

# **Messages for those who do not know God**

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## ***Introduction***

I have written these messages for you who don't know God. Their purpose is to lead you to the knowledge of God, for knowing God is the most beautiful and important experience that a human being can have. We speak from personal experience, for we have known God.

Maybe you are an atheist and thus you will say, 'There is no God!' You are greatly mistaken, for the Bible speaks of the existence of God, and not only the Bible, but also the creation, which you can see with your eyes, speaks of the existence of God. Therefore repent of this your evil thought and believe in God's existence and yearn to know Him. Maybe you are a religious person: you believe in the existence of God and think that you know Him, but actually you do not know God for you do not love those who are begotten of Him. For the apostle John states that he who does not love does not know God, for God is love (1 John 4:8). Therefore, you also – like the atheist – need to know God. It does not matter if you say you are a Christian; you can say that you are a Roman Catholic, or a Lutheran, or a member of the Reformed Church, or a Methodist, or a Baptist, or a Pentecostal, or a member of another protestant denomination; you can be even a Jew, but since you do not love, you do not know God, for you are dead in your trespasses and iniquities. It is evident that you do not know God from this also, you do not have the assurance of remission of sins and of eternal life, for anyone who knows God is sure that he has obtained remissions of sins and eternal life, not by his own personal merits, but by the grace of God.

How can you know God then? Only by repenting of your sins and believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world to make God His Father known to us. That's why in all the messages that you are going to read you will find the following exhortation, 'Repent and believe in Jesus Christ.' Therefore if you want to know God, the only true God, you must know Jesus Christ first, the Son of God, and you can know Him only by putting your trust in Him. When you know Jesus you will know His Father also, that is, God, and you will obtain remission of sins and eternal life, and you will start loving the sons of God.

So Jesus Christ is the Way that leads to the knowledge of the only true God, who created all things and sustains all things by His power. Him we proclaim to you with all boldness and without flattering you, who died for our sins on the cross and rose again for our justification. This message is foolishness to some, and a stumbling block to others, but to us who have known God and believe in Him it is the power of God. Do not despise this message, do not make light of it, for it pleased to God to make Himself known through it. I know that this is still incomprehensible to you, but it is the truth; I say it again, God can be known only by the message of the cross.

Giacinto Butindaro

## THE STORY OF JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

In the days of the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus, it came to pass that a virgin from Nazareth (a little town in Galilee, which is a region of the land of Israel), who had been pledged to be married to Joseph the son of Jacob, who belonged to the house of David, had a heavenly vision: a holy angel of God appeared to her and foretold her that she would conceive in her womb and bring forth a Son, who would be great and would be called the Son of the Most High; and she had to give Him the name JESUS. The Lord God would give Him the throne of His father David and He would reign over the house of Jacob forever. When Mary, this is the virgin's name, heard those words she asked the angel how that would be since she was a virgin. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and the power of the Most High would overshadow her; so the Holy One who would be born of her would be called the Son of God. Then Mary answered: "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38 – NIV). What the angel told her was fulfilled some time later. Mary was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit before she and Joseph came together. But when Joseph saw that Mary was pregnant, he decided to put her away secretly. However, while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS: for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21 - NKJV). Jesus means 'YHWH saves' (YHWH is the Hebrew name of God, which is pronounced Yahweh). Joseph was reassured by those words spoken by the angel, and when he woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife, knowing for sure that the messenger of God who had appeared to him had not lied to him.

In those days it came to pass that Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world, and everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because – as I said before – he belonged to the house of David. He went there to register with Mary, his wife, who was expecting a child. And while they were at Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son.

On the same day He was born, an angel of God appeared to some shepherds, who were living out in the fields nearby keeping watch over their flocks at night. The angel said to them: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The word Christ comes from the Greek word CHRISTOS, which means 'the Anointed One'. The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found the baby, who was lying in a manger. When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about that child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

On the eighth day, He was circumcised and was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived.

When the days of her purification according to the law of Moses (which states that a woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, and then she must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding) were completed, Joseph and Mary took the Child Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the

Lord, and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons.

Then, when Jesus was a few weeks old, some wise men came from the East to Bethlehem, to worship the Child Jesus. The Scripture states that they came into the house where the young Child was, and they fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. How did those men come to Bethlehem? In this way: while they were in the East they saw His star and they came to Jerusalem, saying: "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2 – NKJV). When Herod, the king of Judea, heard this, he was disturbed and called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They replied that the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem in Judea, for this is what the prophet Micah had written. So the king sent the wise men to Bethlehem (after he had found out from them the exact time the star had appeared), telling them to go and make a careful search for the child, and when they would find Him they had to report to the king so that he too might go and worship Him.

However, when the wise men had found the Child Jesus, they did not go back to Herod, for they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod; so they returned to their country by another route. When Herod saw that he was deceived by the wise men, he was furious and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the wise men. However, the Child Jesus was not put to death because God had warned Joseph through an angel, telling him to take the Child and his mother and to flee to Egypt, where he had to stay until He told him. After Herod died, God spoke again to Joseph through an angel, telling him to take the Child and his mother and to go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life were dead. So Joseph got up, took the Child and his mother and went to the land of Israel; but when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there and, having been warned in a dream, he went and lived in a town called Nazareth, which was in the district of Galilee.

Jesus was brought up by Joseph and Mary in Nazareth; He grew in wisdom and stature, and He became strong in spirit; and the grace of God was upon Him.

When Jesus was about thirty years of age, He came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist, who came baptizing in the wilderness of Judea and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Who was John the Baptist? He was neither Elijah, nor the Christ; this is what he himself said to some priests and Levites who asked him who he was. John the Baptist was the one about whom God had said through the prophet Malachi: "Behold, I send My messenger, and He will prepare the way before Me" (Malachi 3:1 - NKJV). Therefore John was a man sent by God before His Christ to prepare His way. But how did the messenger of God prepare the way before the God's anointed? By bearing witness of the Christ, that all through him might believe: that's what John did.

When Jesus had been baptized by John, He went up out of the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting upon Him. And a voice came from heaven, saying: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). From that time on, John bore witness, saying to the people: "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of

God" (John 1:32-34). Therefore on the same day Jesus was baptized in water He was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit.

After Jesus was anointed, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After He had fasted forty days, the tempter came to Him and attempted to make Him fall into sin, but Jesus resisted the devil successfully with the law of the Lord, which He had put into His heart, as it is written: "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide" (Psalm 37:31). When the devil had ended every temptation, he left Jesus until an opportune time and angels came and ministered to Him.

After that, Jesus returned to Galilee, where He began to preach and to teach, being glorified by all. He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. But his fellow-citizens who were in the synagogue were filled with wrath and rose up and thrust Him out of the city, and they led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But He, passing through the midst of them, went His way. Why were His fellow-citizens full of wrath? And why did they seek to kill Jesus? Because Jesus, after He had read these words of the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD" (Isaiah 61:1-2), declared that on that day that Scripture was fulfilled in their hearing. And also that no prophet is accepted in his own country, and to confirm this He said to them: "But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; but unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian" (Luke 4:25-27).

So Jesus left Nazareth and went and lived in Capernaum, a city in the district of Galilee, which was upon the seacoast, in the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali, which the Scripture calls "his own city" (Matthew 9:1).

Jesus went through every city and village, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God. He said to the people: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15 - NKJV). Therefore Jesus exhorted people to repent of their sins and to believe the Good News which was the message God had commanded Him to proclaim. The prophet Isaiah had said that the Christ would preach good tidings to the poor, and God in His own time fulfilled the prediction of Isaiah. But what was the Good News in which Jesus commanded people to believe? It was the News that God in the fullness of the time sent His Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. In other words, it was the wonderful News that God in His great love sent His Son into the world to save the world through him, and that a man, in order to be saved, must believe in Him. So Jesus preached repentance and faith in Him. He also taught the multitudes many things by parables, that it might be fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old" (Psalm 78:2 - NKJV). And in addition to this, He wrought many healings among the Jews, He raised up the dead and He cast out many demons, for God was with Him.

But even though Jesus went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil for God was with Him, many people did not believe in Him (that is to say, they did not believe He was the Christ); they said He was a glutton and a drunkard, a deceiver, a person who was beside himself, a person who had the prince of demons by whom He cast out demons, a sinner because He did not keep the Sabbath day, a blasphemer for He said

that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. But all these things were false accusations, nothing but false accusations; for Jesus was self-controlled; He never sought His own gain, unlike the deceivers who teach things which ought not for the sake of dishonest gain; He was a man full of wisdom, yet not of the wisdom of the rulers of this age but of God's secret wisdom; He was a man full of the Holy Spirit, who cast out demons by the Spirit of God; He never broke the Sabbath day for it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath, it is lawful to save a person on the Sabbath, and Jesus did just that on the Sabbath by healing all those who needed healing; He was a truthful man, who did not make Himself equal with God presumptuously, but He made Himself equal with God because He was equal with God by nature, being the Only Begotten Son, who existed from eternity in the form of God with God the Father in heaven. However, even though the Son was equal with God, He did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. For this reason many did not realize that He was the Son of God, because He appeared to men in the form of a humble servant, who outwardly was not different from all other men.

Of course, those false accusations caused great sorrow to Jesus, for He saw that His own did not receive Him; He suffered as the prophets of old, who were sent by God to the people of Israel for their good, yet they were rejected and falsely accused by the people, who thought that the prophets were not seeking the welfare of the people but their harm. Thus were fulfilled the words of the prophet Isaiah, who had said that the Christ would be "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3), and Jesus Christ was indeed a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

Among those who rejected Jesus Christ were the chief priests and the Pharisees, who, because they did not know the voices of the prophets which were read every Sabbath, decided to take Jesus and to kill Him.

A few days before the Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem and entered it sitting upon a donkey. On one of those days that preceded the Passover, it came to pass that Satan entered Judas Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve disciples of Jesus, and he went to the chief priests and captains and conferred with them how he might betray Jesus to them, and they were glad and agreed to give him money: thirty silver coins. Judas consented and from that time he watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them. So it happened that during the feast of Passover, after Jesus and His disciples had eaten the Passover, Judas went out of the house where they were all gathered. And after a short time, Judas went to a place called Gethsemane (Jesus was there because after He had eaten the Passover He went there with His disciples to pray) and with him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them, 'The one I kiss is the man: arrest him.' Going at once to Jesus, Judas greeted Jesus and kissed Him. Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him. Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.

As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Jesus into their council, and condemned Him to be deserving of death for He declared before them that He was the Son of God. When the members of the Council said: "He is guilty of death" (Matthew 26:66), they spit in His face and struck Him with their fists, and others slapped Him and said: "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" (Matthew 26:68 - NIV).

Then they delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor, and asked him to crucify Jesus. Pilate, having examined Jesus in their presence, decided to release Jesus for he found no

reason for death in Jesus Christ (Pilate sent Jesus to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time, and Herod and his soldiers mocked Jesus, but even Herod found no fault in Jesus concerning those things of which the chief priests and the scribes accused Him, so Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate), but since the whole multitude cried out saying: "Crucify Him, crucify Him!," and with loud shouts they insistently demanded that He be crucified, their shouts prevailed, and so Pilate decided to grant their demand. Therefore Pilate delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified. Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. And they clothed Him with purple and twisted a crown of thorns, and put it on His head, and began to salute Him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they struck Him on the head with a reed, and spit on him, and bowing the knee they worshipped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, and put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to the place called Golgotha to crucify Him.

They crucified Him that it might be fulfilled what was spoken through David: "They pierced My hands and My feet" (Psalm 22:16 - NKJV); two robbers were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left, that it might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12 - NKJV).

While Jesus was on the cross, the soldiers took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part. As far as His tunic is concerned, they said among themselves: "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be;" this happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots" (Psalm 22:18 - NKJV).

Another thing that took place while Jesus was suffering on the cross was this: He was mocked by those who passed by and by the chief priests, the scribes and the elders; they said: "He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God" (Matthew 27:42-43). This happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled which says: "All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him" (Psalm 22:7-8), and, as another Scripture says, "They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion" (Psalm 22:13). Before He died, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me" (Matthew 27:46). Some of those standing there, when they heard this, said: 'This man is calling for Elijah.' And immediately one of them ran and took a sponge and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. This happened that the Scripture would be fulfilled which says: "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink" (Psalm 69:21).

After Jesus breathed His last, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear. This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "A bone of him shall not be broken" (John 19:36; Psalm 34:20). That evening this Scripture also was fulfilled which says: "And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced" (Zechariah 12:10).

But why did Jesus Christ die? Isaiah says: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5). Therefore His death on the cross (the Jews decreed that He had to be put to death and the Gentiles crucified Him, so they were both responsible for His death) was nothing but the fulfilment of what the prophet Isaiah had said. Therefore we declare that God turned the heart of the Jews and the Gentiles to

gather together against His Christ and to kill Him, so that through His death He might set us free from sin.

Let me explain this very important concept. Sin entered into the world through one man, whose name was Adam, and sin passed upon all men, so all have sinned. What is the strength of sin? The law, for Paul says: "The strength of sin is the law" (1 Corinthians 15:56). Paul confirms this when he says to the Romans: "Sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me" (Romans 7:11). In other words, sin brings death into man by the law. Of course, the law is good and holy, yet sin uses the law to work death in man. I will make a comparison. Just as a killer uses a piece of wood (which was created by God) to kill another man and it is not the piece of wood (which was created by God and which is good in itself) that kills that man, but the killer, who uses that piece of wood to fulfil his evil plan, so sin uses the law, given by God to Israel and thus is a good law, to kill people spiritually. Therefore it was necessary that sin should be put away, that is to say, that sin should be deprived of its power over man. And this is what Jesus did by His death, He put away sin: He was able to do this for He bore our sins in His own body on the cross. That's why whoever believes in Him is set free from sin, because Jesus Christ on the cross crucified the old man of those who believe on Him. Therefore the believing people died with Christ to sin, and thus the law no longer has dominion over them, for the law has dominion over a man only as long as he lives; after his death the law cannot have any dominion over him. And the believers have become dead to the law by the body of Christ, they have become dead to what they were held by, that they might belong to Jesus Christ.

After Jesus died on the cross, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple. He went to Pilate and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock. It was in this way that it was fulfilled the Scripture which says: "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death" (Isaiah 53:9).

