

FROG STEW



That
water's hot!
GET OUT OF
THERE!

what's his
problem?

FREE

Frog Stew.....



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Could it be YOU?

Frog Stew

The silencing of people's consciences is a slow process that happens over time. Just like cooking a frog, you put him in nice cool water and turn up the heat ever so slowly. By the time the water begins to boil, he is so comfy that he doesn't even notice he's being cooked.

The frog is in the pot. The water starts out nice and cool, nothing abnormal. Slowly the temperature rises. From time to time the frog might notice things getting a bit too warm for comfort, but the rise in temperature is gradual enough that there is no cause for alarm. Actually the warmth is quite relaxing. Too relaxing you could say. The frog is turning to mush. By the time it realizes that something is really wrong it's lost the ability to respond. Eventually there is no turning back, the life has left the frog, it has been boiled. It has lost its identity and become part of the stew.

Frog stew--- could it be you!

The 60's was a time marked by outspokenness. People raising their voices saying

"We want out of the pot!!!!.... Before it's too hot!!!"

There was a voice calling people to give their attention to "what really mattered". Surely that's what happens in the stew. People lose their perspective of what's important, no longer standing up for what's right, the heat makes them limp. The voice of the 60's called people to reject the status quo. Wasting your life, trundling along in a preset program of events that led you from cradle to grave. No one really knowing what they

were living for, dying in wars they didn't agree with.

They didn't want to just go on like everyone had been going on for so long. They wanted change!

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world

Words like these from John Lennon brought to peoples minds and hearts things they wanted to make real. It was the cry to get out of the pot of the dull, straight society you were born into before you became part of the stew. People wanted LIFE, something fresh and exciting. Something that wasn't so restricted and bound up, going nowhere.

Some said the prophets of that time were just dreamers, many believed there was more to it. That it would bring about a social revolution, or at least some evolution.

Here we are 40 years later. The people of that time are the over 30 year olds that they said we should never trust.

Did they make it out?! Or did they get stewed. Did they get out of one pot only to find themselves in another? What happened to all the prophets? Are they too busy drawing a lot of attention to themselves and spending the profit they made on all the albums we bought to have anything meaningful to say any more?

It is one thing to see that there

are problems with your environment, but it is another to recognize that it is the things inside of you that make the environment.

When we were young we knew there was a difference between right and wrong. How long did it take for this morally degraded society we live in to stew it out of us?

So what's the stew? You could say that it's anything that coaxes you along in a way that leads you further and further from making choices in your life according to what is really important. Anything that causes the frog to compromise what they know is right and

true. Look at today's society: everyone is so caught up with getting some immediate gratification that they are failing to invest in the things that really matter. Relationships are only important as long as they are "pleasurable"; they are to be ended when there is no immediate return. Hard work is only for those who can't figure out a way to get around it. Yet we don't consider what effect these ways of thinking have on our character. Like the frog turning to mush as the heat increases so today's society is filled with people with no "backbone". Let's face it we are being stewed!

An old road goes through the woods behind my house. It is abandoned now. Even though little plant roots



are starting to crack its asphalt and the steel guard rails alongside it are slowly rusting into nothingness, still, you can tell that there was a road there. Its ugly scar has permanently marred the verdant forest.

Man is a complex creature. Though made from the lowliest of stuff he bears the image of his Creator. The highest glory of the whole universe has been placed inside of him. Man has a conscience. He can make choices.

Some men's consciences look like the scene behind my house. Years of not heeding the voice within has left an ugly scar for ever. Time alone cannot erase its effect.

another ancient road. It is narrow and it leads to life. To travel it a man must abandon himself and surrender his old life doomed to destruction. This road began when the very Creator of mankind came to the earth. Made of the same stuff as we are, he lived as a man. He uncovered the ancient way and made it accessible to anyone who would humble himself. The new life he offered came about through his blood. It was poured out upon the tortured earth as a sacrifice. It can cover and erase our sins, and erase all the scars of our tortured conscience.

Like buried plastic it doesn't just go away. I live with people who are working hard to uncover

GOOD MORNING LEMMINGS

Do you remember that bridge on the M4 Someone had painted “Good morning Lemmings” on the side of it. When I first saw it from the back seat of my mother’s car I don’t think I really understood what it meant or why someone had gone to such efforts to paint that on the side of a bridge. But, somehow I knew it was a cry of that person’s heart to society.

A while later I was at a friend’s house, and she asked me if I wanted to play Lemmings on her Nintendo. Lemmings!?! Lots of little identical pink cartoon characters that once set in a direction would only go that way. The aim was to get them from one side to the other without them all killing themselves. I wondered again what that person who wrote on the bridge was trying to communicate. Were we the lemmings? All following one another in our cars separated, but going to the same place, headed for the same destiny.

Okay, so what if they were right? We were all lemmings. Would it have been better to paint a solution on the side of that bridge-or maybe whoever painted that was as much a lemming as we were driving down the motorway. Sure, anyone can see the faults, but who can see an answer?

And where are you now, Mr. Bridge Painter? Won’t you come back and paint for us what the way out of being a lemming is, or don’t you know either?

It seems as though there are two inclinations that work in humans. One is to follow others and the other is to be followed by others. So, which is better? They could both be really good or really bad. I suppose if the ones you are following are going somewhere good, then it makes sense to follow and call to others to come follow too. But, if the ones you are following are headed for death and destruction it’s obvious that it would be really bad to follow them. But then, who can stand up and say, “Hey, follow me, I know the way out of here.”? Many have tried and have brought so much confusion and ultimately disappointment when at the end of your life you see they never got you out,



and the freedom they promised was nothing more than an elusive dream.

People like people, we’re social and following is a good, normal and childlike quality. But, if you’re the one who always fell for the jokes, got called gullible, and so became sceptical of following others, I make my appeal to you. Trust just once more, one more time. It’s a really nice quality to follow and there’s a place where you can trust the heart of the one who will lead you. And if you were the one cracking the jokes and leading others, just realize this, nobody’s that independant, everybody follows somebody. Either way, the solution is the same. His name is Yahshua.

We who wrote this paper are his followers and we follow because we heard the truth and responded. “And the truth will set you free.” Yahshua has authority to lead because he is under the authority of God. Whoever is under authority has authority. He is the good Shepherd and I’m not ashamed to be a follower. I love it and it brings peace. Our hope is to find others who have that heart to hear and respond to the truth. This is to you, the one who painted the lemmings on the bridge all those years ago, to you who read it, and to you who did neither but still know that feeling of being a lemming. Come and see the answer at any of the following addresses at the back of this paper.

Tehorah



Getting out of the Pot

You could say my life was a lot like frog stew. I remember when I was young, say 12 or 14 years old. There were certain issues I felt strongly about. Actually, these were things that were just normal to me and matched up with what I knew in my conscience to be true. I had never really thought about them so much before, but as I grew older I became more aware that these issues of conscience such as, sex before marriage, homosexuality, and abortion were very controversial, with many different opinions about them. Being young and still quite innocent, I just knew inside that you should keep yourself pure for your wedding day, that homosexuality was wrong, and that abortion was like murder. Having a conversation one day with my friends, I spoke very strongly against abortion. I just couldn't imagine destroying a life. Not when the choice to do so was just for selfish reasons. I was 17 then.

So what was it that caused me, just a year later to totally change what I had so strongly felt before? Was I being more 'set free', open minded, and liberated from my child-like simple mindedness? From being so uptight and narrow minded?

Or was I like the frog getting used to the warm water, unaware of the danger that was ahead of me?

