
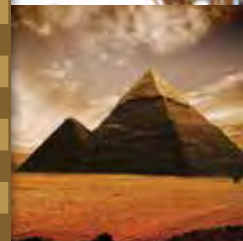




GOD
So LOVED
THE
WORLD



CLARENCE SEXTON





GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

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👑 The Creator God reveals Himself in Conscience and Creation.

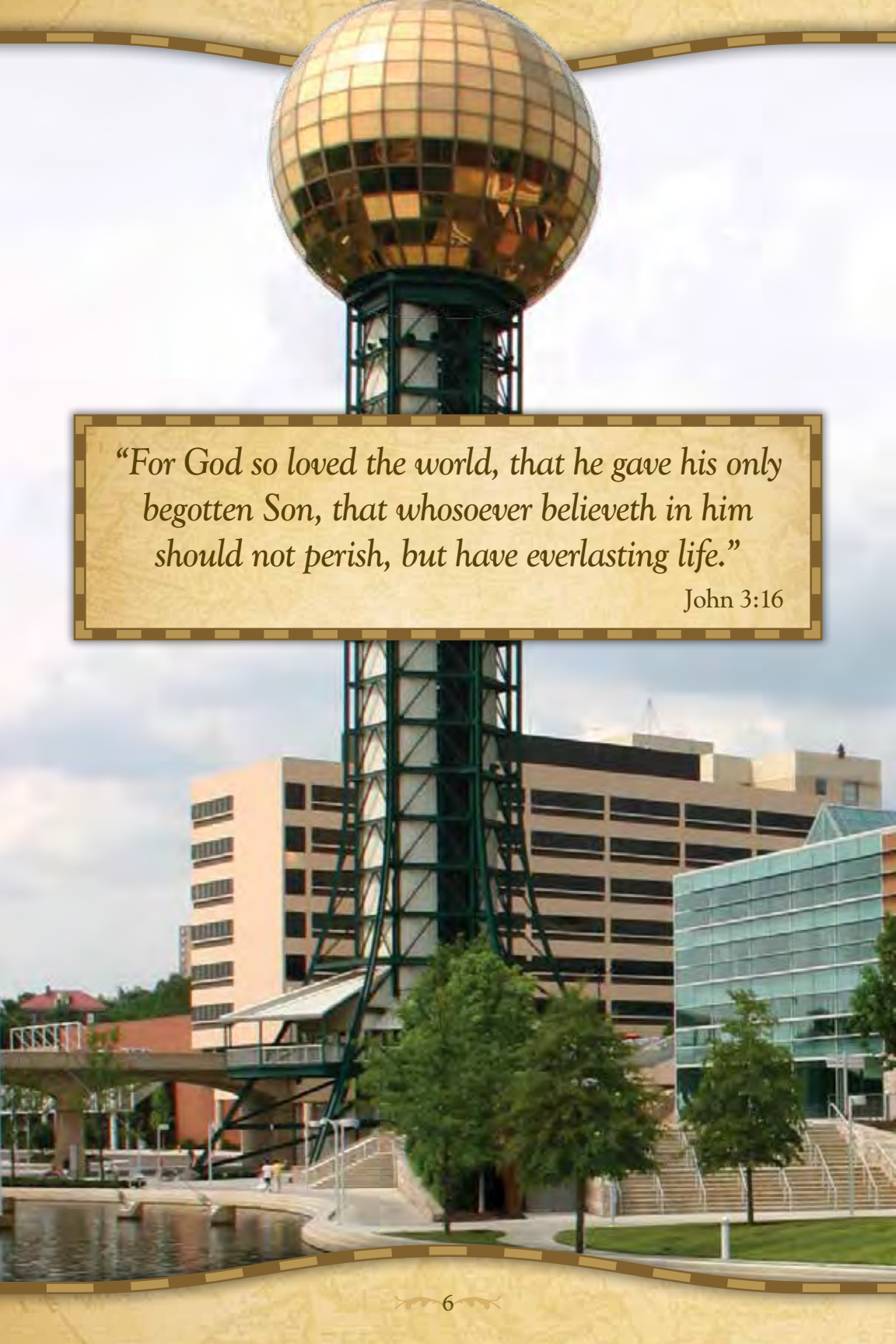
👑 The most famous line in literature is, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” These are the first words of the very first book of the Bible.