But on the third day God raised Him from the dead, because it was not possible that Christ should be held by death. God had foretold also the resurrection of Christ, for David had said: "You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption" (Acts 2:27; Psalm 16:10 - NKJV). It is evident that David did not speak of himself for he was buried and saw corruption, but he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, one of his descendants, for he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would place the Christ on his throne forever, as it is written: "The LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it; I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body" (Psalm 132:11 - NKJV).

After Jesus rose from the dead, He presented Himself alive to the apostles whom He had chosen; He ate and drank with them, and He spoke of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and gave commandments to them. After that, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Majesty, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool" (Psalm 110:1).

And at God's appointed time, He will come back from heaven with glory and power.

### **Repent and believe in Him**

Before Jesus was taken up into heaven, He commanded "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name" (Luke 24:47) to all men. That's what the apostles



did after Jesus was taken up into heaven, and this is what we, too, do after about two thousand years in obedience to the command of Christ Jesus.

We therefore exhort you in the name of Christ to repent of your sins and believe in Jesus Christ, for **ONLY BY FAITH IN HIM YOU CAN OBTAIN REMISSION OF YOUR SINS**, as it is written: "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10:43 - NIV). Jesus Christ has the authority to forgive sins unto men, the same authority He had in the days of His flesh (Mark 2:5-11) for He is the Son of God, and this is what He does personally unto those who believe in Him. You don't need any other mediator between God and you, besides Jesus Christ, in order to receive remission of sins, I say it again, you don't need any other mediator, for it is written: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Timothy 2:5-6). So repent of your sins and believe in the name of the Son of God, and you will receive the remission of your sins. Not only the remission of sins, but also eternal life, for it is written: "He that believeth on me hath eternal life" (John 6:47). So you will be sure that when you die you will go to Paradise – a wonderful heavenly place where there is neither grief nor weeping and where peace reigns (2 Corinthians 12:2-4; Job 25:2) – and thus you will wish to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord in the Paradise of God (Philippians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:8).

Do not hesitate, do not postpone this decision to tomorrow or to some other day, "behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Tomorrow it could be too late for you to make that decision because you could suddenly die without having the time to repent and believe in Jesus and so you would go directly to hell – a horrible place which is located in the heart of the earth, where fire is burning and where the souls of the sinners suffer awful and terrible torments caused by the fire (Luke 16:24) – where there will be no second chance. For that is the place in the hereafter where all those who don't repent and believe in Jesus Christ go after death.

Two ways are before you: the way of sin, that leads to hell, and you are on this way, and the holy way, which leads to the Paradise of God, and we are on this way by the grace of God and have showed you the way to this wonderful place.

Forsake the way of sin and take the holy way, repenting of your sins and believing in Jesus Christ, and you will never regret this decision for it is written that "godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret" (2 Corinthians 7:10 – NIV).

## YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

One day Jesus Christ said to a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: "You must be born again" (John 3:7 - NKJV). Therefore, the new birth is absolutely necessary according to Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came down from heaven to speak to us what His Father had commanded Him to say. But why is it necessary? Because, as Jesus had said to Nicodemus just a few moments before: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). The kingdom of God is the Paradise of God, a wonderful and glorious place which is in heaven, where those who have entered into it at their death are resting from their labors and are waiting for the resurrection of their body, which will take place at the second coming of Jesus (Revelation 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). So – according to the words of Jesus - in order to enter the Paradise of God a man must be born again. But where will he go after death if he is not born again? He will go to a place called Hades (a Greek word which means 'the unseen world') better known as HELL, which is located in the heart of the earth, which is a place of torment without any order, a place of thick darkness where there is an unfanned fire, and where – as Jesus said several times – there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Job 10:21-22; 20:26; Luke 16:22-31). There he will be waiting for the day of judgement, on which he will be raised up in order to be judged according to his works and to be cast into Geenna, that is, into the lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8), where he will remain for ever and ever suffering terrible and severe torments. As you can see, the new birth is very important: it is the way by which a man can be saved from the fire of hell (Hades) first, and then from the fire of the lake of fire and brimstone (Geenna). It is not a way, but THE WAY; there is no other way by which a man can be saved from eternal perdition.

Now let me tell you how a man can experience the new birth in his own life. But in order to explain it to you adequately, I first of all need to tell you something about Adam, the first man, for it was through him that sin entered into the world and when we speak about the new birth we need to speak about sin.

Now, after God created man He put him in the Garden of Eden and commanded him not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil lest he would die, as God told him: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). However, Adam disobeyed God, and in that same day he died, not physically but spiritually. And through him sin entered into the world and passed upon all men, as it is written: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). Therefore, all have sinned and are spiritually dead as was Adam after he sinned (Romans 3:23). Here is the point, spiritual death reigns over those who have sinned. Therefore you, too, have sinned before God, no matter how many sins you have committed, no matter what kind of sins you are guilty of, maybe you have robbed just a little sum of money, or a great sum of money in a bank, maybe you have said a lie just to joke or in order to hide a wicked deed done by you or by someone else, maybe you have said a bad word to someone or you have blasphemed the name of God, and I could go on, sin is sin and its wages is death anyhow (Romans 6:23; James 1:15). Therefore YOU ARE A SINNER, you are spiritually dead. There is no life in you – spiritually speaking – but only death. You are thus a child of wrath (Ephesians 2:3), the fierce anger of God is upon you for God hates all workers of iniquity (Psalm 5:5). That's

why you have no fellowship with God, that's why you have no hope, that's why you are afraid of death and when you hear someone speaking about death you touch wood but in vain for death is approaching very quickly, and that's why it gives you the shivers to hear someone speaking to you about hell, and you try to change the subject or you try not to hear, because you are dead in your sins and trespasses. Maybe you went to confess your sins to a priest, but you confessed them in vain, for after he 'absolved' you and you did the things he told you to do in order to expiate your sins you have continued to feel inwardly that you are a sinner, a lost and hopeless sinner. Those sins you confessed to the priest are still attached to your conscience and they are a great burden to you. The conscience that God put within you bears witness of this to you. All this because the priest cannot remit sins unto men.

Therefore, since you are in this spiritual condition, you need to be quickened, that is, to experience a spiritual resurrection which will bring to you spiritual life and thus will bring you into fellowship with God. In other words, you need to be born again.

Here is what you must do to be born again. You must repent of your sins, that is, you must repent of your iniquities and forsake them, and believe with all your heart that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for our sins, that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day for our justification, and He appeared to the witnesses whom God had already chosen, that is, the apostles (Acts 10:38-43; 20:21). In other words, you must believe the Gospel of God (1 Corinthians 15:1-5), that is, the Good News that God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to be the propitiation for our sins that we might live through Him (1 John 4:9-10). In the very moment you do these things, you will experience a new birth and thus you will become a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).

You will be born again by the power of the Word of God (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23), which is symbolized in the Scripture by the water (Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 5:25-27), and of the Holy Spirit. Immediately you will experience the washing of your sins, and thus the forgiveness of God which will bring to you the peace and the joy of salvation. You will be no longer a child of wrath, for you will be a child of God; you will be no longer an enemy of God, for you will be reconciled to God; you will be no longer a slave of sin, for you will be set free from sin; you will be no longer on the way which leads to the fire of hell, but on the way that leads to the Paradise of God, thus you will be no longer afraid of death as well as of hell, for you will know where you will go after death. All this by the grace of God through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Therefore you will have nothing to boast about before God because you will receive all these things freely and not by works of righteousness which you have done (Titus 3:4-7).

### **How you must conduct yourself after the new birth**

After you have experienced the new birth, since the Holy Spirit will bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God washed in the precious blood of Jesus, you must be baptized in water because Jesus, before He was received up into heaven, commanded to baptize those who believe in Him, as He said: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). You must undergo water baptism in order to have a good conscience toward God, for the apostle Peter says that baptism is "an appeal to God for a good conscience" (1 Peter 3:21 - NASB). Through your baptism you will testify before the devil and his invisible ministers (as well as before the unbelievers who will be present or who will hear about your baptism) that you have become a disciple of Christ Jesus, that you have decided to live for Him who died and was raised again for us, that you have denied yourself and the

pleasures of sin that the devil offers you through this wicked world. For you must understand these things: first, that when one is born again he is delivered from this world, which lies under the sway of the wicked one, and is conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of God; second, that before the new birth he served sin, but after the new birth he is a servant of righteousness.

Water baptism is therefore an act through which a believer declares that he died to sin and to the world. Therefore look for a community of believers in Jesus Christ immediately, and ask the pastor or the elders of that community to baptize you (Acts 8:36-38). And then stay with the members of that community for they are born again too. They are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, whom you must love in deed and in truth (1 John 3:16-18), because that's what Jesus Christ commanded us (John 15:17), and with whom you must walk together as you wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus from heaven. Attend the Church meetings, look for the brothers also when there are no official meetings and stay with them to talk about the things pertaining to Jesus and to His kingdom, to pray, to sing, and to do all kinds of good works to the glory of God (Acts 2:41-47). In this way you will increase all the more in strength and you will grow spiritually.

Of course, your new birth will be noticed by your parents, by your wife or husband, by your sons, and by all those who know you. What should be your attitude toward them? Tell them what happened to you, that is, how the Lord had mercy on you forgiving your sins and how He begot you again unto new life (Luke 8:39), do that in order to win them to Christ. Do not be ashamed to declare the work that God has wrought in you, as Jesus was not ashamed to die for you on the cross (Mark 8:38). Furthermore, you ought to set an example for them in speech, in love, in purity, in life, so that they might see in you the light of the Lord (Matthew 5:14-16) and of course in order to win them to Christ.

That means you must abstain from every fleshly and worldly lusts of which you were slave before your new birth. Stop killing, sinning against nature, fornicating, committing adultery, being effeminate, robbing, blaspheming, saying lies and bad words, loving money, being arrogant, haughty, impolite, violent, quick-tempered, stop wearing expensive clothes as well as tight and provocative clothes - If you are a man stop wearing shorts and putting yourself bare-chested in the presence of others - stop watching television, listening to worldly music, going to dance, going to bar to play cards or wasting time in some other ways, stop going to football, soccer, basketball, baseball and boxing matches, going to the beach or to the swimming pool to get tanned and to amuse yourself. - If you are a woman stop wearing trousers, miniskirts, low-necked dresses, transparent dresses, tight dresses, expensive clothing, necklaces, earrings, bracelets and rings (1 Timothy 2:9-10), and stop wearing make-up. In other words, whoever you are, you must abstain from every form of evil (Titus 2:11-14).

You may ask why you must abstain even from many things which are not considered any longer evil things: well, the reason is because through the new birth one becomes the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:18-20), that is, his body becomes the spiritual house where God dwells, and since God is holy he must offer the parts of his body in slavery to righteousness and holiness, and not in slavery to impurity and vanity (Romans 6:12-23), and he must control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). And those things the world says you can do, are perverse things in the sight of God. He doesn't like them and because of these things cometh the wrath of God from heaven.

Be zealous for good works, help those who are in need especially those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10), orphans, widows and the poor among the saints; support materially the pastor and the elders who teach you the Word of God, they are

worthy of your support (Galatians 6:6; 1 Corinthians 9:7-11,14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18); read the Holy Scripture and meditate on it (2 Timothy 3:14-17), pray continually to God in the name of Jesus Christ giving thanks to Him in everything (Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:18) but pray in faith and wait patiently for His answer. Pray for your brothers and sisters, that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that they may walk worthy of the Lord (Philippians 1:8-11; Colossians 1:9-12); and pray also for sinners, that they may be saved (Romans 10:1 and 1 Timothy 2:1-7). Pray to God for the governing authorities, that He may keep, help and bless them (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Ask God to give you wisdom ( James 1:5-8), in order to walk in wisdom; the baptism with the Holy Spirit, through which the believer is endued with power from on high (Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8; 2:4), and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are given for the edifying of the Church (1 Corinthians 14:12).

Proclaim the Gospel to all men: Roman Catholics, Jews, Hindu people, Buddhists, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons etc.; tell them about the grace of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Finally, remember that Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, who did not commit any sin and who sought only the good of the people, was hated by the world; therefore do not marvel if those belonging to this world will hate you and persecute you once you have passed from death unto life (John 15:18-25; 1 John 3:13-14).

Suffer your afflictions as Jesus Christ suffered His own afflictions; and rejoice that you are counted worthy to suffer shame for His Holy Name, which is blessed for ever (Matthew 5:11-12; Acts 5:40:41). Stand fast in the faith unto death and you will receive the crown of life.

## WHAT YOU MUST DO TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Roman Catholics, the priests teach you these things: 'God gives the Paradise to the good people (...) By being good, by only our natural strength, we could not deserve the Paradise; we deserve it by the grace that God granted to us in the Baptism, by which grace our good works gain merit for the Paradise (...) Each one of us tries through many sacrifices and works to make for himself a good condition on this earth, to gain uncertain goods that we can suddenly lose, which cannot make anyone happy for they do not satisfy the heart and that anyhow we must leave soon because of death. Instead, first of all, think of earning Paradise' and also: "Thus, because of the hope, we expect to receive from the Lord eternal life as well as all the necessary graces to deserve eternal life here on earth, but how can we merit it? By good works', and again: 'We hope we will save ourselves because God wants us to be saved, and we want, for our part, to do what is necessary to save ourselves, and as we say in the act of hope, we hope to receive from God eternal life and the necessary graces to deserve it through the good works that I must do and I want to do'. Are then the endless merits of Jesus Christ insufficient to save us? Yes, they are insufficient – your priests tell you – but not because they have not a sufficient value, but because Jesus Christ Himself wants the cooperation of our good works, for in order to impute to us the good works' merit, He wants us to feel and desire together with Him, for He wants us to practice the Gospel and to live the Christian life'.

However, things are not as your priests teach you, for this doctrine which confers on good works the power to make men merit eternal life and to save men from hell and that you have accepted in good faith, thinking it was correct for it is taught to you by men who are called 'priests of God', is a false doctrine, a diabolic doctrine which has led to hell hundreds of millions of people so far. Yes, there are hundreds of millions of people suffering in the fire of hell – among whom also some of your relatives and even members of your family – because while they were on earth they had relied on the doctrine about salvation the priests taught them.