When I was 18 my friend became pregnant – the same friend I had a conversation with just a year earlier. We were discussing what she should do – keep the baby or abort. After going over our options we came to the conclusion that it was just more rational (and practical) to abort the baby, with a number of justifications to back it up.

Just a few months before I had become 'fed up' with the society around me. I hated the falseness of the friendships I had, the backbiting, and the divisions of the social classes. Why couldn't we all just treat each other the same and all be friends? I just couldn't handle or cope with my thoughts about my parents divorce. It came as a total surprise. I found new friends, ones who liked me for who I was and not for what I could do. They introduced me to drinking and parties and everything else that goes with it. I could forget about all my worries.

Somehow as I lifted off more and more the restraint of morality it was easier and easier to let go of the strong convictions



I had when I was younger. I could justify the deeds I saw as evil before. Anyway, I reasoned, everyone else is doing it. Surely I had 'jumped into the pot' of liberalism – and the temperature was rising.

It was time for University and "furthering my education." I didn't really know what I wanted to do, but thought that it was just the next step in life. Besides, I didn't want to work in some factory or behind some counter at McDonalds. It was at University that a whole new door opened up for me. So many ideas to take on and different paths to follow. Which ones were I going to take on as my own, and which way would I follow? What did I believe anyway, and where was I going? It was all quite confusing, but as I learned at college, we're all free to think as we want and if it feels right to you, then it must be good. Something inside me started to question what I was doing. A small voice spoke inside reminding me of what I had believed when I was young. I just couldn't ignore that nagging guilt inside that made me feel so awful. And you know what? The water was hot! My friends said, "Just relax, everything's fine. Don't be so hard on yourself. Have another beer." They were certainly satisfied in the pot, so why wasn't I!

At just the right time I heard words of life that set me free. With a friend, we visited one of the Twelve Tribes Communities. The life of love and care they spoke about in one of the papers I had received drew me like a magnet. I wanted to see if it was real. I wanted it so much! They spoke what I had always known to be true in my heart. I couldn't deny the words I heard as they, in an amazing way, had the authority speak them. I saw they were living the words they were speaking – they

had the life to back them up. I also couldn't deny the bad conscience I had for going against it so much. The wonderful thing is that they also had a solution. I could see it was a real one as their life proved it to be true. After my first visit I knew I wanted to live with these people for the rest of my life. They were calling me out of the 'pot' and I wanted to listen.

I had to go home to my apartment to do some promised work. I walked into it sad, that I was away from the most wonderful people I'd ever met, but happy to have hope. I walked over to the 'fridge and then I noticed it. The large sticker I had put there a few months before which boldly claimed, 'It's a woman's right to choose'. "Rubbish" I said, and then threw it in the bin. I had heard the truth and I wasn't going to let go of it so easily this time. It wasn't long before I gave my life to Yahshua*, the one who offered me hope and forgiveness. Now I live with His people and we truly are being set free. We are off the path of destruction, out of the 'pot of life' and living a life of love and unity for the One who made it all possible.

Chassidah



*see the article on p28 "What's in a Name"

Everybody hurts.....

....sometimes (if you let it.)

Pain is good,
It lets you know there's something wrong,

You've tried everything to dull the ache.
The dope cake just makes you fake.

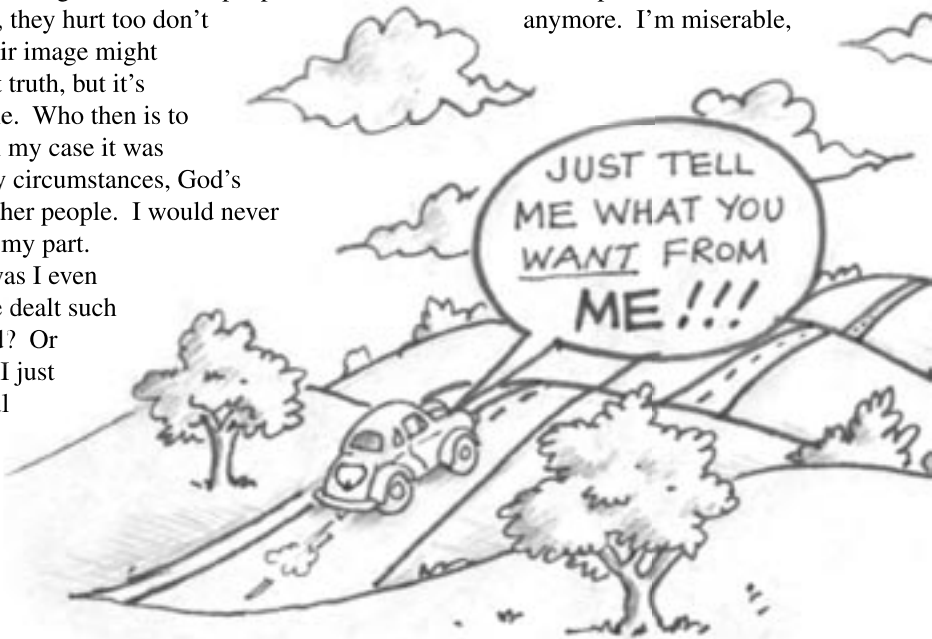
A voice stops you where you are:

“Don't make that mistake,
Hang on, don't let yourself go, hold on hold on, you are
not **alone**.”

REM sang a song that spoke right to my heart. Everybody Hurts. That was comforting to an extent. That I wasn't the only one suffering, but why does everybody hurt? Even the great idols that people look up to, they hurt too don't they? Their image might betray that truth, but it's inescapable. Who then is to blame? In my case it was usually my circumstances, God's fault, or other people. I would never own up to my part.

Why was I even born if life dealt such a bad hand? Or why can't I just be thankful that I am alive? I was miserable but I tried my best

to hide it. I would listen to that song and try to learn it on my guitar, get hopeless and go to bed. Often I would pray that I would never wake up again. HELP! Don't help. I don't care anymore. I'm miserable,



unsatisfied, bored and fed up. Get me out of this!

You'll be surprised that these sad emotions were nothing to do with anything in particular. No tragedy or death or break – up or anything like that. I was just fed up with life – but the band played on, and my friends weren't friends and I hated myself and I hated life and the drink didn't sooth the pain. Sometimes when you're in pain, you cry out in a loud voice out of desperation. And so there I was in my little car going to my mundane job and all of a sudden I found myself yelling.....JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT FROM ME!! I shocked myself to think that I might have been calling to God. I'd never really trusted in that stuff and all but given up on anything, even fate.

Now I realise that the pain I felt was from separation, separation from other human beings. Did you ever feel that you knew lots of people but your heart really ached to get closer to them? Now I realise that it

is my hurtful ways that hindered me from forming close bonds. The remedy is in the sacrifice made by the son of God. He dealt with selfishness when he took sin to death, paying the price for it with His own life.

What really matters to God is that we wouldn't have to suffer the pain of separation. Break – ups, divorce, arguments, sulking, war and eventually death are all painful symptoms of selfishness – which is sin. Our coices have consequences.

Since meeting His people at Glastonbury Festival I now have relief from the self inflicted pain that caused me to mope, cry, sulk and divide myself from others. Not just because I met the community or have a lose association with them, but because I live with these people whom I love. I can demonstrate that love as well as receive it daily. This does away with the pain of separation. I am bound in a covenant that never has to end. It's one thing to have friends when things are going well, but to know that they will stick with you daily through thick and thin does away with the hurt that my former insecurity brought me. No – one is immune from that type of insecurity. Come and see where we are dealing with these hurts. We are willing to give our lives to you forever. Isn't that amazing! That an absolute stranger would say that to you. We don't care, we're learning to abandon self interest and want to offer you a completely new way of life. Come and talk to us, come and visit, come and stay.....forever. That's what really matters to us.

