割、屠婴、自杀、杀人、苦行或者苦修等行为。无论如何，它们基本的用意和思想是一致的，就是你必须通过自己的努力来达到“羽化而登仙”的境界；你必须恪守神的规条，遵照神的命令，平息神的怒气，好争取他的宽恕。这些宗教正是世界上千千万万人们心灵枷锁的根源。他们将人桎梏在动辄得咎和繁复庞杂的宗教行为系统中，使人相信他们可以藉此得到神的宽恕，而永登极乐。“去做”类型的宗教纵然在形式和结构上各异，带有各自不同的格调，却都不谋而合地宣扬“以人自身的作为来求得神的悦纳”的理念。在这些宗教的氛围中，神有如一个督工，而我们人类则是受奴役的劳动者；若想让神来

love and accept us, we'd better DO things that make Him happy.

The saddest thing about these systems is that they offer only despair and bondage. They leave the human heart feeling ultimately rejected by God and forever wondering if "I've done enough." They characterize God as more of a slave driver than a heavenly Father, and they leave your heart feeling *anything but* "close to God."

These systems fill the heart with nagging doubts. What if I missed something? What if I haven't lived up to God's demands? What if I'm doing the wrong list? What if my list is missing some critical element? Have I been good enough? How good is good enough? What if I haven't been good enough?

These systems are great for building wealthy, powerful religions because they enslave people, but they do nothing to relieve the inner fears and yearnings of our hearts. They do nothing to heal the conscience and truly bring us into God's favor. They do nothing to introduce us personally to the loving heavenly Father of whom the Bible speaks.

You see, the question we must ask when looking at these systems is "What has God said?" When it comes to being restored to God and gaining life with Him, what are His instructions?

Very few people realize this, but to accept *any* of the DO religions, you must basically throw away the central teaching of the Bible! Look at these Scriptures for yourself and consider what God is saying to you...

关爱和接纳我们，我们就得做点什么来讨他欢心。这些宗教系统的悲哀之处就在于，它们所散布的是绝望和束缚的思想，让人们觉得自己最终还是遭到神的弃绝，而常常惶惶不可终日地想着“我做得够吗”？他们将神刻画为一个奴隶的统治者，而非一位天父，是无法亲近的。这些宗教使人的心灵始终难以获得平安：“万一我漏做了什么，该怎么办？”“要是我达不到神的要求，我如何是好？”“假使我遵守的教规不符合神的要求，还有救吗？”“如果我错过了哪个重要环节，该做些什么？”“我行积德善够了吗？”“要多善才算是善？”“我要是不够善、不够好，怎么办？”

这些宗教普遍都“生财有道”，因为它们擅于掌控人的心灵，不会真正做什么来使人从内心的恐惧和饥渴中解脱出来；它们也没有任何作为来“医治”人的良知，让人真正得到神的接纳；他们无法把人引向圣经所说的慈爱的天父。

当我们面对这些宗教的时候，应该要问，关于如何获得上帝的接纳和得到永生，以及祂的旨意是什么，“上帝到底是怎么说的？”很少有人会想到这个问题。其实，那些“去做”类型的宗教与圣经所教导的是背道而驰的！请你读一读圣经所说的，来思考上帝到底是如何教导你的……

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...” (Titus 3:5). In other words, you cannot gain God’s favor by doing good works.

Again, God says, *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight...”* (Romans 3:20). He’s saying, “you cannot justify yourself in God’s sight by doing good deeds.”

Here’s another one, *“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness”* (Romans 4:5). In that verse God literally says that you cannot do good works to gain God’s favor.

How much more clearly can God say it than this, *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law...”* (Galatians 2:16).

God goes on to say that His favor cannot be earned. He says in Ephesians 2:8–9 that salvation is *“not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works...”* Think about that! “Not of works.”

What does that mean?

Quite simply—there’s not a DO list on the planet—there’s not a religious system ever invented that will gain you one little bit of favor from God or bring you any closer to His presence.

Now I know what you’re thinking. “How can this be? Surely I can please God by doing good!” Hang in there. A good life has its place, but remember we’re talking about coming to God and relating to Him. We’re talking about

“祂便救了我们；并不是因我们自己所行的义，乃是照祂的怜悯…”（提多书3：5）也就是说，我们不能靠自己的善行来讨上帝的喜悦。

“凡有血气的（泛指“人”），没有一个因行律法能在神面前称义（被接纳），因为律法本是叫人知罪。”（罗马书3：20）意思就是说，“你在上帝面前，是不能自我开脱的。”

这里又有一句：“惟有不工作的，只信称罪人为义的神，他的信就算为义。”（罗马书4：5）在这节经文中，上帝的意思是说，你是不能用善行来获得祂的接纳的。

上帝所说的，还有什么要比以下这句更明确的呢：“既知道人称义，不是因行律法……”（加拉太书2：16）

上帝接着在以弗所书2章8—9节中说，祂对你的悦纳，不是你靠着做什么能争取得到的：“并不是出于自己，乃是上帝所赐的；也不是出于行为……”

请你好好想想，“不是出于行为”！这到底是什么意思呢？

事情很简单，世界上没有任何“人必须做什么”的规条、也没有什么人为发明出来的宗教，能让你得到上帝的悦纳，或者甚至使你接近祂。

你也许会想：“这怎么可能呢？我理当可以借着行善来讨上帝的喜欢！”别急，请你继续读下去。活得有道德固然有其意义，但我们在这里谈的是如何来到上帝的面前，以及如何

being restored to Him. We're not talking about all the fringe benefits of being honest, living a good life, and giving to charity. We're asking this question—Does “doing these things” gain me any “brownie points” with God? If I do them, does He approve of me, accept me, forgive me, or love me more?

Most religions say, “Yes...so long as you are doing *our* list.”

In God's own words to you, He says no. It is “*not by works of righteousness which we have done...*” (Titus 3:5). Over and over again in the Bible God says, “You cannot earn your way to me. You cannot DO anything to gain my favor or to earn my acceptance.” Perhaps one of the most hard-hitting ways He phrases it is in Isaiah 64:6, “*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*”

In that verse, God is saying, “There is something so massively dividing us, that even your *best* behavior is pointless.” Good behavior is useless against the problem that divides us from God. We'll talk more about this later, but for now you must understand that God never tells us that performance gains His salvation.

The conclusion of the matter is this. “DO” doesn't cut it. Nowhere in the Bible is there even one verse that teaches that God accepts me more and forgives my sin when I DO the right things. Doing good works doesn't gain favor with God.

与祂和好，而不是说一些“诚实”、“讲道德”、“施舍救济”等行为所会带来的好处。我们所探讨的是，那些“要做这、不做那”的宗教规条能否使我们得到上帝的悦纳，以及“如果我们都做了，上帝会不会恩待我，并且爱我更多”的问题。

大部分的宗教对此的答案都是“是的，只要你遵守我们的教规。”但上帝亲自对你说的，却是相反的，乃是“并不是因我们自己所行的义”（提多书3：5）上帝在圣经中反复地告诉我们，“你无法用行为争取到我这里来、讨我的欢心，或者赚得我的悦纳。”也许，上帝在圣经中说的“最伤人情面”的就是下面这句话了：

“我们都像不洁净的人，所有的义都像污秽的衣服；我们都像叶子渐渐枯干。我们的罪孽好像风把我们吹去。” 以赛亚书64：6节

在这节经文中，上帝对我们说：“你我之间有一条无法跨越的巨大鸿沟，就算你表现得再好，也是徒劳无功的。”行善在消除人与上帝之间的距离上，是不起任何作用的。关于这一点，我们以后还会谈到，而现在得明白的是，上帝从来没有要我们做些什么来换取祂的救恩。总结起来，就是说“去做”的宗教教条是不能解决问题的。圣经没有哪个地方在宣扬“人只要行善，上帝就接纳他多一点，并且宽恕他的罪”的观念，因为行善是根本得不到上帝的欢心的，

Why? Well, God isn't as concerned with how I *behave* as He is with who I *am*. He isn't as concerned about *ruling* me as He is with *relating* to me. He's not impressed with a cold religion. He wants a close relationship. I don't DO relationships. I DO my chores.

We'll get back to this thought in another chapter, but first let's look at that other word—DONE.

DONE. Finished. Complete. Full. Ended. Ready. Accomplished. Fulfilled. Perfected. What a great word!

Though most religions of the world fit into the DO category, there is still the DONE category!

The true message of the Bible is DONE. In other words, everything necessary to restore you to God and bring you into eternal life with Him has already been DONE.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, He said these words, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30). The phrase literally means "paid in full." DONE.

Those were some of the last words He spoke before He died. In that moment something amazing happened in Jerusalem. In the temple—a building symbolic of God's presence—there was a veil separating the most sacred representation of God's presence from the outer visible areas. In the moment that Jesus died, the veil was miraculously torn in half from top to bottom—thrown open for all.

理由是上帝看的并不是我做了什么，而是我的本性如何。祂所关心的不是控制我，而是祂与我的关系如何。祂要的不是一个冰冷的宗教，而是一种与人亲密的关系。与上帝的关系并不是靠履行某种宗教义务来维持的；而若要履行某种义务，其间就没有亲密关系的存在了。

这一点，我稍后还会再提到。现在我们来看另外一个词“成了”（强调上帝已经成就的作为）。“成了”的意思是完成了、完全的、结束了。这是一个何等令人振奋的语词啊！

虽然大多数的宗教都属于“去做”（强调人的作为）的范畴，但真宗教乃是属于“成了”（强调上帝已经成就的作为）的范畴！圣经的主旨就是“成了”。这就是说，那使人得以重新归回上帝、使人得到永生的事情早已成就了。

当耶稣被钉在十字架上时，祂说：“成了！”（约翰福音19：30）祂的意思是“（代价）已经完全付清了。”事成了。祂死前说了一些话，这是其中的一句。就在那个时候，耶路撒冷城中发生了奇妙的事情。在象征着上帝同在的圣殿中，有一条幔子将象征上帝居所的至圣所和外围相隔开。当耶稣死的时刻，那幔子奇迹般地从上到下裂开了。

Suddenly it was as if whatever separated God from man was now completely removed, and God was inviting all humankind to come directly to Him! It was God saying to the whole human race “DONE!”

DONE says “there’s nothing more to DO.” The price is paid. The debt is forgiven. The atonement is complete. If you try to earn it, work for it, or DO something to get it, you’re wasting your time. It’s already DONE. Or in the words of Jesus on the cross, “*It is finished.*”

Think of it this way. Imagine that you’ve prepared a wonderful Christmas morning for your family. You’ve saved, shopped, wrapped, decorated and made all the preparations. On Christmas morning, imagine that your kids come running downstairs eager to celebrate Christmas, but rather than sitting down to open gifts, they begin feverishly doing things for you. They start cleaning the garage, washing the cars, doing the dishes, polishing your shoes, and whatever else they can find to do. Other than having a heart attack, you would probably be disappointed! You would stop them and ask, “What are you kids doing? This isn’t the time for good works, this is the time for gift giving!”

Suppose their response goes something like this, “Dad and Mom, we’ve realized that we don’t deserve your gifts to us and so we’ve decided to earn them. We’ve decided to serve you and do things so that we can deserve your kindness.”

霎时间，在上帝与人之间的阻隔被完全除去了；上帝在呼召人类直接来到祂的面前！

所以上帝对所有人说：“事已经成了！”既然“事成了”，人也就没有什么可做的了。赎价已付，罪责已赦，救赎已成。你如果还想采取什么行动来争取、付什么代价来赚取，只是在浪费时间而已。事已成就了，这是耶稣在十字架上说的。

你可以这么看待这事。假设你为家人精心筹划了圣诞节清晨的节目。你省吃俭用、上街采购、精心包装礼物，做好了一切的准备。而在圣诞节的一大早，你的孩子一窝蜂地跑下楼来，却不是迫不及待地拆开礼物，而是拼命地为你做家务；他们开始扫地、洗车、洗碗、擦鞋，能做什么就做什么，想要换取你的礼物。看到此情此景，你要不得心脏病，也会落得十分失望！于是你会要求他们停下来，问：“孩子们，你们在做什么？这不是干活的时候，而是送礼的时间！”

假设，他们的回答是：“爸！妈！我们知道，让你们花钱买礼物，我们实在不配，所以我们决定要做些什么来赚取这些东西！我们还是要服侍你们，来换取你们的恩惠。”

What would you do? You would probably explain that this is unnecessary! You would tell your kids how much trouble you've gone to in saving, shopping, and purchasing gifts. You don't want their service (at least not yet) so much as you just want to enjoy Christmas morning and present them with their gifts—your free expressions of love.

This is the message of God to the human race. "So long as you are busying yourself with DOING, you're missing what I've already DONE." The gift is purchased, the table is set, there's no need to DO anything more! All the preparations have been made. "*Come now, let us reason together...*" His invitation to you is not to DO for Him, but rather to come to Him.

So with all the religions in the world, are there really only two? That's the bottom line. Just two.

DO or DONE.

Here's another way to say it: religion or relationship. Does God institute *systems* that lead to Him, or does He desire something more personal—*relational*? Maybe the fact that He tells us to call Him Dad or Father should shed a little light on the situation. He wants a relationship with you. And close relationships are not a product of DOING, but rather a product of BEING or BELONGING.

Since you are more than a body, and you have a Creator, what is the way to know that Creator? What are His answers to those two questions—how do I come to

请问，你会怎么办？你也许会向他们解释，这是完全没有必要的；你也会告诉他们，你是多么煞费苦心地攒钱，来为他们购买这些礼物；你不要让他们提供什么服务（起码不是现在），而只要他们好好享受圣诞节的早晨，还有你送给他们的礼物，因为这表达你对他们的无条件的爱。

这也就是上帝向我们人类所传达的。祂好像在说，“你们为什么还在那里忙这忙那的，错过了我已经为你们成全的事。”礼物已经买了，筵席也摆好了，你们无须再做什么了！一切都已准备就绪。这情形，就像上帝在对你说：“来，我们彼此辩论…”。上帝邀请你来，不是要你为他做什么，而只是简单地来到他身边。

所以，世界上无论有多少宗教，归根究底只有两种：就是强调“去做”的和强调“成了”的。

我们也可以换种方式来形容：宗教和（上帝与人的）关系之区别。上帝当初是设立了某种宗教系统让人匍匐来到祂脚下，还是殷切期望人与祂有亲密的关系呢？祂让我们称呼祂为天父，我们也许可以从中看出道理；祂所想要的，是与你的关系；而一个亲密的关系不是以“做什么”为代价的，而纯粹是一种相依相属的关系。

你既然不仅仅是血肉之躯，而是由一位造物主所创造的，那么，你该怎样去认识那位造物主呢？祂对“我怎样才能来到

God and how do I get into Heaven? His answers in the Bible are clear.

You can't earn your way into Heaven. You can't DO anything to get there. You can't perform your way into God's presence. He wants more than an "employee/ employer relationship." He wants more than cold religion. He wants a close relationship.

Most importantly everything required to close the gap between you and God has already been DONE. There's nothing more you can DO to earn His favor or gain His salvation.

So, indeed there are just two religions in the world. DO and DONE. Are you stuck on DO? Are you trapped in a system of performance thinking you're headed in the right direction? Are you trying to earn your way to God?

I often ask people this question, "If you died today, would you go to Heaven?" Interestingly, most people say, "Yes, I think I would." When I ask "Why?" they answer something like this, "Because I'm trying to be a good person, and I've tried to do good things."

You know what they are saying? I'm DOING. Friend, are you stuck on DOING? If so, you're missing the central message of the Bible. If you're trusting a performance-based system of religion, you're missing God's true way of coming to Him.

What would you say to that question? What are you trusting? DO or DONE? Do you have a religion or do you have a relationship?

上帝的面前？”和“我如何才能上天堂？”这两个问题的答案是什么呢？我们可以在圣经里找到明确的答案。

你是不可能赚到天堂的；你无法付出任何代价来上天堂，或做任何事情来进到上帝的跟前。祂所要的不是“雇佣的关系”，也不是一个冰冷的宗教，而是一种亲密的关系。更重要的是，你与上帝之间的鸿沟已经被填补了，而你是无法靠着做什么来赚得祂的欢心或救恩的。

因此，世界上的确只有两种宗教，就是强调“人要做什么”的，和教导“上帝已经成就了”的。你是否正身陷前者，认为凭着自身的努力可以赚到上帝的恩泽，并且自己正朝着一个正确的方向走去呢？

笔者常问人们这个问题：“如果你今天离开这个世界，你会上天堂吗？”有意思的是多数人说：“会的，我认为自己会的。”但当我再问：“为什么？”他们就会回答诸如此类的话：“因为我一直努力做个好人，行善积德。”你知道他们真正的意思是什么吗？他们说的是“我正在努力”。

朋友，你是不是也陷在这种教义中呢？如果是的话，你就没有抓住圣经所传达的中心思想，而在相信一个宣扬“以人自身的作为来求得神的悦纳”的宗教，以致错失了来到上帝面前的真正道路。

你该怎么回答这个问题？要“去做”还是要“成了”？你有的是宗教呢，还是与上帝的关系？

Hey, thanks for hanging with me for this long. We're twenty-two pages in, and we have about eighty more to go. By now you know that you're more than a body, and that God's guidelines for knowing Him do not involve DOING.

Let's press on. The next chapter has some pretty good news you've probably never heard...