👑 Are these words true? Does God exist? Is He the Creator? Did He speak the world into existence?

👑 The answer to these questions is yes and, you are evidence of this!



- *The Creator became a man without ceasing to be God. The Lord Jesus was born of a virgin and grew up in the town of Nazareth.*
- *He lived a sinless life. He owed no sin debt of His own. He did always those things that pleased the Heavenly Father.*
- *He went to the cross and died for our sins.*
- *On the third day He rose from the dead.*
- *He ascended to Heaven and is exalted on high where He intercedes for us.*
- *He sent God the Holy Spirit to convict all people of sin, righteousness, and judgment.*
- *Those who have trusted Him as their personal Saviour have been given the responsibility to tell them of the Lord Jesus.*



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16



ou have arrived on planet Earth, but you will not stay here forever. Light can travel around Earth's equator seven times in one second. One of these seconds will be your last second on earth—then where will you be?

King David said, *"Remember how short my time is"* (Psalm 89:47). Our life *"is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away"* (James 4:14). No matter how long we live, it seems that it is *"of few days"* (Job 14:1). After death, then eternity—where?


Our Creator God has made a way for us to be with Him forever. This is why *"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). The apostle John penned his Gospel record to prove that Jesus Christ is God, and no verse is more powerful than John 3:16.

A Real Heaven

Just as the city or village in which you live is a real place, Heaven is a real place. The Lord Jesus said,

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and





receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:1-3).

One of Christ's disciples asked, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" The Lord Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:5-6).

A Real Hell

Believing what Christ said about Heaven, we also believe what He said about a real hell. The Lord Jesus spoke of a man who died and went to hell.

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame (Luke 16:23-24).

We were created for eternity, and every human being is going to live as long as God lives. Beyond the door of death, after our last breath here on earth, we are going to be somewhere forever. We will be either with God or without God.

Eternity Where?

Every human being has an appointment with death. After death, will you be in Heaven or in hell? There is no question in life that



deserves as much attention as this question. It is the one issue that matters most. This is why the Lord Jesus said to a man named Nicodemus who came to Him under the cover of darkness, *"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again"* (John 3:7).

Nicodemus, a very religious man, asked, *"How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"* The Lord Jesus explained to him that just as all men have a physical birth, they must also have a spiritual birth in order to know God and be with Him forever.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE SINNED

We have all sinned, and we are dead in our sins. We must have a spiritual birth. *"It is written, There is none righteous, no, not one"* (Romans 3:10).

God describes the sinful condition of every member of the human race.

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: their feet are swift





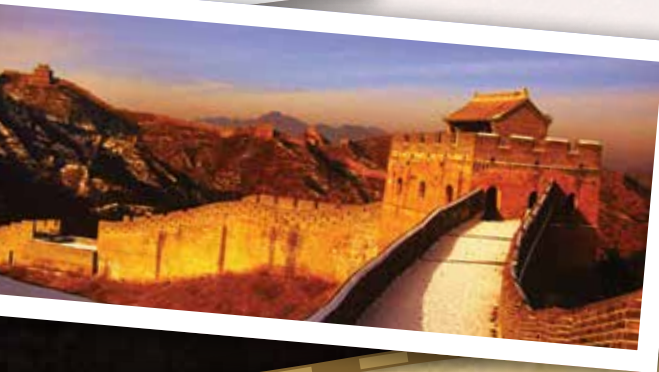
to shed blood: destruction and misery are in their ways: and the way of peace have they not known: there is no fear of God before their eyes.

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference (Romans 3:11-22).

After speaking of Jews and Gentiles, God's Word states, "*There is no difference.*" When we come to verse twenty-three of Romans chapter three, God declares, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). This means I am a sinner and you are a sinner. We are all sinners.

In the life of each human being, sin may be expressed differently, but we are all sinners. It is not lying; it is what causes lying. It is not immorality; it is what causes immorality. It is not illegal drug use; it is what causes the drug use. Perhaps you live a very moral life, yet you still have a sin nature. We are all sinners.