Now, I am going refute this doctrine and thus you will understand what I have said.

According to what the Scripture says, eternal life is not the wages God gives to the man who tries to earn eternal life, but it is a gift that God gives to the man who repents of his sins and believes in the name of the Son of God. For Paul says: "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Therefore eternal life, since it is the gift of God, cannot be deserved or earned by good works, otherwise the gift is no more a gift. I ask you: 'If God gave eternal life as a reward to those who work, that would mean that God is a debtor toward them, for Paul says: "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt" (Romans 4:4), but how can this be true since the apostle says: "Who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?" (Romans 11:35)? I ask you another question: 'If by good works one could earn eternal life, why then did the Son of God come into the world to suffer? He could have remained in the bosom of the Father. Don't you think? But you must understand this, that Jesus Christ came into the world for this purpose, to purchase eternal life through His blood, and thus to enable all men, both Jews and Gentiles, to receive it by grace through faith in Him. Jesus knew that men cannot earn eternal life for all men are under condemnation and deserve eternal punishment, and thus He came to die for us so that by His merits, and I say it again, by His merits, we might obtain freely from God eternal life. But I ask you another question: 'How can you say that by good works one can earn eternal life when all good works put together

cannot reach at all the value of eternal life? How can you say such a thing when Jesus said to His disciples: "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10)?

I think that your statement 'God should give rightly eternal life to those who do good works' is arrogant! You may say: 'Then must I believe only, in order to receive eternal life? Yes, you must only believe, for Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47) and: "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40) and also: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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 3:14-16).

As for these last words, I want you to know the reason why Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert and thus you will understand why Jesus mentioned that event in order to explain that a man must only believe in Him to have eternal life.

While the Israelites were in the wilderness, on the way to the land of Canaan, they spoke against God and Moses saying: "Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread" and so "the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived" (Numbers 21:5-9).

Now, Jesus compared His being lifted up to the lifting up of the serpent of brass made in the desert; and the comparison is really appropriate because just as the Israelites bitten by the serpents had to behold the serpent of brass lifted up by Moses in order to escape death (you should notice that those who were bitten had to behold the serpent of brass in order to escape death, they did not have to perform some specific rites or do some good works written in the law), so men, who are dead in their sins, must only behold the Son of God and believe in Him in order to be quickened and to obtain eternal life. They must believe on the One who was hung on the cross and after His resurrection was received up to the right hand of God. Yes, the only way that men can receive eternal life from God is through faith in Jesus Christ; not through good works as you are told by your priests, who are themselves dead in their sins and speak in this way because they have not yet beheld the Son and believed on Him. Also John the Baptist stated that eternal life is received only through faith, for he said: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36); as well as the apostle Paul who said: "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting" (1 Timothy 1:16).

Now, reflect upon what I am going to say: if faith were not sufficient in order to receive eternal life, eternal life would not be any longer a gift, for besides faith good works also would be necessary in order to receive it. In other words, the Scripture would contradict itself because a gift which needs to be deserved or earned is no longer a gift. I will give

you an example. If you buy a present for a member of your family, what do you expect from him? You expect that he will accept it as a gift, don't you? Therefore, you expect that when you give it to him, he will say to you: 'Thank you!'. But let us suppose that you should say to him: 'I give it to you but you must pay for it (at least you must give me a part of his value or price), could we still call that object a gift? Of course not. And the same is with eternal life, if God declares in the Bible that eternal life is HIS GIFT you must accept it as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ, and you must thank Him for this great gift. You must do no good works to receive eternal life, for God does not request good works from you, He does not want you to pay either entirely or partially for eternal life because Jesus Christ paid the full price of it when He died on the cross for each of us.

If God required from you to do good works, and not only to have faith in Jesus, in order to give you eternal life, He would be a double-tongued God; that would mean that Jesus Christ on the cross through His suffering and His blood did not do enough to purchase eternal redemption to us and therefore the sacrifice of Christ would be a little help, given by God to man, a little help given to him to allow him to receive eternal life!! In other words, it would mean that in order to have eternal life a man must have his own merits for the merits of Christ are not sufficient. But I say it again, at this point eternal life could not be called 'the gift of God' and the sacrifice of Christ would be of little value, or rather of no value.

Maybe, after you have read all these things, you will say: 'As for me, I believe, I believe in Jesus!' Well, then I ask you: 'If – as you say – you believe in Jesus, why are you not sure you have eternal life? For – as you have seen – Jesus stated that whoever believes in Him has eternal life.' I will tell you the reason why you are not sure, because you have not yet believed with your heart that Jesus Christ died for our sins and the third day He rose again for our justification. Therefore, I exhort you to believe with your heart that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again to justify us through His blood. Only then will you realize that your present faith is a false faith. At this point you may say: 'Too simple to be true!' But I say to you: 'Why do you say that? Do you think that doctrines need to be complex in order to be true? Don't you think this is not the way to understand if a doctrine is true or false? Listen, a doctrine is true if it is supported by the Bible, whether it is easy to understand it or not, whether it is fully comprehensible or not. On the other hand, a doctrine may be very simple or very complicated, but if the Bible does not support it, that doctrine must be rejected. The way to obtain eternal life may seem to you very simple, however one thing is certain, IT IS TRUE. We can say this to you because we have personally experienced the truthfulness of the words of Jesus.

Do you think we are presumptuous because we say we have eternal life? Well, then listen to what the apostle John (I remember you that John was a witness of the death and of the resurrection of Christ) tells us in his first epistle: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13). Be careful, he did not say 'these things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that you may hope to obtain eternal life' as if we believers did not have eternal life within us, but he said that he wrote these things to us that we may know that we have already eternal life. The same apostle says also: "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:10-12). Therefore recognize that the words of the apostle confirm fully that we who believe have eternal life.



But I would like to ask you: 'How can you say that a believer who has received Christ in his heart cannot say in full assurance of faith that he has eternal life, when Jesus Christ is "that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested unto us" (1 John 1:2) and "he that hath the Son hath life" (1 John 5:12)? Saying such a thing is tantamount to saying that an Italian citizen cannot say he has the Italian citizenship, for to say such a thing means to be arrogant! When you say such a thing is as you said that your son is arrogant because he says to his friends that you have given him a bicycle. Come to your senses! How can a person be called presumptuous because he says that he has received from God the gift of eternal life? If eternal life is a gift, do you think that if we say that we have received eternal life we are presumptuous? Do you think that if we say that we have asked for it and we have received it we are presumptuous? Do you think that if we boast of having received this wonderful gift from a wonderful God ready to forgive, we are presumptuous? I know that it was said to you: "If we claim to be able to save ourselves without any merit we are arrogant, and this arrogance offends the righteousness of God and almost mocks at it, as if God were to give us Paradise, or He were to reward us for some good we did not want to do'. But that's untrue, for I have abundantly showed that eternal life is the gift of God. Actually, the persons who are arrogant are not those who, like us, say that they are sure they have eternal life by the grace of God through their faith, but all those who say, like you, that we are saved by good works.

Since we believers by the grace of God have eternal life dwelling in us, we are sure that when we die, of course if we will be found faithful, we will go to heaven to be with Jesus because Jesus 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) and also: "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be" (John 12:26). And since we have "the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (2 Corinthians 4:13) and we say together with the apostles: "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). Yes, we have the same feeling that was in Paul who had the desire to depart and to be with Christ in heaven, which is far better than to stay on earth.

The Roman Catholic priests call this confidence insolent presumptuousness, for according to them, all those who die in grace must go to a place called purgatory to expiate all their debts of temporal punishment which remain to be discharged!! And woe to those who do not accept their doctrine, for the Council of Trent said: "If anyone says that after the reception of the grace of justification the guilt is so remitted and the debt of eternal punishment so blotted out to every repentant sinner, that no debt of temporal punishment remains to be discharged either in this world or in purgatory before the gates of heaven can be opened, let him be anathema" (Council of Trent, VI, canon 30). But that is untrue, for the Scripture teaches that when God remits sins to a man, He remits to him the eternal punishment as well. The thief who repented on the cross at the point of death is an example which confirms this, for Jesus remitted to that man all his sins as well as all the debts of temporal punishment in that Jesus said to him: "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Jesus did not say to him that first of all he had to go to a place called purgatory to stay there for a period of time in order to purify himself from a part of the eternal punishment of his sins and then he would be able to enter Paradise, but Jesus said to him that he would go to paradise on that very day. Reflect upon this: is it not absurd to think that God remits all debts to the repentant sinner and then when he dies God will send him to a place of torment like the so called purgatory,

that he may pay some of those debts, before letting him enter Paradise? Yet, that's what the priests make you believe!

I don't mean that we believers have reached perfection or that we are without sin, far be it from us to say such a thing, because we recognize that we are people with many defects who need to be perfected and to improve ourselves, and sometimes we do what we hate and thus we need to confess our sins to God in order to be forgiven. But I mean that by the mercy of God, by which God begot us again and gave us the power to become the sons of God and gave us eternal life, we are sure that God has forgiven us all our sins, that we are fully purified from our sins and thus if we die in Christ we will go immediately to be with Jesus in heaven.

Let the priests call our confidence 'presumptuousness', let the councils keep casting anathemas on those who – according to the councils – have the assurance of remission of sins and eternal life; as for us, we will continue to glory in the Lord for we have obtained the purification of our sins through the blood of Jesus, we will continue to praise His name for this, and we will continue to preach to men that in Christ Jesus there is assurance of remission of sins, in Him there is assurance of eternal life, while in the theology taught by the priests there is ambiguity, falsity and uncertainty; which produce nothing but doubts and anguishes.

Men and women, who are afraid of death and don't know where you are going (you think you will go to purgatory but the Scripture denies its existence) for you have accepted the teachings of the priests, I implore you on Christ's behalf, repent of your sins and believe in Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Do not reject the gift of God, or else when you die you will go into the burning fire of hell where you will suffer unspeakable torments.

Now is the day of salvation, now is the accepted time, tomorrow might be too late. Do not postpone your decision for Christ. Humble yourself before God, confess your sins to Him, and believe in His Son Jesus Christ, and immediately, instantly, you will be forgiven, reconciled to God and you will obtain the gift of eternal life and when you die you will go to heaven to be with Jesus Christ your Saviour and there you will find the saints (the true saints) who lived in the past generations, and those saints who are still alive, and all together we will praise and glorify God and His Son. Once you have experienced God's forgiveness in your life and you have received the assurance of eternal life, since the Holy Spirit will be dwelling in you and will bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God washed in the precious blood of Jesus, you must be baptized in water because Jesus, before He was received up into heaven, commanded to baptize those who believe in Him, as He said: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). You must undergo water baptism in order to have a good conscience toward God for the apostle Peter says that baptism is "an appeal to God for a good conscience" (1 Peter 3:21 - NASB). Through your baptism you will testify before the devil and his invisible ministers (as well as before the unbelievers who will be present or who will hear about your baptism) that you have become a disciple of Christ Jesus, that you have decided to live for Him who died and was raised again for us, that you have denied yourself and the pleasures of sin that the devil offers you through this wicked world. For you must understand these things: first, that when one is born again he is delivered from this world, which lies under the sway of the wicked one, and is conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of God; second, that before the new birth he served sin, but after the new birth he is a servant of righteousness. Water baptism is therefore an act through which a believer declares that he died to sin and to the world.

Therefore you must immediately leave the Catholic Church you are attending and look for a community of believers in Jesus Christ, and ask the pastor or the elders of that community to baptize you (Acts 8:36-38). And then stay with the members of that community for they are born again too. They are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, whom you must love in deed and in truth (1 John 3:16-18), because that's what Jesus Christ commanded us (John 15:17), with whom you must walk together while you wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus from heaven. Attend the Church meetings, look for the brothers also when there are no official meetings and stay with them to talk about the things pertaining to Jesus and to His kingdom, to pray, to sing, and to do all kinds of good works to the glory of God (Acts 2:41-47). In this way you will increase all the more in strength and you will grow spiritually.

Of course, your new birth will be noticed by your parents, by your wife or husband, by your sons, and by all those who know you. What should be your attitude toward them? Tell them what happened to you, that is, how the Lord had mercy on you forgiving your sins and how He begot you again unto new life (Luke 8:39), do that in order to win them to Christ. Do not be ashamed to declare the work that God has wrought in you, as Jesus was not ashamed to die for you on the cross (Mark 8:38). Furthermore, you ought to set an example for them in speech, in love, in purity, in life, so that they might see in you the light of the Lord (Matthew 5:14-16) and of course in order to win them to Christ.

That means you must abstain from every fleshly and worldly lusts of which you were slave before your new birth, and also from all idolatrous and superstitious practices, such as the worship of pictures and statues, the rosary, the processions, the worship of the host. Stop killing, sinning against nature, fornicating, committing adultery, being effeminate, robbing, blaspheming, saying lies and bad words, loving money, being arrogant, haughty, impolite, violent, quick-tempered, stop wearing expensive clothes as well as tight and provocative clothes - If you are a man stop wearing shorts and putting yourself bare-chested in the presence of others, stop watching television, listening to worldly music, going to dance, going to bar to play cards or wasting time in some other ways, stop going to football, soccer, basketball, baseball and boxing matches, going to the beach or to the swimming pool to get tanned and to amuse yourself. - If you are a woman stop wearing trousers, miniskirts, low-necked dresses, transparent dresses, tight dresses, expensive clothing, necklaces, earrings, bracelets and rings (1 Timothy 2:9-10), and stop wearing make-up. In other words, whoever you are, you must abstain from every form of evil (Titus 2:11-14).

You may ask why you must abstain even from many things which are not considered any longer evil things: well, the reason is because through the new birth one becomes the temple of God ( 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:18-20), that is, his body becomes the spiritual house where God dwells, and since God is holy he must offer the parts of his body in slavery to righteousness and holiness, and not in slavery to impurity and vanity (Romans 6:12-23), and he must control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). And those things the world says you can do, are perverse things in the sight of God. He doesn't like them and because of these things cometh the wrath of God from heaven.

Be zealous for good works, help those who are in need especially those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10), orphans, widows and the poor among the saints; support materially the pastor and the elders who teach you the Word of God, they are worthy of your support (Galatians 6:6; 1 Corinthians 9:7-11,14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18); read the Holy Scripture and meditate on it (2 Timothy 3:14-17), pray continually to God in the name of Jesus Christ giving thanks to Him in everything (Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:18) but pray in faith and wait patiently for His answer.