谢谢你耐心地读了这么久。这本书你已经读了两章了，还有七章要读呢！现在，你知道了自己不仅是血肉之躯而已，以及上帝引导你来到祂面前，而无须你的努力”。

请你坚持下去。在下一章中，你还会读到更多你可能从未听过的好消息！

注释：

1、接受坚信礼：天主教和东正教中宣布入教的一种仪式。

Knowing Where You're Going

Understanding the fact that you are more than a body leaves you with one nagging question. Where does the rest of me go when my body dies? Do I just “hang around” planet Earth haunting people? Do I get reincarnated into another life form? Do I go to purgatory and try to continue earning my way to Heaven?

Everybody has an opinion, but opinions aren't the kind of thing on which you stake your eternal destination. Once again we must turn to the Bible for answers to these questions and see what God actually says. Yes, the Bible does say that the real you will live on somewhere after your body dies.

Hebrews 9:27 says, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment...”* Simply stated, everybody dies once and then we stand before God to determine our final eternal destiny.

确知你的最终归宿

你已经知道了自己不仅是血肉之躯而已，现在又有了一个令人烦恼的问题：“肉体衰残后，生命剩下的部分最终会到哪里去？是不是变成魂魄，飘在空中来吓人？还是会以另一种模样轮回到世间？或是要到炼狱中，付清苦债才能上天堂？”

每个人都有自己的选择，但这选择本身却不能决定我们最终的、永恒的目的地。我们还是又回到圣经中寻找这些问题的答案，看看上帝是怎么说的。

是的，圣经确实提到，人的躯体衰竭后，真正的「我」还会到别的地方去。

希伯来书9：27说：“按着定命，人人都有一死，死后且有审判。”简而言之，人人都有一死，并且都得站在上帝的面前，来决定最终的、永恒的归宿。

We'll discuss what the Bible says about "where" in a later chapter, so don't get ahead of me. For now, I want you to simply consider this question. Would you like to know where you are headed after you die? If there were a way to know for sure where you would spend eternity, wouldn't you want to know?

This is the trouble with the DO religions. They leave you *wondering* rather than *knowing*. They trap you in a system of insecurity. They leave you thinking "Have I done enough?" "Have I done the right stuff?" "Have I done it right?" Ultimately you're left wondering "Where am I really headed?"

Recently I was speaking about these things with a lady in our community. She was a good lady with a respectable lifestyle, a happy home, and a religious past. Yet, when I asked her if she was sure she was headed to Heaven, her best answer was "I hope so!" Then she got a puzzled look on her face and simply said, "Can you know that for sure?"

Perhaps you're wondering that now. Can you know for sure?

Friend, the good news is we don't have to speculate about this question. In fact, God doesn't *want* you to speculate or fear your eternity. He does indeed desire for you to know for sure where you are headed! He has gone to great lengths to give you the opportunity to know *for sure* that your eternal destiny is settled.

I want to show you a verse you've probably never seen. Most religious systems tend to avoid this one. It's found

我们会在下一章讨论“哪里”的问题，所以暂且不要急着知道。现在，请你先思考这个问题：“你是否想知道身后会去哪里？如果能确知你的永恒归宿，你会想知道吗？”

这就是那些宣扬“去做”类型的宗教让人感到困扰的地方，它们老是让人悬着，而无法确知，使人总是感到没有安全感，唯有一直疑惑：“我做得够了吗？”“我做的事情对不对？”于是，最后你还在纳闷：“我究竟会到哪里去？”

最近，我跟我们社区的一位女士谈到这些问题。她是个善良的女士，生活严谨，家庭美满，也有信教的背景。然而，当我问她是否肯定自己会上天堂时，她的回答却顶多是“但愿吧！”然后，她满脸疑惑地问：“你能确实知道吗？”

可能，你现在也正在为这个事情纳闷。你能确知自己将来的归宿吗？朋友，值得庆幸的是，你无须就此问题进行任何猜测。其实，上帝也不愿让你在未来永恒的归宿问题上，有任何猜疑或者恐惧。祂希望你能确实知道并肯定你的最终归宿！祂煞费苦心给你机会，让你确知你未来永恒的归宿已经定下来了。在此，笔者想请你看一句圣经里的话；这句话也许是你从来没有读过的，同时也是许多宗教所极力回避的；这句话是

in 1 John 5:13, “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life....*” Did you catch that? God says, “You may *know* that you have eternal life!”

Think about that for a moment. Let it sink in. Reason it out for a moment. God wants you to *know* (that’s for sure) where you’re going. He doesn’t want you to wonder, fear, doubt, or regret. He wants you to know. That’s a pretty important verse!

Now think about this question. Do you know where you are going? You may hope. You may be thinking optimistically. You may have a good idea of where you are going, but do you KNOW?

The word KNOW implies full confidence and understanding. It removes doubt, hesitation, or question. It *rests* on *fact* rather than *wrestling* with *doubt*. It trusts truth rather than being frustrated in fear.

What are the implications of “knowing where you’re going”? How would this knowledge change your life?

Well, first of all, it would completely remove the fear of death! This is perhaps the greatest single fear in all the world, and this knowledge could completely remove all doubts. No fear! Just as God says in 2 Timothy 1:7, “*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*” God’s plans for you do not include fear, but rather a sound mind and a spirit of power and love.

约翰一书5章13节：

“我将这些话写给你们信奉上帝儿子之名的人，要叫你们知道自己有永生。”

你明白其中的意思吗？上帝在这里说“要叫你们知道自己有永生！”请稍微思考一番，且好好推理一下。上帝要你肯定地知道你的永恒归宿。祂可不想让你心中存有纳闷、恐惧、怀疑、或者后悔，而是想让你确知。这可是十分重要的一句话！现在就好好思考这个问题：你知道你会到哪里去吗？也许，你现在的状况只是一厢情愿、或者乐观地认为自己会到哪里去。但是，你能肯定吗？所谓的“肯定”意味着完全的信心和理解，而不含任何的疑惑、犹豫或问题；它乃是基于事实，而不为疑惑所纠缠；是基于真理，而不为恐惧所牵绊。

“确知你未来的归宿”这句话到底意味着什么呢？认识到这一点又会如何改变你的人生呢？

首先，当你确实知道这一点，就会完全解除对死亡的恐惧！死亡也许是人类最大的恐惧，而当你认识到你的最终归宿，所有的疑虑便会一扫而尽，不再有恐惧，正如圣经提摩太后书1章7节中说的：“因为神赐给我们不是胆怯的心，乃是刚强、仁爱、谨守的心。”上帝所赐给你的并不是恐惧，而是健全的心志和刚强、仁爱的心。

Secondly, it would give your entire life a different perspective. You would be living towards something—preparing for something bigger than life—looking forward to something beyond death. In short, you would have hope!

Friend, you are going somewhere! And God doesn't want you to wonder where. He wants you to settle this matter. He wants you to rest in what you KNOW. He wants you to be sure of what will happen to you after you die.

He wants you to KNOW that you have eternal life.

Maybe you never saw that verse. Maybe no one ever told you that there's a way to be freed from the fear and doubt that plague so many people when it comes to the subject of death. I hope this is such good news that you will continue reading...the story gets even better. But let me forewarn you, there's some bad news we must venture into before we get to the best news, so hang in there!

上帝同时要赐给你对永恒生命的全新认识，使你活着有盼望——朝着一个比生命更伟大的事物前去，而得以超越死亡。简而言之，你有了盼望！朋友，你有了归宿！上帝不希望你还为自己会归向何处而疑虑，而能够在这问题上完全安定下来。你可以因这确知而得享平安，肯定你在今生之后能拥有永恒的生命。也许你以前从未读过这节经文，也许以前没有人曾跟你谈起死亡这使众人恐惧的问题，也未曾有人向你解说如何在这问题上得到释放。笔者希望你因此感到欢欣鼓舞。请你继续往下读。但是，笔者想事先提醒你的是，也许你会遇到一些不中听的事实，但它们都是你所必须了解的，然后你才会得知其它中听的事实。所以，请继续读下去！

Birth Defect

“Do you think I’m a bad person?” Julie asked with great hesitation—almost as if she didn’t really want to hear the answer. I was a college student, working a restaurant job, and she was a coworker who had been fairly critical of my faith, even to the point of ridicule.

A few nights prior to this, during closing, she had come into the restaurant stone drunk. After the customers had cleared out, she began to rant and rave against my faith—literally cursing God and telling me how stupid I was for believing in Him.

Now, just a few nights later, in the middle of clean up, she stopped me cold in my tracks while I was pushing a vacuum to ask me “if I think she’s a bad person....”

To be frank, everything in me wanted to say, “Do you think you can curse my God, ridicule my faith, and have me

生之缺陷

“你说我是不是很坏？”朱丽迟疑地问道；她的口气听起来不像是真的想听到答案。上大学的时候，我曾经在餐馆里打零工；她也在那里打工，对我的信仰抱着挑剔的态度，甚至到了嘲笑的地步。此前几天的某个晚上，顾客都走了之后，她喝得醉熏熏的，然后开始咆哮批判我的信仰；具体地说，她根本就是在诅咒上帝，说我信祂是多么的愚蠢。再过了几天的某个晚上，当我清洁地板的时候，她冷不防地走过来，按住我的吸尘器，问道：“我是不是很坏。”

坦白说，我很想回答：“你以为你诅咒了我的上帝，嘲笑了我的信仰，还指望我

NOT think you're a bad person?" But that would have been judgmental, arrogant, and even hypocritical. It would have been a self-defense mechanism, but not what she really needed to hear.

Deep in their hearts, most people want to believe they are good—even good enough to earn a favorable eternity. On top of that, when you try to tell someone about a failure, the typical response (for any of us) is to defend ourselves. We genuinely want to believe that we are pretty good.

Yet, I've never met someone who would go so far as to say they are perfect. Interesting isn't it? We wouldn't say that we are perfect, but we don't want to be called bad either. Somehow as humans we've created this arbitrary gray area that you might call "not too bad."

This gray area soothes the conscience for just about everybody because we each draw our own lines and standards, and there's always somebody "worse than us" to whom we compare ourselves. Generally, we reason that we are "pretty good" so long as we can point to someone who is worse than we are! It's like a strange little game we play to try to make ourselves believe we're okay with God.

In that moment at the restaurant, Julie was wanting me to say, "Hey, Julie, I know you have your faults, but no, you're not *bad*." After all, with all of my faults who am I to criticize her, right?

不说你坏吗？”但是，这么做只会让事情变得更糟。即使我这样回答是一种正常的自卫反应，却不是她想听的。因为，人在内心深处都希望相信自己是好人，好到能配得上有一个美好的永恒结局（上天堂）。在这节骨眼上，要是跟哪个人说他的不是，人的正常反应（谁都一样）就是为自己辩解。人都真心希望自己是很好的人。但我在这以前还没有见过有谁像她一样还认为自己是完美的。的确很有意思。人纵使不想说自己是完美的，但也不想被人说三道四。无形中，人在心里营造了一个“灰色地带”：“自己还不算太坏”。每个人都能在这“灰色地带”中平息自己的良心，因为我们每个人都自行划定界限和竖立标准，且总是拿别人来跟自己比较，认为“还有人比我更坏或者更差”。一般来说，人只要还能揪出哪个比自己还坏的人，就能心安理得地以为，自己“还是相当好的人”。这犹如我们在玩一种奇怪的心理小游戏，使自己觉得在上帝面前还过得去。

在餐馆里，此时此刻，朱丽想听我说：“朱丽，我知道孰能无过，但是你并不坏。”毕竟我也有过失，又有什么权利来批评她呢？

I could tell that her question was more than a surface concern. She genuinely wanted to know in her heart where I believed she stood with God.

Do you want to know what I told her? I told her what the Bible says.

“Julie, it’s not just you...everybody is bad, I’m bad too.”

Now, before you get angry and throw this book in the trash, just go with me for a minute.

Her first response was “C’mon, don’t preach to me, I want to know what you really think...”

In all sincerity, I said, “Julie, we’re all bad. I’m bad, you’re bad—nobody’s perfect!”

Now friend, you may not consider yourself “too bad” or “really bad”—but you know as well as I do that you’re not perfect either. So where does that leave us? How does God view this imperfection, and where does it place us in His sight? What are the implications of our “imperfections” in light of eternity and where we go after death?

These are weighty questions, but the Bible answers them all very clearly. The message isn’t so much hidden, as ignored or rewritten to fit the religious agendas of men. When you take the Bible at face value, the way God intended it to be taken, it all adds up!

So what does God say? Are we really “all bad”? You may already be defending yourself in your own mind as you read. Don’t forget, good news is still ahead, so be willing to let down your self-defense mechanism and listen

我可以看出来，她问这个问题不过是走过场，做表面文章。她真心地希望我告诉她，她本人在上帝面前的光景。你知道我怎样回答她吗？我告诉她圣经的答案：“朱丽，不单是你；每个人都不好，我也是一样。”（亲爱的读者，请不要不高兴，请耐心地看下去。）她的回答是：“算了吧，别跟我传教了，我想知道你真的怎么想的。”我坦诚地说：“朱丽，我们都不好。我不好，你也不好；没有人是完美的！”

朋友，你此时也许会觉得自己“不是太坏”或者“不是很糟”。但是，你我都知道，自己并不是完美的。这样一来，我们的真实状况是怎样的呢？上帝是如何看到这“不完美”的呢？在祂眼中，我们的处境怎样呢？在与永恒天堂相对比之下，思考着身后要到哪里的问题，我们的“不完美”又意味着什么呢？这些无疑地都是相当沉重的问题，但圣经都十分明确地做出了回答。而圣经所说的并未含糊笼统，来迎合人的宗教目的。当你按照圣经的原话来理解它的意思，也就是按照上帝所希望的去理解的时候，圣经就非常容易理解了！

那么，上帝到底是怎么说的呢？我们是否都是“坏人”呢？当你读到这时，也许心里已开始为自己辩解了。但是，别忘了，好消息还在后头，所以还是请你卸下自己的心防，敞开

to God with an open heart. Here's what He says about you and me—and the rest of humanity for that matter.

In Romans 3:23 He says, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*” and back just a few verses He says, “*There is none righteous, no, not one*” (Romans 3:10). Simply put, nobody is perfect. We all fall short of God's glory or God's perfect standard.

While we might be able to argue that we're better than someone else, we all fall so far short of God's perfection that our petty comparisons become irrelevant.

Think of it this way. What if God commanded us to jump to the moon? You might be able to jump higher than I can, and I might be able to jump higher than my five-year-old daughter can, but in the end, we all fall way short of the goal.

That's what God is saying when He says that we all “fall short of the glory of God.” We all fall so far short that the slight difference between your goodness and someone else's goodness (or badness) doesn't matter in God's sight.

Simply put, God says to the human race, “You have a problem. You sin. You are imperfect. You fall short of my glory. You are sinful.”

In the next chapter, we'll discover why this is such a problem, but first we must be willing to admit that the problem exists. For some people, this is a really big hurdle.

“I'm just not a bad person,” we reason. Compared to someone else, we may not be that bad, but God isn't comparing us to someone else. God's standard is higher

心扉来聆听上帝所说的吧。祂论及你我及整个人类的时候是这么说的。罗马书3: 23节说：“世人都犯了罪，亏缺了上帝的荣耀。”在这节经文之前的几句经文中，我们读到：“没有义人（好人），连一个也没有。”（罗马书3: 10）简而言之，没有人是完美的。我们都亏缺了上帝的荣耀，都没有达到祂完美的标准。我们也许会辩解说自己比某些人好，但是我们都缺少上帝的完美，以至于我们这种微不足道的比较都显得无关紧要了。打个比方吧：要是上帝命令我们都跳到月球上去，怎么办？你也许会跳得比别人高，我也能跳得比几岁的女儿高，但是，最终我们都远远没有达到那个高度。上帝说“我们都亏缺了上帝的荣耀”就是这个意思。我们都大大亏缺上帝的荣耀，所以你与他人之间好坏的差距在上帝的眼中就都不重要了。简单地说，上帝告诉全人类：“你们都有一个问题——罪。你们是不完美的，亏缺了我的荣耀，都是有罪的。”

在下一章中，我们会看看人为什么会有这样的问题，但是我们必须先承认这个问题是真实存在的。对于某些人来说，这的确是一个很大的障碍。他们心里总是这样嘀咕着，“我不算是个坏人。”跟某些人比，自己也许真不算是坏人。但是上帝的标准并不是让我们来跟别人比的。上帝的标准要高于

than ours. He's using His own perfection—His own glory as the standard. No matter how good we think we are, when compared to God's standard, we're all pretty bad.

If the standard is a ten-foot basketball rim, and you can jump high enough to touch it, then you're a good jumper. But if the standard is the moon, and you can only jump to ten feet, then you're not much of a jumper at all.

"Well, who could jump to the moon?" you might say, "that's impossible!"

Exactly! It's impossible.

I can imagine you're thinking, "Are you saying that God holds us to an impossible standard?"

Yes, that's what He does according to His own Word. He holds us to a perfect standard. Why would he hold us to a perfect standard when He knows that it is impossible for us to meet that standard?

There's only one conclusion. To help us realize that it's not about DO, it's about DONE. It's not about jumping high enough, it's about admitting that we can't jump high enough, and then trusting in someone more powerful than ourselves to lift us high enough!

Let's imagine that God literally required us to jump to the moon to get into Heaven. Would you try? Would you despair, or would you ask for a miracle? One thing is for sure, you would immediately conclude that you couldn't get there on your own.