"For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). The payment, or wages,



of our sin is death. This means death and hell. It means separation from God forever. We are born with a sin nature. In one sense, every human being is “stillborn” spiritually. We are born dead spiritually.



It is the desire of the only true and living God for you to know Him and have His joy. You may be trying to make the world a better place, but most people who are busy doing this are only making it a better place from which to go to hell. We are going to live and die. Will it be Heaven or hell for you?

CHRIST OFFERS HIMSELF TO ALL TO BE THEIR SAVIOUR

Let us remember that Christ died for our sins. All people are sinners in need of a Saviour. Christ died for all. In other words, I can go anywhere in the world and tell anyone I meet, “Jesus Christ can save you.”

The Lord Jesus came to pay our sin debt. On every island of the sea, on every continent of the world, among every race, among every nationality, and among every language group, people need to hear the Good News. The Good News is the gospel. It is the news that the Saviour came to earth two thousand years ago to die for our sins on the cross, and that He was buried, and that He came forth from the grave alive forevermore.





Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (I Corinthians 15:1-4).



This is the Good News. This is the gospel. All are sinners, but Christ died for our sins. This is good news, but only if one hears it and comes to know the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour before he dies. The gospel is the Good News because we have heard the bad news of our



sinful condition. The sin debt was paid in full by the Lord Jesus Christ. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9).

The most wonderful story anyone has ever heard is the story of what

Christ came to do on the cross. Many people can quote the Bible verse John 3:16, "For God so



loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” But do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?

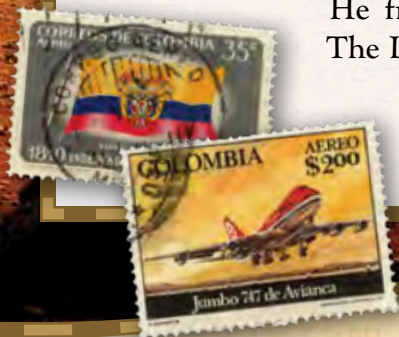
Two thousand years ago, God’s Son came to earth. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. He became a man without ceasing to be God. He went about His earthly ministry doing only good. One night in a garden He was praying. The Bible says He was on His face in the dirt, and great sweat drops of blood broke through the pores of His flesh.

From a hillside, coming down across a brook, men came with torches and lanterns to take Christ. They brought lanterns and torches because they thought they would have to chase Him into some cave or some place where He would attempt to hide. But when they came to Him, He stepped out to meet them.

I have stood in that garden in the land of the Bible many times. He could have easily seen them coming. If He had desired to run, He could have; but He did not run. The Bible says that He stepped forth. When they inquired about who He was, He spoke, “I am.” When He said those words, the men who came to take Him fell to the ground.

Think of how hardened people’s hearts can become! Can you imagine that mob coming to take Christ? After hearing the sound of His voice, they actually fell to the ground. Yet they got up and continued toward Him.

No doubt they thought as they bound His hands that Christ would be unwilling. However, He was not unwilling; He freely offered Himself. He gave His life. The Lord Jesus said, “No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself” (John 10:18). He came to earth to die for your sin.





As the high priest's servant, (a man by the name of Malchus), started to bind the hands of the Lord Jesus, Peter, one of our Lord's disciples, could not restrain himself. He drew his sword and went for the man's head. He missed his head and cut off the man's ear; his ear fell to the ground.

If you have ever seen a wound to the face, you know that it bleeds profusely. No doubt blood was pouring. Christ took Malchus' ear and reattached it to his head in the presence of all the witnesses, but they still took Him. Christ went through a mockery of a trial that night and was delivered the next morning to Pilate. From Pilate, He was taken to Herod, and then back to Pilate.

Someone shouted, "He's a king," so they crowned Him with thorns and pressed them deep into His brow. They said, "He's a king; let's anoint Him."

