

THE JOY OF DELIVERANCE

I was born on 3rd October, 1936, the first born son of my parents, in an Orthodox Hindu Nair family. My father was a business man, but I learned the ABC of my religion from my grandfather and became a practicing Hindu early in my life, an idol worshipper in its truest sense. Generally majority of Hindus are professing Hindus only.

Early disillusions

I was born in a high grade caste Nair family with its honors and privileges but soon was disappointed with the disparities in life. As I saw the poor around me I was disillusioned of life and started questioning in my mind the reliability of idols and their value as gods for common man. If there is a god in heaven why did he not create everybody equal? Why are some created poor? Is not this god one who shows partiality? These were the questions that came crowding into my mind at an early age.

Added to this was the agony of seeing my grandfather's sufferings at the hands of his nephews (the system of succession among the Nairs was from Uncles to Nephews rather than from Fathers to Sons). Though my grandfather was a very pious and sincere devotee of his gods, these gods were not able to protect and provide for him. These thoughts did not help me to trust the idols and I concluded that they cannot help a man who was in need. I became an atheist.

My father too though he was not a religious man was cheated by his business partner. As a teen-ager I became rebellious and left my home in South India and went to Bombay. I got a well paid job in a government department but was disappointed in life.

It was at this stage in life that I was captivated by communist ideology, where the slogan was “one for all, and all for one”. I was very happy with this ideology of equality among men. After seeing the inner working of the party I saw the lie and saw that it was the masses that were always exploited. The inner turmoil in my life turned me into a drunkard and gambler. I became selfish.

Marriage

One of the young ladies working with me in Government service was a nominal Christian and I fell in love with her. Since I had rejected religion early in life I did not have much to think in marrying her in 1961. Married life did not give me any satisfaction. This only helped the estrangement of my family.

My quest

What was the meaning of Life? Men are born into the world. They live for a few years and die. Where do they go? Is there a real hell and heaven? If God is great why did he create the poor? People suffer. Why? Some are happy. What makes them happy? I was taught that there are many types or degrees of hell and where one goes after his death depends on the things that he does in the present world.

Hinduism had taught me that there were many cycles of births and deaths and rebirths. It goes on and on before one gets “Moksha” salvation. Heaven is the abode of gods and they were also subject to *Karma*. If such things happen in heaven why desire to go there at all? I had no answers to these thoughts that came to me. I was searching for something without knowing what it was. Two children were born to me, a daughter in 1962 and a son in 1966.

The Lord found me

Early 1968 a renowned Bible Teacher from Kerala (late Mr.K.G.Kurian), my native State, came to Bombay to preach the gospel. Through a series of circumstances I was present during the last two days of this campaign..I was very familiar with political rallies and speeches, where black could be portrayed as white and vice versa. But here things were different. What impressed me first was the truth that the preacher believed what he was preaching. The words came to me in power and with much assurance.. Here I heard for the first time the gospel presented to me from Exodus chapter 12, The Passover Lamb. The Preacher compared the days from 10th to 14th of Nissan (Jewish calendar) to the three and half years of public ministry of the Lord Jesus. Friends and foes alike testified of Jesus Christ that He did no sin. Even the judge who examined Him found him not guilty.

The gods whom I knew earlier in my childhood did not satisfy me, but here was a Man who lived as a man ought to live. Suddenly I realized that this was the life I was longing for and I compared my life with the life of Jesus. I knew

without any doubt in my mind that His life condemned me and when I heard that only such a life will be accepted by a Holy God I knew that I was condemned beyond rescue. Yet I fell down at the feet of Jesus. It was then that I heard that this holy life was poured out for me in sacrifice to save me from my sin.

But let me explain the struggles of new birth:

My young mind struggled to find answers to questions that came to my mind one after another. What are the idols? Where did they come from? Why do men worship idols? Can these idols help man in his difficulties? If not, why not?

My boyhood memories were still with me. I was afraid to voice them while I was at home. But now they were disturbing me. I was supposed to be a good boy in the village. I used to help the old people in any way that I could, because I was told to respect them. This helped me to earn their favour. They supposed I was a godly boy. I did not wish to earn the displeasure of my grandfather too. So these questions and the answers that my enquiring mind received remained with me.

