

Getting Acquainted With Your Creator

The meaning of life starts with the one and only true and living God who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit of the Bible. As many have said before; the Bible **is** the Word, or thoughts, of God to mankind. It is God's message to us. It is God's plan for the Earth and mankind.

In the original languages, the Bible is absolute truth. We do not have to decide what part of it is true; it is all true. That means we can believe it all and depend on it all. It is from this position of the strength of God's message to us that we learn from Him the meaning of life.

Before the creation existed, God wanted to have a people whom He could love forever, and who would love and appreciate Him forever. *This is the central purpose for God's creation.* God created the universe to have a place where He could love and be loved by His people.

God created a wonderful world with a myriad of beautiful plants, unique animals and gorgeous scenery. He wanted the one's He loved to see His love for them in the beauty of the place where they would live. Most people appreciate the natural beauty of the creation but don't appreciate the creator.

God also made angels, some who are loyal to God and some who are not. Satan, the Devil, is the chief angel who is against God and God's people.

God made man in His own image. We look similar to Him. And like Him, we are individuals. He made us autonomous. We think for ourselves. God made us autonomous because autonomy is required to have the capability to love. No autonomy, no love. Thus . . . no love for God.

The downside of autonomy, from God's point of view, is man may not want to love God. God has infinite wisdom and perfect character, man has finite wisdom and imperfect character. Therefore, man's thoughts, actions and behavior will be different than God's thoughts, actions and behavior. If you remember, this is the lesson of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. There man learned to trust his own judgement rather than trust God's judgement.

Adam and Eve before eating the forbidden fruit, assumed God was correct in everything He said. But when the devil put the question to them, "Did God say you shall not eat?" That put the Garden couple into the position of: (1) doubting God, (2) answering Satan's question, and (3) by default, deciding whether or not God was correct about eating from the forbidden tree.

They judged God and His love for them. After all, He was keeping them from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So they decided to eat. Thus, *they took-on responsibility for managing their own lives* rather than trusting God to manage their lives.

God had previously said, "In the day that you eat, you shall surely die." They did die "spiritually" that day which

is what God meant. Dying means a separation. They were separated from God (driven out of the Garden).

They were separated from God because He does not want rebellious people in His presence. Do you? Of course not; it's nothing but trouble.

Since they didn't die physically that day, they thought God was telling them wrong. They were deceived by the devil. Since they thought God was wrong, they began to not trust Him. Since they thought they were right, they trusted their own judgement. Since men are autonomous, they have trusted their own judgement ever since, even to this day. Don't you trust your own judgement about life?

Satan deceived Adam and Eve and he continues to deceive all men even today. Men don't realize there are evil angels working against them and righteous angels working for them. Angels influence people's thinking toward or away from God's thinking and actions.

God has decreed that someday there will be a judgement, where the people who love Him will go to be with Him in paradise forever, and where the people who choose not to love Him will go to some kind of Hell, forever.

This is an impossible situation for man. Separation from God means man can never love God! Because, you cannot love whom you do not know. And, you cannot know a person from whom you are separated.

But, this is also an impossible situation for God. For God to have a people who would love Him forever: (1) He had to create them capable of loving Him and capable of not loving Him (because love is a choice); (2) expose them to the concept of rebellion; in order to have an opposing point of view other than God's point of view (3) allow them to rebel; to experience the result of their own foolish choices; (4) separate them from Himself; so He didn't have to experience their rebellion, and (5) then set up conditions such that they would love and appreciate Him, and allow Him to manage their life, instead of continuing their own rebellious leadership.

In addition, men would have to be "knowers" not just "believers" that God's way is best. Men would have to *experience* God as well as "believe" in Him.

Therefore, God on His own initiative, would have to: (1) overcome physical death, (2) bridge the separation between God and man, and (3) devise a way for man to love God. *It is these conditions which established the need for God's salvation plan through Jesus Christ.*

God's Answers to an Impossible Situation

God wants a people who will love him forever. He will overcome *physical death* (1) by resurrection. If you are

dead, He will make you alive again with a new body. If you are alive at a resurrection event, He will give you a new body and take you to be with Him.

God will *overcome the separation between God and man* (2) through “belief” and “faith” in Jesus of Nazareth who is called Christ. Godly men will tell other men about the love and “goodness” of God. Some men will listen, believe, act on their belief (have faith), and come to experience God in their life.

God will *persuade men to love Him* by first loving all men through the person and work of Jesus Christ suffering and dying on the cross.

God says, if they ask me, I will forgive them of their heinous crime because I want them to believe I really do love them. *This proof is the most I can do to demonstrate my love for them.*

All they have to do is: (1) be open to my existence and truth, (2) be open to Me showing my love to them. If they are open, they will see my love. If they are not open, they will not perceive my love, as my love. They will perceive my love as good luck or good fortune.