So they spat on His face until His face was covered with spittle. They said, "He's a king; let's put a robe on Him," and they placed a robe of mockery on His shoulders after they had beaten His back until it was broken and bleeding. Eventually they brought Him before a mob of angry people, and the mob cried, "Crucify Him." God's Son gave Himself to angry sinners to do with Him as they pleased.



Christ bore His cross to Calvary. When He came to the place of crucifixion, they took spikes and drove them into His hands and feet, lifting Him up on a cross between Heaven and hell, and there He hung.

If you see Him in your mind's eye, you ask, "Why? He never sinned. Why? He never did anything wrong. Why?" They lied about Him.

False witnesses came to

testify against Him. He was the only innocent


One who ever walked the earth, yet He hung there and bled and died. God incarnate, God robed in human flesh was on this earth for thirty-three and one-half years. He came to die for our sins.

The people heard Him cry out, "My God, my God, *why hast thou forsaken me?*" (Matthew 27:46). The billows of God's wrath rolled over the Lord Jesus as He became sin for us. God's Word says, "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*" (II Corinthians 5:21). Christ bled and died for our sin debt.

What do you think of what Christ did for you? How are you going to respond to what Christ did for you?

I am God's messenger to tell you that Jesus Christ loves you and that He died for you. He was buried and rose from the dead. He came bodily out of the grave on the third day after His death. The stone that covered the tomb where His body was placed was rolled away; not in order for Christ to get out, but so that others could go in and verify that the tomb was empty. Because of His resurrection, we have hope.






Christ said, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die"* (John 11:25-26). He lives! After His resurrection, He spent forty days with His followers and then ascended to Heaven. He left with the promise that He is coming again. He will return just as He promised.

ALL PEOPLE COME INTO GOD'S FAMILY THE SAME WAY

Everyone who truly comes to God comes the same way. I am not going to Heaven because I am a minister. I am not going to Heaven because someone felt sorry for me. My wife is not going to Heaven because her father was a minister. All people who become Christians come the same way.



Let us consider an interesting verse from the Bible that most people do not understand; it is one that explains the whole matter. The Bible says, *"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus"* (Romans 3:26). God is just, and He is the Justifier.

How can a holy God allow sinful creatures into Heaven and still say that He is a just God? He is just, and He is the Justifier. The Bible teaches that when I came to Christ seeking forgiveness of my sin, trusting only Him as my Saviour, God declared that I was justified. God sees me in a new way. Being justified means more than



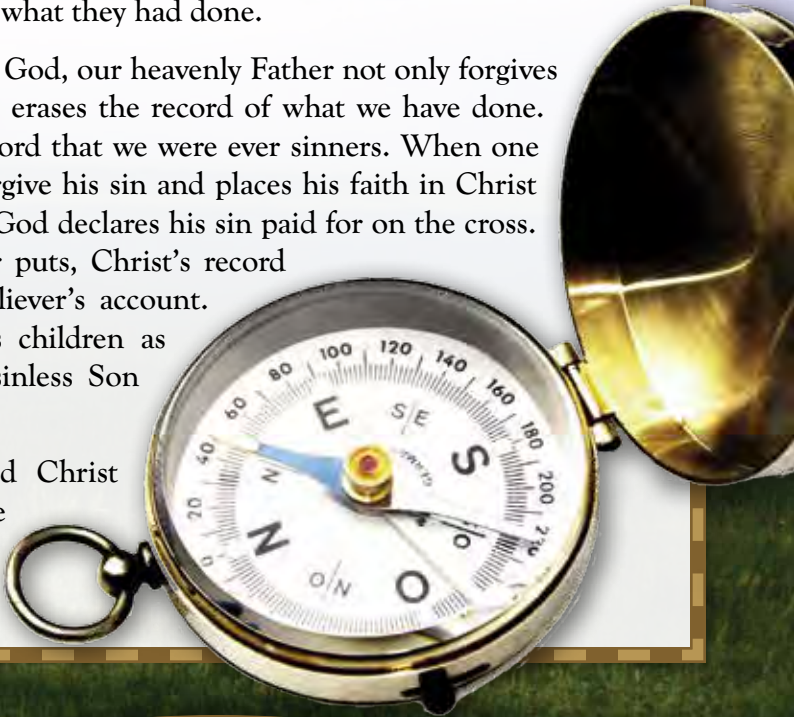
being regarded just as if I had never sinned; it means to be regarded by God just as if I were never a sinner. The Lord Jesus Christ took my sinful record on the cross as He died for me. I received His sinless record on my account when He became my Saviour.