Idols are manmade. I knew that. I have heard that in rare instances people have found idols of stone in the fields and they supposed that these idols created themselves. I also had accepted this without questions. But I knew that this belief was irrational. If idols are manmade and they can be

carried or destroyed how could they help man? I was confused.

I had also heard that it was not the idols but the gods behind the idols that mattered. People worship idols and this gave them peace for some time. In the Hindu pantheon there were 330 crores of gods. Every man chose one or more of these gods to worship. This is mostly because of what his ancestors have done. We had our family gods and we did obeisance to these gods. One of these gods was fond of animal sacrifice. We used to offer either cocks or goats to them as occasion demanded. My mother's elder sister was the priestess of these gods. After accepting these sacrifices she behaved abnormally and used to give us answers to our requests and after everything was over she used to ask us what she had told us.

Another god was the snake god. This god liked milk and sweet appam (unniappam). Whenever we saw a snake inside the house the ladies said the snake god is visiting us and we should submit the offering. Therefore we worshipped these gods and many other gods. This happened several times in a year.

Then why did not these and other idols/gods help my grandfather? I have been taught by him that gods help the righteous and punish the wicked. When the wickedness of man increases gods incarnate in different forms to save the good and punish the bad. If this was so, I was not able to understand why my grandfather lost everything. Why did not these gods help him? Doubts came into my mind and I

lost faith in these idols. I knew idols cannot help man. They had no life in them. In fact they require man to carry them. I subdued all these thoughts with the words: “It is my karma” an every soul is subject to ‘karma’.

In my quest for truth I knew I was seeking something without knowing what it was. I knew I was not good, but better than many. The truth that I was a sinner never entered my mind. Even gods were subject to *Karma* and I should take my place with others until the births, deaths, and rebirths go on.

But my encounter with the Lord Jesus changed all these. His life was pure. He was never sorry for anything he said or did. I longed for such a kind of life where the conscience will not trouble a person. I compared my life with His life. I was found wanting. His life condemned me. Then only I heard that it was sin that made me like this. I was a sinner and the wages of sin is death - eternal separation from God! This was a shocking revelation. Earlier I had known that all people commit wrong things, sometimes good and sometimes wrong. What I was taught was that my present life is the sum total of all my past lives; and that my present life will affect my future life.

The world we see is only an illusion or *maya*; the ultimate reality is Brahman. The concept of Brahman itself I was not able to understand fully. He is infinite, immortal, and impersonal. Sometimes He was spoken of the known and sometimes the unknown. Yet he is beyond knowledge. Those who say they know him are really ignorant because

he cannot be known; and those who say that he is beyond knowledge are wise.

The illustration I was told again and again is that as you walk in semi darkness (before the night fall) suddenly you see a snake on the way but when you look in the light it is only a rope. The knowledge that self (*Atman*) is *Brahman* is the true reality. When one achieves this state he will no longer be troubled either with his good works or evil works. This oneness with the Brahman is achieved by Raja Yoga which is the union of meditation and mind control, Karma yoga (works), Jnana yoga (knowledge) and Bhakti yoga (devotion).

My Karma in this life decides my bliss or suffering in the next. If it is largely good works I go to a heaven where I enjoy the fruits of my works and return to the earth in a reincarnate state; if it was largely evil I go with the wicked and suffer the fruit of wickedness and return to earth in reincarnation. But there is no permanent/eternal hell or suffering. Ultimately all will be saved.

But this sin and eternal punishment of death that I heard was a shocking revelation. I wept and wept. For the first time in my life I saw the purest life that a man ever lived in the world. I did not see Jesus. I did not have a vision. My head was down and I was weeping. But I felt His presence. I felt He was looking at me. It was with pure love. But there was a shade of compassion. Was there a tint of pain? I am not sure. But His look went deep down into my soul. I was not afraid. That look was so soothing and comforting.

It penetrated my whole being. It was as if a fresh breath of air was going through me. Was it a look of cleansing? Was the dirt in me being washed away? Was that the cause of my tears? I don't know. But it was very refreshing experience. In that one act of confession and surrender I became a new man.

“O! What a wonderful, wonderful day
Day I will never forget;
After I'd wandered in darkness away
Jesus my Saviour I met.
O What a tender compassionate friend,
He met the need of my heart;
Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling
He made all the darkness depart!