Pray for your brothers and sisters, that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that they may walk worthy of the Lord (Philippians 1:8-11; Colossians 1:9-12); and pray also for sinners, that they may be saved (Romans 10:1 and 1 Timothy 2:1-7). Pray to God for the governing authorities, that He may keep, help and bless them (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Ask God to give you wisdom ( James 1:5-8), in order to walk in wisdom; the baptism with the Holy Spirit, through which the believer is endued with power from on high (Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8; 2:4), and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are given for the edifying of the Church (1 Corinthians 14:12).

Proclaim the Gospel to all men: Roman Catholics, Jews, Hindu people, Buddhists, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons etc.; tell them about the grace of God which is in Christ Jesus so that they may be born again.

Finally, remember that Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, who did not commit any sin and who sought the good of the people, was hated by the world; so do not marvel if those belonging to this world will hate you and persecute you once you have passed from death unto life (John 15:18-25; 1 John 3:13-14).

Suffer afflictions as Jesus Christ suffered afflictions; and rejoice that you are counted worthy to suffer shame for His Holy Name, which is blessed for ever (Matthew 5:11-12; Acts 5:40-41). Stand fast in the faith unto death and you will receive the crown of life.

## YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THAT WHEN YOU DIE YOU WILL GO TO PURGATORY

....

Roman Catholics, the priests teach you that in the hereafter there is a place called purgatory, where 'the souls of those people who have died in grace, but with imperfections or venial sins or temporal punishments to be discharged for the serious sins committed, expiate and purify themselves before going to heaven (Enciclopedia Cattolica [Catholic Encyclopaedia], vol. 10, 330). But what verses do the Catholic priests use to support purgatory? They principally use these verses, which we find in the first epistle of Paul to the Corinthians: "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (1 Corinthians 3:10-15). According to the catholic priests, the expression 'he himself shall be saved: yet so as by fire" means that the just, after he has suffered in the purgatory for a certain period of time, will be brought safely to the Paradise of God because the purifying fire of Purgatory will purify him from all those debts of temporal punishment which remain to be discharged.

Concerning purgatory, you are also taught the suffrage of the living for the dead, for your Catechism says: 'We can help and even deliver the souls from the torments of Purgatory through suffrages, that is, through prayers, indulgences, alms and other good works, and above all through the Holy Mass (...) the fruit of these works, applied to the souls in Purgatory is called suffrage because it suffrages, that is, it mitigates the torments suffered by the souls in Purgatory and hastens their deliverance'. In other words, you are told that through prayers, alms, indulgences, good works, and above all the Mass, you can help the souls of the dead to pay their debts, which they must discharge in Purgatory. To support this so called suffrage, the priests take the following passage in the book of Macabees, where it is said that Judas the Macabee took up a collection among all his soldiers, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice for the sins committed by some Jews who had died in battle (under the tunic of each of the dead they had found 'amulets sacred to the idols of Jamnia'): 'Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin' (2 Macabees 12:46).

In all probability, the teaching about purgatory reassures you, for you think that even after death you can be purified from your sins and after this purification you will be allowed to enter heaven. However, you Roman Catholics must understand that all the things the priests teach you about purgatory are UNTRUE, I say it again, they are UNTRUE, for Jesus Christ in His teaching never said that besides heaven and hell there is another place – a middle way between heaven and hell – where the souls of the dead go after death. For He stated: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Therefore, after death there are only two places for the souls of men: destruction, that is, HELL; and life, that is, PARADISE. All those who die in their sins go to HELL for they

are lost, while all those who die in Christ (in that they have repented of their sins and believed in Jesus Christ) go to PARADISE for they are saved, in that Jesus has purified them through His blood from all their sins.

Paradise is a wonderful heavenly place (which is called also the third heaven), whose beauty we human beings cannot describe adequately with our words; in it there is the throne of God and the throne of the Lamb at His right hand, and there is an innumerable company of angels, who – together with the souls of the just – worship God and the Lamb day and night.

Those who die in Christ, that is, who are at peace with God at their death, enter this marvellous place immediately after their death. In this place they will wait for the resurrection, which will take place at the second coming of Christ from heaven. And we are of those who – if they die in Christ - will enter Paradise. You will say: 'How can you be so sure that when you die you will go immediately to heaven?' Well, we are so sure because we are sprinkled by the blood of Jesus, as it is written that we were chosen "unto sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:2) and we were purified from all our sins by the blood of Christ Jesus, as it is written that He "washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Revelation 1:5). And besides this, because – as John says – "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). This is why we are sure that when we die we will go immediately to heaven, without going to any purgatory, because our old sins were all cleansed by the blood of Jesus and the sins we confess to the Lord are all cleansed by the same blood. At this point you will say: 'That means you are presumptuous!!' Not at all, because there are various passages of the Scriptures which clearly state that those who die in Christ go immediately to heaven to be with Jesus.

The souls of those who had been killed because of the Word of God – and which were seen by John in vision – were under the altar in heaven before the throne of God. Here is what John says: "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held" (Revelation 6:9).

Paul said that to him to die was gain, for he had the desire to depart and be with Christ which was far better. Here are his words: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Philippians 1:21-23). For sure, if Paul had to go first to a place called purgatory to suffer terrible torments, he would not have considered his death a gain but rather a loss.

Paul said to the Corinthians that he and his fellow workers were confident and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord: "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). Answer to this question of mine: 'How could those men desire so much to depart from their body if they believed in the existence of a place called purgatory where they had to go to discharge some of their debts through terrible torments? Don't you think that this shows that those men did not believe in the existence of purgatory at all?

In the Book of Revelation we read: "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13). Therefore the Spirit of truth says that those who die in grace are blessed for they rest from their labors in heaven. That excludes the possibility they are in a purgatory paying some of their debts through some sufferings less inferior to those of hell; for if they were in purgatory they would be unhappy, because instead of resting from their labors they would

suffer terrible torments for their sins. However, in this world there is also the spirit of error, which says that those who die in Christ go to purgatory.

But let me now speak about hell and those who go there. Hell is a place of torment which is in the heart of the earth, and where there is burning fire (Luke 16:23:31). It is a dark place where the souls of sinners go immediately after death and where they will remain - in the midst of terrible torments which produce a continuous weeping and gnashing of teeth – until the day of judgement (John 5:29; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:12-15), when they will rise again to be judged according to their works and to be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, which is the final place of torment where they will spend eternity. There is no hope of salvation to them after death, as it is written: “For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?” (Job 27:8) and also: “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27) and again: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psalm 9:17; Luke 16:22-31; Isaiah 5:14). And you, Roman Catholics, are among those who are going to this awful place of torment. I know that you were said that God is so merciful that He will bring you safely to His heavenly kingdom after you have spent a certain period of time in purgatory in order to discharge your debts of temporal punishment, but that’s untrue for God besides merciful is also righteous and in His Word He states that He will not leave the sinners unpunished but He will condemn them to everlasting contempt. You will say: ‘Are we then lost sinners, without no hope of salvation after death, even though we have committed only a few and ‘light sins’?’ Yes, definitely! For in the sight of God all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), no matter how many sins they have committed and what kind of sins they have committed. What is awaiting you, therefore, is first hell, then the judgement on that day and the eternal condemnation into the lake of fire and brimstone where you will be cast after the judgement. What is awaiting you is a terrible destiny, which human words cannot adequately describe.

Perhaps now you will say to me: ‘But we go regularly to confess our sins to the priest and he remits our ‘mortal sins’, why should God then send us to hell?’ Listen, the confession you do to the priest is of no value before God, because those sins you confess to the priest are still attached to your conscience for the priest has no divine authority to take them away from you. Only God, through the blood of Jesus Christ, can remit your sins. Therefore you have been deceived into believing a lie, and this lie will cost you eternity unless you reject it. Know this, therefore, that if you continue to believe the untrue words of the priest you will go to hell. Let me give you an illustration: it is as if Tom tells you that the rich man whom you owe a million of euro delegated him to remit entirely your debt, and after you trusted him one day you find out that you are still in debt to that rich man; but the worst of it is that you could have obtained the remission of that debt of yours if within a certain time you had gone to the one who was really able to remit your debt, that is, to the son of that rich man who had really the power to remit your debt. You just had to ask him to remit your debt and he would have remitted your debt.

Therefore, if you go to the Son, you will obtain the remission of your debt, but if you continue to trust your priests, you will continue to be in debt to God, and after death it will be too late for you to obtain the remission of it.

What must you do to receive the remission of your sins and thus escape the fire of hell? You must be born again, that is, you must experience the new birth Jesus spoke about when He said to Nicodemus: “You must be born again” (John 3:7 - NKJV) and also: “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

A man experiences the new birth when he recognizes himself as a sinner before God and he repents of his sins with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and he believes in the name of the Son of God, that is, Jesus Christ. When he does these things he feels to be born again, for his sins are instantly blotted out from his conscience through the blood of Jesus Christ and he feels to be a new creature. In other words, he is spiritually regenerated and renewed and he can say together with Paul: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of [in] the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Then and only then will he be able to say that he is in Christ, that is, a Christian, for according to the Scripture: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). And there is no condemnation in Christ, for Paul said to the Romans: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1). Therefore, since there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ, don't you think that to believe that after death Christians before entering the Paradise of God must go first to a place called purgatory to pay their debts they still have to the righteousness of God is a CONTRADICTION? Don't you think that it is a contradiction since in purgatory, according to the Roman Catechism, Christians go to be condemned, even though for a certain period of time and not forever, to torments in order to pay their debts to God? As for these so called debts - which according to the priests need to be discharged in purgatory - we say: If according to the Scripture, when a man confesses his sins to God, God remits both his sins and the eternal punishment he deserves for his sins, is it not diabolical to affirm that after death that man must go to a place of torment to pay those debts? Of course it is; but not to the priests who, blinded by the devil, like to teach things contrary to the sound doctrine.

To say that a person justified by God, when he dies must go to purgatory to pay his debts is tantamount to saying that if a person sentenced to life imprisonment is granted a pardon and his punishment is blotted out, he must anyway continue to stay in prison for some years to pay for his misdeeds, and after those years he will be able to go out of prison!!! Your priests are greatly mistaken, for the Holy Scripture teaches that when God forgives a person all his debts, he forgives also the eternal punishment and the person must discharge no punishment either in this world or in the world to come, for Christ paid the full ransom price for our redemption.

To those who have been justified by the blood of Christ, there are no more debts to pay, for Christ on the cross paid all their debts and we are by the grace of God among those who have been justified. We know very well that the Council of Trent cast an anathema on those who say that 'after the reception of the grace of justification the guilt is so remitted and the debt of eternal punishment so blotted out to every repentant sinner, that no debt of temporal punishment remains to be discharged either in this world or in purgatory before the gates of heaven can be opened' (Council of Trent, VI, canon 30). But that curse will return upon the head of all those who proclaimed and still proclaim it.

We know whom we believed and we are persuaded that it is impossible for Christ - the One who washed us from our sins in His own blood and promised us eternal life - to lie. We will continue to glory in the Lord for we have been washed from all our old sins in the blood of Christ, and by His mercy we have received from Him eternal life: let the roman catholic councils curse the true believers, we believe in the Word of God which states that when the righteous (that is those who are justified by the grace of God) die they will go immediately to heaven to be with the Lord Jesus Christ for their robes have been



completely washed by the blood of the Lamb. To Christ Jesus be the glory now and forever. Amen.

### **Let me explain the words of Paul**

Paul said to the saints who were at Corinth: "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (1 Corinthians 3:10-15). Now, as we saw before, according to the priests the expression "he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire" means that the righteous who die in Christ's grace, after having been tormented by the fire of purgatory for a certain period of time, he will be brought safely to the Paradise of God for the purifying fire will purify him from all his debts of temporal punishment. However, those words of Paul concerning the fire do not refer at all to a purifying fire in some place of the invisible world where the souls of men go in order to be purified from their sins, but they refer to the fire in the day of Christ, which is another thing. Let me expound briefly those words of Paul.

The apostle had preached the Christ in Corinth and many had believed in the Lord through his preaching and they had been baptized. It was Paul then who laid the foundation (Jesus Christ) of that spiritual house (the Church) at Corinth. But after Paul departed from Corinth, others came to Corinth and preached and taught, that is to say, others built some materials on the foundation which Paul had laid. And Paul, in relation to that, says that each one should be careful how he builds on the foundation, because first of all no one can take away the foundation, which is Jesus Christ, to replace it with another one, and then because in the day of Christ believers will be rewarded only for the gold, silver and precious stones (true doctrines) which they have built on the foundation, for the fire will not be able to consume them; whereas they will not be rewarded for the wood, hay and stubble (strange doctrines) because all those things will be burned up by fire; however those who have built those vain things will be saved, yet so as by fire.

So in the day of Christ the fire will test the quality of each believer's work, and all the good and right things he said and did, will survive and he will receive his reward, while all the things of no value that he built on the foundation will be burned up and he will suffer loss for he will not be rewarded for those things. He himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

### **The suffrage**

Obviously, since the Scripture denies the existence of Purgatory it denies also all suffrages on behalf of those who – according to what the priests say – are there to discharge their debts, therefore the suffrage must be rejected. Even if we grant for the sake of argument that purgatory exists, have the priests never read that "every man shall bear his own burden" (Galatians 6:5) and that nobody "can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him" (Psalm 49:7)? How can then the priests teach that the living can somehow offer to God a propitiatory sacrifice for the dead who are in purgatory? And what

is that propitiatory sacrifice? The Mass!! Listen, the only propitiatory sacrifice which is of value is the one made by Jesus Christ when He gave himself on the cross for our sins, and it was made once for all, thus it is UNREPEATABLE. And furthermore, the sacrifice of Christ can benefit only the living, for those who accept it receive remission of sins forever. But as for those who have died in their sins, His sacrifice can by no means be useful to them since the time during which they could believe on it and be forgiven IS EXPIRED. They died in their sins and with their sins attached to their conscience and for those sins they will have to suffer greatly forever and ever. No so called propitiatory sacrifice (the mass, alms, etc.) offered for the dead by the living will be useful to the dead, for before God it is of no value.