Friend, that's the point of the Bible when God says, "*For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good,*

我们的标准；祂乃是用自己的完美和荣耀来做为度量尺的。我们无论认为自己有多好，与上帝的标准相形之下，我们都显得黯然失色。如果标准仅仅是十英尺高的篮板，而你跳起来能够着，就算是跳高能手。但是，如果标准是月球，而你只能跳十英尺高，那么你所做的根本就没有意义。“那又有谁能跳到月球上去呢？”你可能会这么说：“那是不可能的事！”的确，这是不可能的。笔者可以想见，你心里在想：“难道说，上帝拿一个我们不可能达到的标准来衡量我们吗？”是的，上帝的确是这么说的。祂是拿一个完美的标准来衡量我们。那么，祂既然知道我们不可能达到这标准，又为什么要拿它来衡量我们呢？

只有一个结论：我们必须意识到这不是一个“人力是否能及”的问题，而是一个“事情已被成就”的问题；问题的关键不在于我们能跳得够高，而在于承认自己跳得不够高，并且去信靠更有力量的那位，因为祂能把我们提到该有的高度！

假设上帝真的要求我们跳到月球，才能上天堂。你会去试一试吗？还是你会感到绝望，而祈求有奇迹发生呢？有一点是肯定的，你马上会意识到，这不是能依靠自己的力量所能做到的事。朋友，圣经就是这么说的：“时常行善而不犯罪的义人，

and sinneth not” (Ecclesiastes 7:20). He says that our sin and imperfections make even our good works pointless in His sight because our sins literally take us away from Him. “*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away*” (Isaiah 64:6). God wants us to accept the conclusion that we can’t get to Him on our own!

God is saying, there is a great distance between us—a distance created by our imperfection. And as we’ve already concluded, *doing* good things doesn’t close the gap. Doing good stuff doesn’t pay for bad stuff anymore than “not using my Visa card” would pay for a previous credit debt. Being a good person doesn’t negate the bad or in any way undo the sin that we’ve committed.

God is saying to the human race, “When it comes to your relationship with me, we’re divided. You’re in way over your head in sinfulness, and you were born that way.”

He tells us that we were literally born defective in Psalm 51:5, “*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*” In other words, from the moment you were conceived, there was sinfulness in your spiritual genetics. This isn’t simply a *performance* problem or a behavior problem. It’s not a *doing* problem, it’s a *being* problem.

I am blessed to have three children. You might find this hard to believe, but I didn’t deliberately teach any of them to sin. Yet, before they could even talk or walk, they

世上实在没有。”（传道书7：20）上帝说的是，由于我们本身固有的罪和不完美，即使是我们的善行，在祂的眼中都是无意义的，因为，我们的罪已经将我们与他完全隔绝了。“我们都像不洁净的人；所有的义都像污秽的衣服。我们都像叶子渐渐枯干；我们的罪孽好像风把我们吹去。”

（以赛亚书64：6）上帝要我们接受一个事实：我们不能凭自身的力量去到他那里！上帝告诉我们，祂与我们之间有着一段很大的距离，而这一距离完全是由我们的不完美所造成的。我们已经论定了，行善是不能填补这一鸿沟的。行善不能弥补自己所犯的过错，也就像是新的信用卡不能付清先前的债务。（因为你仍然欠着债。）做一个好人并不能抵消已经行的恶，或者在哪方面撤销所犯的罪。上帝对全人类说：“论到你们与我的关系，我们是相互隔绝的。你们的罪孽已经漫过头，你们出生就是这样。”他在诗篇51：5中说到我们的生之缺陷：“我是在罪孽里生的，在我母亲怀胎的时候，就有了罪。”也就是说，你从开始在母腹中的那时起，在灵魂的基因中已经有了罪性。这不是什么“行为障碍”；这并非行为的问题，而是人自身的问题。

笔者蒙福，生有三个子女。说起来你也许会觉得难以相信，我根本没有故意教他们去犯罪，但是他们还没有学会说话和走路，就

could be selfish. Shortly thereafter they could disobey, display a bad attitude, and throw a temper tantrum. Just a few years into their lives they could lie, fight, argue, and even hurt others. If we didn't teach them to sin, where did all of it come from?

The answer is found in Romans 5:12, "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*" Simply put, sin is *in* them, just as it is in every man and woman on the planet. It's *in* us. It's in our spiritual bloodline. From the cradle, every one of us has the natural tendency to do wrong. But you must understand, it's more than just "doing wrong." If it were a behavioral problem, then it would be corrected by good behavior. But God clearly says good behavior cannot correct this problem. It's a state of being. Sin is in us, like a deadly disease. It's literally our spiritual birth defect since Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, chose to sin.

Yes, friend, like it or not, you were born spiritually defective. You were born with a massive spiritual birth defect that makes you imperfect before God and divides you against Him. He says it this way in Ephesians 2:1, "*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*"

We'll get back to that verse later, but catch that last part—"we were dead in our trespasses and sins." Remember the word *death* literally means "separation." You and I are naturally separated from God—dead to God because of our sinfulness.

已经变得很自私了。很快地，他们就懂得不听话，会摆出不好的态度，还会耍坏脾气；还没活几岁，就懂得撒谎、打架和争吵，甚至伤害他人。既然不是我们教的，那这些品性上的问题又是从哪里来的呢？答案就在罗马书5：12中：“这就如罪是从一人入了世界，死又是从罪来的；于是死就临到众人，因为众人都犯了罪。。”简而言之，他们里面有罪的本性，世上所有的人都一样；这是我们的本性，灵魂的血统。从睡摇篮开始，我们每一个人都有做错事的倾向。但是，你必须明白，这不仅仅是“做错事”而已。如果它仅仅是行为问题，那么，就可以由好的行为来纠正。但是，上帝清楚地表明，好行为不能纠正这个问题。这是人的生命景况。罪就存在我们里面，像一种致命的疾病。自从人类始祖亚当和夏娃以来，我们的灵魂中就有了这种缺陷，使我们选择去犯罪。朋友啊，无论你是否听得下去，你我生出来，就都是有缺陷的，而生之种种缺陷使你在上帝面前成为不完美的，并与祂隔绝。

圣经在以弗所书2：1是这么说的：“你们死在过犯罪恶之中，祂叫你们活过来。”以后我们会回过头来详看这节经文，但先请注意这一段：“你们死在过犯罪恶之中”。记住，“死”的根本意义是“隔绝”。你我在本性上是与上帝隔绝的——由于我们的罪，上帝看我们是死的。

I know this isn't what pop-psychology tells you about yourself. It isn't what you want to hear, but do you deny that you are imperfect? Can you accept the fact that you fall short and that your spiritual birth defect has caused a massive separation between you and your Creator?

This sounds like pretty bad news, but sometimes you have to accept bad news before you can apply the good news!

What if you had a treatable form of cancer? Would you want to know the bad news so that your doctor could then give you the good news? Wouldn't you want to hear, "You've got cancer...BUT...we have the cure!"?

Well, before you can understand God's cure, you must accept the diagnosis. God's diagnosis is simple. "You were born spiritually defective and you are incapable of keeping my perfect standard. Something supernatural must be done to bring you back to me."

Why is this birth defect such a massive problem? Why can't God just wink at our imperfections and move on?

Good question, let's find out His answer...

笔者清楚，这话并不像是当代心理学所宣传的，也不是你喜欢听的，但是难道你会否定自己并不完美的这个事实？你能否接受这一事实：由于灵魂的缺陷，你与造物主之间已经有了难以弥补的隔绝？

这话的确不中听，但有时你必须先接受不中听的话，然后才会懂得中听的话！如果，你罹患了癌症，而这癌症是可以治好的，你会怎么想？你会不会愿意先听医生说中听的话，再听好消息呢？你是否会想听到“你得了癌症，但是，我们是可以把它治好的”？你若想得到上帝的治愈，就得先接受他对你的诊断。

上帝的诊断很简单：

“你的灵魂生有缺陷，不能达到我的完美标准。我必须做出一件超乎自然的事情，来使你重新归于我。”为什么这生之缺陷是如此大的问题呢？上帝难道不能忽略这一问题吗？这是个好问题，还是让我们继续来寻找答案吧！

God's Only Accepted Method of Payment

I have a Discover card that I use on rare occasions for Christmas shopping, family vacations, or for something I want or need.

Imagine if I threw caution to the wind and recklessly charged \$5,000 worth of purchases on that card. A month later the statement arrives in my mailbox describing my charges and explaining my payment options.

Rather than pay the debt, let's imagine that I call customer service and explain that I didn't mean to make these charges, that I'm really sorry for making them, and that I will try to do better in the future. Will that pay my debt? Of course not. (Wouldn't that be nice though?)

Alright, let's try another angle. What if I call customer service and beg and plead for them to forgive my debt. That should take care of it, right? I don't think so.

上帝唯一接受的偿付方式

我有一张“发现”信用卡(Discover Card)，经常在圣诞节、家庭休假或者平时想买东西的时候使用。假设，我毫无节制地用这张卡刷了5000美元来购物，会怎样？一个月后，就会有一张账单寄到我的邮箱里，列举我的消费数额和购买的东西。假如我拒不付款，而只是打电话给顾客服务中心，解释说，“我不是有意消费这么多东西的，以后会注意点就是了。”请问，这样就能结清我欠的款项吗？（要是真行得通的话就好了。）我们再换个角度来看。如果我在电话中，请求顾客服务中心给予谅解，并且免除我的欠款的话，会有用吗？当然不会。

Well, these Discover card people sure are narrow-minded and legalistic aren't they? Surely they should be more merciful and forgiving. Surely they aren't being fair!

Friend, my thinking is obviously flawed. It's not that the Discover card people aren't merciful or patient or kind—it's that they are just and right to expect fair payment for my charges.

I've spoken with many people who say to me, "Well, I ask God to forgive my sin every night before I go to bed." Others have said, "I confess my sin regularly to a priest or to God." Still others have said, "I pay for my sin by doing good."

Friend, the fact is God doesn't arbitrarily "forgive sin" or "erase sin's consequences" any more than Discover card would arbitrarily erase my debt just because I asked.

No, Discover card has determined a method of payment. Apart from that method of payment, nothing else will erase my debt on that card. This is not unfair or unjust. Quite the contrary, it's reasonable. It's just and right. I can't send them an apology note, a Thanksgiving food basket, or even a Walmart gift card. I must send them one form of payment—money. This is the established standard and practice of the Discover card company. I don't argue it, I just accept and deal with their set standard.

In much the same way, God has established a payment for sin. Yes, sin must be paid for. Why? Because God is just and good. A good God would never let something as horrible as sin run rampant in time and eternity forever.

那么我是否可以想，“看来，‘发现’信用卡这帮工作人员的心胸太狭窄了、太过于教条主义了，他们应该要变得仁慈些、心胸宽广一些。他们实在是没有人情味！”朋友，我的想法很明显是不对的。并不是“发现”信用卡的这些人不够仁慈、耐心或者善良；他们只是很公平地叫我付清款项。

我常听许多人对我说：“嗯，我每天晚上睡觉前，都求上帝宽恕我的过犯。”也有人说：“我经常向神父或者上帝忏悔我的罪，”还有人说，我行善积德来弥补过失。朋友，正如同“发现”信用卡的工作人员不会因为我的请求，就任意地免除我的欠款一样，上帝也不会未经思考地“宽恕罪过”或者“消弥罪的后果”。不会的。“发现”信用卡的工作人员已经定好了付款的方式，除了那方式之外，再也没有别的途径可以偿还我在卡上所欠的款项。这并不是不公平或者不正义。相反的，这是合情合理的，是正当和正确的。我不能只是寄一张道歉信，或者在感恩节送一篮好吃的，或者寄上一张沃尔玛的购物卡就完事了。我要寄去的就是钱，来偿付欠款；这是唯一的方式。这才是“发现”信用卡公司标准的做法。我不能就此进行争辩，而必须依照已经它们设立的标准来进行交易。

同样的，上帝也已经设立了一个罪的偿付方式。的确，罪是需要赎偿的。为什么呢？因为，上帝是公义和善良的；一位良善的上帝是断不会允许像罪这样可悲的事物永远地肆虐下去。

No, a good God would deal with sin once and for all so that we could ultimately be freed from it for all of eternity. You see, God's goodness requires that He take action against something so destructive as sin.

So, long before you and I were ever born—long before the world was created—God determined a penalty—a payment for sin. It is not negotiable. It is just and fair—and yes, it is even good in light of the terrible power and destruction that comes with sin. What is the penalty?

God says in Romans 6:23, "*For the wages of sin is death...*" Death. Seems like a high payment, right? Sounds pretty bad? Well, let's take a second look.

Why would a *good* God let sin *live*? That would be infinitely worse than our United States justice system allowing murder and mayhem. If our justice system accepted such atrocities, it would no longer be a "good system." Even so, if God were to allow sin and evil to continue for eternity, He wouldn't be a good God.

No, His goodness requires that He take action. His justice requires payment, and long before you or I came along, God determined that there was only one payment for sin—there was only one acceptable solution for something so deadly and destructive. Death.

Sin must die. Death must die. These things that are so evil and destructive must face the only just end—the only acceptable outcome—they must be locked away in a final prison. Sin is *so* bad that God has determined once and for all "sin must die."

这位良善的上帝要一次到永远地解决罪的问题，好让我们在永恒中不受罪的束缚。你看，上帝的良善使祂需要采取行动，来解决罪这带有毁灭性质的东西。

因此，远在你我出生之前——远在世界受造之前——上帝就已经定下了一个刑罚，来使罪得以偿还。这并不是供人参考和协商的，而是正当和公平的；当人意识到罪所具有的毁灭力量的话，就可以知道这的确是正当和公平的。这一刑罚是什么呢？

上帝在罗马书6：23中说：“因为，罪的工价（代价）乃是死……”死亡看来的确是很代价高昂的偿付方式，是不是？听来是很糟糕，是不是？我们再看一下：一位良善的上帝为什么会允许罪的存在？这难道不比我们的司法部门容忍谋杀和蓄意伤害更糟糕吗？假如我们的司法部门容忍这样的罪行，那就不是一个好的司法系统了。同样地，假如上帝容忍罪恶无休止地永远延续下去，祂就不是一位良善的上帝了。但不会的；上帝的良善使祂必须采取行动，祂的公义使人必须为罪付出代价，而祂这一决定早在你我出现在地球上之前，就已经定下了。上帝定意，罪只有一个偿付的方式；对罪这样致命与具有毁灭性的事物，只有一种可行的解决办法，就是死亡。

罪必须死亡。死亡也必须消逝休止。这些如此罪恶和具有毁灭性质的东西必须有一个公正的结局——唯一可接受的结果，就是它们必须被锁于永牢中。罪是恶的，因此，上帝一次到永远地判决了“罪必须死亡”。

Do you recognize God's goodness and love as displayed through this death sentence? He refuses to allow that which is harmful to plague us forever. He loves us too much. His goodness is too good. He cannot allow sin to go on destroying the world.

Imagine that there was a murderer living on your block. This murderer kills at will and has no preferences with his victims. He kills men, women, and children with no warning and no remorse.

Imagine that you know who he is, and you've called the police only to find out they already know who the killer is. Imagine that they've decided to let him continue killing. No penalty. No prosecution. No justice. Imagine that the police investigators tell you, "We've decided just to be good on this one. A loving police department would never send anyone to prison...."

You would be outraged! You would do whatever it took to make sure this man received justice and to restore peace and safety in your community!

Have you ever heard someone say, "Well I just can't believe a *loving* God would create Hell" or "I don't believe a loving God would ever judge sin"? Friend, how could a loving God *not* do something about all the terrible things that exist in life? How could a loving God allow sin to go free and not take action?

He can't. He won't.

The Bible teaches very clearly that when time comes to an end, God will bring a final judgment on sin and

你是否从上帝所判决的死刑中看到祂的良善与慈爱？祂不愿让人永远地受此恶事缠扰。祂太爱我们了，祂的良善实在太好了。祂不允许罪无休止地毁灭世界。请你想象一下，若有个杀人犯就住在你的街坊，而他任意杀人，并且不分对象，男女老少都死在他手下，他也没有任何的悔过之意。你知道这人是谁，报警的时候，却发现警方也已经知道他是谁。假如他们决定任凭他继续杀人，不给予刑罚、审判和公正的判决，而对你说：“我们决定对这个人好一点。一个富有爱心的警察局是从来不会把人送到监狱里去的。”想必你会感到极大的愤慨，并且会想方设法让这个杀人犯得到公正的制裁，让社区恢复平静和安全！

你是否听人说过“我实在无法相信，一个仁慈的上帝会创造地狱”，或者“我不相信一个仁慈的上帝会审判罪恶”？朋友，一个仁慈的上帝看着我们生命中存在不好的事情，怎么会袖手旁观呢？一个仁慈的上帝怎么会容忍罪恶而不采取行动呢？祂不能，也不会！圣经十分清楚地教导我们，当时间到了尽头，上帝会使最终的审判临到罪恶和

death. He will demand final payment, and He only accepts one form of payment for sin—death.

In fact, God has created a final prison for sin and death—a final resting place. It's called "the lake of fire." Revelation 20:14 speaks of this final judgment, "*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*"

Friend, this is not mean, unjust, or unfair. It's a *good* thing that God will send sin and death to an eternal resting place!

Now, here's where it gets hard to accept. Let me remind you again, we're not looking for "man's opinion" here, we're seeking God's stated truth. We're trying to understand His terms.

The Bible is clear in Matthew 25:41 that God didn't originally create Hell for men. It was intended for the devil and his angels. "*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*" God's original intent after passing final judgment on the devil and sin was to bring men into an eternal, loving relationship with Him. His plan is born out of a loving heart and a good nature. He is perfect—perfectly loving, perfectly good—but also perfectly just.

