

## Let Me Explain Why I Wrote The Book

As you well know, none of us are getting any younger and eternity is staring us in the face. In fact, personally, I don't know from day to day when it will be my last – for all I know I can suffer a heart attack or get hit by a car tomorrow and that would be it for me. This is why I wrote this book because eternity is something that we can plan for – to be in the arms of a loving God who created us and Who desires to have that love relationship with us or to be separated from God for all eternity, if you so desire. We all have choices to make – either to accept Christ or reject Christ and God will honor your decision.

My desire is to share with you the gospel or good news of Jesus Christ – His death, burial and His resurrection. Jesus is God in human flesh. Before time began, Christ was already in existence with God. He is part of the Godhead and all things that were created, was made through Him (John 1:1-5). Here we see God leaving His royal robes of heaven to come down to earth; being born of a virgin and putting on our flesh and blood, stepping into our place and taking our punishment for us by sacrificing His life for us on Calvary's cross. Christ Jesus was physically raised from the dead three days later and His resurrected life was witnessed by the apostles and over 500 other witnesses (1 Cor: 15:4-6). After spending 40 days with his followers He ascended into heaven in that bodily form and He is now seated at the right hand of God the Father and intercedes on our behalf (Acts 1: 9-11).

I wanted to get this information out to you and to all my family, relatives, friends and people I've known over the years. To be able to share the message of who Jesus really is! Why He came! What He accomplished for us on Calvary's cross! What our condition is when we are born into this world – spiritually dead and separated from God! What is salvation and what happens after our death!

Jesus asked His followers, as His ambassadors here on earth, to share and to proclaim to others the good news of the gospel. (Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim.4:1-5; 2 Cor.5:17-20)

**Let me explain:** the Bible is a spiritual book. People can read it but will not be able to understand what it is telling them unless the Spirit of God reveals it to them. Not only is the gospel divine in its revelation and divine in its inspiration but we learn from 1 Corinthians 2:14 that it can **only** be received or understood by the power of the Spirit of God. "Unaided, the natural (unsaved) man does not receive (understand) the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he possibly understand them because they can only be **spiritually** understood."

Very simply, the things of the spirit are spiritually discerned and natural mind (unsaved man) cannot understand it. That's why so many people read the Bible and to them it's a funny book that doesn't make sense but the minute that they turn to Christ by faith and

they are made new (born again of the spirit) or made alive in Jesus, the Word of God becomes understandable. Why? Because they have been given the Spirit of God and the Spirit of God helps them to understand the meaning of the Word of God. Before Jesus ascended to heaven He promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to indwell believers and to guide believers into all truth (Acts 1:8).

A perfect example of this is when the Jewish religious leader, Nicodemus, came to Jesus and asked Him, *"What must I do to be saved"* and Jesus replied; *"You must be **born again** to be able to see the Kingdom of God (John 3:3)."* The biblical fact is that natural man is physically born into this world but spiritually dead and separated from God. That's why Jesus said to Nicodemus you must be born again; meaning "born of the spirit or born from above" – a spiritual rebirth. Jesus said, *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:7)."* *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24)."*

Our problem is not so much that we are sinners and in need of forgiveness although that's there but our deeper problem is that we're spiritually dead and in need of life. Salvation is something that God does for us and as we turn to Him in faith, the salvation He has come to bring, becomes ours. We get delivered from spiritual death to spiritual life – we're made alive together with Christ.

Once again, what's radically wrong with us is the fact that we're all dead spiritually, and separated from the **life** of God. That happened in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, and all of us come into this world experiencing that same problem – spiritual death, and so God sent Jesus to correct that problem. *He came so that we may have life (John 10:10). He is the way, the truth, and the life (Jn.14:6). He is the resurrection and the life and when we believe in Jesus and receive Him, we cross over from death to life (Jn.11:25).* That's a radical change. The spirit within us that was dead to God has now been made alive. Now we're connected to God through Jesus Christ. It's such a radical transformation that God gives us a new identity. He calls us new creatures in Christ – *"Children of God."*

This is why when believers ask Jesus to come into their heart and be the Lord of their life – the instant they do that the Spirit of God comes and indwells us and is with us forever and we have fellowship or a relationship with God for all eternity. The Holy Spirit's job is to teach, comfort, counsel and intercede on our behalf. This is why when we are born again of the Spirit, and we then read the Bible, the Holy Spirit helps us to understand and teaches us what the Bible is saying.

Now, I understand that this message will be uncomfortable and convicting to those that don't know the Lord because I myself felt that way. I had to swallow my own pride and get down on my knees when it really hit me after examining all the evidence; who Jesus

really is and what He accomplished for me on Calvary's cross.

Now, with that in mind and my passion for Christ, I felt compelled to tell others what Christ Jesus instructed us to do and that was to share the glorious news of the gospel with others. Sharing Christ's love to family and friends has got to be one of the hardest things a believer can do. There is that fear of rejection and what your family and friends will think of you and I'm willing to take that because not to inform them far exceeds the risks. How would I feel if they were separated from God for all eternity because I was too proud to tell them – because I was too scared to risk rejection; what they might think. All of this would be going through my mind but in the end I decided to write this book to inform them because I love them and so does the Lord who created them and wants them saved and in heaven with Him for all eternity; but that is their decision to make.