Shebet

Singing the Blues



I had always dreamed of being in a band - To be a part of something special. We were different than the mainstream, playing lots of folk music, yet somehow we were able to entertain not just the “folkies,” but many different people. Irish, blues, original songs etc.- We thought we could mix all this music together and come up with something new, not just the same old rehash...

I liked the blues music. When I used to listen to the archive recordings of the old folk blues singers, it always touched something deep in me. I thought, “these people are singing about life!” It was true life experience! After all, the blues came from people who were acquainted with hard work, and life long struggles, even if there was a little self pity thrown in, that was ok. Its ok to let people know how you feel, isn't it? I had a recording of an interview with Big Bill Broonzy, Brownie McGhee, and Sonny Terry, about the true meaning of the blues. They said, “You gotta have the blues to sing the blues, You gotta live the blues...”

So here I was trying to sing the blues. But how could I live it. I grew up in a family who was basically just like any

other. I mean is there any family who has it all together? My parents were still together, and they had done their best to pass on the highest standards they knew. You could say we were the basic middle class family - Far removed from the “oppressed” social background of the bluesmen of the Mississippi Delta. How could I ever sing the blues? I had never lived the blues. Nevertheless, I wanted it to be part of my identity, even if I hadn't grown up living with “whisky and women” I wanted to be able to relate so that I could sing with the same passion. I wanted to have some kind of image too. The more I listened to those old blues singers, the more I desired to experience their moods and troubles. I would try to get right down with them, and let the music reach the deepest part of my soul. Looking back I see how I wanted the music to give me a lifestyle and an image, but I didn't anticipate the cost.

I already had my first girlfriend which naturally brought forth problems, as it was only based on the sensual pleasures that most young men are driven by these days. After all, everyone knows its not right to be sexually intimate with someone that you're not married to. Or, do they? I did, but I suppressed my conscience.

Has the conscience of this generation been totally frog -stewed?

What are the fruits of most of these relationships? Violated trust, violated conscience, unplanned pregnancy, abortion, and regret to name a few. I was no exception to these things. I saw the bitter fruit first hand, and its shattering effect on my girlfriend. Now I was truly tasting the blues -the great sadness of regret and hurt - hardly able to trust myself anymore, and also causing

someone else (my girlfriend) to not want to trust again. In the midst of all my misery one of my friends said, "You like all this misery don't you!" He was right. I had brought it all upon myself. It seemed an awfully high price to pay just so the music I played would sound more convincing.

Nevertheless the music continued to play. Our band, as small as we were, seemed to be gaining acceptance by a wide range of people in our local area – young and old. After all we had quite an upbeat light hearted air about us – "folky- ish blues." We called it "eclectic acoustic music." We saw we had potential, so we tried to figure out how to promote ourselves to fulfil our dream to be able to make a living from our music. I can remember the day we realized if we wanted to we could make it. We just needed to do it! It was exciting to know the four of us could be totally dedicated to the same cause – we called it "reaching out" to people. In the back of my mind though, I wondered if this was what I was really created to do. What did I have that anyone could benefit from? A bad conscience? regret?

We started playing more bar gigs. I can remember the lonely people past my microphone. I was no different to them. Were we really "reaching out" to these people?

I started to question the path I was on. Deep in my heart I hoped something else would turn up – some alternative... I knew as long as I was in the music "business," my soul and I didn't stand a chance against been swallowed up by my own selfish appetites.

At this point we decided to move to a bigger city to reach more people. We all signed a lease together to rent a flat together. I was the first one to move in and my friends would follow a few days after. It was the first time for a long time

that I had not been around my friends. In that time I saw I was truly lonely, even with many friends around me. Even though we had lived together, and were in a band together, I could see that we each still had our own hopes and agendas to aspire to. The band was just a vehicle to carry us through until our own individual "break" came up.

While I was waiting for my friends to arrive I went busking, only to be invited to supper by some fellas with beards and ponytails. Being that I was free and new to the city, I accepted, and spent an amazing evening with these men and all their friends. There were families there, like I had always dreamed of, where peace prevailed between each member – husband, wife, son, daughter, brother and sister. It was like all I had ever longed for was right in front of me! Stable relationships! Without any interest in gaining for ones own self!!

What was this that I had stumbled upon, or that had stumbled upon me! I asked many questions only to discover this people had received a new start and a clean conscience through the forgiveness obtained through the Son of God. By seeing the value of what he did for us by taking our place in death, He has set us free from having to look out for own interests. The blues I have no more. I can forget my past and learn how to love as each Day passes. I can love my wife and son that I have been blessed with, every day, and be healed from the deep roots of selfishness that had enslaved me for years. I finally live for something that matters, that will last for longer than a fleeting moment of sensual or emotional pleasure – eternal life. Hard to believe isn't it?

Come and see for yourself.

Kol Lev

A Hippiecritical Analysis of the '60s

Society WAS BREAKING LOOSE from something then. Was it traditional morality or just the church? Or both? Was it God and country – “Hell, no, we won’t go”? Or was it the materialistic dream? It’s not so clear to me now what it was all about. Maybe it is to you. It seemed to be “all of the above” then, and quite a bit more.

Even the Establishment played a part: outlawing prayer in school and banning the Bible from classrooms was certainly revolutionary. Golly, God was repudiated right there in the USA in A.D. nineteen hundred sixty-three.¹ We got the message.

Like many, it wasn’t that I didn’t believe in God, but that I wouldn’t. I would not believe in the God to whom anything I did didn’t matter, only what I believed. If church on Sunday defined my worth to Him, something was wrong with Him, not me. I would not believe in the God who threw good people into hell for the crime of never having heard of Him. I didn’t need, want, or read the Bible anymore. I had a new map of my own for my life.

The slogans of the Sixties became my signposts. They were the words we lived by, rather than the daily devotionals of our parents. We rejected anything old, as if age somehow made things less true. And our slogans have yet to die:

- ⊗ You can’t legislate morality.
- ⊗ There are no absolutes.
- ⊗ Do your own thing.
- ⊗ Truth is relative.



And you couldn’t legislate morality; because it felt so good, we were going to do it. What law could stand in the way of feeling good? Didn’t they prove that one with Prohibition? And that was just over alcohol. There were no more absolutes, so we could do our own thing. Objective truth? You mean a truth outside the boundaries of our own experiences and feelings? A truth that might limit us? Come on, truth is relative. What’s true for you might not be true for me. It was our freedom that was absolute.

We didn’t want anyone preaching to us about sin, telling us how to run our lives. And all these things gave us good reason for even denying God’s existence. The Ten Commandments had too many don’ts, and we rejected those don’ts as soon as all the spankings stopped. (Thank you Dr. Spock!) After all, we knew more about life than our mums and pops did. They were so uptight, while we exulted in our freedom. And in our newfound freedom we saw it as our prerogative and sacred duty to “Question Authority.”

Forty Years Later

So now, forty years later, what do we say about what we said then? Did our slogans have the power to change the world like we thought? Let's look them over:

There are no absolutes. Was that not an absolute statement itself? And if there are no rights and wrongs, can we be sure about that?

There is no objective truth. Sounds like a judgment based on some larger view of reality, a truth independent of one's subjective views. You know, an objective truth.