Because God's justice system demands payment for sin—death, and because I was born defective—with sin flowing in my spiritual blood veins, I now have a very serious predicament.

死亡。祂会要求最后的偿付；而对于罪，祂所规定的唯一可接受的偿付方式就是死亡。

其实，上帝已经给罪和死亡创造了一个永牢——永远停息之所，叫做“火湖”。启示录 20：14说到了这最后的审判：“死亡和阴间也被扔在火湖里；这火湖就是第二次的死。”朋友，这并非不公正或公平；上帝将罪和死亡关入永牢中的实在是件好事！现在我要说的可能会开始变得使人难以接受了，但是笔者在此必须提醒读者，我们在这里不是想听什么“人的意见”，而是来寻找上帝所教导的真理，来理解祂所提出的要求。圣经在马太福音 25：41中说，上帝创造地狱，并不是为人造的，而是给魔鬼及跟随他的所有恶天使。“王又要向左边的说：‘你们这被咒诅的人，离开我！进入那为魔鬼和他的使者所预备的永火里去！’”上帝的原意是审判完魔鬼和罪恶后，就将人带入永恒，使人与祂亲密无间地永远同在。祂有此计划是出于祂慈爱和良善的本性。祂是完美的——完全的慈爱，完全的良善，同时也是完全的公义。

由于上帝是公义的，必须要求罪得到偿付——就是死亡，而又因为我出生是有缺陷的——在灵魂的血统里有罪渗入其中，于是我便陷入了一个十分严重的困境中。

As a sinner, I have a sin debt that must be paid. There is a minimum wage for my sin—a law in God’s justice that demands payment. Sin now stands between me and God. While God *loves me*, He *hates sin*. If He didn’t *hate sin*, He couldn’t *love me*. It’s like saying if your loved one has cancer—you can’t love your relative and love the cancer at the same time. If you love your relative, you would hate the cancer and desire to remove it if possible. If you loved the cancer, you would make yourself an enemy to your relative.

This is exactly what the Bible means when it says, “*the carnal mind is enmity against God...*” (Romans 8:7). Whether or not you feel warm and fuzzy about God, though He loves you very much, your sin makes you His enemy. Ouch! That hurts. Maybe that’s a tough pill to swallow, but it is exactly the message of the Bible.

No wonder I can’t earn my way or do good things to gain God’s approval. Sin stands in the way, like a giant canyon, dividing me from all that God intended.

In short, my sin condemns me in the sight of God.

Now don’t get me wrong. This doesn’t mean that God doesn’t love me. We’ll get to that in a moment. It simply means that if something miraculous doesn’t happen—if God doesn’t find a way to intervene—I’m doomed.

Though God loves me, He cannot allow sin into Heaven. He cannot allow sin to live, and since I have sin in me, I’m marked for death. He doesn’t want me to spend one second apart from Him in Hell—this was never His

作为一个罪人，我有着罪债需要偿付。偿付罪的最低要求是死亡；上帝公义的律法要求罪必须得到偿付。

罪横梗在我与上帝之间。上帝爱我的同时，又憎恨罪。祂若不憎恨罪，就无法爱我。这好比我们有个亲人患了癌症；我们不能说爱亲人的同时，也爱他的癌症。如果你爱你的亲人，就会憎恨癌症；并且如果可能的话，希望将它除掉。如果你爱的是癌症，那么，你就将自己立为亲人的敌人。这就是圣经所说的：“属罪的思想，就是与上帝为敌。”（罗马书8：7另译）无论你是否对上帝带有好的看法，虽然祂十分地爱你，你的罪已经使你与祂成了敌人。这是很伤感情的。也许这是一剂难以吞咽的药，但是这正是圣经所要表达的。

无怪乎我即便行善积德也不能上天堂或得到上帝的纳悦。因为罪挡在中间，犹如一道大峡谷，将我与上帝一切所愿的都隔绝了。简而言之，我的罪已经在上帝的面前，将我定罪了。请不要误解，这并不是说，上帝不爱我，（关于这一点我们很快就谈到，）而是说，如果没有什么奇迹发生——如果上帝不介入的话，我的命运就已经是注定了的。虽然上帝爱我，祂却不能允许罪进入天堂。祂不允许罪存活，而我却有罪在身内，已经带上了死亡的标签。祂不想让我离他而下到地狱中去——这从来就不是

intention. But that's what will happen if a miracle doesn't occur.

My sin must be paid for. That's God's law. My sin must die. That's God's goodness. It's like saying "cancer must be cured"! What is the cure? Well, we know it isn't being good. No matter how good or religious I am, I still have sin in me. Remember, it's not a *behavior* problem, it's a *being* problem. Being good doesn't pay for sin.

Only one thing pays for sin. Death. Death is the only viable option for something so horrific.

So, if I stand before God with sin recorded against my name—if I face Him as a sinner—there's only one final destination for me according to His own words.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.—Revelation 20:13–14

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”—Revelation 21:8

Yes, this lake of fire (according to the Bible) is a real place, a terrible place, and men do end up there because of their sins. It's not God's desire; it's not what He wants

他所愿意的。但是，如果没有什么奇迹发生，结局就必将是如此。我的罪必须得到偿付，而罪又必须死亡。这就是上帝的恩慈。这也就像是说：“癌症必须得到治愈！”那么，治愈之良药是什么呢？

起码，这良药并不是行善。无论我多么善良或虔诚，在我的生命中依然有罪。要记住，这不是“人该做什么”的问题。行善是不能偿付罪债的。要偿付罪债就只有一个方法，就是死亡。罪是如此的可怕，以至于死亡是唯一偿付罪债的方式。如果我站在上帝的面前，却依然带有罪责的话，我就是以罪人的身份来面对祂。如此一来，根据祂所说的，我就只有一个最终的归宿：

“于是，海交出其中的死人，死亡与阴间也交出其中的死人；他们都照各人所行的受审判。死亡和阴间也被扔到火湖里；这火湖就是第二次的死。” 启示录20：13 - 14

惟有胆怯的、不信的、可憎的、杀人的、淫乱的、行邪术的、拜偶像的、和一切说谎话的，他们的分就是在烧着硫磺的火湖里；这是第二次的死。启示录21：8

的确，这火湖（根据圣经所记载的）是个真实而可怕的地方。许多人因着罪，最终都要归到那里去；虽然，这不是上帝所愿意的，

for you, but it is the final resting place of sin. Apart from a miracle, all who sin are headed there because God is too good to let sin live.

Twice in these verses God refers to a second death. In other words, we all die once, then we stand before God where it is determined whether we live on forever with God, or whether we die a second time. The second death is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire. It is final—unchangeable. It is not where God wants us to spend eternity, but it is the only payment for sin.

God calls it “being condemned” in Romans 5:18, *“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation....”*

Friend, because of our sin, we stand condemned before God. We are all guilty. *“Therefore thou art inexcusable...”* (Romans 2:1). We are literally without excuse. Our sin debt must be paid. No ifs, ands, or buts. Sin must die.

Because God is good, because God is just, because God is love—He must put to death every bad thing. Yet, because God loves me, He doesn’t want me to face this curse. Since I’m born into sin, I’m a condemned man, no matter how good I’ve been.

Pretty terrible predicament we’re in, isn’t it?

Yes, there is a minimum wage law. Yes, there is a second death. Yes, unless God miraculously intervenes, you and I will face that second death.

但这的确是罪的最终结局。除了奇迹的发生，每个有罪的人必然都要下到那里去，因为上帝是仁慈的，祂不会容忍罪永远存在。在前面的这两段经文中，上帝两次提到了第二次死。换句话说，就是我们都死过一次后，还要站在上帝的面前接受审判，来决定是永远与他活在一起，还是进入第二次的死中。第二次的死乃是被扔在火湖中，与上帝永远地隔绝。这是最终的审判，而且是不可逆转的。上帝不希望人在那里度过永恒，但是这是偿付罪的唯一场所。

上帝在罗马书5：18节中把它称为“定罪”：“如此说来，因一次的过犯，众人都被定罪。”朋友，我们因为罪而在上帝面前都被定罪了。我们都是有罪的。因此，你“无可推诿。（你没有借口不认罪。）”（罗马书1：20）我们完全没有任何的借口。我们的罪债必须偿付。没有什么“如果”或者“但是”。罪是必须死亡的。上帝是良善、公义和慈爱的；祂必须使不善之物灭亡。然而，因为上帝爱我，祂不乐见让我面对这个诅咒。无论如何，既然我出生带有罪性，我是个已经被定罪的人，无论我表现得有多么善良。

难道这不是一个进退两难的困境吗？的确，罪债偿付的最低要求是死亡。也的确，还有第二次的死。而更确实的是，除非上帝奇迹般地介入，否则你我都要面对第二次的死。

We can't jump to the moon. We can't keep God's perfect standard. It's impossible. We have charged a debt that we cannot pay, and there's only one form of payment accepted.

But there is a very important three letter word that makes all the difference...BUT...

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, BUT..."

A miracle did happen...

我们自己没有能力跳到月球上去，更没有能力达到上帝完美的标准。完全不可能。我们所负的罪债是我们自己没有能力偿付的，因为偿付的方式只有一种。然而，有两个字是我恳请读者牢记的，就是罗马书6：23中说的“罪的工价乃是死，惟有……”

就在这“惟有”之中，一个奇迹发生了……

Can I Get a Substitute?

Imagine what the response of the Discover card company would be if I continually called customer service asking them to forgive my debt or if I kept sending them food baskets and care packages as payment. I think the end message would be something along the lines of “forget it, pay your debt, and if you can’t, then find someone who can!”

Think about that thought. Find someone who *can*. Now there’s an idea. Find someone who can either give or loan me the money to pay my debt. After all, they don’t care who pays the debt, they just want the debt paid, but it must be paid on their terms, not mine.

Sadly the world is filled with very sincere people who are trying to pay their sin debt their *own way* rather than God’s. It’s not a new scheme. In fact, the first person to do this was named Cain.

可有人会替代我赎罪？

假设，我如果老是打电话给“发现”信用卡的工作人员，请求他们豁免我积欠的款项，然后给他们送一篮好吃的东西，又拿些日常用品来抵债的话，他们的态度会是怎样的呢？我想，结果只能是：“别再多说了，请即刻付清你的款项，要不就找个人来替你付清。”好好想想，“找个能帮你付清欠款的人”，乃是关键所在。我要找个人来给我钱，或者借我钱，好付清款项。毕竟，他们不在乎谁来付款，只要欠款付清就行了。但是一定得按照他们的规定来付款，而不是用我的方法。

悲哀的是，世上有许多人想通过自己的方式来偿付自己的罪债，而不是按照上帝的方式。这已经不是什么新闻。其实，历史上第一个想通过自己的方式来达到上帝要求的人是该隐。

In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, Cain brought God an offering—a payment for his sins—but he did it *his* way. He refused to bring the payment that God required, and so his offering was refused (Genesis 4:1–7). God was basically saying, “Sin must be paid for on my terms...not yours.”

Strangely Cain got very angry with God for rejecting his offering, but it was his own choice—his own pride got in the way. Perhaps as you’ve been reading, you’re tempted to respond to this message in self-justification or self-defense. Perhaps you’re offended to find out that your goodness doesn’t hold water with God. I hope you will let down your pride and not allow it to stand between you and the miracle that God provided. Pride would be a silly reason to let sin win!

Unfortunately there will be many people at the final judgment of sin who did many good things “for God,” but they will still have an unpaid sin debt. Their DOING for God won’t be enough.

In Matthew 7:21–23, Jesus brings a stern warning to those who try to take care of their sin debt their own way. “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*” In other words, entrance into Heaven is gained God’s way and only God’s way.

He continues, “*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful*

在圣经的第一卷书——创世记——中，该隐向上帝献上了自己的祭品来赎罪；他是按照自己的方式来做的，而不是按照上帝所要求的来献祭。（参考创世记4：1—7）上帝说：“要偿付罪债，就必须按照我的要求，而不是用你的方法。”奇怪的是，由于上帝不接纳他的祭品，该隐就向上帝发怒。他实在是我行我素、自我中心。也许，你读到这里的时候，心里自然反应地要自我辩解；也许，你会因为连行善在上帝的面前都不算什么而感到不快。笔者希望你能先放下自己的骄傲，而不要错过了上帝所行的神迹。骄傲其实是十分愚蠢的，只能让罪占上风！

不幸的是，到了罪的最后审判时刻，会有许多“为上帝”而行善事的人，依旧没有使自己的罪得到偿付。无论他们为上帝做的什么都是不够的。在马太福音7：21—23中，耶稣严厉警告那些想以自己的方式来解决罪的问题的人：“凡称呼我‘主啊，主啊’的人不能都进天国；惟独遵行我天父旨意的人才能进去。”换句话说，要进入天堂，就得按照上帝的方式，并且也只能遵照祂的方式。主耶稣接着说：“到了那日，会有许多人对我说：‘主啊，主啊，我们不是奉祢的名传道，奉祢的名赶鬼，奉祢的名行许多异能

works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Many people will begin rehearsing all the good things they did for God, but the final word will be when God says, “I never knew you.” In other words, “You never came to Me *my way*. Your sin debt remains unpaid.”

When He says, “*Depart from me...*” that’s the second death—eternal separation from God.

Friend, this is a very serious matter. God is a good, loving, and merciful God; yet, God is also a just, holy, and perfect God. As a sinful man, I stand before Him—loved by His great heart, yet condemned by His great justice. In order for God to accept me, He must first completely remove my sin and pay for it in full. Once the debt is paid, He is then free to welcome me into His family and into an eternal relationship with Him—but the debt must be paid *before* any of this can happen.

Cue the good news! A miracle did indeed happen. You see, God “*is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9). God doesn’t desire that a single person face His judgment on sin. He doesn’t want you to face eternal separation from Him in Hell.

In the last chapter we saw this verse, “*For the wages of sin is death....*” The last half of this verse is where the good news truly begins. It says, “*but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 6:23).

吗？’我就明明地告诉他们说：‘我从来就不认识你们；你们这些作恶的人，离开我去吧！’”许多人会陈述自己为上帝所做的许多好事，但是上帝对他们说的最后的话就是“我从来不认识你们”。祂的意思是，“你们从来没有按照我指定的方式来到我的面前，所以你们的罪债依旧没有付清。”

当上帝说“离开我去吧”，就意味着第二次的死了——就是与上帝永远地隔绝了。朋友，这是个很严重的问题。上帝是慈爱的；然而，上帝同样也是公义、圣洁和完美的。作为一个罪人，我站在祂面前时，祂会以宽宏的心来爱我，但也会以严正的公义来审判我。上帝要接纳我，祂就必须先完全地除去我的罪，叫我的罪债得到完全的偿付，然后祂才可以让我进入祂的家中，与他一起享受永恒。但是，在此之前，我的罪必须得到完全的偿付。在此有个好消息！一个奇迹的确发生了。你可知道，上帝“乃是宽容(长久忍耐)你们，不愿有一人沉沦，乃愿人人都悔改”！（彼得后书3：9）上帝实在是不愿任何人承受祂对罪的审判，落得沉沦于地狱之中，而永远与祂分离。

在上一章，我们看到了“罪的工价乃是死……”这段经文；但这节经文还有后半段，而后半节才是大好消息的开始；它是这么说的：“惟有上帝的恩赐，在我们的主基督耶稣里，乃是永生。”（罗马书6：23）

What if I *couldn't* pay my credit card debt, but you *could*? What if you were my friend and you loved me enough to write a check and offer it to me as a free gift? Would this work? Would Discover card accept your money on my behalf? Of course they would. This is called “substitution.” In other words, your money is being substituted for my lack. So long as I accept your gift, it could be applied to my account and my debt could be erased!

Substitute. We have lots of substitutes in life. Salt substitutes. Sugar substitutes. Meat substitutes (Ugh!). We have substitute teachers, substitute hair, and even substitute teeth. A substitute is a stand in—a replacement for the original, and in most cases substitutes are inferior to the original. In God's plan, this isn't the case.

Understanding that we're guilty before God, condemned by sin; understanding that sin must die—that death is the only acceptable outcome; and understanding that if I pay for my own sin it will require eternal separation from God—there's really only one possible solution. I would ask God this question.

“Can I get a substitute?”

Is there anyone or anything that can pay this debt *for me*? Am I doomed or is there a stand-in?

God's answer quite simply is “Yes, there is a substitute. There is someone who can take your death.” There is someone who can be the “go-between”—someone who

假如我没有能力来付清信用卡的款项，而你有能力的话，你会怎样？如果你是我的朋友，会不会对我怀有足够的友爱，而愿意写一张支票来送给我？这样可以吗？“发现”信用卡的工作人员会接受你的钱，归在我的账下吗？当然会的。这就叫做“代赎者(redeemer; 代为还清债务的人)”。换句话说，就是你用钱来替我还债，弥补我的积欠。只要我接受了你的供给，归入我信用卡的账户中，我所欠的款项就可以付清了！

说到“替代”这个词的话，其实在生活中有许多种的“替代”；比如：“盐的替代品”、“糖的替代品”、“肉的替代品”（当然不好吃！），还有代课老师、假发、甚至假牙等。一个“替代”品就是暂时充当原物的角色，而很多时候，替代品并比不上原物的好。但在上帝的计划中，却是不一样的。要明白，我们在上帝面前负有罪债、因有罪而被定罪，而罪必须消除，死亡则是唯一偿付罪的出路，而要我自己去偿付罪债的话，就会永远与上帝隔绝。于是，只有唯一的一种可能性；我会问上帝这个问题：“能有人来替代我赎罪吗？”有何人或何物能帮助我偿付这罪债呢？我的永恒是否已经被注定了，还是有人会介入其中？上帝的回答很简单，就是：“是的，有替代你的人。有人

can pay the debt to satisfy God's justice and give you eternal life all at the same time.