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul
When at the cross the Saviour made me whole;
My sins were washed away,
And my night was turned to day,
Heaven came down and glory filled my soul”

One of the oldest stories I heard from my grandfather was the story of Prajapathi Sacrifice. “The Prajapathi (god of the people) will come to the world one day to offer himself a sacrifice for the people”. The prayers of the pious Hindus always were: “I am sin, my works are sinful, my spirit is sinful, I was born in sin, save me O Lord”. I accepted the truth of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary to save me from my sin. Peace flowed into my inner being. I surrendered my life into the hands of Jesus Christ and He

accepted me. This belief in Jesus Christ revolutionized my life. This spiritual experience happened on 14th January 1968. I became a new man. This was through the ministry of Plymouth Brethren in Bombay (K.G.Kurian was one of them) and I continued fellowship with them.

My first lesson in Christian Life

The next week, late Mr. K. G. Kurian, who led me to Christ, conducted a series of Bible studies. I am thankful to him for sowing in my heart the seed of Christology and the hunger to know more about the Lord Jesus Christ. First day itself he impressed upon me that growth in spiritual life very largely depended upon the study of the Word of God, the Bible. Even otherwise I wanted to know more about Jesus Christ who saved me and started reading the Bible every spare moment I had. Even before this life changing experience I was a very voracious reader and had read upon every subject except religion. Now Bible study became my sole object.

The nudging of the Spirit

In one of Church meetings one brother prayed: “Lord, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Send forth laborers for the harvest”. I immediately sensed that this was a quotation from the Bible and I searched the Bible and found the verse (Matt.9.37-38). A little later I learned the meaning of it. I started praying the same prayer over and over again. I knew that the message of Christ, the message that saved me, must be taken to others who have

not known Him. Somehow the Holy Spirit indelibly impressed upon my mind that any work of God must begin with Him and He should be the one to call and send laborers to the harvest. Wherever I had the opportunity, whether with individuals or in groups, I testified how the Lord saved me and He is willing to save anyone who comes to him in repentance.

The Call for Service

In May 1968, four months after my spiritual experience, I knew that I must be baptized, i.e. I must publically confess Christ in baptismal waters. None told me about this. But I was sure as I understood the Word that this is true. I was a stammerer and could not speak fluently. But I got up in the congregation and told them that I was born again and I must be baptized. I loved the Lord and that I must obey Him. A miracle happened on that day. My impediment of speech which I had from age 3 onwards was immediately removed from me and the Lord told me to go and tell the good news to others.

I was baptized on 21st July 1968 and on that day the Lord spoke to me through a book I was reading on that day: “Go Ye means You”. “You have been praying that I should send laborers to the harvest. Now I am calling you, come forward”. I refused because I had the responsibility of looking after my wife and two children. I could never pray that prayer again. I knew I was a hypocrite and I lost my joy. Through a severe illness of my wife, the Lord again dealt with me and I surrendered. In November 1968 I

responded to the call for service. This was the occasion for the Lord to open the heart of my wife and she too became a believer in Jesus Christ.

My early days of service

1969 to 1971 were two hard years of my life. These years I went to a Bible School to prepare for the ministry. Financial constraints, and paucity of able teachers in the Bible School put a stop to my studies and I went back to my secular job. Though my standard of living increased because of a change of job I became restless; and disobedience to the Call of God troubled my mind immensely. This continued for two years. The Lord gave me a second chance in November 1972.

The Final Surrender

We had a period of revival in our Assembly in November 1972. The message on the last day (26th November 1972) was in the form of a dialogue between me and the Lord. The moment the preacher opened the Bible and read: “Choose you this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house we will serve the Lord” (Bible – Joshua 24.15), I knew the message was for me.

The preacher: “I called you for my ministry, but you went back”

Myself (in my mind): “Lord, it was difficult. I had no money”

The Preacher: “Did you borrow from somebody”?

Myself (in my mind): “No, Lord I did not”

The Preacher: “Then what is your complaint”?

Myself (in my mind): “I don’t want to see my wife children suffering for want of money”.

The Preacher: “The Lord is able to take care of you”

Myself (in my mind): “Yes, but....”