We are going to meet God with our record or with Christ's record on our account. We can enter Heaven only with Christ's record. Salvation is of the Lord. It is the gift of God. Christ makes Himself known to those who truly confess their sin to God and by faith come to Christ.

When my sons did something wrong while growing up, I forgave them. I forgave them just as they had forgiven me of things; but I could not erase what they had done.

As a child of God, our heavenly Father not only forgives us, but He also erases the record of what we have done. There is no record that we were ever sinners. When one asks God to forgive his sin and places his faith in Christ as his Saviour, God declares his sin paid for on the cross. He imputes, or puts, Christ's record on the new believer's account. God views His children as He views the sinless Son of God.

Not only did Christ never sin, He was never a






sinner. When God looks at a Christian's record, He sees Christ's record on that person's account, just as if that sinner had never been a sinner.

Satan is doing a terrible work; but the work that God does through Christ is a greater work than what the Devil does through his evil efforts. God's work is greater than the Devil's. The Devil's work can be undone, but Christ's work of salvation can never be undone. We are all children of the Devil by nature. We have all sinned "*and come short of the glory of God.*" We can become children of God only by repenting of our sin and trusting Christ by faith as our Saviour.

Every human being is already under a death sentence because of our sin. The whole world is guilty. Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, came to this earth, bled and died on the cross, and paid our sin debt so we would not have to go to hell without God and without hope. He was buried and He rose from the dead that first Easter morning. When we ask the Lord to forgive our sin and by faith trust Christ as Saviour, He hears our prayer, forgives our sin, and comes to abide in us forever.



You may be thinking, "I believe all of this." Do you? The Bible says, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast*" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

There are many people who believe that they are sinners and that Christ died for their sin, but have never repented of their sin and trusted Christ and Christ alone for their soul's salvation. Many people believe in Christ plus baptism, Christ





plus good works, Christ plus first communion, or Christ plus the Lord's Supper. The Bible teaches that salvation is not by any work that we have done. It is by Christ and Christ alone. No man can earn his way into Heaven.

Charles Spurgeon, an English preacher from a century ago, said, "If I got to Heaven because of my good works; when I walked into Heaven through a gate of pearl, onto the street of gold, and saw mansions of glory, I would say, 'Oh Lord, I don't deserve to be here!' But if I get there because of what Jesus Christ has done, I am going to walk through that gate of pearl and say, 'Oh, how wonderful is this place, and I expected such a work that only Christ could do.'"

You ask, "What must I do?"

Allow me to tell my story. When I was a teenage boy, I attended a youth meeting at the local church. A youth leader said to me, "I would like for you to stay behind because I want to talk to you." He asked, "Clarence, are you a Christian?" He knew a bit about my home life, and was troubled about some of those things that he knew.

I said, "I guess I am. I'm not a heathen. I go to Sunday School and church. I have a Bible."

He understood what I was missing. He explained to me what I have written to you. He took me down the hallway into the pastor's study, and he and the pastor sat across from me. God had convinced me by