What shall we say then about the words taken by the priests from the book of Macabees to support the suffrage? We shall say these things. First of all, the books of Macabees (even though they are included in the canon of the Catholic Bible) are not inspired by God and therefore are not part of the Holy Scriptures, and so it is a mistake to mention those books to support the suffrage on behalf of the dead. Secondly, as for the expiatory sacrifice offered by Judas the Macabee, in the law of Moses there were no expiatory sacrifices to be offered for the sins of the dead, so Judas did not follow the law of his forefathers. That means that his act was of no value for it was not prescribed by the Law of Moses given by God to His people. Therefore, the priests, in order to support their suffrage, mention an act of no value done by a Jew.

In conclusion I say that this suffrage is able to do only one thing, that is, it enriches the priests and the Papal Court for you must pay for the masses (or rather you must give an offering) to be offered on behalf of the dead.

## WHAT YOU MUST DO TO OBTAIN THE REMISSION OF YOUR SINS

You are in debt to God, your Creator, for you have violated His law. His law commands not to kill but you have killed; it commands not to steal but you have stolen; it commands not to commit adultery but you have committed adultery; it commands not to blaspheme the name of God, but you have blasphemed His Holy Name; it commands not to bear false witness against your neighbour, but you love and practice falsehood; it commands not to covet any thing that is thy neighbour's but you have coveted your neighbour's goods; the law of God forbids you to make for yourself any carved image - any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth, and to serve them, but you have made for yourself idols in the form of men, women, and even animals, and you worship them, you pray to them and you serve them in various ways. The law of God commands you to honour your father and your mother, but you dishonour them.

Therefore, before God you are guilty. You experience the sense of guilt inwardly, for your conscience continually rebukes you by attesting that you have acted sinfully toward your neighbour as well as toward God even though you don't know Him.

Maybe sometimes you try to silence your conscience by doing some good, by giving alms, but it keeps rebuking you, and you know very well this even though you do not want to recognize it. Somebody told you to go to confess your sins to a priest for he has the divine power to remit sins to men. And you did what he told you, you went to a confessional box and after you confessed to him your sins he absolved you. For a moment you thought that your conscience would no longer rebuke you for your sins, but what you thought did not happen for the inner voice that only you can hear keeps accusing you vigorously.

You are desperate, you don't know what to do to get rid of that frustrating sense of guilt, you don't know how to obtain the remission of your debts; all remedies have proved vain. Maybe you even thought that only death could expiate your sins, so it is better to put an end to this life; do not commit that act for it would be useless, rather you would increase your sins because you would kill yourself and besides this you would go to hell with all your sins, where there is no chance to be forgiven.

You will say: 'What must I do then to obtain remission of sins and to get rid of this sense of guilt which is pursuing me day and night?' Here is what you must do. First of all you must repent of your sins you have committed against God and against your neighbour, that is to say, you must be sorry about all the sins you have committed and you must forsake them. After that, you must believe with all you heart in the Gospel, which is the Good News that God in the fullness of the time sent His Son, Jesus Christ, in this world to make atonement for our sins, that is, to bear our sins upon His body and to die in our place so that He might reconcile us to God. For the Bible says that Christ died for our sins and more than that He rose again for our justification (Romans 4:25). Therefore if you believe in Him you will receive the remission of your sins, as it is written: "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43 - NIV).

You may ask me why it is sufficient to believe in Jesus to obtain the forgiveness of sins; well, the reason is that according to God without shedding of blood there is no remission (Hebrews 9:22). That divine principle was revealed by God under the Old Testament, for He commanded the Israelites to sacrifice some animals for their sins, that is, as a propitiatory offering for their sins. However, the blood of those animals did not take away

sins because it was just a shadow of the true blood that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, would shed at the end of the ages. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins from the conscience of men (Hebrews 10:1-4), only the blood of a perfect human being like Jesus Christ (He was found in appearance as a man, however He was also God) could take away sins from their conscience.

Therefore, the blood Jesus Christ shed on the cross, was shed so that our sins might be blotted out from our conscience. Do not think that God is a cruel God for acting in that way, for God did that just for the opposite reason, that is, because He is good and merciful.

Whoever you are, that's what you must do to receive the remission of your sins and to live a life at peace with God. Know this, that there is no other way to be forgiven! Do not deceive yourself any longer, you have been deceiving yourself for a long time, stop deceiving yourself. Now, wherever you are, repent of your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain for the remission of our sins, and you will immediately taste the goodness of God and His mercy, for you will obtain a conscience purified from the dead works of which you are a slave. The peace and the joy of the Lord will enter you and you will be born again; the sense of guilt and condemnation will disappear and you will have the assurance of being forgiven and reconciled to God. You will no longer feel the wrath of God upon you, nor will you be any longer on the way to hell, for in Christ Jesus you will be a son of God and have eternal life. Yes, because besides the remission of sins, through faith in Christ, you will obtain also eternal life, as it is written: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36). Therefore you will be sure you will go to heaven when you die. At the present you deserve to go to hell and if you die you will go there, but once forgiven you will have assurance that you will go to heaven by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Do not hesitate to take such important decision, such a vital decision. Do not boast about tomorrow, for you don't know what a day may bring forth. Many people before you heard this message and thought they had a long life before them and did not obey to it immediately, but they suddenly died and in a few moments they found themselves in the unspeakable torments of the fire of hell. Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart: he is calling you to repentance, do not ignore His call.

## THE GREAT LOVE OF GOD

“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). These words were spoken one night by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, while He was speaking to one of the rulers of the Jews called Nicodemus. Therefore, they were spoken by the One whom God gave for the salvation of the world.

First of all, notice that Jesus said that God loved the world so much and then “that He gave His only begotten Son”; that shows that the love God manifested toward the world involved an offering and a renunciation on the part of Him (true love always involves renunciation) for He gave His Only Son, the One whom God loved before the foundation of the world. Think of that, God loved His Son before He came into this world; He loved Him, but for mankind’s sake He gave Him. Why did He give His own Son? He gave Him in order to save man, for Jesus stated that He came into the world to save the world (“And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world” - John 12:47) by giving His own flesh for the life of the world: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” (John 6:51).

Let us dwell briefly upon the spiritual condition of this world before God. Men are on the way which leads to destruction: no matter what their race is, what their social level is, and what their cultural level is, they are on the way that leads to hell, for they are sinners, slaves of all kinds of fleshly lusts, they are children of wrath by nature under the divine condemnation because of sin, which entered the world by Adam, and by him it passed upon all men. There is none righteous, no, not one, all men have together become corrupt, there is no one who does good; that’s what the Word of God says. The Word says also that their throats are open graves, their tongues practice deceit, the poison of vipers is on their lips, their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness, their feet are swift to shed blood, ruin and misery mark their ways and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes. These are hard and harsh words, yet they are perfectly truthful, for they are written in the Word of God, which is truth. Whatever the wise men after the flesh may say, facts confirm what the Word says about men. The misdeeds of men are proof of their depravation, corruption, and evil nature. And what is the end awaiting them after death, who continually disobey God doing evil in His eyes? They will go to hell, an awful place of torment in the hereafter where the souls of the wicked suffer terrible torments.

Therefore men need to be saved from this awful end, which is awaiting them after death. But how can they be saved? The answer is this: by faith in the Son of God, for Jesus said: “That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). These words mean that whoever believes in Him receives eternal life and thus he will not perish with those who refuse to believe in Jesus Christ. Why is it necessary to believe in Jesus Christ in order to be saved? For – as I said before – He came into the world to save it. How? Through His death on the cross, for on the cross He bore all our sins, as it was foretold by the prophet Isaiah: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ....He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities” (Isaiah 53:6,11). He was able to bear our

iniquities because He did no violence nor was any deceit in His mouth. Of course He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without falling into temptation and thus He knew no sin. And the One who knew no sin, was made by God to be sin for us, and He died on the cross as an ordinary evildoer, in that Jesus Christ was crucified together with two transgressors. But Jesus not only died for our sins, but He also rose again (the third day) for our justification, so whoever believes in Him is justified by God. As Paul says: "And by him all that believe are justified from all things ....." (Acts 13:39), and also: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness ....." (Romans 10:10). Salvation from perdition is therefore completely free, it cannot be earned through good works.

Therefore if you think that you can save yourself by your merits, by some righteous deeds, you must understand that you are greatly mistaken. If it were possible for you to be saved by good works, God would have given His Son in vain. In other words, Jesus would have come to offer His flesh on the cross in vain. If you could save yourself through sacrifices, mortifications, renunciations and merciful deeds, the Gospel would not be the Good News able to save the sinner, but simply a News without any saving power. Grace would be set aside and man could boast about something before God for he could say that he has saved himself by his sacrifices and renunciations. Therefore, forsake this evil thought of your heart, humble yourself before God repenting of your sins and believing with all your heart in Jesus Christ. The fierce wrath of God which is upon you will be taken away by God and God will give you eternal life. And when you die you will not perish with the wicked, for God will bring you safely to His heavenly kingdom, where are the saints of God.

Whoever you are, consider the great love that God manifested also toward you by giving His Only Son for your salvation, consider what the God who created all things did for the sake of His sinful creatures. Consider it and believe now with all your heart in His Son to receive eternal life from His Hand.

God has spoken to you, do not harden your heart, but rather open your heart to receive the love of the truth, which is in Christ Jesus, that you may be saved from perdition.

## HOW YOU CAN BECOME HAPPY

You are unhappy, it doesn't matter if you are young or old, rich or poor, wise or unwise. You have tried many times and in various ways to become happy, but all your efforts were in vain. Of course, you have wondered why absolute unhappiness reigns in your heart and why all your efforts to find happiness were in vain; however you have not been able to give an answer to these questions, and perhaps you have come to the conclusion that true happiness does not exist on earth. Therefore I want to tell you why you are unhappy and how you can find the true happiness you are looking for.

You must understand that happiness cannot be found in the fleshly lusts nor in the world's amusements, nor in riches, nor in studies, nor in sport, nor in eastern practices, nor in marriage (even though it is lawful and right for a man to get married), nor in the Roman Catholic religion, nor in the Jehovah's witnesses religion, nor in the Mormon religion, nor in the other sects; happiness cannot be found in esoterism, nor in occultism of which the world is full, for happiness is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Therefore whoever has found Jesus Christ has found happiness, but whoever has not yet found Jesus, has not found happiness. For this reason you are unhappy, therefore, because you have not the Son of God. Now, you will say to me: 'What does 'to have the Son' mean?' I will give you the answer, but in order to answer you exhaustively I need to speak to you first of all about the sin of the first man.

Now, after God created the heaven and the earth, He made man in His own image and after His likeness and put him into the Garden of Eden. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground, trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. Among those trees there was one tree called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, whose fruit – even though it was good – man was forbidden to eat. For God said to man that he was free to eat from any tree in the garden but he must not eat from that particular tree for if he ate of it he would surely die: "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17). However, Adam and Eve his wife disobeyed God. And that disobedience produced death, that is to say, it brought unhappiness, fear, sense of guilt, and shame to them, and their fellowship with God was broken off. So it was through the disobedience of Adam that unhappiness entered the world. As long as man obeyed God he was happy, but when he disobeyed he became unhappy. But the sin of Adam had baleful consequences also on his descendants for sin passed through him to all his descendants bringing forth the same bitter fruits in their life. Therefore, if today, after thousands of years, man is unhappy the reason is because he is born with sin, that is, he is born prone to sin and through sin he dies for "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), thus man is spiritually dead. Obviously, man today does not sin by breaking the same command as did Adam, that is, by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because that tree does not exist any longer on earth, but he sins by breaking other commands of God, such as the command not to kill, not to make idols, not to steal, not to lie, not to covet, not to commit adultery and many others. Therefore, the reason why man is unhappy is called SIN. Today it is not easy to hear about sin, some people even believe that sin does not exist, some others make light of sin, but you must understand that sin is stronger than any man for there is not a man on earth who never sins, there is not a man

who is not slave of sin. A man is a slave to whatever has overcome him (2 Peter 2:19) and man became a slave of sin when he was overcome by it in the Garden of Eden.

Therefore, since men are bound by sin and they cannot help sinning, and sin is the cause of their unhappiness, they need to be delivered from the bondage of sin, in order to become happy. I say that they need to be delivered because – as I said before – sin is stronger than man, and thus he cannot be delivered from sin by his own efforts. Man – to use a passage of the Scripture – is held fast by the cords of his sin (Proverbs 5:22) and he needs somebody to break those cords.

And who can deliver man from sin? Only Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is able to deliver him from sin for He overcame sin. How? Let's see how. First of all, Jesus Christ was not born like all other men for He was begotten by the Holy Spirit in the womb of His mother, thus He was not born under the bondage of sin. Nevertheless, Jesus during His life in all points was tempted as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). This is a fundamental point, Jesus did not know sin. However, in order to set man free from sin, Jesus not only had to live a sinless life, but He had to die also. Why did He have to die? Because the power of sin is the law (1 Corinthians 15:56), thus Jesus had to bear the curse of the law in order to strip sin of its power over man and since it is written: "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:23), Jesus had to be hanged on a tree. Therefore He had to die an ignominious death, and Jesus died this kind of death in that He was crucified. The Righteous One, the One who never knew sin, died on the cross in order to deliver us (or to set us free) from the law, by which we were held, that is, from the power of sin. On the cross Jesus bore all our sins in His own body; He did what the prophet had said the Christ would do (Isaiah 53:11). Jesus purchased our freedom from the law of sin.

The apostle Paul explains to the saints of Rome how believers through the death of Christ are no longer under the bondage of sin. Here are his words: "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter" (Romans 7:4-6). Therefore we preach Christ and Him crucified as the only means of salvation.

Jesus had to rise again also, for His death without His resurrection would not have been able to set us free from sin, as it is written: "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). And thus Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to His disciples. Yes, Jesus Christ is risen! That's what the Scripture says (Luke chap. 24).