If you are curious about who took your death, then keep reading. Let's find out more about this substitute...

可以为你而死。” 圣经告诉我们，真有这么一个人成了我们赎罪的中保；祂能够偿付人的罪债，来满足上帝公义的要求，并且同时赐给你永恒的生命。

如果你想知道到底是谁已经为你的罪而死的话，就请继续读下去，好了解更多关于这位代赎者的事情。

God's Only Miraculous Substitute

First, understand this isn't just any substitute. I can't pay for your sins. You can't pay for mine. In fact, no mere human being can pay for the sins of another, because we're all under the same debt. We're all made of the same stuff—a sin nature.

And remember this isn't just a performance or behavior problem, it's a *being* problem. The problem isn't just what I've *done*, it's who I *am* and what is inside of me.

For this reason, this substitute must be an amazing kind of miraculous substitute that not only pays for my sin, but also completely *removes* it from me and *destroys* it forever. This miracle requires a kind of spiritual surgery that removes the cancer of sin and creates in me a new identity—one that isn't sinful before God.

I need a substitute who can change the inside of me from being *sinful* to being *righteous* before God. I need a substitute

上帝所差派的唯一代赎者

首先，我们必须明白，可不是随便任何人都可以替代赎罪。我不能替你赎罪；你也不能替我赎罪。其实，不是每个人都可以为另一个人赎罪的，因为我们都负有同样的罪债，都同样带有罪的本性。记得，这不是人犯了罪而成为罪人，而是人是罪人才会犯罪。问题之所在，并不是我做了什么，而是我的本性和那在我里头的。

因此，这代赎者必定是一位奇妙的替代者，不仅能赎还我的罪责，而且能完全地将罪从我里面消除，永远地使它消亡。这就像是在做一场灵魂的手术，将我灵魂中的癌细胞割除，并且在我的里头赋予一个新的身份——使我不再在上帝的眼中被看为罪人。

我需要这样的一位代赎者，来改变我的内在生命，使它从有罪的，而在上帝面前转化为公义的。我需要这样的代赎者

who will die the death that sin requires once and for all. I need more than a surface makeover—I need a complete spiritual rebuild.

Jesus actually called it “rebirth.” In John chapter three, Jesus is approached by a very religious man—a very good man. This was a man who had spent his life *doing* very good things for God, and Jesus says to him in verse three, “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” In other words, unless you have a complete spiritual rebirth—unless we can change your spiritual identity from sinful to righteous—you cannot enter into Heaven.

Again He said in John 3:7, “*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*” When this man was astounded at Jesus’ requirement he asked, “*How can a man be born when he is old?*” Then Jesus said, “*Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*” In other words, your first birth (by water) was physical, but your second birth (by spirit) must be spiritual. This isn’t something you can see with your eyes—it’s something you experience in your heart.

A substitute. A miraculous stand-in—the kind of substitute that doesn’t just pay a debt, but the kind that completely rebuilds me and gives me a new spiritual bloodline. This is the kind of substitute that both pays for sin and also gives me a whole new identity before God—one without sin and without debt.

So, who is this substitute?

一次并且永远地为我承受罪所要求的死亡；我需要的绝不是一个表面的掩盖，而是灵魂的重新塑造。主耶稣将之称为“重生”！

约翰福音第三章记载，有个人品很好、又非常虔诚的人来找耶稣。他一生都为上帝行善，然而，耶稣在此章的第三节中对他说：“我实实在在地告诉你，人若不重生，就不能见上帝的国。”换句话说，除非你经历灵魂上的重生——使灵魂的身份从有罪变成公义，否则你是不能进入天堂的。

主耶稣又第3章7节中说：“我对你说，你们必须重生，你不要以为希奇。”这人听到了耶稣所说的，感到惊讶，便问：“人已经老了，如何能重生呢？”于是，耶稣接着说：“人若不是从水和圣灵生的，就不能进上帝的国。”这是说，你第一次出生（从水）是肉体上的，但是你的第二次出生（从圣灵）却是灵魂上的；而这不是肉眼所能看见的，而是由心灵来经历的。啊，这么一位赎罪的替代者，一个奇妙的中保，祂不仅代我偿付了罪债，还能完全地重新塑造我，赐予我新的灵魂血统。这就是上帝所差派那位代赎者；祂偿付了我的罪债，同时让我在上帝面前拥有一个新身份——没有罪和罪债的身份。

那么，这位代赎者到底是谁呢？

Here's what God says, "*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly*" (Romans 5:6). Again He says, "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). God sums it up in Romans 5:19 when He says, "*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*"

Jesus personally stated, "*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep*" (John 10:11).

In John 14:6, Jesus was telling His disciples that He was preparing to go back to Heaven to prepare a place for them. During the conversation one of His disciples basically asked, "How do we get there?" Amazingly, this is exactly what Jesus said to him, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*"

That is an exclusive statement! Jesus literally said, "If you ever hope to come to God, you must go through Me." He didn't say you must go through baptism, through a church, through a priest, or through any other way. He said, "I am the only way." He is the only substitute for our sin.

Many religions have mediators or "go-betweens" to bring men to God. Some call them priests or bishops, but the basic intent is that this man helps bring you to God in some way that you cannot come to Him yourself. Again, God speaks out clearly on this and says, "*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man*

圣经是这么说的：“因我们还软弱的时候，基督就按所定的日期为罪人死。”（罗马书5：6）又说：“惟有基督在我们还做罪人的时候为我们死，上帝的爱就在此向我们显明了。”（罗马书5：8）上帝在罗马书5：19节做了总结：“因一人（亚当）的悖逆，众人成为罪人；照样，因一人的顺从，众人也成为义了。”耶稣本人也宣告：“我是好牧人，好牧人为羊舍命。”（约翰福音10：11）

在约翰福音14：6中，耶稣告诉祂的众门徒说，祂要回到天上去，为他们预备地方。谈话间，一位门徒问祂说：“我们怎样才能上去呢？”耶稣做了奇妙的回答：“我就是道路、真理、生命；若不藉着我，没有人能到父（天父；上帝）那里去。”

这是一句十分绝对的话！耶稣实所说的是：“你如果想要到上帝那里去，就必须藉着我。”祂不是说，要藉着洗礼、上教会做礼拜、找（天主教）的神父（做告解）、或者其它的什么，才能到上帝那里去。祂说：“我是唯一的道路。”因为祂是我们唯一的代赎者。许多宗教都设立了中保的职位，来充当上帝与人之间的“中间人”的角色。有些人被称为“神父”或主教，其基本意义是，在你不能接近上帝的情况之下，这个人可以将你带到上帝的面前。但是上帝已经对此事有了明确的指示：“因为只有一位上帝，在上帝和人之间，只有一位中保，乃是降世为人的

Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). In other words, Jesus is the only mediator you ever need!

In Hebrews 2:9, God says, “*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*”

Yes, God did provide an amazing, miraculous substitute to die our death, to take away our sins, and to rebirth us spiritually so that we could come to Him.

Jesus is our substitute.

Jesus is *your* substitute.

God’s answer? Yes, you can have a substitute, but this substitute has to be more than just a man. The only solution was for God to take the form of a man, come to Earth, live a sinless life, and personally die for us.

Yes, Jesus is God.

If you think that’s an extreme claim consider this: first of all, He repeatedly said that He was God. Here’s one example: “*...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*” (John 14:9). Good men or good teachers don’t go around claiming that they are God.

Secondly, He not only died, but He rose from the dead! All over the world you can visit the burial places of religious leaders and founders of worldwide religious

基督耶稣。”（提摩太前书2：5）很明显的，只有耶稣能做你的中保！

在希伯来书2章9节中，上帝说：“惟独见那成为比天使小一点的耶稣；因为受死的苦，就得了尊贵荣耀为冠冕，叫祂因着上帝的恩，为人人尝了死味。”的确，上帝给了我们一位奇妙的代赎者，叫祂来替代我们承受死亡，除去我们的罪，重新塑造我们的灵魂，使我们能到祂那里去。

耶稣就是我们的代赎者。

耶稣是你的代赎者。

上帝给人的答案就是，你有了一位代赎者，但是，这位代赎者不能仅是一个人。对罪的唯一解决办法，就是上帝亲自取了人的样式，来到世上，活出一个无罪的生命，并且为我们而死。

的确，耶稣就是上帝。你也许会认为这很绝对，但请思考一下：祂再三地声明祂就是上帝。这里举个例子：“人看见了我，就是看见了父：你怎么说“‘将父显给我们看’呢？”（约翰福音14：9）若只是好人、好师傅，是不会到处说自己是上帝的。再者，祂不仅是为我们的罪死了，而且从死里复活了！在世界上，你可以找到各个宗教领袖或创始人的墓地或安葬所，

systems—for every religion but one—true Christianity. When you visit Jesus’ tomb, it’s wide open and empty.

Historical fact very much supports the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ. Consider this. After Jesus died, His followers went back to their old jobs—fishing. They rejected Him. Their dream was dead. These weren’t the kind of guys who would die for a lie.

Just a few days later something life-changing and miraculous happened that caused them to leave fishing for the rest of their lives. They also died horrible deaths for the message they preached—that Christ died and rose again.

Let me ask you this question? Would you die for what you knew to be a lie? I doubt it.

The fact that the disciples died for their message—every one of them—is proof enough that Jesus truly rose from the dead. We know Jesus is God because He is the only man who ever conquered death and proved it undeniably. *“But now is Christ risen from the dead...”* (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Thirdly, we know Jesus is God because it’s the only viable option. There are really only three things Jesus could have been—God in the flesh, a liar, or a crazy man. One author put it this way—Lord, liar, or lunatic. He was much too wise and His ministry too powerful to call Him “crazy.” He couldn’t have been lying because again His teaching was too true, and He *and* His followers all would have “died for the lie.” His miracles, His life-changing three-year

惟独真实的基督教信仰不同；如果你去看耶稣的坟墓，就会发现它是敞开和空的。

历史强有力地证明了耶稣的复活。好好想想，耶稣死后，祂的跟随者都回去重操旧业——打鱼。他们拒绝了祂；他们的梦想破灭了。他们不会为一个谎言而死。但仅仅过了几天，奇妙的事情发生了，而他们的一生也随之改变，使他们一辈子都放弃了打鱼。最终，他们传扬了这个信仰——基督死而复活！为了这个信仰，他们最后经历了可怕的死难。

让我问你这个问题。你如果知道这是个谎言，你可会为之献身？我相信不会。但耶稣的门徒们为了他们的信仰而献出生命——并且是每一个人；这已经足够证明耶稣的确是从死里复活了。我们知道耶稣就是上帝，因为祂是唯一征服死亡的人，并且无可辩驳地证明出来了。正如圣经本身所说：“基督已经从死里复活……”（哥林多前书15:20）

第三，我们知道耶稣就是上帝，因为这是唯一可能的选择。关于耶稣是谁，只有三种可能的答案：祂是取了人的样式的上帝、骗子，或者疯子。有一本书的作者是这么写的：“要么就是主，要么是骗子，要么是疯子。”耶稣实在是太有智慧了，祂的传道生涯实在是太强有力了，因此祂绝不是个“疯子”。祂的教导真实，而且祂的跟随者都为了祂的教导而献上生命，因此祂不是在“欺骗”。祂所行的神迹、使众人生命改变的三年传道

ministry, and His literal resurrection from death all prove that He was God in the flesh.

If you refuse to believe that Jesus is God, you must throw out the entire Bible, because this fact is woven like a thread into every page! Colossians 1:15 calls Him *“the image of the invisible God.”* First Timothy 3:16 clearly states, *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*

Jesus personally fulfilled dozens of Bible prophecies where God promised to send us a Saviour. These were things completely out of His control, like where and when He would be born, who His parents were, and how He would die—every single prophecy was fulfilled perfectly just as the Bible predicted. For thousands of years God promised to send this substitute, and when He came, He came just as God said He would.

Yes, Jesus is God in the flesh (John 1:14). He came to Earth for one reason—it was the only way to rescue us from the ruthless enemy of sin. This enemy had so invaded our world that it was holding us hostage to condemnation. God loves us so much that He literally came to Earth to rescue us.

Let’s find out just what He had to go through to carry out this rescue mission. The story gets even better...

生涯，以及凭真据实的死里复活等，都证明了祂的确是取了人的样式的上帝。如果，你不愿意相信耶稣是上帝，就只好将整本圣经丢出去，因为整本圣经从头到尾都见证这一事实！圣经歌罗西书1:15称耶稣是“不能看见之上帝的像”，提摩太前书3:16更是具体地陈述：“大哉，敬虔的奥秘，无人不以为然！就是上帝在肉身显现、被圣灵称义、被天使看见、被传与外邦、被世人信服、被接在荣耀里。”

耶稣已经亲自成就了上帝在圣经中关于祂应许差主派救的多处预言；这些预言所讲的，都不是祂个人所定的，例如祂将在什么地方、什么时候出生，父母是谁、祂最终怎样死等，都应验了，正如圣经所预言的。

几千年来，上帝一直应许要差派这位代赎者，而祂来的时候，就如上帝所说的那样。的确，耶稣就是上帝在肉身中的显现；（约翰福音1:14）祂来到世上只是为了一个目的：解救我们脱离残酷的敌人——罪；这个敌人肆虐于世，将人掳入地狱定罪的命运中。但上帝是如此爱我们，所以祂亲自来到世上来拯救我们。

我们接着就要来了解耶稣为了完成自己的使命，而为我们经历了哪些事情。

这些事说起来，会越来越精彩！

Paid in Full

Perhaps you've seen images or heard descriptions of what Jesus went through on the cross. It was the most gruesome and most tormenting death that the Roman authorities of that time could produce. It was carried out by highly skilled Roman guards who were trained to inflict the most pain over the longest possible period of time. It was a slow and brutal method of execution, not to mention the most publicly humiliating way to die. The pain was so bad that we created a new word to describe it—*excruciating* (Latin: *crux*—cross, crucifixion).

In Jesus' case, He was first beaten with fists and spit on during a mock trial. During this time His beard was forcefully ripped from His face, and His head was crowned with long thorns. These thorns would have deeply pierced the skin to the skull, creating excruciating pain and bleeding.

完全的清偿

也许，关于耶稣在十字架上的经历，你在书、画上曾看过，或者曾听人说过。那是当时罗马帝国所使用的最可怕、最残酷的死刑，而执行者则是经过专门训练的罗马士兵，来让受刑人在尽可能长的时间中承受尽可能多的痛苦。十字架刑这种残忍的刑罚，会使人的一段漫长的时间中慢慢死去，尚且不提在公众场合中队受刑者所施加的羞辱。这种痛苦是如此的巨大，以致于在英语中出现了“excruciating”这个表示“极度的痛苦”的字。（该词源自拉丁文；其中的“crux”是指“十字架”，原意为“受十字架钉刑”。）

耶稣首先所经历的，是罗马士兵私底下对他进行个模拟审讯，并施予拳打脚踢，又吐唾沫在他身上；他的胡子被人狠狠地拔下来，又给戴上荆棘作成的冠冕；荆棘的刺深深陷入他的头颅上，造成剧烈的疼痛和流血。

After this brutal beating, He was sentenced to being lashed thirty-nine times with an object of torture called the “cat o’ nine tails.” This leather whip had nine leather straps at the end, each embedded with chunks of metal, bone, or rock so that the lashing would cut and rip the flesh. The guards trained in using this whip were highly skilled at damaging the human body without bringing death. It was a horrific method of torture.

Finally, Jesus—now barely alive—was forced to carry a large wooden cross through a jeering crowd to the hill we call Calvary. On that hill, he was laid on the cross, nailed at His hands and feet, and then hung up to die.

God told this story long before it happened when He gave us the following prophecy from Isaiah chapter fifty-three. As you read this, realize it is talking about what Jesus did for you personally.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a

遭受了这残忍的毒打后，耶稣又被带去接受三十九下的鞭刑，那鞭叫做“九尾猫鞭”；鞭的末端带有九头皮带，每个头上都镶上金属、骨头或者石头的碎片，因此一鞭下来，可以说是皮开肉绽、血肉横飞。这些罗马士兵都是经过特别训练的，叫受刑的犯人虽挨鞭刑而又不致死，真是一种十分恐怖的刑罚。

最后，奄奄一息的耶稣被逼着扛上大型的十字架，穿过嚣嚷嘲弄的人群，来到一座山坡上；那地方叫做髑髅地。在山坡上，耶稣的手脚都被钉在十字架上，然后被高高地悬挂起来，饱受折磨，以至于死。

早在这事情发生之前，上帝已经在旧约先知的预言中具体地对此进行了描绘。那是以赛亚书第53章；你要是读的话，就会在字里行间发现，耶稣这么做都直接是为了你的缘故。

经上是这么记载的：祂被藐视，被人厌弃；多受痛苦，常经忧患。祂被藐视，好像被人掩面不看的一样；我们也不尊重祂。祂诚然担当我们的忧患，背负我们的痛苦；我们却以为祂受责罚，被神击打苦待了。哪知祂为我们的过犯受害，为我们的罪孽压伤。因祂受的刑罚，我们得平安；因祂受的鞭伤，我们得医治。

我们都如羊走迷；各人偏行己路；耶和華使我们众人的罪孽都归在祂身上。祂被欺压，在受苦的时候却不开口；祂像

lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.—Isaiah 53:3–10

Would you take a moment now and reread that portion of the Bible? Ask God to help you truly understand His message to you. It tells the story of exactly what Jesus was doing when He gave His life on that cross. He was giving His life for our transgressions (our sin) and making Himself the offering (the payment).