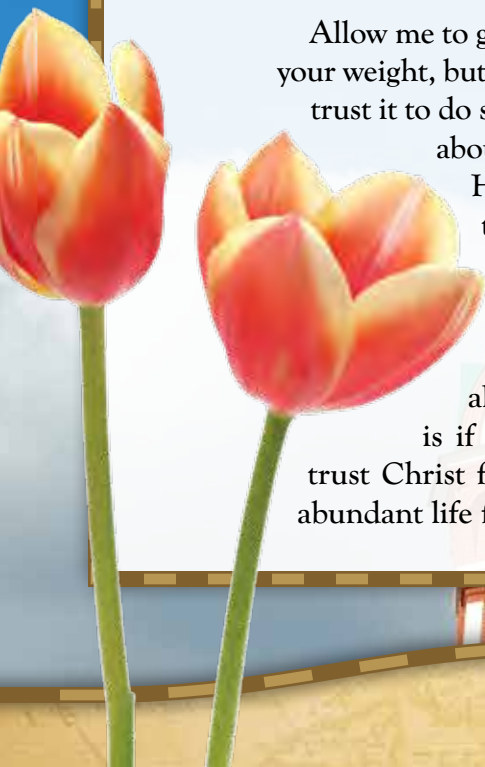


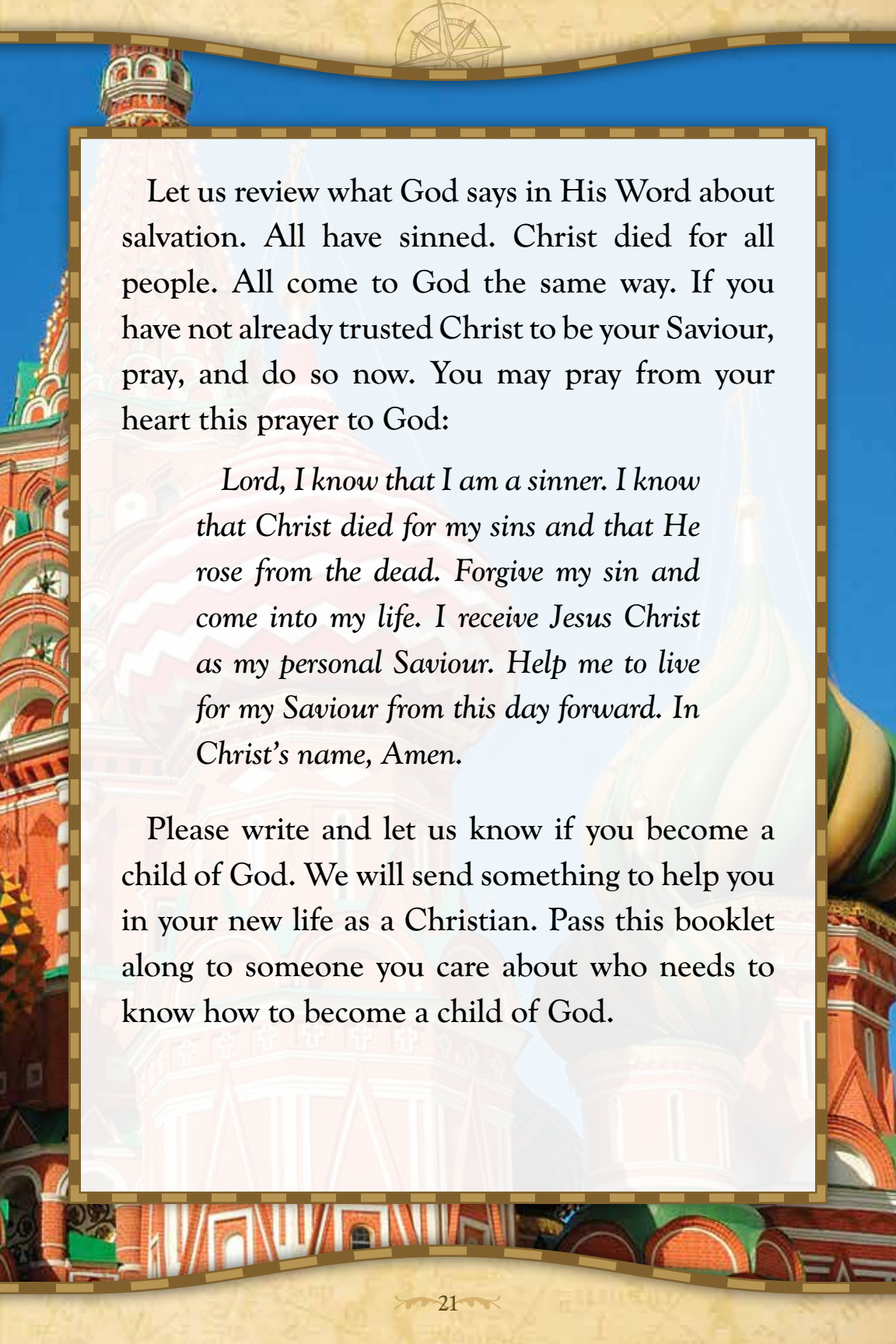
His Spirit that I was a sinner and needed the Saviour. They asked if I would pray and trust Christ and Christ alone, asking God to forgive my sin, acknowledging to God that I was a sinner, and inviting the Lord Jesus into my life as my Saviour.