Truth is relative. Or is that only relatively true? How can we be sure?

Question authority. Why?

And one slogan died just a few years later: "Don't trust anybody over thirty..." Or maybe it didn't. Maybe those who came after us didn't trust us, either. After all, what goes around comes around, or as the old saying goes, "As we sow, so we reap."

So, Does God Exist Only if We Say So?

We have learned in the last forty years that only fools would say in their hearts, "There is no God,"² meaning we lived as if there were no God, no accountability for our actions.

We were so foolish and disobedient. We were misled by others and became slaves to many wicked desires and evil pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy. We hated others, and they hated us.³ Is it just religious dogma⁴ to say that there is a God who made all this? But is it merely the dogma of another religion to exclude God from the big picture?⁵

Who can prove there is a God? But who can prove there is no God? Which side would you want to err on — the one who says there is a God or the one who says there is no God? I guess if we said the latter, we would be more

accountable, or would we? Will anyone be able to defend himself for his suppression of the knowledge of right and wrong? Suppression is the conscious and voluntary forgetting of your Creator, and the conscious

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DEFINITIONS

Suppression: voluntary inhibition of activities on the part of an individual (psychoanalysis) a conscious inhibition of impulses or ideas that are incompatible with the individual's evaluation of himself according to his ego ideal.

Regression: a retreating, a moving backward; return to earlier levels of development; the manifestation in older individuals of more primitive levels of behavior

Repression: the forceful ejection from consciousness of impulses, memories, or experiences that are painful or shameful and generate a high level of anxiety. The essential mechanism of repression was held by certain psychologists to be unconscious and involuntary.

J.P. Chaplin, Dictionary of Psychology (Dell Publishing, 1985), pages 391, 394-395, and 456

restraints that knowing places on you. For many, their conscious choice goes beyond suppression of what they know is right to repression. If we continue to suppress our conscience, we go through regression to a state of repression, which means that it becomes unconscious and involuntary (see box below for definitions). It overwrites what's there, which then can never be recovered. Suppression eventually leads to repression. It is like going over the waterfall, in your heart.

But Can God Blame Us for Hating Him?

God is good, we had always heard, but when you see what those who claim to know God have done and still do, it's hard to believe in their God. As Nietzsche said, "I'd believe in your Redeemer, if you looked more redeemed."

We used to be atheists, and we hated a God who didn't exist. We thought God was the God of the Crusades and the Inquisitions. We thought He was the God of Martin Luther who had 100,000 peasants slaughtered and called for violence against everyone who didn't believe in him. We thought He was the divided God of all the denominational debates: the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Reformed, Lutheran and Anglican denominations, ad nauseam. He must be some kind of denominational God with a host of denominational Christs – one for each denomination. So who was it who said, "Can Christ be divided?"

Must have been some no account who didn't know how important warring groups of believers in Christ were.⁶ Each one of these denominations have their own particular slant on the Bible. And who in the future, as in the past, will once again kill heretics?

In the past, it was always those with the "right doctrine" that killed those with the "wrong doctrine." It's never been the other way around. They say history repeats itself if we don't learn anything from it.

In the first century, the Jews were killing the Christians for worshipping the heretic they'd put to death and saying He was alive. They just couldn't understand it. From the fourth century on, the Christians have killed the Jews for not worshipping Him. They couldn't understand the Jews, either. Nobody seemed to learn that persecution was wrong, but just kept spitefully doing to others what had been done to them. No wonder we turned to eastern religion!

God could hardly blame us for hating Him, could He? Just as it says about people who claimed to be His holy people, His chosen ones, "Because of you, My name is blasphemed among the nations."⁷

In light of their history, would not the apostle Paul say the same thing about Christianity, were he writing today? Perhaps what was written long ago by Isaiah the prophet might also apply: "All day long I have stretched out my hand to a disobedient and contrary people."⁸

If there was a God, we would hope that He really was not the God of the bloody and horrible history of religious wars and persecutions. And that all the wealth and power gathered by those professing belief in Him did not really represent Him at all. He said, "I was found by those who did not seek Me, and I was made manifest [known] to those who did not ask for Me."⁹

There had to be a way back to the Garden. All we knew was the path it wasn't on.



The Question of Evil

Though we denied the existence of right and wrong, and good and evil, we wondered why we still got mad at the people who broke their promises to us. What was that burning inside of us? Somehow we instinctively knew what was good and what was bad, and we were the judge to decide which one we would obey. And when we were at the receiving end of someone's evil choice, it affected us. It hurt. We lost something. Actually, it was taken from us – stolen.

And we said, "If He is such a loving God, why is there so much evil in the world?"

The mother tells her son to clean up his room. He decides later not to clean it. Soon it is a disgusting mess. Was the mother wrong to tell her son to clean it? You judge whose fault the mess is. Or was she wrong to bring him into the world, knowing that one day the room would be a mess? Was it love or hate that caused her to conceive her children? Would it have been better that she aborted him? How about you and me, would it have been better?

Men and women have the freedom to choose what is right and what is wrong,

and they do every day. Some choose good, and some evil. And many somehow can't see what is wrong with them, how the evil they did hurt others very badly... but somehow they can see very vividly what is wrong with everyone else, especially how the selfish actions others do hurts them.

The mother tells her son to clean up his room. He decides later not to clean it.



Was the mother wrong to tell her son to clean it? Or was she wrong to bring him into the world, knowing that one day the room would be a mess?

Maybe we ought to acknowledge that God created us with a free will, not as robots or zombies. But why did He do such a thing? Maybe He created free will to test all men. Would it have been better that I had been created a zombie?

All we have ever heard of the afterlife is heaven and hell. We couldn't really understand this. We are coming to see that man can pass the test. We have learned that God gave man a conscience in order that he would do what it says is right and avoid doing what it says is wrong, and have learned that

this has great, eternal consequences. And that true freedom can only be maintained by the free choice of the right and not the wrong. For choosing the wrong sweeps a man further down the river of no return. Choosing the right preserves that thing deep within every man and woman that is like God.

Nevertheless, all mankind must still die once. That was decided in the Garden as the way for men and women, if they could, to pay the price for the wrongs they had done others. But it is not already decided which men must die twice.

The Beginning of Things

The trouble, and the way everyone has to deal with it, began long ago. So, did you know that it is appointed for a man to suffer death once, but not twice? But there is a second death, which is eternal, and between the two deaths is a judgment.¹⁰ From it some will go on to a second, unending life, and others to a second, unending death.¹¹ It all depends on the choices each person makes. The judgment will be entirely fair and impartial. A person would only die twice if his conscience went into repression, after suppressing the truth continually in his life.

Mankind got into this state – of having to make the right choices – by not listening. He was meant to eat of the tree of life first. In the Garden of Eden, a severe warning was given before the fall:

And the Sovereign God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17)¹²

How many times did Eve go to that tree and ponder that warning? We don't know, but we know her desire grew and grew. What was this thing called death? Why shouldn't she gain that knowledge? She didn't tell her husband, not until the churning within her had given birth to action. For the evil one appeared to her, immediately sensing the same thing in her that was full blown in him. He knew how to fan that desire into flame. It's

burning still.

That's where sin comes from – it starts with a desire. It's not sin to have a desire, and many desires are good, but once an evil desire is conceived – and the thought is welcomed, considered, and allowed by our choice to reach the emotions – it brings forth sin, and sin brings forth death.¹³ Death entered the world when they ate the forbidden fruit.