The meaning of life, from God’s point of view, emerges from the question “What persons will be open to loving My Son, Jesus of Nazareth, who is called Christ? God has asked that question. God has given every man and woman a lifetime to answer. What will your answer be?”

The meaning of life, from a person’s point of view, is: will I, or will I not, allow myself to learn about God and His Christ, such that I can discover if He is really “good” and worthy to be loved.

I ask you; the reader . . . who is this Jesus of Nazareth who is called Christ? Is He God, is He a liar, or is He a lunatic? Because you are reading this paper, I believe you want to know how to get acquainted with the God of the universe.

Our Response

If you don’t know, just ask God, right now, right where you sit or stand, to guide you. You may want to say something like this: “God, if you are there, please reveal yourself to me.”

You may ask, “How can I get to know God?” Think about it. If you saw a girl or guy to which you were attracted, how would you decide if you liked him or her? Of course, you would get to know the person. That would put you in the position of knowing whether the person is worth loving. Learning about God is done the same way. Be open to the truth about God. Get to know Him, read your Bible, read this paper.

The following four principles will provide a firm foundation for your getting acquainted with God. (1) God loves you and He wants a personal relationship with you; (2) All men are sinners and are separated from God; (3) Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for man’s sin. Through Him alone can we know God personally and experience His love; (4) Each person must individually accept Jesus Christ as Savior

of their soul *and* manager of their life; then we can know God personally and experience His love. Now, back to the first principle.

(1) God loves you, and He wants a personal relationship with you.

“This is eternal life; that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”
(John 17:3)

God loves all mankind and wants a personal relationship with each of us. As I have already said, the prime objective of the creation is for God to obtain a people who He can love and who will love Him forever.¹

Learning that every person should give God a chance to show His reality and goodness to them is life’s most important issue. It is so because your eternal destiny depends on your openness to the truth of who God really is.

If you allow yourself to seek the truth about God diligently, He will allow you to find his goodness which will lead you to loving Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Thus, you get to Heaven to be with God and with His people

If you don’t allow yourself to be open and seek the truth about God diligently, you don’t get exposed to the love and goodness of God. Thus, you are only left with a point of view which does not include the love and goodness of God. And, whomever you do love, if anyone, will not include God, His people, and His worth. This results in you not loving God and a destiny of Hell. He owns the world so He gets to make the rules. His rules are simple; be open to Me, let me love you, and I will show you my worth and you will appreciate me.

He First Loved Us

God, the Father said, I will send my Son, Jesus Christ to Earth to tell them I love them. I will heal their sick, heal their wounds, cast the devil out of their lives, save them from their sins (wrong and different thinking), and show them what righteousness (God’s thinking and actions) really is. I will prove to them that God loves them by sending this Jesus, who is part of the Godhead, to love them, even though they will torture Him to death. He will suffer excruciating pain, at their hand, as shown in the movie, “The Passion Of The Christ.”

When they ask, I the Father, will forgive them of this heinous crime because I want them to know I love them. I want them to know that great love is shown in bearing great pain for the good of another.

1. Ref. Luke 10:27; If loving Him is the greatest commandment of the law, then it also must be His highest objective. Why? Because, there is nothing greater that we can do.

When some see what Jesus did for them, they will realize they are loved by me, and they will respond in love back to me.

(2) All Men are Sinners and are Separated from God

“For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“There is a way which seems right to a man, but it’s end is the way to death.” (Proverbs 14:12)

Man’s thinking patterns are based on finite knowledge, flawed character, and some experience based on these flawed attributes. God’s thinking patterns are based on infinite knowledge, perfect character, and long, long, long experience. These factors cause man’s thinking patterns to be different than God’s thinking patterns. For example, many people believe it is Ok to lie. God says lying is not loving and therefore you shouldn’t do it.

In the Bible, God has defined man’s thought patterns as “sinful” and God’s thought patterns as “righteousness”. Man is a sinner because he thinks things like lying are Ok.

Man is a sinner because each has gone his own way and done his own thing since Adam lived.² Each man has made himself boss (manager) of his own life. This means that man is a higher authority in his own life than God because man trusts his own leading rather than God’s leading.

Since God does not want trouble in His presence, He separated Himself from Adam, and we have been separated ever since. One cannot go to New York or anywhere else and find God. He is around but we cannot perceive Him with our five senses.