While on the cross, Jesus made several statements. Perhaps the most important one was this, “...*It is finished...*” (John 19:30).

Done.

What was He saying? What does “it is finished” mean? Literally it means “paid in full.” It means the complete and final payment for every sin you ever commit is now

羊羔被牵到宰杀之地，又像羊在剪毛的人手下无声，祂也是这样不开口。以赛亚书53：3—7

你是否愿意花时间再读一下这段经文，并且请求上帝让你明白祂在这里要对你说的？这段话讲的正是耶稣在十字架上舍命的情景；祂为了我们过犯的缘故而舍命，将自己献上，成为赎罪祭。当祂在十字架上的时候，耶稣说了几句话，其中最出名的一句是“成了”！（约翰福音19：30）意思就是“完成了”。

祂说的到底是什么？“成了”到底是什么意思呢？实际上，它的意思就是“已经完全偿付了”，意味着你所犯的所有的罪，都已经完全并且永远地

paid. This includes all of your sins—past, present, and future—even the ones you haven’t committed yet!

Jesus was God’s miraculous intervention! He was God on a divine rescue mission to save humanity from the power of sin and the condemnation that it brings. Jesus was the miracle!

After He died, a Roman soldier pierced His side with a spear—verifying His death, and yet again fulfilling specific prophecy—proving that He was who He said.

He was buried in a borrowed tomb and after three days, He literally conquered death and rose to life again! He was seen by hundreds of people for over forty days. The Bible says in Acts 1:3, *“To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”*

Did you get that—infallible proof! Jesus’ resurrection isn’t just a myth, a legend, or a lie—it was proven infallibly.

What does this mean for you?

First, Jesus’ death paid the price for your sin! Your debt can truly be paid and forgiven because of what He accomplished when He said “it is finished!” Paid in full!

Done!

Second, His resurrection made a new birth possible! Remember the “complete spiritual rebuild” that we talked about? Because Jesus conquered death completely, He not only offers you payment for sins; He offers you a brand new kind of life—a brand new spiritual identity. The

被清偿了。被清偿的罪就是你所有的罪——过去犯的、现在犯的，以及将来要犯的，甚至包括你还没有犯的！耶稣所成就的，其实就是上帝对人类的奇妙介入！祂就是上帝在履行拯救人类脱离罪权的使命，使人脱离罪的审判。耶稣本身就是神迹！

耶稣死后，一名罗马士兵用长矛刺穿了祂的肋骨，来确定祂是否已经死了。这件事情的本身却也应验了古时的预言¹，证明祂的确是祂所说的那位。祂被埋葬于一个借来的坟墓中²；三天后，祂征服了死亡，从死里复活了！在四十天内，复活的耶稣被几百人亲眼看见。圣经在使徒行传的第1章3节中说到：“祂受害之后，用许多无可辩驳的凭据将自己活活地显给使徒看，四十天之久向他们显现，讲说上帝国的话。”（另译）你明白吗，那些是无可辩驳的证据！耶稣的复活不是一个神话、传说，或者谎言，而是被无可辩驳地证明出来了。

这对你来说，意味着什么？

首先，耶稣的死清偿了你的罪债！你的罪债确实是可以被清偿和赦免的，因为，耶稣已经成就了祂所说的“成了”一事。完全地清偿了你的罪债！事已经成了！

第二，耶稣的复活使人可以得到新生命！还记得我们提过的“完全的属灵塑造”吗？正由于耶稣完全地征服了死亡，祂不仅给予你罪的赎免，而且还赐给你一个全新的生命——一个全新的属灵身份。这种

miracle can be complete because He rose again! You can have a complete re-engineering of your spiritual genetic system—your identity with God—which makes you a new creature in His sight. You no longer have to remain a sinful creature but a new creature with no sin debt.

This is what DONE is all about. This is what “it is finished” truly means.

The Bible uses a really great word to describe this “paid in full” concept. The word is *propitiation*, and it simply means “the full payment for.” Here’s where it is used:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. —Romans 3:25

*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.
—1 John 2:2*

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.—1 John 4:10

The Bible also calls what Jesus did “reconciliation.” Just as you “reconcile” a relationship when it experiences a division, Jesus brought reconciliation between us and God. He says in 2 Corinthians 5:18–19, “*And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and*

奇迹是带有完整效应的，因为祂已经复活了！你的灵魂基因可以接受全新的构造——你与上帝的关系，使你在祂眼中成为一个新的生命。你不再是有罪的生命，而是一个没有了罪债的新生命！

这就是“成了”真正表示的意思。

圣经用了一个很好的词来形容“完全清偿”的概念，就是“挽回祭”，就是指“完全付清”。上帝在圣经里是这么用这个词的：

上帝设立耶稣作挽回祭，是凭着耶稣的血、藉着人的信，要显明上帝的义；因为祂用忍耐的心宽容人先时所犯的罪。罗马书3：25

祂为我们的罪作了挽回祭；不是单为我们的罪，也是为普天下人的罪。约翰一书2：2

不是我们爱上帝，而是上帝爱我们，差祂的儿子为我们的罪作了挽回祭，这就是爱了。约翰一书4：10

圣经将耶稣所做的称为“和好”，就像是人与人之间的关系破裂时所说的“和好”一样，耶稣为我们与上帝之间带来了和解。哥林多后书5章18—19节中说：“一切都是出于上帝，祂藉着基督使我们与祂和好，又

hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

In verse twenty-one He says again, “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” God made Jesus “sin” so that we could be made “righteous.” Amazing! What an incredible gift! What indescribable love!

The Bible is filled with similar verses which explain in detail that Jesus Christ was our substitute and that He paid our debt in full. Take a moment and ask God to help you clearly understand His message in these verses.

Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.—Galatians 1:4

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.—1 Peter 2:24

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.—1 Peter 3:18

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.—1 John 1:7

将劝人与他和好的职分赐给我们。这就是上帝在基督里叫世人与自己和好，不将他们的过犯归到他们身上。并且将这和好的道理托付了我们。”

在21节中，圣经又说：“上帝使那无罪的，替我们成为罪。好叫我们在祂里面成为上帝的义。”上帝将耶稣看作“罪”，好让我们成为“义”；实在是奇妙！这是多么不可思议的恩赐啊！又是何等不可言喻的爱啊！

圣经有许多经文详细讲到耶稣基督是我们的代赎者，完全地清偿了我们的罪债。请你花几分钟的时间，祈求上帝帮助你明白这些经文：

基督照我们父上帝的旨意为我们的罪舍己，要救我们脱离这罪恶的世代。加拉太书1：4

祂被挂在木头上，亲身担当了我们的罪，使我们既然在罪上死，就得以在义上活。因祂受的鞭伤，你们便得了医治。彼得前书2：24

因基督也曾一次为罪受苦，就是义的代替不义的，为要引我们到上帝面前。按着肉体说，祂被治死；按着灵性说，祂复活了。彼得前书3：18

我们若在光明中行，如同上帝在光明中，就彼此相交，祂儿子耶稣的血也洗净我们一切的罪。约翰一书1：7

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.—Revelation 1:5

Let me conclude this chapter with one final thought. Jesus' payment for your sin was not partial—it was a full payment.

I once shared this with a man who seemed to struggle with understanding the concept of a “full payment.” After what seemed like hours of trying to get through to him, it was like the light bulb came on in his head.

He smiled and said, “All my life I’ve understood that Jesus paid for my sins, but I’ve believed that it was two-way—like a 50/50 proposition. In other words, Jesus did His part and I still have to do my part. But if I understand what you’re saying, then Jesus did it all, and I can’t do anything. It’s 100% Jesus and 0% me!”

Exactly. This is not a 50/50 proposition. Jesus didn’t pay for part of your sin and leave you to pay for the rest. He didn’t say “It is almost finished.” He didn’t say “It is partially paid.” He said “It is fully paid.”

Even religions that claim to “believe in Jesus” seem to teach that He only paid for part of our sin. Many teach that there is still much that you must DO to make atonement for your sin—as though Jesus made partial payment and you have to make the rest. This simply isn’t the message of the Bible.

那诚实作见证的、从死里首先复活、为世上君王元首的耶稣基督，有恩惠平安归与你们。祂爱我们，用自己的血使我们脱离罪恶。启示书1：5

就让一个概念来总结这章的内容吧：耶稣清偿你的罪债，并不是只有部分达成的，而是完全的清偿！

笔者曾跟一个人讲过这事，看起来他难以理解“完全清偿”的概念。我花了好几个小时跟他分析之后，他脑海里就好像是突然闪亮了火花般，明白过来了。他笑着说：“我这一生一直都明白是耶稣清偿了我的罪债，但是，我总是以为祂的清偿是50/50对半的意义；意思就是说，耶稣付了一半，我自己也要付一半才行。但是，我要是没有理解错的话，你说的是，耶稣办妥了一切，所以我无须做什么了；也就是说，祂为我付了100%，而我连一丁点都不用付。”他回答得完全正确！这不是什么50/50对半的事。耶稣可没有只为你付了一半的罪债，而把另一半留给你来付。祂可没有说，“几乎成了”，也没有说，“我已经清偿一部分了”，他说的乃是“我完全付清了”！

甚至有某些声称相信耶稣的宗教也在教导人说，耶稣只是清偿了我们部分的罪债。有不少人还教导，你必须做些什么，才能赎自己的罪；似乎是说耶稣仅仅偿付了部分，而你本人还得付上另一半。这并不是圣经的教导。

Jesus paid it all! DONE.

Friend, are you understanding this? You don't have to pay for your own sin. A miracle of divine intervention happened! God stepped in and took your punishment—*all of it!*

Now the question is this. How does this wonderful payment for my sin actually get *applied* to my account? How can Jesus' death be applied to me?

Well, one thing we've concluded for sure—it won't involve DOING! But it will involve *deciding*.

Would you believe it's a gift?

How much better can this get?!

耶稣的确是为我们清偿了一切！都已经完成了！

朋友，你是否明白呢？你无须赎自己的罪。上帝奇迹般的介入作为已经发生了。上帝介入了人类的历史，并且承担了你的罪债，并且是所有的罪债！

现在，我要问的问题是：对于我来说，耶稣清偿我罪债的这美好作为到底意味着什么？祂的死对我有何意义？起码，有一点是我们可以完全肯定地作出下结论的：这无须人的任何作为！虽然如此，祂需要我们对此做出决定。你会相信这是上帝白白所赐的吗？世上还有什么东西比这更好的呢？！

The Greatest Gift

Christmas around our house is a greatly anticipated event! Probably much like you, we save and plan for months. Way ahead of time the kids are already taking inventory of what they don't have—stuff they can ask for on their Christmas lists. I mean we're getting hints somewhere around August. Wow, do they get creative and does the list ever grow over those few months before Christmas!

This year my son wants a guitar, a bunk bed, a bike, and a new music player! That's the short list, and at this writing, there are still eight weeks until Christmas!

No doubt, as the time draws nearer, my wife and I will carve out some time and venture into that jungle we call the mall to do some Christmas shopping with the rest of the crowd. At that time, we will take our hard-earned cash and spend it to provide gifts for our three children. No one makes

上帝所赐的最好礼物

我最翘首以待的就是在家里过圣诞节了！也许很多地方都与你一样，我们几个月来都省钱来筹备。孩子们老早就给爸妈列出清单，说他们想要什么样的圣诞礼物。才八月份，他们就已经开始向我们作许多暗示了。真是够呛的！在圣诞节前的这几个月里，他们想要的礼物清单在“不断壮大”！

今年，我儿子想要一把吉他、一张双层床、一辆自行车，和一台新的录音机！这要求还是少的；他写出这清单的时候，还要八个月才到圣诞节呢！毫无疑问的，当佳节临近时，我的妻子就得挤出时间来，与一大群人挤在“丛林”中（我们管“购物商城”叫“丛林”）采购节日用品；我们拿出辛辛苦苦攒来的钱，给三个孩子买礼物。没人

us do this—we pay the full price for the gifts because we love our children.

Then on Christmas morning—or sooner if we get talked into it—these gifts are freely presented to three “crazed” children who couldn’t wait for this moment to arrive!

No doubt you even enjoy getting a gift or two yourself each Christmas or birthday. There’s something really nice about receiving a gift.

One thing about Christmas—though we talk for months about the kids “being good” or they won’t get anything for Christmas—they all know that’s a joke. In truth, they know they’re going to get gifts no matter how good or bad they’ve been—and usually it’s plenty of both!

Even a child understands that a gift isn’t about DOING, it’s about DONE. In other words, no ten-year-old expects to have to pay for his Christmas gifts. It’s generally understood among the preschool, elementary, teenage, and even young adult population of the world that Christmas gifts are paid for by parents and received by kids! It’s like a global law.

Well friend, when God refers to the payment for your sins—salvation from Hell—He literally calls it a gift. It’s a gift *from Him to you provided through Jesus Christ.*

Romans 6:23 says, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Plain and simple—it’s a gift of God.

逼我们这么做；这些礼物的钱都是我们付的，因为我们爱自己的孩子。

于是，到了圣诞节的早晨——或者更早的时候，一说到礼物——这些礼物都会给拿出来送给我们“疯狂”的孩子，他们都等不及了！想来每到圣诞节或者生日的时候，你也会收到一些礼物吧！有人送东西给你，的确是很特别的。关于圣诞节，有一点特别要讲，虽然我们大人几个月来都跟孩子们说要乖，要不然就得不到什么礼物了，但是他们都知那只是开玩笑的，为要吓唬他们。他们知道，无论自己是乖巧还是顽皮，到时候都会得到礼物的；他们的表现其实有很多地方是好的，但也有很多的地方是不好的！

就连一个孩子都知道，得什么礼物并不是要自己先得做什么来换取的，这事情已经是“成了”的。换句话说，没有哪个十岁的孩子会期待拿钱来买自己的礼物。学前班、小学、少年甚至青年人都知道，圣诞节的礼物是爸妈买来送给他们的！这就好像是一个全世界的人都公认的常理。既然如此，朋友，当上帝说到，已经为你清偿了罪债——使你脱离下地狱的命运——那么，祂就将这事情称为恩赐（白白所赐），是祂通过耶稣赐予你的礼物。

罗马书6：23说：“因为罪的工价乃是死，惟有上帝的恩赐，在我们的主基督耶稣里，乃是永生。”简单明了——它是“上帝的恩赐”，是上帝所赐的礼物。

John 3:16 begins, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son. . .*”

Over and over in Scripture God tells us that salvation is a gift. Look at these verses carefully and see how many times God refers to this gift.

But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

—Romans 5:15–18

The central message here is that as sin came upon all men because of Adam's sin, even so God's free gift of salvation (justification and righteousness) is made available to all men through one person—Jesus Christ.

The word *justification* means “to declare righteous.” The word *righteous* means “perfect or right in God's sight.” This is the message—for God to declare me righteous (not guilty), it must come through the gift of Jesus Christ.

约翰福音3: 16前半段是这么说的：“上帝爱世人，甚至将他的独生子赐给他们……”

在圣经上，上帝反复地强调，救恩是白白赐予的。请好好读一下这些经文，看看上帝多少次说到救恩乃是“恩赐”的：

只是过犯不如恩赐。若因一人的过犯，众人都死了，何况上帝的恩典，与那因耶稣基督一人恩典中的赏赐，岂不更加倍的临到众人吗。因一人犯罪就定罪，也不如恩赐，原来审判是由一人而定罪，恩赐乃是由许多过犯而称义。若因一人的过犯，死就因这一人作了王；何况那些受洪恩又蒙所赐之义的，岂不更要因耶稣基督一人在生命中作王吗？如此说来，因一次的过犯，众人都被定罪，照样，因一次的义行，众人也就被称义得生命了。罗马书5: 15-18

这里的中心思想就是，由于人类始祖亚当的罪，罪就临到所有的人身上；那么，何况，通过一个义人——耶稣基督，上帝白白的恩典（称义和公义）也就赐予众人了。“称义”一词的意思是“被宣告为义人”。“公义”表示“在上帝的眼中看为完全和正确的”。这就是其中所表达的意思——上帝宣告我为公义（没有罪责），乃是通过耶稣基督所赐的。

Again in 2 Corinthians 9:15 we read, “*Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*” And finally in Ephesians 2:8 God says, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*”

Without a doubt, this is the greatest gift that you’ve ever been offered. It beats every Christmas and every birthday of your entire life all put together! This gift determines your eternity with God in Heaven.

There are two things you must realize about a gift.

First, it must be *completely free*. A true gift cannot be paid for or earned. A true gift has no conditions or strings attached. It must be paid for by another and then offered freely. If you have to earn, deserve, pay, or in any way compensate for a gift—it is no longer a gift.

That’s what God means in this verse, “*And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work*” (Romans 11:6).

Grace is *getting* what I *don’t* deserve. Mercy is *not* getting what I *do* deserve. *Mercy* is when the police officer pulls you over for speeding but lets you off with a warning. *Grace* would be the police officer pulling you over for speeding and giving you a \$100 Walmart gift card just because he loves you!

With this gift from God, you are being offered both God’s grace and God’s mercy.