Having explained that sin is the cause of unhappiness and Jesus Christ through His death and His resurrection has provided redemption from sin, I will tell you now how a man can experience redemption. One can receive redemption from sin through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, he must feel guilty and sorry for his sins (this implies that he must forsake his sins), and must believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and He rose again for our justification (Romans 4:25). When he does these things, Jesus Christ comes into him and He delivers him from the bondage of sin and he is able to say together with Paul: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of [in] the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Then he has the Son of God in his own heart, that means he has everything (Colossians 2:10) for in Christ besides the forgiveness of sins and the freedom from the bondage of sin, there is peace (the peace



which enables every Christian to be calm and to trust in God in the midst of all kinds of distresses) and joy, for his conscience is now purged from the dead works which defiled it and he knows he has become a son of God, an heir of God and joint-heir with Christ, who when he dies he will go to heaven to be with the Lord (where life is far better than here on earth) and on that day he will receive his own reward according to his own good works. This is the joy of salvation about which the prophets of old spoke, and about which the apostle Peter speaks when he says: "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (1 Pet. 1:8-9). When you have this joy you are compelled to say with the Psalmist: "Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased" (Psalm 4:7).

Here is how you can become really happy. What will you do now, after you have read these words? Will you decide to repent of your sins and believe in Jesus Christ, or will you decide not to take such a decision for you think that only crazy people can take such a decision and since you are an intelligent person you can't accept this kind of things? I don't know which decision you will take but I know that if you refuse to repent and believe in Jesus Christ and you die in that condition, a far greater unhappiness than that you have experienced until now is awaiting you. First of all, because you will go to hell, which is a place of torment in the hereafter where an unfanned fire is burning and where the souls of sinners are continually weeping and gnashing their teeth because of severe and unceasing pain. And secondly because after having suffered terrible torments in hell you will rise again at the end of times together with all those who died in their sins like you, and you will appear before God in order to be judged according to your works and to be condemned to eternal infamy and suffering in the lake of fire and brimstone which is a place of torment different from the one where you will go just immediately after death. Do not hesitate therefore, repent and believe in Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins.

## HELL IS AWAITING YOU

Listen, o man or woman, who are living far from God, you are living without knowing what will happen to you when you breath your last, that is, when you die. For you don't know that when you breath your last, hell will open its mouth and swallow you up.

Hell is a terrible and frightening place in the heart of the earth, where an unfanned fire is burning and where the souls of sinners are enveloped by the flames of that fire and where they are continually crying, weeping and gnashing their teeth because of the great torments they suffer in that place. That's what the Word of God teaches in various ways and has been confirmed also by some people whom God allowed to see hell.

Maybe you are one of those people who will say to me: 'What are you saying? Once dead, we are really dead. With death everything is finished!' You are greatly mistaken, you are deceiving yourself. You have a soul within your body and that soul is immortal and after death it will continue to live in hell.

Maybe you are one of those people who think that after death people go to a place of purification where they must discharge the debts of temporal punishment for their sins, and after that they will be allowed to enter heaven. You, too, are deceiving yourself. Your sins can be forgiven only during this life; if you die in your sins you will have no chance to be purified from your sins in the hereafter, for you will be lost forever!

But maybe you are among those people who think that after death the soul of man reincarnates into the body of an animal or into the body of another human being in order to expiate his sins. Even in this case you are deceiving yourself. Reincarnation is a lie.

Then you will say: 'What evil did I do in order to deserve to go to that terrible place of torment in the afterlife?' You have done evil in the eyes of God, for the Word of God says that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, there is none righteous, all are gone out of the way, the poison of asps is under their lips, and their feet are swift to shed blood. Therefore condemnation is upon you also, you are a sinner, you are lost and upon you is the wrath of God, the God you don't know who he is filled with indignation against all those who delight in doing evil. If you suddenly died in this condition, you certainly would go to hell; your sins bear witness of your perversion and rebellion toward God, who can do nothing but send you to hell.

But hear also these things: there is a way to escape this terrible end, there is a way to escape this infamous destiny awaiting all sinners. If you want to escape the fire of hell you must repent of your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God sent by God into this world to save the world. What did He do to save the world? He died on the cross for our sins and rose again for our justification. For you must understand that Jesus Christ, after He lived a blameless and sinless life and did much good to the people, was put to death. He was crucified and thus He was numbered with the transgressors. However, those who unjustly condemned Him to death and pierced Him, did not know this, that His death was a propitiatory death decreed by God in order to forgive our sins. So Jesus died, and was buried. But on the third day God raised Him from the dead and caused Him to be seen by witnesses whom God had already chosen.

That's good news, isn't it? For you can receive remission of your sins, the blotting out of your debts, just through faith in Jesus Christ. Not by good works, or sacrifices, for Jesus Christ has already done everything by shedding His blood, by giving His life for you also.

I implore you on Christ's behalf: Accept immediately this Good News. Do not hesitate, tomorrow, even in a few moments, it could be too late, for as I told you, you could suddenly die with the wrath of God upon you and you would go to hell. Therefore, now, humble yourself before God, confess your sins to Him and believe in His Son Jesus Christ. You will immediately be washed from your sins in His own blood, you will become a new creature for you will be spiritually born again, and your life will be completely different from the meaningless life you have lived until now serving sin. You will begin to live a life which is worth living and you will be heading for Paradise, which is a heavenly place where the souls of the redeemed go after death.

## **TURN TO THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD FROM YOUR IDOLS ....**

Men and women, you have made for yourselves all sorts of graven images and sculptures, you bow down before them and you plead with them to deliver you from your troubles, and you trust in them for your salvation.

I therefore exhort you to turn to the Living and True God from these vain things you are serving. He is the One who created heaven and earth and the sea and all the things which are in them; turn to Him from these vain things to serve Him and to wait for His Son from heaven. You worship these so called holy graven images and sculptures, which are not holy for they are idols, an abomination to God, and God one day in His anger and fury will destroy them and those who worship them as well. Yes, God hates those things you love and honour so much because they prevent you from worshipping Him in spirit and truth and because through them you are serving the creature rather than Him, who is the Creator who is blessed for ever. For this reason you cannot inherit the kingdom of God. You deserve to go to hell when you die; for that is the end awaiting all idolaters.

Those things you worship cannot help you at all, I say it again, they cannot help you, for they are vain things, the work of men's hands. For the Holy Scripture says: "They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat" (Psalm 115:5-7) and also: "They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good" (Jeremiah 10:5). While the devil, which is the enemy of God and the one who deceives all the world, has deceived you into believing that they can help you. Your eyes have been blinded by this wicked spiritual being, who was a murderer from the beginning and is the father of lies.

Therefore, now, forsake your idols, upon which you are mad, and turn to the God who created all things through His wisdom and upholds all things by His endless power. Repent of your sin of idolatry, which God hates and because of which you deserve to be condemned to an eternal shame and torment, and forsake your idols and believe with all your heart in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living and true God and so you will receive the remission of your sins, as it is written: "All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43 - NIV).

God sent His Son into the world, precisely into the land of the Jews, about two thousand years ago. He lived a blameless and sinless life, He went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed of the devil for God was with Him. But so that the words spoken by God through the prophets of old (according to which He had to die for our sins) might be fulfilled, Jesus was hated by His own countrymen, condemned to death by the Jewish Council, which was the Jewish jurisdictional authority at that time, and He was delivered to the Romans that they might kill Him. And thus Jesus Christ, the Just, was crucified. But God the third day raised Him from the dead, and He appeared to His disciples and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive; His resurrection took place for our justification. And so now, because of His death and His resurrection whoever believes in Him is fully forgiven by God and purified from all his sins. That's the Good News of the kingdom of God. If you accept it, you will be saved from sin and eternal condemnation. Instead, if you reject it, it will judge you in the last day when you will appear before the throne of God to be judged by Him.

## **GOD EXISTS AND HIS WORK IS PERFECT**

- To the atheists and those who are contentious -

When the twenty four elders, who are around the throne of God, fall down before God and lay their crowns before the throne, they say: "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11). I also give the glory, the honour and the power to Him, for He created all things and by His will they were created and have their being.

So I believe that the heaven, the earth, the sea and all the things which are in them, came into being through an act of creation of God, done through the Word without using any pre-existent matter, and since God is perfect (Matthew 5:48), the things which He created are perfect also. The perfections which are in the creation are countless and even many scientists and scholars have recognized that we are surrounded by a creation which is perfect. Here are some of the conclusions many scientists and scholars have come to: 'Let us consider the earth on which we live. It has an axial tilt of 23 degrees. If it were not so, the ocean's steam would rise to the North Pole and to the South Pole, condensing and accumulating mountains of ice. If the sun produced half of its heat, we all would freeze, while if the sun produced double heat we all would roast' (Floyd E. Hamilton, *In difesa della fede* [In defence of the faith], Napoli 1972, page 64); 'The earth rotates at the speed of about one thousand six hundred kilometres per hour. If it rotated at the speed of just one hundred and sixty kilometres per hour, the length of the day as well of the night would double, the plants would be scorched by the heat during the day and the little plants would die because of the intense cold during the night .... If the moon were just eighty thousand kilometres far from the earth, the sea would flood all the lands, included the highest mountains .... If the oceans were deeper, the carbon dioxide and the oxygen would be completely absorbed and the plants could not exist. If the atmosphere were thinner, thousands of meteors which burn every day in the air, would fall upon the earth and would cause terrible fires' (Giovanni Wu, *Quesiti sulla fede* [Questions on faith], Napoli 1969, pages 22-23).

What shall we say then? We shall say that this perfection is God's hallmark on His creation, who is from everlasting to everlasting, whose name is YAHWEH, and who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And this perfection not only astonishes us, but it makes us very glad and leads us to glorify God and to sing for joy at the works of His hands, as it is written: 'For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep' (Psalm 92:4-5).

Among the works of God which astonishes us is the human body. Hear what king David, several thousand years ago, said to God through the Holy Spirit about the origin of his body and the way God had made it: "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned [the days fashioned for me], when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the

sand: when I awake, I am still with thee” (Psalm 139:13-18). I, too, as David recognize that God knit me together in my mother’s womb and He made me wonderfully, so I say: ‘Amen!’ As I said before, the words of David refer to the origin of our body. Instead, as for the origin of the first human being’s body, the Scripture says that God formed it from the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). Therefore, the first man did not come into being as we did, but in another way. However, he also was made wonderfully for the hands that formed him were the same hands that formed David in his mother’s womb and that formed us in our mother’s womb as well. To God be the glory now and forevermore. Amen.

However, many people, who belong to this world of darkness, although they claim to be wise they are fools for their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Therefore, out of their hearts can come nothing but vanity and lies. Many say and write: ‘God does not exist and the things which exist were not created by a Being infinitely wise and powerful’ but they are fools for the Scripture states that “the fool hath said in his heart, there is no God” (Psalm 14:1). Know this, that the beasts and the fowls of the air are more intelligent than these people for both the beasts and the fowls of the air know and recognize that they were created by God and they can even teach this to these foolish people, who claim that the earth, the heaven, the sea and all things which are in them sprang into existence by pure accident: all resulted from an accidental explosion, which took place billions of years ago!! To those who think that God does not exist and that the things which exist are the result of an extraordinary explosion which took place by accident, I want to say what Job said: “But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind” (Job. 12:7-10). But I want to say to them also this: ‘If somebody asked you if it is possible by throwing a bomb in the midst of much scrap iron to make a new car or at least a car in a good state come out, what would you answer him? I think you would answer him that his question has only one answer, that is, that it is absolutely impossible that such a thing may happen, it simply cannot happen! And what would you say if I told you that the computer is the result of an accidental explosion which took place in a laboratory? You would say that it is impossible that such a thing might happen, wouldn’t you? How then can you affirm that heaven, earth, the sea and all things which are in them, came out of nothing and nobody created them as they are? How can you deny the existence of a God Creator, infinitely wise and powerful who created all these visible things, which are so perfect? How can you think that a living being such as man, who is able to eat, to drink, to digest, to urinate, to defecate, to speak, to walk, to sleep, to argue, to think, to remember, to love or to hate, to weep and to smile, to build and to invent, and who is able to beget other human beings through copulation with a woman, I ask, how can you think that such a being is the result of an accidental phenomenon?

How can you think that the human body is the result of an evolutionary process - which took place by chance, and which lasted several million years – of a cell we don’t know from where and how it came into being and which first became a monkey or a brute and then a man as we know him today??!!

Listen, your evolutionary theories are foolishness, your so called wisdom is foolishness. Repent of your evil thoughts, and believe that God exists and He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and give Him the glory which belongs to Him. But believe also that He sent Jesus Christ, His Only Begotten Son, into the world so that we might be reconciled to God through His death on the cross, on which He put to death the hostility

which separated us from God. Thus God will make you a new creation, with a new heart and a new mind, both purified and renewed, and the old things will pass away.

Some other people, made from the same mould of the previous ones, say to us: 'If God exists and created all things – as you affirm – He made many mistakes!', But listen, vain and foolish man, you who are among such people: "Who hath enjoined him his way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity? Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold. Every man may see it; man may behold it afar off" (Job 36:23-25). How can the clay say to the potter: 'What have you done?' or: 'You have done wrong?' You claim to see some imperfections where there are no imperfections – that is, in the human body, in the heavens, in the sea, in the animals, etc. – since all these things are the work of God and "his work is perfect" (Deuteronomy 32:4), "nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it" (Ecclesiastes 3:14) and through this perfection existing in all the works of God we can see "God's invisible qualities" (Romans 1:20 - NIV). And so, you, instead of praising God for having made you wonderfully, as David praised God, you dare to criticize the work of His hands! One day, while I was doing military service, speaking to a doctor about the existence of God and God's perfection, the doctor said to me: 'Corporal, the human body is a perfect machine! Thus it has a Creator, it cannot be otherwise!' Those words spoken by a soul who did not know God, and who was a person who knew the human body better than we do know it because he had studied the human body deeply, astonished me and I remember them with pleasure for they show me that the works of God bear witness of their wise Creator. They speak, but many have ears but they do not hear. They are like that scientist who while looking at the sky said: "What a mess!" But I say: 'Where do you see that mess?' Listen, the mess is not in the sky, but in the heart and in the life of those who do not know God, who are slaves of sin. The sky, as well as the earth, and the planets, the sun, the moon and the animals, are not imperfect; but it is the conscience of these people which is imperfect, for it is still contaminated by sin, that is, by dead works. Therefore I say to you: 'Search your conscience, examine it very well and by the help of the Spirit of God you will find in it many imperfections which are due to your sins. And when you recognize all your imperfections, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that He may purify your conscience through His precious blood shed on the cross at Golgotha for the remission of our sins. By doing this you will be purified from all your iniquities and as far as your conscience is concerned you will receive and find the perfection (Hebrews 9:9; 10:14). Oh blessed perfection which the blood of bulls and goats could not and cannot give to anybody, but can be received only by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ!

