

Acts 28:28 **The BIBLE'S GLORIOUS MESSAGE**

I want to speak tonight on the Message of the Bible – simply! What exactly is the Message of the Bible? It is about the **salvation** of God. Someone said that if the Bible could be reduced to one **sentence** it would be: “*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*” [1Tim 1:15]. If reduced to one **word** it would be “*salvation*”! It’s the Message of Luke & Paul here.

The bible **is** a book about ‘salvation’. It is a **wonderful** and **beautiful message**. Most people don’t realise how much God is **for us** – God is **not against** us at all! Some people think God is against us and **wants** to see us all in **Hell**! Some people think God is out to get us and punish us forever. Not true! The truth is that God wants to **save** us - from **ruining ourselves!** The Bible tells us, that **we are** ruining ourselves “*All we like sheep have gone astray*”[Isa 53:6]. That is, astray from **God’s path** of righteousness. God created us **without** any evil in us. The wisest king/philosopher of all time, wrote “*God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes*” [Ecc 7:29]

Philosophers **speculate** about the **origin** of man. (Darwin wrote about the Origin of **Species**, not the origin of **life!** He had no answer to how **life** came about. Just the **varieties** of life!) Dr Hugh Moorhead a philosophy professor at Northeastern Illinois Univ wrote to 250 intellectuals asking ‘What is the Meaning of Life?’ Some admitted they **guessed**, others **made up** a theory, others honest enough to admit they were **clueless!**

Yes **speculation** about life! But God has provided another answer – its **revelation!** The Bible is a revelation from God. It tells us What Went Wrong With the Human Race, and how we can be put on the right track again. These are the **two things** the Bible reveals and speaks about. It is a wonderful **gift** from God! It **continues** to fascinate intellectuals all around the world!

Without the Bible, we would **never**, but never, have **guessed** or

been **able** to **imagine** the ‘salvation’ it reveals! It is **beyond** the imagination – of man! It is **only** God that **could** have **thought** it up! But not only was it God alone that could have thought it up – but **only** God was **able** to **put it into effect!**

The one thing man would **never** really imagine is that many of the things he **enjoys** now, are the very things that actually **ruin** him! Mankind thinks these enjoyments are what life is all about! Wrong! The Bible calls these things **sins** or **iniquities** “*your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you*”[Isa 59:2]

We know that all the things we enjoy **end** – and disappoint us. They do **not** satisfy or fulfil us – we always want more! The Bible confirms this, “*the fleeting pleasures of sin*”[Heb11:25]. We also grow old and the pleasures of youth **fade** and are **no longer attractive** to us. We look for something else. And so it goes on until we are just hang around for ‘the end’ (ie, death)!

The **big mistake** people make is thinking that happiness lies **within ourselves!** If only we could click the right button. We say ‘It is only a matter of ‘finding’ ourselves’! We are trying to make **ourselves** happy by **our own** schemes/methods/philosophy! Friends, there **is** something **missing!** And that something is **God!** When sin first came into the world we **lost** God – God’s joy and God’s peace and God’s fulfilment. The Message of the Bible is that we can get that joy back!

Problem! We just do **not think** or **believe** God is the answer. The whole idea turn us off completely! We ‘**naturally**’ **hate** God! The **mind** of human nature (set on the flesh) is **opposed** to God “*the carnal mind is enmity against God*”[Rom 8:7 AV] The very thought of God being the answer puts **fear** in us!

That is because of our **guilt!** Remember the brothers of Joseph, when years and years later, providences ran against them ‘This has happened for “*we are guilty because of our brother*”!’

Please, please, **do not ‘put-off’** the idea that God is the answer to your life. Just listen to His voice in Scripture through His Son “*Come to Me all who **labour** and are **heavy laden** and I will give you **rest***”! He is saying that to **anyone** who is heavy laden with their life here on earth. Jesus’ purpose in coming was **not** to help the good folk! “*I am **not** come to call the **righteous** but **sinner**s to repentance*”! Jesus says “*I am come that **they** might have **life** and have it to the **full***”!

Yes, the Bible says that God is a **consuming fire** – but that is against those who **continue** to **reject** Him and **despise** His one way of salvation. The main message of the Bible is to **offer** everyone the **solution** to man’s problem. But God **is** also **love**! God actually is the **inventor** and **creator** of love! **All** love **emanates** from God! Love does not come from Satan, or from human ingenuity. All love comes from God. In the Bible the **love** of God that is **predominate**. It is on **every page**! Look...

The Bible God is a **Trinitarian** God. A Trinity of Three with a very close **relationship** to each other. God **is** love, not just God has love. You see, in order to love, there must be someone **to** love! There must be an object outside yourself **to** love. You cannot love nothing. So **before** the creation of the world, before anyone was created, God had love within the Trinity! Love was part of His being within Himself and the Trinity. You see, love is **not essential** to the **Unitarian** god, because there is nothing to love before creation! Love is **not part**, or of the **essence** of the **Unitarian** god, or the **Jewish** god or the **Muslim** god, because there was nothing to love before creation! Love came **after** creation for their god – but it is **not by nature** the **same** love as the love the Trinitarian God!

Thus the Xn God, **truly** is **love**! Trinity is what **distinguishes** Xnity from other religions! It is because of the **essential nature** of love within the Trinity that Xnity is able to display in the **Cross**, the glorious and **fabulous reality** of **sacrificial** love! No

other love can compare, or be imagined with it! No other religion has a Saviour who died for sinners.

The Message of the Bible is that God **so loved the world** that He gave His one and only Son. Think of it – this God of the Bible is **Majestic**, He created everything. The universe. The galaxies! **He is big!** Scientists tell us that travelling in a 747 aircraft at 500 miles per hour, to go to the **sun**, a mere 93million miles away, it would take 21 years to get there! To reach Pluto, the furthest away planet in our solar system, it would take 900 years!! The nearest **star** apart from the sun is 4.3 light years from earth. Travelling 24/7 on our 747 would take 6 million years! That is just **our galaxy** - there are **over 150 billion stars** in our galaxy! At least **150 billion galaxies!**

Think of the **sun**, a ball of fire. Think of the **fuel** it needs to keep it **burning!** God supplies it fuel. We are told, true or false I don't know, but Airport Tower workers don't live long die and many commit suicides – because of the **strain** and **stress** and **responsibilities** of guiding incoming aircraft. Keeping them all in balance with each other! Yet, God **controls** and **monitors** all those **planets** in their courses, year after year!!!

Why should such a great God send His Son to **die for you?** One answer only – because He **so loved** the world! Yes, the **wicked, wicked,** world.

God would **never** have sent His Son to die for us unless He truly **wanted** us to be **happy** and to live **for ever in perfect bliss!** **Look:** *“As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?”* [Ezek 33:11]! God ***“desires all people to be saved”***[1Tim 2:4] Do **you** believe that? Good. I hope you will **respond positively.** You do **not** need to have a **great emotional experience!** Just **resolve** in your heart and follow the Lord **seriously.**