The Preacher: “The Lord’s promise is true”

Myself (in my mind): “Yes”

The Preacher (reading): “I have been young, and now am old; I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread” (Bible – Psalm 37:25).

Myself (in mind): “Yes, Lord this promise is enough”.

After the preacher finished his preaching I got up and gave my testimony that the Lord has called me for his service and I surrendered. Oh! The joy that comes out of obedience is wonderful. That verse in Psalm 37 has sustained me and my family all these many years since 1972.

The next day I resigned my position with “M/s Johnson and Johnson” (the Cosmetics People) and entered the Lord’s ministry. The Lord has kept his promise and provided all the needs of me and my family. Praise be to His name. I have been in the Ministry for the last 42 years and it has been a continuous study in the School of God.

....to be continued

In the service of God

It pleased the Lord to give me the gift of teaching when he called me. This gift was immediately put to test. In 1974 some of the Chief Men among the Brethren started the “Assembly Bible and Training Institute” in Pune,

Maharashtra and I was asked to teach. I began with some trepidation but the Spirit strengthened and encouraged me at every stage and I found to my surprise that I could communicate very well. My teaching ministry in the Bible Schools and in the Church kept me always laboring hard in the Word.

Together with my Ministry the Lord opened a way for me to take charge as Trustee of Gospel Literature Service, then the foremost of the Publishing Houses of the Brethren in India. This was an eye opener for me regarding the needs of believers in India. I am indebted to two brothers who were a great help in my writing ministry. The first one was Dr. Babu Varghese who was then with GLS. He introduced me to the writing world. He encouraged me to write first in the house organ of GLS and then later to start a Seeker Series of books. When I came to Kerala in 1992 it was Dr. Johnson C. Philip who encourages me to write. He always reminded me that ‘our writings will outlive us’. I began with a series of five booklets about the beginning of Christian life. These five booklets were later turned into a correspondence course. Later these were combined into one book “Man and his destiny”. The books I have written while in Kerala would never have seen the light of the day but for Dr. Johnson.

You must meet the Person who changed my life: Who is He?

Two thousand years ago a man was born in Bethlehem (a small town of Israel) in a Jewish family. Seven hundred years before He was born Jewish prophets prophesied about him. Where he will be born and how he will be born etc. was written of him by the prophets. These prophecies were fulfilled. He was born of a virgin. His conception was miraculous but he had a normal birth. They called Him Jesus. He grew normally. He was a carpenter by profession. After the age of twelve we don't know much about him because there were no records. When he was thirty he began his public ministry as a Rabbi of the Jews. He was far above his contemporaries in wisdom. He spoke with authority. Public opinion from the Jews slowly turned against him.

He chastised the religious leaders of His day for their hypocrisy and pronounced woes upon them. He called sinful man unto Him and promised them forgiveness of sin and happiness and eternal life. The sick, the lame and the blind flocked unto Him. He healed all manner of diseases and raised the dead. The Jews thought that He desecrated their Sabbaths; but He only performed acts of mercy. The religious leaders sent their best of scribes and lawyers to catch Him in His words. He answered their questions but not in a way they expected. Their questions were to trap him but they were trapped in their own questions. They were flabbergasted. "Never man spoke like this man" was their reaction. They returned empty handed. The religious leaders did not want Him in their midst. Even false witnesses failed miserably to nail Him down. Exasperated the Jewish High Priest put Him under oath and asked Him

whether He was the Son of God. He replied in affirmation and they accused him of blasphemy. They tricked the Roman Governor to crucify Him, though he pronounced Him not guilty three times. Who is He?

He is a historical person and is not a product of mythology.

Historians are generally said to be subjective rather than objective. But when they live very close to the time of happenings and are not very much in favor of the person or event that they report they try to be as objective as possible and record the events dispassionately. This is what the historians say of Jesus:

Flavius Josephus a Jewish historian was the commander of Jewish forces in Galilee. He writes in his *Antiquities of the Jews*:

3.(63) *“Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works — a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ;*

(64) and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day”. (Book 18, Chapter 3, p.117)

Cornelius Tacitus, was a Roman historian and in 112 AD writes of the existence of Christians at Rome and alludes to the death of Christ. Tacitus had no interest in Christianity and he was writing the history of Rome. But he writes that Christ was crucified by Pilate, during the reign of Tiberius.