And when you know this blessed perfection, then you won't see any imperfection in the sky and on earth, nor in your human body, but you will see the perfection in all things for you will know the God who created all things and His love will fill your heart. And thus you will praise Him for His perfect works, but above all you will praise Him for giving you a perfect conscience.

To God be the glory, now and forever in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

- Power and wisdom of God to those who believe -

God called me to preach the cross, and I am happy I can do it by word of mouth and in writing. It's a grace granted to me by that God whom I did not serve for many years, whose call to repentance I put behind my back countless times saying that it was no time to repent. But thanks be to God in Christ Jesus for one day He gave me repentance and He drew me to Christ setting me free from the bondage of sin and gave me new birth into a new life. I thank God also because He revealed His will to me, that is to say, because He revealed to me that He set me apart from my childhood so that I might preach the cross, that is, the Gospel of His Grace. The day I came to know that He had called me with a holy calling, within me something like a fire lighted up, the desire to spread everywhere the Gospel of God rose within me, the same Gospel which the apostles of the Lord preached many centuries ago, and to spread it in the way the apostles did, that is, in the Holy Spirit, in much assurance and with all boldness. So, not with wisdom of words or with excellence of speech, lest the message of the cross be emptied of its power, that is to say, lest I deprive of its power the only message which can save man from sin and eternal perdition, for my desire as well as God's desire is that men may be saved. But there is another reason for which I don't want to preach the message of the cross with wisdom of words, because if I did that God would get angry with me and I would have no longer peace in my soul. Many wise men of this world scoff at this message, for they think it is foolishness, but they are wrong for what seems to be foolishness is nothing but the wisdom of God. On the contrary, it is their wisdom, the human wisdom, of which they are proud and about which they boast, which is foolishness, for it is written that God catches the wise in their craftiness and He knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile. God has made foolish the wisdom of this world. To some other people, the message of the cross is a scandal, but they are wrong too because they are deceived by a vain appearance, for the message of the cross is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Therefore, I am not ashamed of the message of the cross for I am fully persuaded that it can save anyone who believes. I have experienced the power of this message in my life. For I was a wicked person, but it sanctified me; I was a slave to sin, but it set me free from the bondage of sin; I was lost, but it saved me; I was an enemy of God but it reconciled me to God; I was heading for the fire of hell, but it saved me from that fire; I was without hope, but it gave me hope; I was sad, but it gave me eternal consolation; I was a child of wrath, but it made me a child of God; I was dead in my sins, but it quickened me. And many other people can say these same things. To God be the glory now and forever. Amen,

Men and women, I preach to you the message of the cross, which is able to save you and to reconcile you to God and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I preach it to you for I want you to be saved, I want you to taste the goodness of God in your life. Listen carefully, for that's not a vain thing for you but it's your life.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in Israel, in the days of Caesar Augustus (about two thousand years ago). After He was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan river, and after He was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, He went about all Galilee and all Judea preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. However, they that dwelt at Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize He was the Christ, the Son of



God that God in ancient times had promised through His prophets He would send into the world, and thus they condemned Him to death, and handed Him over to Pontius Pilate, the Governor of Judea, asking him to crucify Jesus. Pilate granted their demand and he delivered Jesus unto his soldiers to be crucified. All this happened by the determinate purpose and foreknowledge of God, that is, because God predetermined that His Son, the Righteous, should be handed over to the hands of sinners and hanged on the cross like an evildoer, thus He would be bruised for our sins and wounded for our transgressions. God had foretold those things through His prophets. Here is for instance what Isaiah had said: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken" (Isaiah 53:5-8). And so the rulers of the Jews at Jerusalem did not recognize Jesus Christ, yet in condemning Him to death they fulfilled the words of the prophets according to which things had to occur exactly in that way.

Therefore, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins in order to expiate our sins through His sacrifice. It was necessary that He, the Holy One, the One who knew no sin, should shed His blood, for without shedding of blood there is no remission. We find this principle in the Law which God gave to the people of Israel at Mount Sinai – which law had a shadow of good things to come and not the very image of the things – for when the people of Israel committed a sin against God they had to offer for their sin a sin offering (which was a young bull) and the priest had to take the blood of the bull into the tent of Meeting and to sprinkle it before the Lord seven times, and to put the blood on the horns of the altar (the altar of incense) which was before God in the tent of Meeting and to pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering which was at the door of the tent of Meeting. Here is what the law says: "And if the whole congregation of Israel sin through ignorance, and the thing be hid from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done somewhat against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which should not be done, and are guilty; When the sin, which they have sinned against it, is known, then the congregation shall offer a young bullock for the sin, and bring him before the tabernacle of the congregation. And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD: and the bullock shall be killed before the LORD. And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation: And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, even before the veil. And he shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar which is before the LORD, that is in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And he shall take all his fat from him, and burn it upon the altar. And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them" (Leviticus 4:13-20); that's what had to be done if the people of Israel committed a sin during any day of the year.

However, there was another occasion in which an animal had to be offered to make atonement for the sins of the people and that occasion was the Day of Atonement (in Hebrew language 'Yom Kippur') which was on the tenth day of the seventh month; on that

particular day, the High Priest had to slaughter a bull for his own sins and a goat for the sins of the people and bring the blood inside the veil (that is, into the place called 'the holiest of all' or 'the most holy place'). Here is what the law says: "And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil: And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat" (Leviticus 16:11-15).

Therefore, as the High Priest was required to shed the blood of a bull in order to make atonement for his own sins and the blood of a goat to make atonement for the sins of the people, so Jesus Christ, the High Priest of good things to come, was required to shed His own blood to make atonement for our sins. Therefore, both the blood of the bull and the blood of the goat prefigured the blood of Jesus; the blood of those animals was a shadow of the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, now, since we have the reality itself we don't need the shadow any longer.

After Jesus died on the cross, His body was taken down and laid in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid. But the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him, and also His resurrection had been foretold by God in ancient times, for David had said about the Messiah: "I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell [Hades], neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance" (Acts 2:25-28). So God did not allow His Holy One to see decay, but He raised Him from the dead, that the words of David might be fulfilled.

But why was it necessary that Jesus Christ should rise again? Because, as on the day of atonement the High Priest was required to bring both the blood of the bull and the blood of the goat behind the curtain, that is, into the Holiest of all, which was a part of the earthly sanctuary Moses built at God's command, so the High Priest of good things to come, after He gave Himself as a sin offering to make atonement for our sins, had also to enter into a sanctuary, but a sanctuary that is not man-made, that is to say, not of this creation, and He had to enter into it not by the blood of bulls and goats but by His own blood to purchase eternal redemption for us, and that sanctuary was heaven itself.

Therefore, since the High Priest of good things to come had to die in order to shed His blood for the remission of our sins, it is evident that in order to finish His work of redemption He had to rise again, in order to enter, by means of His own blood and not by means of the blood of bulls and goats, into heaven itself before God for us (that's what Jesus did several weeks after His resurrection). Here is what the Scripture states: "But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:11-12 - NKJV), and also: "For Christ did not

enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own" (Hebrews 9:24-26 - NIV). Therefore, Jesus had to rise again "for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

After Jesus rose again, He appeared to His disciples several times, He ate and drank with them, He spoke with them for forty days and then He was taken up into heaven at the right hand of God, from where – as He Himself promised – at God's appointed time He will return in His Father's glory with the holy angels. Let it be known unto you, therefore, that anyone who believes in Jesus Christ receives remission of sins through His name ("To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" Acts 10:43), he is justified by God ("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), and he receives eternal life ("He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" John 3:36), so when he dies his soul will go immediately to heaven, where God's peace reigns. Whereas anyone who refuses to believe in Him, His sins will remain attached to his conscience and when he dies his soul will go into hell, into the fire of hell, where he will weep and gnash his teeth waiting for the judgement's day. You have before yourself life and death, the blessing and the curse, choose life, choose the blessing, to live at peace with God and to inherit eternal glory.

Therefore, salvation is by grace, for it is obtained only through faith; to obtain it you must only repent of your sins and believe in the expiatory death of Jesus and in His resurrection: He died for our offences and rose again for our justification (Romans 4:25). And if it is by grace, it is not by works, otherwise grace is no more grace. Because if grace could be earned, what kind of grace would it be? And then, if salvation could be obtained through our own righteousness, what would it be the use of the death of Christ? It would be of no use, as it is written: "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" (Galatians 2:21). And again, if salvation could be obtained through our own good works, once we have obtained it we could boast about something before God, couldn't we? But God, in order to keep man from boasting about his works, decreed before the foundation of the world that salvation must be by grace, as it is written: "Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:9). Therefore, the only thing a man can do, or rather must do, after he has been saved, is to boast in the Lord.

Therefore, do not think you can be saved in some other ways, for instance by doing meritorious works, personal expiatory sacrifices, and various acts of mortification, for it is not in that way you can be saved, I say it again, it is not in that way. Rather, you must understand that if you rely upon your good works to obtain salvation you are under the curse, for it is written: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them" (Galatians 3:10). These are hard words, I know, yet they are true. And you can be set free from that curse only by faith in Jesus Christ, for Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law having become a curse for us, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree" (Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:23), that the blessing of Abraham, that is, justification that brings life, might come upon us through faith in Christ Jesus.

What shall you do now? Will you accept this message or reject it? Accept it, and you will be blessed, yes, you will be blessed.

## **THE SERPENT OF BRASS: EVERYONE WHO WILL LOOK AT IT, SHALL LIVE**

- The only way to be saved -

Men and women, you who live far from God, under the bondage of sin, I am addressing you, listen to me carefully for your good.

In the book of Numbers it is recorded an event which happened in the desert as the people of Israel journeyed toward the Promised Land. Here is what happened: "And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived" (Numbers 21:4-9).

As you can see, we are told that because of the people's murmurs, God punished the people of Israel by sending venomous snakes among them and many Israelites died. Then the people recognized they had sinned and came to Moses asking him to pray for them so that God might take those snakes away from them. Moses prayed to God, who told him to make a fiery serpent and to put it upon a pole, so that anyone who was bitten by a snake by looking at it might live. So anyone who looked at that serpent put on that pole escaped death.

The above mentioned story – which occurred more than three thousand years ago – is a shadow of the way of salvation which God ordained before the foundation of the world and made manifest in these last times for us. In other words, it shows what a man must do to escape the second death, which is the terrible and awful punishment, yet right, that on that day God will inflict upon all those who have died in their sins.

What must a man do to be saved? He must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now I will explain to you as much exhaustively as possible what I have just said. Now, the Scripture says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), so you also have sinned against God and fall short of His glory. In other words, you also are under the divine condemnation because of your sins. By your wicked and abominable behaviour (or conduct) you have violated the holy law of God, you have offended and despised God, who is holy and cannot tolerate iniquity, and thus He is very angry with you, so much angry that if you died in this spiritual state He would immediately throw you into hell, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Know for sure this, that this would be your end. The wrath of God is upon your head, it weighs a ton. You are sinners, foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another, you call evil good and good evil. Maybe you outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness; you are like whitewashed tombs which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and anything unclean. Don't think that you are righteous and good, lest you deceive yourselves, for you

are rebels, you are transgressors. You are in the same condition of those Israelites in the desert who sinned against God and God sent against them fiery serpents which bit them. Thus you are sentenced to death; not the physical death, which is a death that both the righteous and the sinners experience, but the second death, that is, the lake of fire and brimstone, which will be experienced only by sinners. Here is what the Scripture says about this second death: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8) where they will be tormented for ever and ever. But I bring you the Good News that you can be saved from this horrible end awaiting you. Yes, you have the possibility of escaping the eternal condemnation, and there is only way to escape it, you must look at Jesus Christ, that is, you must believe in Him. As the Israelites in the desert had to look at the serpent of brass put on that pole in order to escape death, so you must believe in Jesus Christ in order to escape eternal condemnation. Why must you believe in Jesus Christ to have eternal life? Because He was made a curse for us. In other words, because Jesus Christ bore the curse of God on His body in that He was crucified, as it is written: "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Galatians 3:13). He never committed a sin, He never said a bad word, yet He was hanged on a cross as an evildoer. He was thus able to redeem us from the curse of the law.

Here is the fundamental point you have to understand: you are under the curse of the law for you have not done all the things written in the law of God, as it is written: "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them" (Galatians 3:10), and Jesus Christ is able to redeem you from that curse for He became a curse for all of us. Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, bore your curse. Therefore in the story above mentioned, the serpent of brass represented the Son of God, for just as the serpent in the Garden of Eden incurred God's curse for he deceived Eve into sinning, so the Son of God took upon Himself the curse of the law in that He was hung on the cross. And now anyone who believes in Him, that is to say, anyone who looks at Him, receives eternal life. Jesus compared His being lifted up on the cross, that is, His death, to Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness, when He said to Nicodemus: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:14-15). Therefore, do not hesitate, look immediately at Jesus Christ, believe in Him in order to obtain eternal life. Do not think you can be saved from eternal condemnation by looking at yourselves, that is to say, by relying on your works, for they will be of no use. You must recognize you have sinned against God (as the Israelites in the desert recognized that they had sinned against God) and you must look at Jesus Christ. Salvation is not by works, but by grace, so that no one may boast before God.

And as in the desert when those who had been bitten by the serpents looked at the serpent of brass they lived, so when you look at Jesus Christ you will have the assurance that you will live in the glory for ever. No more condemnation, no more eternal torment in the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels, but the eternal glory in the Kingdom of God. And all this by the grace of God, because of the merits of Jesus Christ. Not by your sacrifices, but only by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, for He, the Righteous One, bore our sins in His own body on the cross. There will be no more condemnation for you, for all your sins will be forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ: this is what the Word of God teaches when it states that there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1) for God has given them justification that brings life. Instead, if you refuse to humble before God and to look at the Son of God, what is awaiting you is eternal

condemnation, an eternity full of torments and shame. That will happen to you because of your pride and arrogance. When you die, you shall be brought down to Hades (hell), thrown into this underground place, where fire is burning. And then in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, when you rise again to be judged, you will be thrown into the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. Your arrogance therefore will be your ruin, and you will see it with your own eyes. Today, I have solemnly warned you for your good: do not harden your hearts.