Now, having said this, I realize that not all will accept Christ Jesus as their Savior and that is just the way it is. I know that this message will either lighten people's hearts or harden their hearts. They will either accept Christ in time or reject Christ – it will be the result of the Holy Spirit working in their hearts.

Remember this old saying, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink." Well, this also applies in a way to the gospel of Jesus. My responsibility to Christ was to share the good news of the gospel with others and this I have done. Now, what the individual or person does with the the gospel message or the decisions they will make will be entirely up to them and no one else. It will be between the individual and God working in their hearts. The important thing is that they have been informed and they will have to make choices. They can either accept what Christ Jesus did for them on Calvary's cross or they can reject Jesus – that is their business and their right to do so. Their response to Jesus Christ will determine their eternal destiny.

Another reason I wrote this book was for myself. My **memory** is failing me and I'm becoming more and more forgetful and I wanted to put this all together so that I could have this book to refer to when called upon as I got older and became more and more forgetful of what I knew and of what the Holy Spirit has taught me.

If you have any questions as you read the book write them down and e-mail me and I'd be more than happy to answer them. I also have some Bible study guides you can request that can help you understand Scripture more. Another good source to have when studying Scripture is to get a very good Bible commentary. The one that I would recommend is called the "Believer's Bible Commentary" by William MacDonald. It is a thorough, yet easy-to-read Bible commentary that turns complicated theology into practical understanding.

I hope this has been helpful to explain why I wrote this book and I wish everyone the very best as you search and seek for answers to life's questions.

**In closing**, I wanted to share some great news with you. To inform you that you are a completely forgiven person in the eyes of God. To tell you that the sin issue has been dealt with, once and for all. God has wiped the slate clean in regards to sin. God is no longer dealing with us on the basis of sin as He was in the Old Covenant.

How God dealt with mankind before the cross of Calvary is different from how He deals with us today. Before the cross, God dealt with man on the basis of obedience to the law (God's Commandments). The law could do nothing for man except show him his sinfulness (Rom. 3:20) and the consequence of sin which is spiritual death or separation from God (Rom. 6:23). Today, God deals with you and me on the basis of His love and grace. The reason for the change is that Christ's death ushered in a brand-new covenant. This New Covenant had been prophesied throughout the Old Testament and the day Christ died, it went into effect. Through His death and the shedding of His blood on the cross, Jesus fulfilled the Old Covenant and ushered in a New Covenant in which we live in today.

In the New Covenant however, God did not want there to be a reminder of sin. He wanted the sin issue to be gone forever. He wanted a clean slate with this people, with nothing to get in the way of having an intimate relationship with them. God will never condemn you or punish you because of your sins. Why? Because from the cross Jesus cried out, "**It is finished**" – the sin issue is finished, the Old Covenant is finished, and sins are gone for all time. We have been cleansed of sins and justified in the blood of Christ. The righteousness of Christ has been imputed to us so that we become perfect in God's sight (2 Cor. 5:21).

Not only did Jesus take away our sins but one of the promises and provision of this New Covenant is that God remembers our sins no more. ***"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more. And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:15-18)."*** The sin issue has been dealt with. The punishment has been kneaded out. It is finished, once and for all – so we are forgiven people. So, now we can connect with God. Now we can relate to God. Now we can enjoy one another. Now we can know God and be known by Him in a very personal way. God's desire from the very beginning was for us to know Him personally. To walk in an intimate relationship with Him. That is why God created us in the first place so that, *"He could have fellowship with us and that we can enjoy His company eternally (1 John 1: 1-3)."*

In this New Covenant there is no longer a need for a priesthood, confession booths etc., as Christ Jesus is our Great High Priest according to Hebrews 4:14 and He now sits at the right hand of God, the Father, and that gives us the boldness to approach God's throne of grace with confidence because Jesus is the only mediator between man and God. ***"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus (1 Tim.***

1:5)." The New Covenant is nothing about religion, it's all about a relationship. It's the most exciting message that there is in the Word of God. The most exciting message that has ever touched this planet and when we get a hold of it, our lives are changed. Why? Because it's the message about Jesus Christ, it's the message that encompasses all that He did through His death, burial, and resurrection. It's all about who He is as God in human flesh doing for us that which we could not do for ourselves. It gives us the freedom in Christ and changes our lives dramatically. It is absolutely life-changing.

As you can see, I am very passionate about this and I really want it to *sink in* as you read the book. To let you know that God has invited us into a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ and the New Covenant is the framework for that relationship. This New Covenant invites you on a journey with Christ Jesus. A journey rooted and grounded in His love. A journey that is an adventure from start to finish because it's Christ Jesus living His life in and through us.

Once again I repeat, "**It is finished.**" On Calvary's cross, Jesus took away the sins of the entire world; past, present, and future – never to be held against you again. My sins, your sins, all our sins; past, present, and future, have been taken away from the eyes of God never to be seen again.

The only thing that can keep you out of heaven is your **unbelief** in Christ Jesus and what He has accomplished for you on Calvary's cross nearly 2,000 years ago. Salvation is something that God does for us. It's all of what Christ Jesus did for us and its none of us or what we do.

We can never again be "*children of wrath*" once we have been indwelt by God's spirit and become "*Children of God (1John 3:1-3).*"

**Isn't That Great News!**

*Love Oscar*