Over and over in the Bible, God calls this a gift of His grace—something given from unmerited favor. Titus 2:11

在哥林多后书9：15中，我们读到：“感谢上帝，因祂有说不尽的恩赐。”然后，在以弗所书2：8中，上帝如此说：“你们得救是本乎恩，也因着信，这并不是出于自己，乃是上帝所赐的。”

毫无疑问的，这是你所能得到的至善至美的礼物，而且肯定是超过了你一生在圣诞节和生日所收礼物的总和！这个礼物（恩赐）决定了你将永远与上帝同在天堂中。

关于礼物（恩赐），你必须意识到两点。第一，它必须是完全免费的（白白给予的）。真正的礼物不是用财物来换取或赚取得来的；一个真正的礼物是不附加任何条件的，且必须是由他人所赚取而来，并且白白地给予的。如果说，这个礼物是你必须赚取、配得、支付、甚至在哪个方面来补偿的，那么，它就不再是礼物了。这就是上帝在这节经文所说的：“既是出于恩典，就不在乎行为；不然，恩典就不是恩典了。而若是出于行为，就不是恩典了；不然，行为就不是行为了。”（罗马书11：6另译）

所谓的恩典，就是我得到了自己所不配得的。恩慈并不是我拿行动可以争取得来的，而是像一名交警把我的车叫停下来，本来要罚我超速的，但是他愿意放过我。恩典就如同你的车子超速，交警叫你把车靠边停下来，却给了你一百块钱的沃尔玛购物卡，仅仅是因为他爱你！有了上帝所恩赐给你的礼物，就是得到了上帝的恩典和恩慈。圣经反复讲到，上帝让祂的恩典成为礼物，而白白赐予本来不配得的人。提多书2：11

says, “*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.*”

Hebrews 2:9 says, “*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*”

The second thing about a gift—it must be *optional*. A forced gift is no gift at all. A gift cannot be forced upon the recipient—it can only be offered.

Friend, are you seeing God’s message? God’s truth to you isn’t DO—it’s DONE! In so many ways He tries to tell us that eternal life is a gift—it has been purchased by the death of Jesus Christ. It cannot be earned, paid for, or deserved. It’s already paid in full.

The full pardon for your sins is gift-wrapped and waiting under the tree called Calvary. It was paid for by the precious life and blood of Jesus Christ who died in your place. He offers this gift to you freely, by His love and grace. It cost Him His life, and He waits eagerly to see if you will accept it as your own. He cannot force you to take it, and He cannot accept your efforts to earn it. Yet, He longs for you to have it!

Remember 2 Peter 3:9 says that God “*is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” God cannot force you to come to repentance—for you to recognize your sin debt and come to Him for the only

说，“因为上帝救众人的恩典，已经显明出来。”

希伯来书2：9说，“惟独见那成为比天使小一点的耶稣，因为受死的苦，就得了尊贵荣耀为冠冕，叫祂因着上帝的恩，为人人尝了死味。”

关于礼物（恩赐）的第二点是，它必须是可选择接受与否的。一个强加于人的“礼物”就不算为礼物。它不能强加于对方，而只能给予。朋友，你是否明白上帝的意思？上帝对你讲的真理不是要求你自己采取什么行动，而是该做的事情都做好了！祂在那么多地方告诉我们，永恒的生命（永生）是恩赐，是耶稣基督以自己的生命为我们成就的。这不是人所能赚取、偿付或者配得的。永生的“款项”已经被结清、完全地偿付了。对你罪的赦免已经被包裹成礼物，放在髑髅地那座山坡的“圣诞树”下；这礼物是耶稣基督用自己宝贵的生命和鲜血，为你支付、赚取过来的，并且祂以爱和恩典将这礼物白白地赐予你。这乃是以祂的生命为代价，而祂殷切地期待看到你会接受这个礼物；祂不会强迫你接受，也不会接受你付出的什么努力，但真真期待你能得着！

还记得彼得后书3：9中说的吗：上帝“其实不是耽延，乃是宽容你们，不愿有一人沈沦，乃愿人人都悔改。”上帝不会强迫你悔改，不会强迫你承认自己的罪，并且来到祂面前接受那唯一的

cure. He will never force Himself on you. He's not that kind of God.

He has DONE everything He can do—He has paid the price in full for this gift and now He waits for your decision...

If you'd like to know how to make this gift your own, then let's keep talking...

拯救。祂永远都不会强迫你接受祂和祂的礼物。上帝不会那样。

祂已经做了所有该做的——完全偿付了这礼物，现在就等你做决定了……

如果，你想知道该如何接受这个礼物，那么，就让我们继续谈下去……

Believing on Christ

What if Christmas morning came and my kids refused to open their gifts? (Probably won't happen, but go with me on this one for a moment!) That would be a terrible disappointment. After all the trouble of purchasing, wrapping, and waiting in eager anticipation, we would be terribly let down if the kids didn't want what we had purchased for them.

Now, in all reality, that's highly unlikely! Why? Because receiving a gift is easy! It's fun. It's something you look forward to and anticipate. I've never once had to coax my kids to open a gift. I've never had to talk them into it. I've never had to wait while they decided whether or not to take it. I've never had to convince them that my gift was good.

No, they seem to cross those bridges pretty quickly. In no time flat, as soon as we allow them, they are tearing wrapping paper from everything in sight.

信靠耶稣

要是圣诞节来了，孩子却不愿意打开礼物盒，怎么办？（当然，这是不大可能的，但暂且举这个例子吧！）那会使我们非常的失望！我们花费了那么多心思来购买、包装，并且殷切地期待，但孩子要是不愿拆开包装来看礼物，该是多么让人失望啊！不过在现实中，这是不大可能发生的！为什么呢？

因为，接受一个礼物是很容易的！拿礼物这事既有趣，又让人企盼。我从来就不需要哄自己的小孩来拆礼物；他们拿礼物从没让我等过，我也从来不用说服他们礼物是好东西；真的不用。他们很容易地就明白了这个道理；只要一声令下，他们立刻一拥而上，见礼物就拆。……

So why do so many people hesitate to receive a gift from their heavenly Father?

I've shared this news with so many people who can't seem to decide what to do with it. They hesitate. They struggle with belief. They can't seem to accept that God made it this simple. They reason that there must be more to it! "God couldn't let me off the hook that easily," they think. There must be a catch. There must be something I have to do to earn it or pay for it.

Friend, no matter how you look at it, if you choose to believe the Bible then you have to go with DONE...not DO.

And if you go with DONE—if you accept that salvation (the payment for sin) is a free gift, then there's only two simple decisions remaining to actually make this gift yours.

You see, to receive any gift you must make two simple decisions—the first is internal and the second is external. It goes like this.

If I walked up to you on the street and offered you \$1,000 in cash as a free gift, you would have two quick decisions.

Decision #1—do I believe this guy?

You would stand there a moment, look at me, check me out, and try to assess what I'm "up to." You would try to quickly evaluate whether or not you believe me. In all likelihood you would be suspicious of me—maybe so

那么，为什么那么多人会在天父所赐的礼物上，却表现得犹豫不决呢？

我曾经跟许多人分享过，他们看起来总是迟疑，不知道该怎么决定。他们总是不那么相信，似乎是无法接受上帝会让这事变得那么简单。他们总是在脑子里推理：“哪有那么简单的事情！其中一定有文章！一定有什么代价！一定有什么是我必须用行动来争取的。”朋友，无论你怎么看、怎么想，如果你相信圣经，就必须接受救恩已经“做成”了的这个事实，而不应认为你得去做什么来配合。

如果你相信救恩已经做成了，如果你接受救恩（罪的清偿）是白白的恩典的话，那么，要接受这个恩典，就只有两个非常简单的决定；而这是接受任何礼物都是必须做的两个简单的选择：第一个选择是内在的，第二个选择则是外在的。

比如说，如果在街上，我朝你走去，给你1千块钱，你就得很快做出以下两个选择。

选择1——我是否要相信这个人？

你会站在那里，看看我，对我推敲一番，看看我到底“在葫芦里卖什么药”。你会快速地估量，看是否要相信我。很可能你会怀疑我，并且……

much so that you would choose not to believe and would go on your merry way. In this case the second decision becomes irrelevant.

Yet, if you chose to believe me, your internal choice is complete and your external choice is this...

Decision #2—will I receive this gift?

Even though you believe that I'm offering you \$1,000, you could still opt not to take the gift. You could say, "Thanks, but no thanks." You could say, "Looks like you need it more than I do, pal!" You could choose to walk away. Though you believe, you could still choose to reject the gift.

You see, on the side of the giver, a true gift must be *free* and *optional*, and on the side of the receiver, a true gift must be *believed* and *received*! For a gift to become yours, you must choose to believe the giver and to receive it as your own. Until you make these two simple decisions the gift is not truly yours. It could be paid for—it could be wrapped and waiting. It could have your name on it. But if you don't believe it and receive it, then it will never be yours.

So it is with the gift of God—eternal life. You don't get this gift "by default." You get this gift "by decision." Yes, it's paid for. Yes, it's ready and waiting for you. Yes, it has your name on it. And yes, you could decide to walk away. You could decide you don't believe and you won't receive. It would be the worst decision you could ever make.

转头就走。若是这样，那就无从谈起第二个选择了。不过，你要是选择相信我，那么，你的外在选择就是……

选择2——我要不要接受？

即使你相信我会给你1千块钱，你还是可能选择不接受，而会说：“你的好意我心领了，但是，老兄，你比我更需要钱，还是自个留着吧！”然后，转身就走。虽然你相信我的好意，但还是走开了。

就施予者而言，真正的礼物必须是无偿和可选择的；而对于接受者而言，真正的礼物必须要借着相信和接受才能得着！要想得到礼物，你必须相信那位施予者，并且受之为己有。除非你做出这两个选择，否则那礼物就不会是你的，即便是款项都已付清了，而礼物都包装好了，甚至上面有你的名字，但若你对之不予相信和接受的话，它就永远都不会是你的。

上帝所赐的礼物——永生——也是一样。你不会自动获得这个礼物，而必须作出选择。的确，这礼物的代价已经结清了，就等着你来拿。的确，上面有你的名字。但的确，你也可以选择走开；你可以选择不相信和不接受，不过这会是你一生所做出的最糟的选择。……

Now, my kids seem to get past these two decisions pretty quickly on Christmas and birthdays. They don't usually have much trouble believing and receiving.

Yet, so many people I meet can't seem to do this with God. So, how about you, right now? Is this really something that you need to contemplate fifty-seven ways? Is this really something you need to find eighty-two reasons "not to accept"? It's a gift of God. It's free for the taking. If you believe the Bible—if you will take God at His word, this can be yours right now.

Here's how God describes the "taking of the gift." In Romans 10:9–10 He says, "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*"

Did you catch that? "*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness...*"—that's the believe part. "*And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*"—that's the receive part.

Again in verse thirteen He says, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" In other words, whoever will ask can have this gift from God!

In Acts 16:31 we are instructed, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved....*"

Once again in John 3:16 Jesus said, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

针对圣诞节和生日的礼物，我的几个孩子很快就做出了决定；他们没有费多大劲就相信和接受了。

然而，我遇见的许多人看起对待上帝却似乎不是这样的。那么，你现在如何呢？这事是不是需要你先考虑57条问题呢？或者你得寻找82个理由来不相信呢？这可是上帝的恩典，白白的赏赐给你的。如果你相信圣经——如果相信上帝所说的话，你现在就可以得着了！

上帝是这么说到接受祂的恩赐的：罗马书10：9—10说：你若口里认耶稣为主，心里信上帝叫祂从死里复活，就必得救。因为人心里相信，就可以称义；口里承认，就可以得救。

你可明白其中的意思？“因为人心里相信，就可以称义”——说的是相信。“口里承认，就可以得救”——说的是接受。罗马书10：13又说：“凡求告主名的，就必得救。”换句话说，凡是祈求上帝的，都会得到这个恩赐！

在使徒行传16：31中，圣经如此指示我们：“当信主耶稣，你……必得救。”在约翰福音的3：16中，耶稣说：“上帝爱世人，甚至将祂的独生子赐给他们，叫一切信祂的，不至灭亡，反得永生。”

Over and over again in the Bible God says that this gift becomes ours by believing and receiving. It starts internally—in the heart. It starts with true belief—faith.

Now, friend, it's important that you realize there are two kinds of belief. There is a “head belief” and a “heart belief.” A head belief is simply a knowledge of something. A heart belief is actually trusting that knowledge.

If I went to LAX airport and bought a ticket on Southwest Airlines to Phoenix, I could believe with my head that this ticket and this airline could take me to Phoenix. I could know this in my head without actually placing my trust in this airplane. This is head belief.

Heart belief would be to actually “get on board” the plane—to fully trust that airline and airplane to take me to my destination.

You may already have a head belief in Jesus. You may understand everything I've written about in this little book. Millions of people in the world claim to believe in Jesus—yet they go about day to day still trying to pay for their own sin and refusing to simply admit their desperate state and trust His full payment on the cross.

The question now is this—will you place a *heart belief* in Jesus Christ alone? Are you willing to believe that nothing else can save you? Are you willing to turn fully to Christ from a sincere heart of repentance and faith? Will you truly believe to the point of fully trusting in only Jesus to save you and pay your sin debt?

在圣经里，上帝反复地说，我们仅仅需要相信和接受，就能得着这个恩典。它是从内在开始——就是内心，起始于真正的信仰——信。

朋友，在此你必须明白，世上有两种相信。一种是“思想上的相信”，另一种则是“内心里的相信”。“思想上的相信”仅仅是对某事物的了解，而“内心里的相信”则是了解并且信靠。

比如说，我到了洛杉矶机场，买了一张西南航空的机票飞到凤凰城去。我思想上可能相信，这张机票和这趟飞行能带我到凤凰城，却又对飞机不持任何把握。那就是思想上的相信。“内心里的相信”则是实实在在地登上了飞机，而完全信任航班和飞机能把我带到目的地。

同样地，你或许已经在思想上对耶稣有所了解，并且完全明白我在这本小书里所写的内容。世界上有上百万的人都声称自己相信耶稣，但是他们每天还在想着要给自己赎罪，而拒绝承认自己所处的状况是绝望的，来接受耶稣在十字架上所成就的完全赎罪。

现在要问的问题是：“你愿意打从心里单单地相信耶稣基督吗？你愿意相信除祂以外，别无拯救吗？你愿意以诚挚的心完全转向耶稣，悔改和相信吗？你是否真正相信只有耶稣才能拯救你，并清偿你的罪债？”

What if you were on the fifth floor of a burning building—trapped? You're hanging out a window, clinging to the building for dear life. You're holding tight to the building—and you're doomed.

Suddenly, the fire department sees you, spreads a net for you, and ten firemen begin yelling for you to jump into their net.

Friend, you cannot trust both the net *and* the building. If you try to trust both, you'll die. You have to make a 100% choice either way. If you trust the building, it will soon fall and engulf you in flames. Yet, to trust the firemen, you would have to let go of the building and jump by faith into the net. You would need to have more than a head belief. Your jump would necessitate a heart belief—a 100% trust in the firemen.

In that moment you would have made these two split-second decisions. Do I believe these firemen? Will I receive their offer? If the answer to both of these questions is yes—then you'd better jump. In jumping you receive the firemen's offer of salvation.

It's so simple. So many religions and systems complicate this matter—make it so DO oriented. So many people are trying to cling to the building and believe the firemen at the same time.

Friend you cannot trust DO and DONE at the same time. You must now choose one or the other. You must make your choice about God's gift. If it's a gift, then it cannot be earned. If you must earn it, then it isn't a gift.

如果一栋大楼起火了，而你被困在五楼，你会怎么办？也许你会拼命地用手吊在窗户上，试图紧紧抓住任何能碰得到的东西，已经是走投无路了；这时消防队来了，在你的底下张开救生网，而十个消防员向你高呼“向下跳到救生网上”。朋友，在这关头，你是不能又相信大楼，又相信救生网的；你如果想选择相信两者，就会丧命。你必须走出一个百分之百的决定，来选择相信其中之一。如果你相信了大楼，它很快就倒塌了，而大火将吞噬你。要是你相信消防员，你就得放弃攀住大楼的窗户，而凭借信心来跳到救生网上去。你需要的不仅仅是“思想上的相信”；你要跳下去，就必须有“内心的相信”——百分之百地信任消防员。在那样的一个关头，你必须明快地做出选择。

“我是否要相信消防员呢？”“我是否接受他们的救援呢？”如果你对这两个问题的答案都是肯定的话，那么你就得跳下去；借着这一跳，你就接受了消防员的援救。

事情就是这么简单。许多宗教或信仰系统却将事情复杂化了，因为它们都是以“人的行为”作为出发点的。许多人都在拼命地攀住燃烧的大楼，同时又想相信消防员。朋友，你是不能同时相信“人的行为”和“上帝已成就的作为”的。你必须在二者中择一，来回应上帝的恩典；你必须作出自己的选择。如果是恩典，就不是你赚取来的。赚取来的东西，就不是恩典。

Yet God says repeatedly that you cannot earn it, and that it is indeed a gift. So who do you believe—God or religion? Your own opinion or the Word of God?

Back to those two choices—do I believe God? Will I receive His gift?

How about it?

Do you believe the message of God to you? Do you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is God? Do you believe that, in spite of your good points, you are still sinful and need a “rebuilding” miracle? Do you believe that Jesus paid for your sin and rose again from the dead? If you truly believe these things in your heart, then you are almost there!

Will you receive this gift?

Hopefully you’re like my kids! Hopefully right now you’re saying, “YES, YES, YES...who wouldn’t?! Just tell me how!”