They had chosen disobedience. In response, God did set in effect a great plan of redemption. You've heard of the broad outlines of it most of your life, though, like Nietzsche, you haven't seen enough redemption to convince you of its existence. At the same time, God set in motion another way, for the great mass of humanity that would never hear of Messiah, to avoid the second death. If they stayed on this path, they would remain worthy of the second life.

This path is the natural law, the law of conscience by which the motivation of man's choices will be judged. For men and women were no longer innocent, but now had the full knowledge of good and evil. This natural law is tied up with the most general, fundamental law in all science, the one encompassing all of creation and all of life. It is also the law presiding over death.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics

After the fall of man, in the Garden of Eden, God put into effect a law of conscience – the knowledge of good and evil. Eve had, in a sense, attained the knowledge she desired.¹⁴ It came at a great cost. This law of conscience can be compared with the second law of thermodynamics, which states that whenever energy is expended, it always tends to flow from a more concentrated to a less concentrated place.

Turn the heat off the hot frying pan. Its heat flows into the cooler air around it. With the cooling of the pan, an increase in entropy is taking place, which means the amount of energy to do something useful, like frying an egg, is decreasing.¹⁵ The reverse never happens – the air never surrenders what heat it does have to make the hot frying pan hotter.

Nor will the children's room ever spontaneously become clean. Johnnie will have to clean it, expending effort to do so. If he doesn't, his life in the room will soon make it a pig-pen. In fact, he will not ever

be able to stop cleaning it, as long as he is using it, unless he is content to live in a mess. Shall we lock the door and let no one in? It would soon become dusty, musty, and moldy. Decay is everywhere, and must be resisted by everyone in every way. And in the end, decay wins: we die.

So, is life futile, without point? No! The struggle against (or acceptance of) that decay determines our eternal destiny! That's

what it's all about – this thing called life. Of course, it is not about our rooms, it's about our consciences.

So, is life
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Of course, it is not about our rooms, it's about our consciences. How hard it is to maintain a good conscience in the face of the many temptations of life!

How hard it is to maintain a good conscience in the face of the many temptations of life! It's comparable to the struggle necessary to have a healthy life. It takes exercise, drinking water, and eating good food in the face of all the temptations to do the opposite. This first life will end, no matter how well we live it. The second life (or second death) will never end, according to the condition, not of our bodies at the end of our life, but of our consciences.

Just do nothing to maintain your car, home, or room, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, and wears out. And that is how the second law of thermodynamics applies to every realm of life – physical, social, emotional, mental, and spiritual. We have to maintain what is good in the face of temptation, suffering, decay, even the death of our loved ones. We have to never let go of the truth

we instinctively know, even when everyone else around us does.

This struggle was given mankind by God in hope that through it men and women would retain the worth they were made with. Apart from the effort that struggle requires, the moral nature of men and women decays. It is as inevitable as the decay of their bodies. Human beings can't keep suppressing their conscience – if they do, the energy of their life dissipates, and so does their worth. As the entropy of their life increases, the amount of energy to do what is right and turn away from wrong decreases. Eventually, nothing of value is left. Repression has taken place. And the lake of fire is where all that is the worthless will be burned, those of no account to their Creator.¹⁶

The reason for this judgment was they made themselves of “no account.” They were not born that way.

Instead, when you do wrong, you have to admit it, “I was wrong, I don't want to do it again.” This admission does not release you for paying for your sin in the first death, but it is the only way

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to maintain the integrity of your conscience after you have not listened to it. Otherwise decay rules your soul and not just your body. It is the undisputed master of your body. In the fall, the second law of thermodynamics rules all. But it is our choices that determine whether it takes our souls along with it. The wages of sin is still death. The first death awaits even those who struggle to maintain their conscience. There is no way else for them to deal with their sins other than to pay for them in death. Those who have made themselves worthless will not be able to pay.

Men must live by this second law to maintain their conscience. No one can lead a perfect life, but still they can maintain their conscience and do good. Not all men are as evil as they can be, but some are. They are evil as they can be. For example, Alexander the Great was probably as evil as he could be, controlled by his desires. Other people in history and on Earth today have almost reached their full potential of evil, but no one has reached

their full potential of doing good in the world. No natural man ever has. No one is as good as they could be. They have fallen short.

Every man has fallen short of the glory of God. So, not all men are as evil as they could be, and no one is as good as he could be. But all have sinned to one degree or another. We see that all men have sinned and the wages of sin is death.¹⁷ All men have sinned and have fallen short – but some have fallen shorter than others. It is just according to how God judges what short means, and long, in the judgment of man. It all gets down to the motive, either good or bad, which is eventually revealed in our deeds:

God “will render to each one according to his deeds”: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness -- indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of

the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”¹⁸

Back to the Garden

The aftermath
was what we
know of Christian
history – the
horrible fruit of
rebellious children
never cleaning
their room again.

It was not
God’s fault.

So, where is the road home, back to the garden? How do we get there from here? There is a way back to Eden. God has made it, but it is not through the Christian crusades and their inquisitions, not through the lifeless churches with their dead doctrines and decrees. The Holy Spirit was certainly not passed on through Martin Luther in Germany, the great slaughterer of the peasants. The way back is through the restoration of His true Body – the Community as it was in the beginning.

That is happening right now. Once again, all those who believe are together and share all things in common.¹⁹ The first ones, the early church, maintained this life for a while. The purity of the Body that was on the Earth 2,000 years ago was so great that it was said, “it turned the world upside down.”²⁰

Then decay overtook them, too, and the proof of it is Christian



history. They did not maintain the practice of the truth.²¹ They stopped expending the effort to live their holy, set-apart life by His grace.²² Their relationship with God ended, and soon after, their life of love and care ended also.²³ The aftermath was what we know of Christian history – the horrible fruit of rebellious children never cleaning their room again.²⁴ It was not God’s fault.

Now, all who can hear His voice can return to the Garden. If you have never encountered anyone from one of the communities of those who are being restored, then only the witness of creation can tell you of the Creator. But what are you reading now, at this moment? You no longer have to believe in God only through creation, but now you can believe through the voice of the Creator – through the Word of our Master Yahshua who speaks into your heart through His people. That is, you can hear if you are of the truth and are willing to do His will. These are two things you must judge about yourself.²⁵

Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Yahshua answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” (John 18:37)

Thermodynamics

Thermo means heat. *Dynamics* means energy and motion. Thermodynamics means the study of energy in motion. The first law of thermodynamics deals with the conservation of energy, as it changes from one form of energy into another. Before the Fall, energy maintained itself – it didn’t continually dissipate. Can we even imagine such a world; one without decay or death?

When people are cold, due to the Fall,

the second law comes into play to make them warm. That is, if they stir themselves up to take action, even to love others. The second law deals with the motion, the action – the expenditure of energy necessary to preserve man from the second death – as he obeys his conscience now. For men and women who have never heard the good news, such action is truly now or never!

But the good news is something you have never heard from the kind of true sent ones Messiah spoke of; men and women not seeking their own recognition or reward, but only His. Until you have met people living the life, you’ve only met the compromised gospel, which is the great effort to rack up one more convert to the list and one more attendee to the service.

The good news is for all who will face the reality of their wrong choices and desire to find forgiveness for their guilt. This has the same cost as when the Messiah walked the earth and called those who followed Him to forsake all, including all of their possessions, in order to be His disciples.²⁶ We are those whose “rooms” were cleaned up by Messiah. Now, we want to keep

Endnotes

¹ In *School District of Abington Township, Pennsylvania v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203 (1963), the US Supreme Court forbid the public reading of the Bible in public schools or the recital of any public prayers.