“But not all the relief that could come from man, not till the bounties that the prince could bestow, nor all the atonements which could be presented to the gods, availed to relieve Nero from the infamy of being believed to have ordered the conflagration, the fire of Rome. Hence to suppress the rumor, he falsely charged with the guilt, and punished with the most exquisite tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were hated for their enormities. Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also” (Annals XV. 44).

Lucian, a second century satirist though to scorn Christ and Christianity spoke the historical truth. He said Christ is *“the man who was crucified in Palestine because he introduced this new cult into the world”*.

Seutonius (AD 120) was another Roman historian and annalist of the Imperial House, said that *“the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Christus”*.

F.F. Bruce a Christian Scholar points out an interesting manuscript in the British Museum where in a letter of Bar-

Serapion he speaks of Christ. *Tertullion*, a theologian, *Thallus*, a gentile writer, *Justin Martyr* in his defense of Christianity, *Jewish Talmuds* etc. write about Christ. There is more than sufficient evidence in history to prove beyond all doubt that Jesus Christ was a historical figure. No serious scholar has ventured to postulate that Christ is not a historical figure. He came into this world and divided history into B.C. and A.D. *Anno Domini*, means in the year of our Lord, meaning Jesus Christ.

He was born of a virgin. His birth was the fulfillment of many prophecies. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born prophet Isaiah, one of the Jewish prophets, prophesied that a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel. The birth of the Lord Jesus was the fulfillment of this prophecy. Immanuel means God with us.

Even many of those who believe that Jesus Christ is a historical person refuse to believe that He was born of a virgin. They argue that it is not relevant whether he was born of a virgin or not but it is the belief in Him that brings salvation to a person. This argument is self-defeating. Jesus is not the natural son of Joseph and Mary, and if he was, he cannot be the savior of mankind. If he was natural born son of the above he would inherit their sin nature and cannot atone for the sin of man. They refuse to believe because according to them virgin birth is a biological impossibility, and therefore it did not take place. “Virgin birth is a biological impossibility and therefore it did not take place” is a poor argument. It is not natural but is a miracle.

Virgin birth was the only means for the Son of God to come in the form of a man. Virgin birth of Christ was accomplished through a miracle. Anslem said God can make a man in different ways.

- a. **Creation** — God made man without the agency of man or woman as in the case of Adam. God created Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and Adam became a living soul: (Gen.2.7)
- b. **Formation** — God made Eve from one of the ribs taken from Adam. No agency of woman was involved here.
- c. **Generation** — By natural generation, when a man joins a woman children are born.
- d. **Impartation** — By imparting divine power, when man and woman has lost the power of reproduction, as in the case of Abraham and Sarah.
- e. **Incarnation** — By virgin birth, when the agency of man is dispensed with.

All of these are miracles of God. When you can believe one, you can believe all. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God (Bible, Hebrews.11.3). By faith also we understand that God made man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Bible, Genesis.2.7). For one who has faith in the Word of God, the virgin birth of Christ is not an impossibility.

His life was sinless and pure. I told you before that I was an idol worshipper and worshipped many gods behind those idols. But I turned away from them. To take comfort in the thought that it was ‘karma’ and fate was a poor substitute for inner peace. The life of Jesus Christ as I heard in the gospel message was one hundred percent pure and only such a life will be accepted by the Holy God of heaven. For Jesus Christ to offer himself as a substitute, he himself had to be sinless.

Enemies of Jesus were always on the prowl to see any defect in his life. Once, the religious Pharisees brought a woman taken in adultery before the Lord Jesus to ask his opinion whether she should be stoned to death according to the Law of Moses. They thought they put Jesus in an inescapable dilemma. He cannot go against the Law of Moses which was given by God. Penalty for adultery was death by stoning. Yet, He claimed that He came to save sinners. His words: “He that is without sin among you cast the first stone on her” silenced them who were clamoring for her life. Convicted by their conscience they went away one by one beginning from the eldest unto the last. “Incarnate purity was confronting sinful humanity”. The search light of Jesus, who said I am the light of the world, was turned upon them and they knew that they too were sinners. “Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more” from His mouth brought comfort to the sinful woman (Gospel of John 8.1-11).