I did not know exactly how to pray, but these men led me in prayer. The prayer was to God from a heart convicted of sin. That day, I did not trust myself or the pastor for salvation. I trusted in Christ alone, because all are born into God's family the same way. I asked God to forgive my sin, and I received Jesus Christ as my Saviour. Bells did not ring, lights did not flash, I did not feel strange all over; but I knew that I had taken God at His Word and given my life to the Lord Jesus Christ. The life of the Eternal One, the Lord Jesus, came to live in me. His Spirit came to abide in me forever.

Allow me to give you an example. A chair can support your weight, but it will not actually support you until you trust it to do so. You can say what you will about God, about Christ, about His saving power; but He is not your personal Saviour until you trust Him and Him alone to save you.

Some day, I know I will be in Heaven with God. What a wonderful thing it would be if you were there also! The only way you will be there is if you personally repent of your sin and trust Christ for your soul's salvation. Our Lord has abundant life for you now.





Let us review what God says in His Word about salvation. All have sinned. Christ died for all people. All come to God the same way. If you have not already trusted Christ to be your Saviour, pray, and do so now. You may pray from your heart this prayer to God:

Lord, I know that I am a sinner. I know that Christ died for my sins and that He rose from the dead. Forgive my sin and come into my life. I receive Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. Help me to live for my Saviour from this day forward. In Christ's name, Amen.

Please write and let us know if you become a child of God. We will send something to help you in your new life as a Christian. Pass this booklet along to someone you care about who needs to know how to become a child of God.



READ the LIFE of CHRIST IN the GOSPEL ACCORDING to JOHN

___ John 1	Who Is Jesus Christ?
___ John 2	First Miracle and Cleansing
___ John 3	The New Birth
___ John 4	The Samaritan Woman
___ John 5	Jesus, Equal With God
___ John 6:1-29	Feeding the Five Thousand
___ John 6:30-71	Jesus, the Bread of Life
___ John 7	Jesus, Teaching in the Temple
___ John 8	Christ and the Pharisees
___ John 9	Healing the Blind Man
___ John 10:1-21	Christ, the Good Shepherd
___ John 10:22-42	Jesus, the Son of God
___ John 11	Lazarus, Raised From the Dead
___ John 12	Christ Enters Jerusalem
___ John 13	The Last Supper
___ John 14:1-14	Apostles Are Comforted
___ John 14:15-31	Promise of the Holy Spirit
___ John 15	Abiding in Christ
___ John 16:1-15	Work of the Holy Spirit
___ John 16:16-33	Jesus Tells of Things to Come
___ John 17	The High Priestly Prayer of Christ
___ John 18:1-14	Arrest of Christ
___ John 18:15-27	Peter Denies Christ
___ John 18:28-40	Christ Before Pilate
___ John 19:1-15	Christ is Condemned
___ John 19:16-30	The Crucifixion
___ John 19:31-42	Christ is Buried
___ John 20:1-18	The Resurrection
___ John 20:19-31	Christ Appears
___ John 21	Events Following the Resurrection

More resources available online at FAITHfortheFAMILY.com



Give the Lord Jesus Christ His rightful place as Saviour.



Determine to live with God's ruling presence in your life, showing His love to others.



Read your Bible to know the Lord Jesus Christ, and pray, trusting God with every need.



Speak to others about what Christ means to you, and tell them how they can come to know Him.



Attend a church that teaches and preaches God's Word, and become involved in the Lord's work through that local church.



Look and listen each day for God to speak to you through His Word, through other Christians, and through circumstances.



Live with the conscious expectation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and love His appearing.



KNOXVILLE Knows

*"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3*



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