² Psalm 14:1-3 – Only fools can look at the universe and say that the heavens don’t declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1).

³ Titus 3:3 in the Living Bible.

⁴ Dogma – established religious opinions without revelation. To the outside observer, dogma is a joke, having no bearing on a person’s life. So one says, “My karma ran over your dogma,” meaning no offense – for nothing substantial or essential to the

them clean!²⁷

This can only be done by those persuaded by the good news they hear, and who are willing to obey the Saviour, not merely believe in Him and recite a prayer.²⁸ Such “belief” has never produced the vibrant life of togetherness and sharing all that the first true believers enjoyed in the Community in Jerusalem two thousand years ago.²⁹

That life is on the earth again! In our communities, life is about more than the struggle to survive. It is about loving with the same love that caused Messiah to forsake all for us, even dying for our sakes, so that now, in this life, we could have new life! Come and see! ❁

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person's life is being made light of. Thomas Jefferson put it nicer when asked what his faith was, “You will know my faith by my deeds, which is the only way anyone's faith is known.”

⁵ Psalm 8:3-5

⁶ I Corinthians 1:10,13

⁷ I John 1:7

⁸ Romans 10:21

⁹ Romans 10:20

¹⁰ Hebrews 9:27

¹¹ John 5:28-29, Romans 2:6-16, Rev 20:12-15

¹² And Hebrews 9:27

¹³ James 1:14-15

¹⁴ But, lest they eat and live forever in their fallen state [as genetic engineers are now striving for], God said: “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.” (Genesis 3:22)

¹⁵ The dictionary defines entropy as: (thermodynamics) a measure of the amount of energy in a system that is no longer available for doing work; entropy increases as matter and energy in the universe degrade to an ultimate state of inert uniformity.

¹⁶ Revelation 21:8

¹⁷ Romans 3:23 and 6:23

¹⁸ Romans 2:6-10, 2:12-16, and Rev 20:12-15

¹⁹ Acts 2:44 and 4:32

²⁰ Acts 17:6 in the King James Version

²¹ I John 1:6

²² I John 1:7

²³ Revelation 2:5

²⁴ I Corinthians 16:22 came upon them all.

²⁵ John 7:17-18

²⁶ Luke 14:26-33

²⁷ John 8:51

²⁸ Acts 5:32

²⁹ Acts 2:37-47 and 4:32-37



Bringing Forth Wind

Have you ever stopped to consider your life: where you've been and where you're going, and what you have really accomplished in your days on the earth? It seems like so many live and die without considering the consequential effect of their life.

Some have reached the conclusion that it doesn't really matter...

We have been with child, we have been in pain; we have, as it were, brought forth wind; we have not accomplished any deliverance in the earth, nor have the inhabitants of the world fallen. (Isaiah 26:18)

Can you imagine that: laboring to give birth, only to bring forth wind?

The prophet Isaiah was speaking to a people who had abandoned their very purpose and reason for living. They went on living, but fell far short of the great light of love and justice that was supposed to shine forth from them — to illuminate and enlighten the other nations around them.

They continued to bring forth children who, like their own parents, fell far short of fulfilling the great purpose for which they were created. Isaiah described these offspring as “wind” — a metaphor comparing them with a momentary breath of air that comes and goes with no effect. They accomplished no deliverance on the earth.

Did the Sixties Movement Only Bring Forth Wind?

Have you ever wondered if the movement

of the Sixties just brought forth wind? What did the Movement accomplish for the good of man? I suppose it would depend on how one defines “good.” Sometimes the lines seem a little blurred. In the Sixties, we cast off all restraint in the name of “freedom.” But did we create a better world for our children

to grow up in than the one we inherited? Can we look back with satisfaction, knowing that it was worth it all?

A woman can endure labor pains for the joy of what follows — having a child who grows up and accomplishes his purpose in life. She has hope that something great is ahead, and that gives her courage to go through tremendous suffering. But what if she only brought forth wind?

During Isaiah's time, Israel endured much suffering, but it just brought forth wind. They didn't establish the kingdom of love and justice they were supposed to. It seems that “bringing forth wind” is a metaphor for a meaningless labor — expressing regret over the failure to be a vessel for the good.

Some ask, “Did the Movement accomplish its purpose?” Or did we just bring forth a “child” that brought ridicule and insult to

A woman can endure labor pains for the joy of what follows — having a child who grows up and accomplishes his purpose in life. She has hope that something great is ahead, and that gives her courage to go through tremendous suffering. But what if she only brought forth wind?

our high ideals? Is the endless nostalgia just a mockery of the real passion that burned in our hearts? Do all our stories from those days just express futility because of our failure to establish the Woodstock Nation? We can tell ourselves that we made some progress for humanity, brought in a “higher consciousness,” but wouldn’t a higher consciousness bring about a higher reality?

The old proverb says, “He who troubles his own house will inherit wind.” So was the Movement undermined from within or without? Perhaps we shot ourselves in the foot when we decided to “question authority,” or dismiss what anyone else had to say as “relative truth.” Who then could lead us? Can a movement succeed that is founded on rebellion?

It was all too clear to us in our idealistic youth how messed up this crazy world was, and that the root of the problem was the corruption of man. So we sought to separate ourselves from all the hypocrisy, greed, and selfishness we saw all around us. We had vision to come together and really love one another. But when it all played out we came to see that we are all made of the same stuff, and that it is too much to expect man to live according to all those high ideals. But why were those desires so deep in our hearts if it was impossible to realize?

Man’s Redemption

We have come to see that it’s not impossible. That deep longing for love and justice was put in our hearts for a reason

— it’s what we were created for. But man, in his independence and rebellion, has lost that vital connection to our Creator, which would enable us to get beyond our own selfishness and pride and really love one another.

Once again, in these last days, God is raising up a witness on the earth of His great love for mankind and His power to redeem man and bring him into what He created him for in the first place. We’re not talking about another charismatic TV preacher with a new angle on the truth, or a great campaign to print and distribute Bibles in every language,

but a people who love one another and their Creator with all of their hearts.

That is what men and women who are being redeemed are like. Their daily life together bears witness of the kindness and mercy of God. This is the new social order that we longed for in the counter-culture of the ‘60s, but could never attain. This is the witness of love and justice — not a perfect people or a Utopian life, but real, down-to-earth people who are experiencing deep salvation and tremendous healing in their souls. What

we couldn’t do with our best intentions and high ideals, God is doing through His Son, Yahshua.* So, who do you suppose put that desire for love and justice in our heart in the first place? Surely He wouldn’t call us to something that couldn’t be done!

So, are you following what we’re saying here? There is an actual people, a new social order, a brand new culture on the earth today where redemption is taking place. We came forth out of the dust and ashes of the ‘60s

So, are you following what we’re saying here? There is an actual people, a new social order, a brand new culture on the earth today where redemption is taking place. We came forth out of the dust and ashes of the ‘60s movement and the Jesus Movement of the early ‘70s.

Movement and the Jesus Movement of the early '70s. Many of us went through those turbulent years, and we understand what that was all about. But we see that somehow we're actually coming into what was in our hearts all those years ago. How are we doing it? Well, how does a tree grow? God makes it grow. Wherever God is there is love and new life and the power to go beyond what we can do in our own strength.