Though his human nature was sinless, it had all the infirmities or weakness of a sinless human nature. This

weakness of course was limited to His physical nature. Morally this nature was perfect. He was free from all hereditary depravity and sin. This was because He did not inherit his human nature either from Mary or any other human being. He never prayed for forgiveness; he never offered any sacrifice for his sin, but challenged others: “which of you convince me of sin”? His human nature was ideal. Sin is not essential to human nature it is a fifth-columnist that entered Adam and his progeny. Jesus Christ was sinless and pure.

His parables were his miracles in words. When the opposition mounted against Him, the Jewish Chief priests and Pharisees sent the officers to arrest him. They came back without Jesus and replied: “Never man spoke like this man” (Gospel of John.7.46). He spoke and the demons came out of men. And they were all amazed and questioned among themselves. What thing is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority commands he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him (Gospel of Mark.1.27). He taught them not as the scribes but as one who had authority. Often he prefixed his statements by, “I say unto you”.

Often he spoke in parables. The Master of Life is a Master story teller. His parables have no comparison. In the parable of the prodigal, when we see the father running to receive the returning wayward son all our defenses are down and our stubborn will crumbles. He used common life situations to illustrate profound spiritual truths.

Religious antagonists laid down their arms, and left the adulterous woman at the feet of the Lord Jesus when they heard his words: “He that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone at her”. They were convicted by their conscience.

Another instance is this: Pharisees and Herodians, natural enemies, joined together to trap Jesus in words. They asked him: “Is it lawful to pay tribute unto Caesar?” Jesus replied: “Render therefore unto Cesar the things which are Cesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s”. These words silenced the hypocritical robbing Jews and stealing Herodians.

The common man was amazed at his words. The Pharisees were indignant, because it touched the core of their life. The repentant sinners were comforted. The rebellious were rebuked. The demons trembled at his words. The needy always found solace in his words. Centuries have gone by and men are still trying to find the depth of his words.

His miracles were his parables in deeds. While his parables are stories of the things of this present life speaking of heavenly realities his miracles are deeds done by the Lord from heaven and are his credentials to authenticate who he is. Nicodemus the teacher of Israel once came to him at night and said unto him, “Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou does, except God be with him”.

There are those who argue that miracles are not possible and miracles are not credible. According to them miracles are not possible because they are violations of natural laws. Since natural laws are immutable it is impossible for immutable laws to be violated. Therefore, they come to the conclusion that miracles are not possible.

But we know very little of nature. *No miracle is counter to the law of nature*, but they are events which run counter to *what is known of nature*. Our knowledge of nature is limited. There may be higher laws which remain unknown to man. Miracles are direct intervention of God in human affairs. The miracles of God demonstrate the power and love of God in action. Miracles are possible.

There are yet others who argue that miracles are not credible. Their arguments follow this line: One's knowledge is the product of his experience. This experience conveys the regularity of nature. Therefore the report of a miracle is much more likely to be a false report. And thus the credibility of miracles is questioned. Miracles of Jesus and other miracles in the Bible can be verified. There are evidences. To close one's eyes against this evidence is not reasonable.

The miracles and wonders and signs which God did by Jesus showed that he was sent by God. These signs not only authenticate who He is but also display his power in different spheres of life. These miracles are recorded so that "you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;

and that believing ye might have life through his name” (Gospel of John 20:30,31).

His death was the penalty for the sin of man. Jesus Christ was crucified by Pontus Pilate the Roman Governor and it is a historical fact. It is also part of history that Pilate who examined the charges against him pronounced three times that there was no fault in Jesus. He was also willing to set him free. Then why was He crucified? He acted contrary to the laws of the country.

In the crucifixion of Jesus, Pilate, the soldiers, the High Priests, the Jews generally were all involved. But there is a heavenly reason.

God created man upright. But our first parent transgressed the commandment of the Lord and became a sinner. “Therefore by one man sin entered the world and death by sin”. We are Adam’s children and are born with a sinful nature. Sin is the transgression of the Law of God and penalty imposed by God is death. God is a just God and he must punish sin. But because He is the God of love he decided to save sinful man. God became man in the person of Jesus Christ and took upon him the sin of humanity and sacrificed himself. The death of Jesus Christ was the penalty God imposed upon Him for the sin of man. There is no other way by which the sin of man could be atoned.