Well God makes it very clear. “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (Romans 10:13). Since you can’t physically walk up to God and take eternal life, He simply says, “Ask.” Your heart belief combined with your simple prayer of asking will make it yours. Your internal decision to fully trust combined with your external decision to receive (to ask for it) makes this gift YOURS instantly!

You’re not DOING for this gift—you’re deciding. You’re simply making a choice to accept what has already been DONE.

然而，上帝已经反复强调，你是没有能力争取救恩的，因为救恩诚然是上帝的恩典。

你要相信上帝还是宗教呢？你要相信你的观点还是上帝的话语呢？

请回到前面提起的那两个选择上：我相信上帝吗？我愿意接受祂的恩典吗？

你相信上帝向你传达的信息吗？你从心里相信耶稣基督就是上帝吗？你相信，尽管自己很会雄辩，却依然是个罪人，而需要灵魂重塑的奇迹吗？你相信耶稣已经清偿了你的罪债，并且从死里复活了吗？如果你打从内心中真正地相信了这些，那么，你就离得救不远了！

你要接受这上帝恩典的礼物吗？希望你能像我的几个孩子一样！我盼望听到你现在就说“想！想！谁不想呢？告诉我该怎么接受吧！”

上帝说得很清楚：“凡求告主名的，就必得救。”（罗马书10：13）既然，人不能靠自己走到上帝那里去，伸手得到永生，那么上帝就只简单地要求你“祷告“来接受：你只要从内心里相信，并且做个简单的祈祷，就可以得着了；借着你的内在的决定（相信）和外在的决定（接受），你马上就得到永生了！

你无须做什么，只要简单地做一个决定就可以了。你所需要做的不过是简单地接受上帝已经成就了的救恩。

So here's the purpose of these pages—the most important question you will ever read in your entire life. It determines where you will spend all of eternity.

Will you, in this moment decide to believe and receive God's gift?

I'm assuming you're a lot like my kids—ready to tear into this gift as soon as you can get it with the hands of your heart! Well, you only need to ask.

If you have already internally made the “believe” decision, then I urge you to bow your head and heart in the privacy of this moment and pray a simple, sincere prayer. Something like this:

Dear Jesus,

I believe in my heart that you are God. I believe that you died for all of my sins and rose again. I confess to you that I am a sinner, and I ask you to be my personal Saviour right now. I place 100% of my trust in you to come into my life and take me to Heaven someday. I accept your free gift of eternal life.

Thank you for keeping your promise and answering this prayer.

Amen.

Did you believe and receive? If not, I hope you will very soon! Don't risk another day! God wants you to make this decision now, and He is eager for you to accept His

在这里，我必须问你一个重要的问题，这是你一生中所必须面对的最重要的问题，因为这会决定你永恒的归宿；这问题是：“在此时此地，你是否愿意接受上帝所恩赐的礼物？”我想，你会像我的几个孩子一样，迫不及待地撕开礼物包装，用心灵来接受这个礼物。你只要求就行了。如果你已经在心里做了决定要去相信，那么，就请你低下头来，让你的心在上帝面前谦卑下来，找个安静的地方，做以下这个简单而真挚的祷告。：

亲爱的耶稣：

我从心里相信，您是上帝。我相信，您为我所有的罪而死，并且从死里复活了。我向您承认，我是一个罪人，并在此时此地请求你成为我个人的救主。我将全部的信心都托付给您，请您进入我的生命之中，并且将来将我带到天堂。我接受永生这一白白的恩赐。感谢您守住您的应许，并且回应这个祷告。阿门。

你是否已经相信且接受了呢？如果还没有，我希望你会很快采取行动！不要浪费时间来冒另一天的险。上帝希望你在此时此地做出这个决定；祂殷切地期待你接受祂的

gift. He says, “...*behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation*” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

His rescue mission is complete, but you must choose to be rescued.

If you just prayed that prayer—congratulations on the greatest decision you will ever make! God just applied the full payment of Jesus Christ for your sin debt to your account! The record is wiped clean forever and you are perfect—righteous—justified (just as if you’d never sinned) in God’s sight!

That doesn’t necessarily mean that you won’t still sin—in fact you will, but when you do you already have forgiveness and the price for that sin has already been paid.

You are now “born again”—Jesus Christ has come into your life to stay and He has begun the process of growing you in His grace. He has “rebuilt” you spiritually from the ground up! You may not feel different, but according to God’s own words you are a “new creature” with Jesus Christ living inside of you. You literally have a new set of spiritual genes—the sin gene is gone and God’s life is now within you.

You will never face eternity apart from God. He promises you eternal life which can never be taken away under any circumstance. You never again need to fear death or wonder where you will go after you die! You have accepted what Christ has DONE for you. You didn’t DO anything to earn it, and you can’t DO anything to lose it!

恩典。祂说：“看哪！现在正是悦纳的时候，现在就是拯救的日子。”（哥林多后书6：2）

耶稣拯救人灵魂的使命已经完成，但是你必须做出选择来接受祂的拯救。如果你已经做了上面那个祷告，我恭喜你作了一个最重大的决定！上帝已经将耶稣基督所成全的救赎归于你的份上！你灵魂的罪污已经给永远洗净了；所以如今在上帝的眼中，你是个完全、公义、被祂称义的人了；祂看待你，就如同你从来没有犯过罪一样！

这不是说，你以后就再也不会犯罪了；其实，你还会犯罪，但当你犯罪的时候，上帝的赦免已经为你预备好的，并且你的罪债已经被清偿了。

你现在已经重生了；耶稣已经进驻在你的生命里，使你开始在祂的恩典中成长。祂已经从根本开始，“新造”了你的灵魂！虽然你在感觉上没有什么不同，但是，根据上帝的话，你已经是一个“新造的人”了，有耶稣基督在你里面；你已经有了新的“灵魂基因”——那罪性的基因已经过去，上帝的生命已经在你里面；你永远都不会与上帝隔绝了，祂已经应许（承诺）赐给你永生，而这是无论在什么情况之下都不会失去的。你永远都不需要害怕死亡，或害怕在么死后会到什么地方去！你已经接受了基督为你所成就的救恩，你並沒有做什么来赚取它，自然也不会因为做了什么而失去它！

You now belong to God, and He is your heavenly Father forever.

I told you we would get back to this verse, Ephesians 2:1, “*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*” *Quickened* means “made alive”! God has brought you to life, spiritually speaking!

What a great decision. What a great future you have. A wonderful new life has been planted in you!

There are a few more things you really should know before you put this book down...

从现在开始，你已经属于上帝；而祂永远是你的天父。

以上曾提到我们会回过头来看一下以弗所书2：1。这段经文说：“你们死在过犯之中，他叫你们活过来。”这意思是，从灵魂的意义上说，上帝已经让你起死回生了！

这是关系多么重大的一个决定啊！前面等着你的的是一个何其光明的未来啊！上帝种在你心中的是一个多么奇妙的新生命啊！在放下这本书之前，还有其它的一些事情，是你真需要知道的……

New Creature, New Life, New Future

Remember how I said we don't need a mere "makeover," but we do need a total spiritual "rebuild"? Jesus called it "rebirth."

Well, that's what just happened to you! You were born into God's family. You were "made alive" to God, and with this new birth comes some pretty important things. God says you are literally a new creature. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

You are now "alive" in God's sight—whereas before you were spiritually dead. This means you have the capacity, by God's grace in your heart, to experience a personal relationship with God on a daily basis. This is the close relationship He has always wanted with you, and it will lead to all kinds of internal changes (for the better) in your life! You now have the capacity to truly change for the better by God's

结语

新造的人、新生命、新征程

还记得笔者曾经说过，我们需要的不是一个“表面的改造”，而是一个完全的灵魂“重塑”吗？耶稣称之为“重生”。而这就是你刚刚所经历的！如果你相信了祂、接受了祂，你就已经重生，进入上帝的家庭之中了；在上帝面前，你已经“起死回生”了。

伴随这新生命而来的，有些相当重要的事情是你需要了解的。上帝说，你是一个新造的人。哥林多后书5：17说：“若有人在基督里，他就是新造的人了；旧事已过，都变成新的了。”在上帝的眼中，你现在已经活过来了；而在此之前，你在灵魂上是死的。这也就意味着，现在你有能力借着上帝在你里面的恩典，每天与上帝保持亲密的关系。这亲密的关系也是上帝想与你共有的，并且借此将你导向各种各样在内心的美好改变！你靠着上帝赐给你的力量，现在可以朝着好的方向来

power. God will grow you and change you from within if you will let Him.

God instructs us in 1 Peter 2:2, *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”* In God’s family, you are a newborn babe! You have a new beginning in God’s sight, and there’s much growth to experience in your new life.

You have been “born again” the Bible way—God’s way, just as 1 Peter 1:23 says, *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”*

As we close this book and rejoice in your decision to accept God’s gift, there are a few things you need to know.

First, you can never lose your salvation! You are secure in God’s care forever. Though there are many, here are a couple of references that tell us this in the Bible:

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.—Romans 8:38–39

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.—Ephesians 1:13

进行改变。如果你愿意让上帝来引领你，他就会栽培你，使你的内心更新而变化。

上帝在彼得前书2：2中教导：“要爱慕那纯净的灵奶，像才生的婴孩爱慕奶一样，叫你们因此渐长。”在上帝的家庭里，你是一个新生的婴儿！在上帝的眼中，你有了新的开始；而在这新生命中，你需要成长。你已经按照圣经的教导和上帝的方式而重生了，正如彼得前书1：23所说的：“你们蒙了重生，不是由于能坏的种子，乃是由于不能坏的种子，是藉着上帝活泼常存的道。”

在你阖上这本书前，你除了为着接受了上帝所恩赐的礼物而欢欣外，还有些事情是你必须知道的：第一，你永远都不会失去你的救恩！你在上帝的监护下，永远都是稳妥的。圣经有许多地方告诉我们这一点，例如：

因为我深信无论是死是生，是天使，是掌权的，是有能的，是现在的事，是将来的事，是高大的，是低处的，是别的受造之物，都不能叫我们与上帝的爱隔绝；这爱是在我们的主基督耶稣里的。罗马书8：38-39

你们既听见真理的道，就是那叫你们得救的福音，也信了基督；既然信祂，就受了所应许的圣灵为印记。以弗所书1：13

This verse in Ephesians teaches that God sealed you (permanently placed His seal of ownership upon you) the moment you accepted Christ.

Again God promises in Hebrews 13:5, *“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*

These are just a few of God’s promises that once you have been “born” into His family, you can never be “unborn”!

Second, God wants you to grow as a newborn child. As a newborn baby has much to learn about life, so is your relationship with God. He says in 2 Peter 3:18, *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”*

There are many ways you can grow closer to God. In Acts 2, the people who trusted Christ assembled together at church to learn the Bible and encourage each other. It’s important that you quickly find a true Bible-believing and Bible-teaching church where each week you can learn more of Jesus Christ and find friends who will encourage you in your journey.

If you contact us here at *Striving Together Publications*, we would love to recommend a good church in your area where you can learn the Bible and grow in God’s grace.

Friend, you have a new life! You are a new creature in God’s sight! You have a new eternal destiny and a new heavenly Father! He wants to provide your every need, guide your every decision, transform your life from the

以弗所书的这节经文教导我们，在你接受基督耶稣的那时候，上帝就已经给你印上印记了，（这印记是一个永远的证明，表示你已经归属于祂）。上帝又在希伯来书13：5中应许（承诺）：“我总不撇下你，也不丢弃你。”你重生而进入上帝的家庭中，这只是上帝给你的许多应许中的几条而已；这些应许清楚表明，你一旦重生，就不会再失去这个重生！

第二，上帝希望你像一个新生的婴儿一样，不断地成长。一个新生的婴儿需要学习生活中的许多事情，你与上帝的关系也是如此。彼得后书3：18说，“你们却要在我们主救主耶稣基督的恩典和知识上有长进。愿荣耀归给祂，从今直到永远。阿们。”

你可以通过许多方式来亲近上帝。在使徒行传第2章，我们看到，相信基督的人们都聚集在教会里学习圣经，彼此勉励。所以，找到一个真正相信圣经、教导圣经的教会，对你而言是非常重要的；你可以在每个星期日学习关于耶稣基督的更多的事情，并且找到在天路历程中与你互相勉励的良友。如果你与我们联系，我们非常愿意为你推荐在你所住地区的好教会，来帮助你学习圣经，和更多地了解上帝的恩典。

朋友，你已经有了新生命！你在上帝的眼中是个新造的人！你有了一个新的永恒归宿，并且有了天父！祂愿意供给你所有的需要，引导你每个决定，由

inside out, and lead you into a future that fulfills His eternal purpose.

Just as you trust Him by faith for salvation, He wants you to grow in faith day by day—learning more of His love, His Word, and His plan for your life.

You're going to love the journey of growing closer to God. Now that your sin debt is taken care of, you have an invitation to enter His presence at any moment. Hebrews 4:16 says, *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

You don't need a priest or a mediator—you can come directly to your heavenly Father at any time. You can talk with Him through prayer, and He will talk with you through His Word, the Bible. He says that His Word is *“quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12).

I encourage you to begin reading the Word of God and begin praying to Him every day. You'll find day by day that your heart will long to grow closer and closer to Him. The more you get to know God, the more you will love Him! The more you find out how much He loves you and just what He has done for you, the more irresistible you will find Him!

We began the book with this verse:

里到外来重新塑造你，并且引领你去完成祂永恒的计划。

你既信靠祂而得救，祂希望你凭借信心来逐日成长——更多地学习到祂的爱、祂的真理，以及祂对你人生的计划。我相信你会非常珍爱每日与上帝亲近的新生命的！现在，你的罪债都已经付清了；你可以随时来到祂的面前。

希伯来书4：16说：“所以我们只管坦然无惧地来到施恩的宝座前，为要得怜恤、蒙恩惠，作随时的帮助。”

你并不需要什么“神父”或者中介，而完全可以随时直接来到你的天父面前。你可以藉着祈祷与祂谈话，而祂会通过祂的话语——圣经——来对你的心说话。上帝说，祂的话语是“活泼的，是有功效的，比一切两刃的剑更快，甚至魂与灵、骨节与骨髓，都能刺入剖开，连心中的思念和主意，都能辨明。”（希伯来书4：12）。

笔者要勉励你开始阅读上帝的话语，并且每天向祂祷告。你会发现自己的心日益渴望亲近祂。你了解上帝越多，就会越热爱祂，也就会越发现祂是多么爱你，而当你明白祂为你所成就的事，你寻求祂的脚步就不会停下来了！

在本书一开始的时候，我曾引用以下这段经文：

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

You have accepted God's gift—Jesus Christ; He has taken away your sin. As He has taken away your sin, you have become a new creature in His sight—not by what you DO, but by what He has DONE.

Congratulations on your entrance into the family of God. You never need to fear death again. You forever have the promise of eternal life—not because you earned it, but because you accepted God's gift.

Now, you hold the greatest and most important message ever given by God to mankind. Who do you know that needs to hear this message? Would you share it with them? Would you pass a copy of this book on to them? Go now and let someone else know...

...it's not about DO...it's about DONE!

Now begin to let Christ transform your life from the inside out. Let His goodness within show itself through your good life. *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10). Live for Christ, not to *earn* His favor, but *because it is already yours!*

耶和華說：“你們來，我們彼此辯論。你們的罪雖像朱紅，必變成雪白；雖紅如丹顏，必白如羊毛。”以賽亞書1：18

你已經接受了上帝恩賜的禮物——耶穌基督，而祂已經除去了你的罪。祂既然已經除去了你的罪，在祂眼中你就是新造的人了；這不是因為你做了什麼，而完全是由於祂所成就的。

我祝賀你成為上帝家庭的一份子。你再也無須害怕死亡了，因為你永遠有永生的應許（承諾）；這並不是你用自己所做的賺來的，而是因為你接受了上帝所恩賜的。

如今，你所擁有的是上帝傳達給人類的最偉大信息。你知道還有誰需要知道這福音嗎？你會與他們分享嗎？你會將這本書轉送給他們嗎？請告訴別人，讓他們也能知道這“不是人所能做，而是上帝已經成就”的大好福音吧！

現在，就讓基督耶穌由里到外來改變你；讓祂的公義通過你的生活展現出來。正如聖經所言：“我們原是祂的工作，在基督耶穌里造成的，為要叫我們行善，就是上帝所預備叫我們行的。”（以弗所書2：10）

要為基督耶穌而活；這不是為了從祂那里賺到任何好處，而是因為祂的恩典已經是你的了！

Look forward to your future with great confidence and expectation!

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

—1 Corinthians 2:9

May God bless you as you begin your new life in Jesus Christ! He will never let you down!

Thanks for reading!

请懷抱着充足的信心和盼望来開展你的未来吧！

如经上所记，神为爱他的人所预备的，是眼睛未曾看见、耳朵未曾听见、人心也未曾想到的。哥林多前书2：9

因着你的相信耶稣基督，及开始了新生命，愿上帝祝福你！祂永远不会辜负你！

感谢你阅读这本小书！

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Cary Schmidt serves as an associate pastor at Lancaster Baptist Church. He leads the student ministries and oversees the media and publications ministries of the church. His other books include *Discover Your Destiny* and *Hook, Line and Sinker*.

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克里·施密特(Cary Schmidt)是美国加州兰卡斯特浸信会(Lancaster Baptist Church)的副牧师，主管学生、媒体和出版事工；他的其它作品尚有《发现你的归宿》和《诱惑与堕落》。

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