So we're restoring a concept that is not the same as what you heard growing up in Church. For we see that there are three eternal destinies of man, not just two (Heaven or Hell). We understand that God does not despise the good man. Even though man could never reach his fullest potential on his own, it is still possible for a man to do good to his neighbor. You can probably think of many examples of great men and women who never claimed to have a special connection to God. But it seems that great men are disappearing from the earth...

Restored Man

God gave man a conscience to help guide him in the good way and protect him from the way of evil. We are all accountable for how we listen to that knowledge of good and evil that is instinctive in each one of us. Since the fall of man in the Garden, it is appointed to all men to die once and then face a judgment for how we lived our life.² We are not automatically damned to hell as some say, but neither will we live forever just because we think we're basically good people. As someone once said, "You can't shine God on."

Justice demands that each man would be judged according to his deeds. How far did we fall from the image of God, who is love? Our conscience, which keeps a clear record of all that we have ever said or done, as well

as what motivated us, will bear witness either for us or against us in that judgment to determine our eternal destiny.³

The days are becoming increasingly evil on the earth. Anyone who tries to live his life being good and honest and treating others the way they would want to be treated will face tremendous opposition and pressure to compromise. It takes the determination of a salmon swimming upstream just to maintain some kind of relative peace within your conscience. Relax for a moment and the swift current will take you quickly downstream with the rest of those who are rushing headlong towards the waterfall — from which there is no return. And in the end, there is that appointment that we will inevitably have to keep with death.

But contrary to the popular doctrine of the Christian church, there will be some who will actually be able to pay for their sins during their time in death, and be raised again to a second life. They will be the restored man — restored to what Adam was like in the beginning, before the fall. The Restored man will not have the stature of the redeemed man, who actually made himself a dwelling place and servant of God. The Redeemed man will rule over the Restored man, in the kindness of God — for eternity.⁴

What we're talking about here is the compassion and mercy of God towards His highest creation. His Son Yahshua understood this,⁵ but many of those who claim to follow Him think differently. They see God as a heartless and unjust, two-dimensional God who would throw you into the eternal Sea of Fire for the crime of never having the opportunity to give your life to Him. But don't make the mistake of banking your eternal destiny on trying to be a good person. That's not what we're saying here. It's really beyond our understanding in this

day where evil is called good, and good is called evil, just what kind of justice will come in death for the sins we have committed in our lives.

God longs for the works of His hands to return to Him.⁶ He didn't create one single person for destruction. God devised a way for the records of wrongs we have done to be wiped clean — through the death and resurrection of His Son Yahshua, who willingly took upon Himself what we were to suffer in death, in order to redeem us from death. Through Him we are reconciled to God and equipped to fulfill the purpose He created us for: to bring much needed deliverance to the earth.

What Is Man?

Okay, there you have it, two categories of man who will live forever — The Redeemed Man (God's dwelling place) and The Restored Man (restored to the original righteousness that Adam had in the garden). So why is God so interested in man? We have drifted very far from understanding just how valuable we are to the One who put us together.

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet... (Psalm 8:3-6)

“What is man that you think so highly of

Him? What is man, that You are so mindful of him? That Your thoughts are continually on him without stopping?”

Would it surprise you to hear that God doesn't think about anything else except man? He can't rest until man is restored and redeemed — delivered from the destruction that is overtaking him. He rested once, and then man fell, and He hasn't rested since — in fact, He is listening to every word that man speaks.

When we say “all things,” that means the universe — all that His hands have made.

Would it surprise you to hear that God doesn't think about anything else except man? He can't rest until man is restored and redeemed— delivered from the destruction that is overtaking him. He rested once, and then man fell, and He hasn't rested since — in fact He is listening to every word that man speaks.

“You look upon man with awe,” it says. Man was created to rule over all that God has made. That is what man is — all He ever desired, and all that He has ever needed. That is why the redeemed man will be “Derushah,”⁷ which is a Hebrew word that means “sought out, needed, and necessary.”

We were not just wanted, but needed. When we have children, our children should be needed children, and not just wanted. To treat them as worthless would be to misrepresent God's heart towards them. What makes for appalling behavior is the feeling that no one cares

about you, not even God.

But in every second that goes by, God is always thinking about man and about redeeming man, in order to have a people on the earth who will bring deliverance and redemption to as many people as possible in the world. That is why Yahshua came to seek and save the lost.⁸ And that's why those who follow Him will do the same thing.

There is never a moment that He is not thinking about us. He has no rest until He has the ones who are “of the truth,” who are willing to do His will,⁹ who will hear His voice.¹⁰ in order that He can get on with His ultimate intentions for the universe. He can’t go on. He is stopped. He can’t continue on with creation, with His ultimate intentions for the universe, until He has the Redeemed Man and also the Restored Man.

It says in the ancient manuscript, “Let Us make man as Our image.” So what is the image of God in man? God placed mankind as living representations, or living symbols, who express His nature. They are representatives expressing His character, goodness, and likeness, so that God, who can’t be seen, can be seen in man’s likeness. They are living symbols of Himself on earth to represent Him and His reign — to be rulers for Him.¹¹ They have been redeemed to be just like Yahshua.¹²

That is His end purpose, which will continue on into the universe forever once the earth is restored and filled up. God didn’t make the universe without purpose. He didn’t make all the planets, stars, and galaxies — trillions of them — for nothing. Like the earth, they were created to be inhabited.¹³

God will not be anyplace else, ever, except in the Redeemed Man. He will not be separate from the Redeemed Man, because the Redeemed Man will be everywhere. God doesn’t need to be anywhere He can’t be seen. So, He wants to be seen now (in His people who love one another) and in the eternal age, through the Redeemed Man ruling over the Restored Man. The Restored Man will continue to populate the universe, which is never ending. The Redeemed Man will be the hands of God to wipe away the tears of the Restored Man, bringing comfort,

compassion and healing for all they suffered during their time on the earth and in death. In that day He will be their God and they will be His people. There will no longer be any suffering or death or tears, for the first things will have passed away...¹⁴

Better to Have Never Been Born

I don’t know what your take is on abortion, but consider this: Yahshua said of Judas, His betrayer, that “*it would have been good if he had never been born.*”¹⁵ It’s interesting that He didn’t say, “never existed,” or “never been conceived.” Surely the aborted baby would fare far better in the judgment than someone who lived his life doing evil, or even the one who never fulfilled the purpose he was created for. There would surely have been a worse judgment for Judas’ mother had she chosen to abort him. But one could only imagine how eternally grateful Judas would have been if his mother had made that choice.

So what is a person to do in this day when good is called evil and evil is called good? You love your child and want the very best for him. But there are forces at work on this earth to devour your child. “Hey kid, you want to make a little money...?” “C’mon girl, everyone’s doing it these days...” Sex, drugs, and rock & roll were great when we were only hurting ourselves. But somehow it’s different when someone wants to get our children involved in these things, and worse... All this took over in a big way when the spanking stopped.

So people don’t know what to do, whether to abort their babies or raise them to “go to hell.” Is this part of the legacy of our generation?

What are the odds of someone being born today and living a righteous life worthy of a second eternal life? Although we do not

advocate abortion, one would suspect that it might have been better if many people alive today had never been born. What a tragic waste it would be to labor and suffer your whole life only to bring forth wind. For in God's eyes, it is a worthless and useless human being who does not obey the natural law to do the good he knows to do.¹⁶ These are the unjust and filthy who will make themselves worthy of the third eternal destiny,¹⁷ which is the second death in the

eternal Lake of Fire.¹⁸

We have a hope of something greater than this world has to offer. Our hope is based on something real that is going on in our lives — *redemption*. We want to share that hope with those who still haven't found what they're looking for...✿

**See the article "What's in a Name" on p28*

Endnotes

¹ *Redeem* – To recover ownership of by paying a specified sum, to pay off, to fulfill, to set free; rescue or ransom, to save from a state of sinfulness and its consequences, to restore the honor, worth, or reputation.