## SALVATION

- What it is and how you can receive it -

I want to ask you this simple question: 'Are you saved?' I have not asked you what is the religion you belong to, or how many good works you have done, or if you have abstained from certain sins (such as adultery, murder, theft, witchcraft) but I have asked you if you are saved.

When I ask people this question, many of them reply: 'Well, I try to be as much good as possible!' or 'I am a good and honest person, I don't steal, and I don't kill, I work and as I have opportunity I do some good!'. These people through their answers show that they don't know what it means to be saved. Other people answer me: 'As for me, I hope I will be saved' showing thus that they do not have the assurance of salvation. Among them are the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Roman Catholics. Their answer does not surprise me because I know that according to the teaching of these sects, a man cannot affirm that he has the assurance of salvation (that is, he can't say 'I have been saved' or 'I am saved') for that's a demonstration of arrogance and presumptuousness. In other words, only the arrogant and presumptuous people can say that they are saved, whereas those who are humble in heart will never say such a thing! But, as we will see very soon, their words are untrue!

You are probably among those who, when they are asked that question, give one of the above mentioned answers, thus you also are among those who have not yet been saved, and since you are not saved that means that you are lost, yes, lost. You are like a lost sheep who wanders without knowing where it is going, you have no hope: as for the afterlife you are without certainties. Your spiritual state is miserable: maybe you think you have everything in your life, for you have a family, a job, good health, money, and friends, and so you need nothing else; of course, from a material point of view you have everything, but from a spiritual point of view you have nothing, for you are not saved. Therefore you are a miserable person, a poor person. Now, I want to explain to you what it means to be saved and how you can be saved according to the Scripture, which is the Word of God.

To be saved means we have been quickened, that is, we have been spiritually raised up. For men – without exception – are dead in their sins for the sin, which they serve, pay them for their service with death, as it is written: "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), thus men have no life in themselves, and they need to be quickened (that is, to be made alive), and those who have been quickened have been saved while those who have not yet been quickened are still lost. That's what we infer from the following words of Paul to the saints at Ephesus: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 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 2:1-9). As you can see, Paul says to those believers that they were once dead in their sins but God made them alive and raised them up together with Christ, that He might show the exceeding riches of His grace, thus he tells them that they have been saved by grace. Therefore according to the Bible, salvation is a spiritual resurrection, a resurrection which is experienced through Christ, for the apostle says that God showed us His kindness through Christ Jesus. What does it mean? It means that a man, who is dead in his sins, is made alive through faith in the Christ of God, for it is only through faith in Jesus Christ that a man can receive the remission of sins, that is, justification. For, as the spiritual death came through a man, that is Adam, so the spiritual resurrection came also through a man, that is, Jesus Christ. For it is through His atoning death on the cross that justification that brings life came upon all men (Romans 5:18), please notice that it is called justification that brings life for it quickens those who receive it. And justification can be obtained only through faith in His name. We have obtained it and we can assure you that it gave us life, that life we formerly did not have for we also were dead in our sins. But thanks be unto God who had mercy on us; He had mercy on our iniquities, which were blotted out by Him instantly through the blood of Christ. So now we can say for certain that we live because of Christ.

To be saved means we have been set free from the bondage of sin, for Paul wrote to the saints at Rome: "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18). This deliverance, which we obtained through faith in Jesus Christ, enables us to proclaim that we are no longer slaves of iniquity, of vice and of lust. To explain to you this concept, I will give you an illustration you can understand easily: it is as a man who after he was bound hand and foot with big cords for many years, at a certain time is set free by someone who breaks those cords and thus he regains his freedom of movement. It is as a slave who, after many years of hard and harsh slavery, regained his freedom because someone came and delivered him freely from that yoke. Don't you think that such a man, who experienced such a deliverance, can say that he has the assurance that he has been set free? Of course, he can. So those who have experienced deliverance from sin through faith in Jesus Christ are free from the yoke of sin, which they could not break by their own strength for it was stronger than them. Do not deceive yourself, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34), and thus sin has dominion over him, it overcomes him, it overwhelms him, for it is stronger than him, and he can be set free from sin only by Jesus Christ, and if He sets him free, he is free indeed (John 8:36).

To be saved means we possess eternal life, as it is written: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13). Therefore, those who are saved have the assurance that when they die they will go to heaven to be with the Lord, for that's the place where the redeemed go after death. The apostles, who were men who had been saved had this assurance. Here is what they said: "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:6-8). As you can see, eternal life is obtained through faith in Christ Jesus. Obviously to have eternal life means we are not afraid of death any longer. How can a man who knows that a better life is awaiting him in the hereafter, be afraid of death? That's the reason the apostle Paul said that to him to die was "gain" (Philippians 1:21) and that he desired to depart from his body, for he knew that to be absent from the body means to be with Christ



in heaven, which is far better than to live on earth since in heaven there are no more pains and sufferings, but there is perfect joy and peace. Instead, after death the souls of the lost go to hell, which is a land of deep disorder, and where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (that's what Jesus Christ said and we firmly believe Him). Therefore, hell is a terrible place, and you are going there because you are still dead in your sins, lost and slave of sin. Maybe before now you did not know about the existence of this terrible place prepared by God for the souls of the lost, but you were anyway afraid of death for you did not know what was awaiting you in the hereafter, you were sure that you will continue to live but you did not know where and you did not know if in that unknown place you will be happy or unhappy: all this frightened you. Therefore, now you know where you will go after death, where the kind of life you are living is leading you, you know it, but above all you know that in order to escape this horrible end you must experience salvation, which is offered you through Jesus Christ, by faith in His name. Yes, you can be saved from the fire of hell only by faith in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, to obtain salvation, you must believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. But pay attention to this: you must believe not only that He existed, but also that He died on the cross for our sins and after three days He rose again according to the prophetic Scriptures (for both His death and His resurrection had been foretold by God through His prophets centuries before) and after His passion He showed Himself alive to many believers. The apostle Paul confirms that it is by faith that a man can be saved when he reminds the Corinthians of the Gospel he had preached to them. Hear what the apostle says: "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: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time" (1 Corinthians 15:1-8).

Therefore, what you must do to be saved, is only to believe in these things. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved ...." (Acts 16:31), that's the Good News I preach in the name of the Lord to you lost man. Therefore, if you are a Roman Catholic, you must not try to be good in order to be saved, you must not go on pilgrimages, you must not give alms, you must not repeat mechanically prayers to this or that saint, you must not fast, you must not go to Mass, you must not confess to your priest at least once a year, you must not mortify your body and do many other things; and if you are a Jehovah's Witness you must not go from home to home to bring the Watchtower magazine, which contains damnable heresies; all these things are vain, you are wasting your time, they can't be useful to you, for the price for your salvation was paid in full by Jesus Christ when He died on the cross and He shed His precious blood; you must only accept the salvation He purchased with His blood, you must only accept such a great gift from Him. He was in the glory with His Father, He was in the form of God, but He took the form of a bondservant and came in the likeness of men; He humbled Himself and became obedient to the death of the cross, to die for our sins and transgressions. In other words, He humbled Himself in order to give us, through His sacrifice, remission of sins, justification that brings life, and eternal salvation.

Hear, man or woman, today by reading these words you came to know your spiritual state and the place where you will go after death, but also what you must do to come out of this

spiritual state you are in and thus to be saved from sin and eternal perdition. Not only this, you have come to know also what Jesus Christ did in order to save you from sin and eternal perdition. For He died on the cross for our sins: He who knew no sin and who did only good to people, the Righteous One, suffered for the unrighteous, to bring them to God; He, the Holy One, suffered for sinners to reconcile them to God through His death. Therefore, now, recognize you are a sinner before God; you are indeed a sinner and thus you must recognize this. I understand it is humiliating for you to do this, but you must understand that you humble yourself before the One who is Holy, the Creator. Then repent of your many sins you have committed, it does not matter if these sins seem to you little or big, serious or less serious, confess those sins to God (He hears you) and take the decision not to commit them any longer. And then believe in Jesus Christ, that is, believe He died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and then He rose again. Believe these things with all your heart, they are able to set you free once for all from the bondage of sin. Do not harden your heart, or else you will lose your soul, for your soul will go to hell after death. And at the resurrection you will be judged and condemned to the eternal fire. Don't continue to harden your heart, for you would store up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, but open your heart and receive the love of the truth that you may be saved. Take the right decision, the most important decision of your life: accept God's salvation.

## **THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GRACE OF GOD**

- A message of vital importance for you -

Listen carefully to this important message, which is the Good News of the grace of God. Now, let me tell you first of all that you are a sinner, it does not matter who you are, where you live, the race to which you belong, or the religion you believe or practice, you must understand that you are a sinner in the sight of the only true God, who is the Creator of all things. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" says the Scripture (the Bible) in the epistle to the Romans (3:23), and thus you are an enemy of God because He is Holy and cannot stand sin. You are inclined to evil thoughts as well as to evil deeds. Maybe you think that you are a good person because you are religious: let it be known to you that you are deceiving yourself. Your heart deceives you. The reason why you are unhappy, you are without hope, you don't have peace in your heart, is that you serve sin, which brings forth death: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Think of this for a moment: sin, which seems so beautiful to you, actually gives you death!! What a terrible master you have! Since you are a sinner, you are under the divine condemnation, and you deserve to go to hell, which is an awful place of torment located in the heart of the earth, where the souls of sinners go after death. In this place of torment there is fire, which was not kindled by man, and there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. This place is really terrible, believe me. There you will wait for the judgement day, on which you will appear before the throne of God to be judged and condemned and cast into the lake of fire, where you will be tormented for ever and ever. Oh, what a horrible end is awaiting you!

But I am glad to proclaim to you a Good News, you can be forgiven and reconciled to God, and thus escape eternal damnation! In one word: 'YOU CAN BE SAVED!' You will say: 'How can I be saved?' By repenting of your sins and believing in the Gospel of the Grace of God. What is the Gospel? It is the Good News that God, the Creator of all things, in the fullness of time, in His great love for the world, sent His only Begotten Son into the world to die for our sins and to rise from the dead for our justification, and the name of His Son is JESUS CHRIST. Now, let me tell you something else about Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was born in the land of Israel, precisely in the city of David called Bethlehem (located in the Judea region), about two thousand years ago under the Roman Emperor called Caesar Augustus. The name of His mother was Mary; she was a virgin when she conceived Jesus in that she became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. An angel of God had appeared to her and told her that she would conceive in her womb and bring forth a son whose name would be JESUS. Of course, Mary, who at the time was virgin and unmarried, asked the angel how could this happen since she did not know a man. And the angel told her these words: "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). And so when the time came for the baby to be born she brought forth Jesus. He was raised by Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary in the city of Nazareth, that was in Galilee. The child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him. When Jesus was about thirty years old, he went to the Jordan river to be baptized by John the Baptist, the messenger of God sent before His face to prepare His way before Him. After He was baptized, Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, who descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, 'Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am

well pleased.' After this, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil, who tempted Him to sin three times, but Jesus did not sin. Jesus then returned in the power of the Holy Spirit into Galilee, and started to preach in their synagogues, being glorified of all. His message was: 'Repent and believe in the Gospel'. Jesus preached and taught also in the marketplaces, and along the sea of Galilee. Jesus went about healing the sick people, casting out demons, and raising the dead. He did much good to the people.

Jesus lived a sinless life, for He did no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. But the scribes, the Pharisees and the chief priests, and many other Jews hated and persecuted Him, because He healed the sick on the Sabbath, and because He called God His Father. After about three years of ministry, Jesus was betrayed by one of His disciples called Judas, who sold Him to the priests for thirty pieces of silver. They arrested Him and brought Him to the Sanhedrin, and condemned Him to death. Then they handed Him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor of Judea, who gave sentence that it should be as the people required, that is, that He should be crucified. So Jesus was crucified. After He breathed His last, one of His disciples came to take His body and put it in a tomb. But the third day God raised Him from the dead. And Jesus appeared to His disciples alive, with many proofs. After forty days He ascended to heaven at the right hand of the Father. That's the story of Jesus of Nazareth, called the Christ.

As I told you before, in order to be saved you must believe in HIM to be saved. Because Jesus Christ is the way, the life and the truth, nobody can come to God the Father except through Him. There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Through His name anyone who believes in Him receives eternal life and remission of sins.

I assure you that when you repent of your sins and believe in Him, you will be born again. In other words, you will experience the new birth, which is a spiritual birth through which you will become a new creature. The old things will pass away and they will become all new. You will feel forgiven, saved, and reconciled to God. And you will have the assurance that when you die you will go to heaven to be with the Lord, and so you will be no longer on the way of perdition that leads to the eternal fire.

I experienced the new birth many years ago, and I tell you it is the most beautiful experience a man can have during this life.

So I exhort you to humble yourself before God, repenting of your sins, confessing them to Him and asking Him to have mercy on you, and believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins to blot out our sins through His blood, and that He rose from the dead the third day.

Don't make light of this message, don't refuse it: remember that you are lost and an enemy of God on the way to perdition and only by believing in Jesus Christ you can be saved. If you suddenly died in your sins, you would go to hell and thus you would be lost forever. Don't harden your heart, the Lord is speaking to you.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>THE STORY OF JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>WHAT YOU MUST DO TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THAT WHEN YOU DIE YOU WILL GO TO PURGATORY ....</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>WHAT YOU MUST DO TO OBTAIN THE REMISSION OF YOUR SINS</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>THE GREAT LOVE OF GOD</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>HOW YOU CAN BECOME HAPPY</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>HELL IS AWAITING YOU</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>TURN TO THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD FROM YOUR IDOLS ....</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>GOD EXISTS AND HIS WORK IS PERFECT</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>THE SERPENT OF BRASS: EVERYONE WHO WILL LOOK AT IT, SHALL LIVE</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>SALVATION</b> .....	<b>47</b>
<b>THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GRACE OF GOD</b> .....	<b>51</b>