This separation, and man being boss of his own life, is a problem for God. It is a problem because the separation causes man to not be able to love God. You cannot love whom you do not know. You cannot know whom you cannot perceive. And, you cannot perceive whom you do not believe exists. Therefore, left with this situation, God would not accomplish His goal of obtaining a people who would love Him forever. So, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit agreed that God the Son, Jesus, who is called Christ, would come to Earth and reintroduce God to man.³ And this He did nearly 2000 years ago. Therefore, man must become convinced that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.⁴

(3) Jesus Christ is God’s Only Provision for Man’s Sin. Through Him Alone Can We know God Personally and Experience His Love.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the

Father, but through me” (John 14:6)

“But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Jesus came to Earth and said to everyone, “I am God.”⁵ His disciples believed Him but the religious leaders of the day did not. And so the religious leaders crucified Him in a most horrible way. Can you imagine looking up at Jesus on the cross, His disciples on one side, the religious leaders on the other. Mere men torturing the High, Holy and Lifted Up Lord on the Universe!

But at the same time, Jesus proved His love for us by *staying* on the cross. The Father would have taken Him off the Cross if Jesus had asked.⁶ The Bible says He had the power to call down hundreds of angels; enough power to destroy everyone in the world.⁷ But He did not. He was kind to us when we were cruel to Him. While He endured excruciating pain, He said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”⁸

But let’s not be too quick to judge the religious leaders because you and I are just as guilty of crucifying Him as they. Why? Because, we have not believed that He was God come in the flesh either. He asked, “Who do men say that I am?”⁹ And we ask the same question to you today. Is He God or is He not? He proved who He was by fulfilling over 800 prophecies given over 600 years before He lived on this Earth. The Father validated His claims and ministry by raising Jesus from the dead.

Jesus promised that if you would believe that He is who He says He is, that He would change your life now, and He would take you to Heaven later to be with Him forever. Give Him leadership of your life and He will make you successful by His standards. We all have thoughts which causes indifference and rebellion against God, which in turn, makes our lives unsuccessful. However, there is hope. The Bible says,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (I John 1:9)

If we will just admit who we really are, He will change us so we can fit into Heaven’s way of life. That is: how to

5. John 1:1, 14; John 5:18; John 10:30-33, 36-39; John 18:5-6; Col.2:9

6. Psalms 91:11

7. Matthew 26:53

8. Luke 23:34

9. Matthew 16:13-17

2. Genesis 3:17-24

3. John 10:10

4. Hebrews 11:6

have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.¹⁰ Thereby, we will become somewhat compatible with God by the time we get to Heaven.

Because He is who He says He is, the Lord of the Universe, He is worthy to direct our lives. Because He first loved us, by not killing us when we killed Him, He is worthy to be loved.¹¹ By this we know we are loved, and our reasonable response is we should return His love. However, that is not the end of it.

(4) We must individually Accept Jesus as Savior of Our Soul and Manager of our Life; Then We can Know God personally and Experience His Love

To receive Him means to believe who He is, to accept His promises as applying to oneself and to cooperate with Him in changing ones own life. God says,

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

Agreeing that Jesus is God establishes His right to Lordship over one’s own life. Appreciating who Jesus is and what he has done motivates us to *want* His leadership in our lives. Appreciating His leadership and living out His plan for our lives is the definition of love for God. Loving Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s plan for the creation. It is by this plan that God will obtain a people who will love Him forever. Thus, our overview of God’s plan is complete. The only question left: What do you believe? Jesus said,

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him.”¹²

If you have opened the door of your heart right now, you may want to talk to God in the form of a prayer which goes something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and accept you as my Saviour and manager. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be.”

When we receive Christ, we have experienced a new birth.¹³

In another place the Bible says,

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things become new.”

If you prayed the above prayer, part of the new you is your new point-of-view about Jesus and what He has done for you. You may have a fresh new hope for a better life. You may feel like a great burden has been lifted from your shoulders; as a result of giving Jesus responsibility for success of your life. You may feel a new appreciation and gratefulness toward God. If so, He is starting to fulfill His goal for your life: that you should love Him as He loves you. Now, didn’t we say that was God’s goal right from the start?

Where Do I Go From Here?

The Bible Says, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”¹⁴ The truth will free you from the influence of Satan’s lies. The best thing you can do for yourself is to get a Bible and start reading it. You don’t have to read much; between five minutes and one hour per day. Even five minutes is fine if you do it faithfully. Pick a time when it is easiest for you, preferably in the morning. God wants you to discover who He is and how to interact with Him.

This is the bottom line. Seek God’s point of view. Compare it with your present point of view. The contrast will reveal the truth.

For more information, you may want to read the next paper in “The Meaning of Life” series, **Step Two - The Assurance of Your Being In Christ.**

You can read my book, **Managed Cooperation Theology**, Norman E. Jones, Divinely Timed Publications, 2011, available at Amazon.com. You may also go to my website at: “www.soulsurvival.info”. For question-answers: E-mail:

“soulsurvival@soulsurvival.info”

10. Galations 5:22-23

11. Romans 5:5-6

12. Revelation 3:20

13. John 3:3

14. John 8:32