² "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27) The Lake of Fire in Revelation 20:15 and 21:8 is referred to as "the second death." This has not been appointed to all men.

³ "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books (their conscience). The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:11-15)

⁴ "There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 22:5; *They* = the redeemed man, and they reign over the restored man.)

⁵ See the parable of the Sheep, the Goats, and these Brothers of Mine in Matthew 25.

⁶ "You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands." (Job 14:15)

⁷ "And they shall call them the Holy People, the *Redeemed* of the Lord; and you shall be called Sought Out [Derushah], A City Not Forsaken." (Isaiah 62:12)

⁸ "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)

⁹ "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself." (John 7:17)

¹⁰ "Pilate therefore said to Him, 'Are You a king then?' Jesus answered, 'You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.'" (John 18:37)

¹¹ "And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them." (Daniel 7:27, RSV)

¹² "There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 22:5)

¹³ "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." (Revelation 3:21)

¹⁴ "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." Yahshua said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, "Show us the Father?"' (John 14:7,9)

¹⁵ "For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, *who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited*: 'I am the Lord, and there is no other.'" (Isaiah 45:18)

¹⁶ "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle [dwelling place] of God is with men, and He [in redeemed man] will dwell with them [restored man], and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.'" (Revelation 21:3-4) Learn more about the **Three Eternal Destinies of Man** at: www.twelve12tribes.org

¹⁷ "The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! *It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.*" (Mark 14:21)

¹⁸ "Then the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.'" (Genesis 3:22)

"For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them." (Romans 2:14-15)

¹⁹ "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still [forever and ever]; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." (Revelation 22:11)

²⁰ "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)

WHAT'S IN A NAME



Some time ago when I was in college, I was searching for something meaningful in life. I wasn't finding it in school. I had been primed all my life to go to college and then on to "life", whatever that meant. Somehow, being one more cog in the machine didn't appeal to me. I wanted true friends and I wanted to do something with my life that really made a difference. I was experiencing neither.

A few years earlier in high school, I was at a Grateful Dead concert in much of the same state of mind as I would be several years later — lonely and searching for something.

When I left the concert someone must have handed me a little paper. It was from some people who lived in a community. This was very interesting to me since I was looking for something like this. However, in the busyness of my life, I put it into my closet and forgot about it.

As the years went by, I would see them at many of the events that I went to. They were beginning to capture my interest. One day a friend and I happened to park right behind their big maroon-and-cream-colored bus. On the back it read, "We Know the Way, We'll Bring You Home." I thought to myself, "That's what I want, a real home." As we were sitting there, I asked my friend if he knew anything about them.

He answered, "Yeah, they are some community that follows God."

When he said this, my heart leapt inside. That was what I was looking for — a community where people loved the God of the Bible. So I asked him, "Do they believe in Jesus?"

"No way," was his reply, "they follow some guru called 'Yahshua.'"

"Yahshua," I thought to myself, "who is that?" I was disappointed, to say the least. These people seemed so nice, but if they didn't follow the Son of God then I didn't want to have anything to do with them. If there was one thing I didn't need to get involved with, it was some strange

religion. So I decided to steer clear of them.

Eventually, there I was in college, still very lonely and still searching. Some friends, Deadheads like myself, had invited me to several Dead shows that would be happening that summer. I decided to go with them. At one of the first shows, I saw that same bus and I was instantly intrigued again. Something about these people seemed so special, but, I had to remind myself, they didn't follow the Son of God. It had been a couple of years since I had first come in contact with them. I had gone my way, searching for something real, but had

found nothing.

At one of those shows, I was walking through the parking lot and saw a good friend of mine. Oddly enough, he was sitting very near that bus. He was talking with someone and I sat down to join the conversation. After a few minutes, I asked him if he knew anything about that bus. He told me that I should talk to the other man, because he was part of the community that was traveling on the bus.

I was excited, since I had never actually talked to anyone from the bus; I had just heard things about them. The things I had heard about them following “Yahshua” had kept me away for almost two years. But I was full of questions about the community and what they believed. My first question was, of course, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

To my surprise, the man said, “Of course we do. Our entire life revolves around Him and His teachings!”

I could hardly believe it!

He went on to explain to me that while most people call the Son of God Jesus, they preferred His original Hebrew name, Yahshua. He told me that it actually meant “God’s Salvation.”

The more he talked the more everything began to make sense to me. I had grown up in a society that had caused me to question everything, but somehow I never questioned what had been handed down to me at church. I thought that because these people didn’t say *Jesus*, although they were full of love and kindness, they must be bad. But what I found out was that *Jesus* wasn’t even the Saviour’s name!

So now, as you have guessed, I am a part of this people who follow the Son of God, and I would like to share with you the amazing things I have learned about His

name.

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved language of the devout Jews was Hebrew. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or *Mary* in English), that she would give birth to the Saviour of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or *Joseph* in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, “...and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He will save His people from their sins.” But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own,¹ but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *Yahweh’s Salvation*,² which makes sense out of what the angel said in Matthew 1:21, “...you shall call His name *Yahshua* [Yahweh’s Salvation], for He shall save His people from their sins.”

If you look in an old King James Bible, you will find the name *Jesus* in these two passages:

Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (*Acts 7:45, KJV*)

For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (*Hebrews 4:8, KJV*)

However, if you look in any modern Bible, including more recently printed King James Bibles, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus* they use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking

there of Moses' successor and not the Son of God. But in the Greek manuscript the name in both of these verses is *Iesous*.

You see, *Joshua* is the popular English transliteration of the Hebrew name *Yahshua*. Joshua of the Old Testament had the same name as the One called *Jesus* in the New Testament, for Joshua was the prophetic forerunner of the Son of God, bringing Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *Iesous* as *Joshua* in these two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The fact is, the name of God's Son was not even pronounced as "Jesus" in English until the 16th century, simply because there was no "J" sound or letter in English until then.³ The modern letter "J" developed from the letter "I" which began to be written with a "tail" when it appeared as the first letter in a word. So in old English the name now written as *Jesus* was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *Iesous*. Eventually the hard "J" sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial "I" in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the apostle Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced "in the Hebrew tongue" by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn't hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, **Yahshua**.⁴

I'd much rather call the Son of God, my Saviour, by His true name — the name His own mother, Miriam, and foster father, Yoceph, and all of His Jewish friends called Him. Not only have I found out what His true name is, but His true Body on earth as

well. I am so thankful to have finally found true rest with the true Saviour. Please take the time to read the other articles in this paper. You are always welcome to come visit us in any of our communities. Our addresses are on the back of this paper. ❀

Michael



Endnotes

¹ Some authorities say that *Iesous* is derived from an earlier form meaning "healing Zeus," the supreme god of ancient Greek mythology.

² **Yah** is the personal name of God, and **shua** is from a Hebrew root word that means "to save." God identified Himself to Moses as **YAH** (meaning "I AM") in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4 ("whose name is Yah"), and as most familiar in the word Hallelu**yah** ("Praise Yah"). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, *Yahshua* says that He came in His Father's name, "the name which You have given Me" (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father's name would be incorporated into the Son's name, **Yahshua**.

³ Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496,1507.

⁴ Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12



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