His resurrection proved all His claims. Death was not the end of Jesus Christ. While he was alive in the world he said: “No man takes my life from me but I lay it down of

myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again”. He rose again conquering death. His resurrection also is a miracle. There is ample historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The empty tomb, the testimony of the angels, his appearances before many etc. are evidences of his resurrection. He was “declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Bible, Romans 1:3,4).. His resurrection proved that all His claims are right. He is who He said He is! He is the Son of God in human flesh!

He is the Creator who visited the earth he created. The universe is vast and man with his knowledge has not found out the ends of the universe. The earth we live in is a very small planet in our solar system. There is not much that we do not know about this solar system. This system itself is based in the Milky Way Galaxy which is very vast. This Galaxy itself is only one of the billions of Galaxies in the observable universe. The observable universe itself is small compared to the vast universe.

All the planets in our solar system run its course as if they are perfectly directed by an unseen hand. But there are those who believe that the whole universe came into existence with a big bang millions of years ago and everything evolved to the present state of affairs. The hypothesis of evolution is neither proved nor provable. It will forever remain as a hypothesis. Because it runs counter to all known scientific laws.

The Bible says that there is an intelligent, all wise and all powerful personal Creator who created the vast universe including the earth out of nothing. And he created man also out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul (Bible Genesis 2:7). This same Creator upholds everything by the word of His power. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. He visited the earth 2000 years ago to redeem man.

He is the One who promised that He would come again.

Jesus Christ is coming again. Before he left the earth he told his disciples: “Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (Gospel of John 14:2,3). And his promises are gentleman’s promises. Only when He comes back will our salvation be consummated. The Church which is the body of Christ will be taken home to be in heaven with him.

He is your Savior today and judge tomorrow. He is the Savior of those who trusts in Him for salvation. Man need not die in his sin and go to eternal damnation. Today He calls everyone to repent of their sins and come to Him for salvation. When He comes and takes the Church away from the world then he will be the judge of all those who are left behind.

Death is not the end of life. One day all the dead will stand before the great white throne. This is how Bible describes the scene. “And I saw the Great White Throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away: and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and the death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Bible, Revelation 20:11-14).

But the God of love does not want you to go there. He calls you for salvation today. Either you meet him today as your Savior or as your Judge tomorrow. You must meet Him. You cannot escape him.

The choice is yours:

Dear friends, I have been trying to tell you about my spiritual journey and who is Jesus Christ, who saved me from my sin. Let me explain an incident that is recorded in the Bible, Gospel of Mark 2:1-11. Once, when Jesus was in one house, people flocked to hear him, and to be healed of their sickness. Four men carried a paralyzed man with his bed and laid him before him. Seeing their faith Jesus told

the paralyzed man, “Son thy sins are forgiven thee”. The religious leaders who were there reasoned in their hearts: “Why does this man speak blasphemy? Who can forgive sins, but God only”. Jesus knew their thoughts. Therefore he asked them: “Which is it easier to say, son thy sins are forgiven, or to say take up thy bed and walk”? The first is something happening in the spiritual realm – “thy sins are forgiven” (the unseen world) and the other “take up your bed” in the physical world. The religious readers kept quiet. Jesus said: “you may know that the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) has power on earth to forgive sins, he says to the paralyzed man: “Take up thy bed and walk”. Immediately he took up his bed and walked. The words of Jesus Christ are not empty words. They are powerful words. He can forgive sins, because He is God. He can forgive sins, because he is sinless. He can forgive sins, because he paid for sin and died for the sin of mankind. He can forgive sin because he not only died for your sin but rose again conquering sin and death. He is alive today and is calling you. He is able.

Once while Jesus was in the Jewish Synagogue there was a man which had his hand withered (Gospel of Mathew 12:10-13). Jesus said to the man: Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth: and it was restored whole, like as the other”. The man believed Jesus’ word and he was restored. As you read these words, whoever you are, and wherever you are, if God speaks to you trust him to save you from your sins.

Beloved friends, Jesus is able to forgive your sins. He loves you and calls you. Jesus can be trusted. Whatever He has promised He will do. Will you trust Him? Nobody will compel you. The choice is yours.

It is my earnest prayer that you will find life and happiness when you meet the Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!

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