



**DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?**

**Prof. M.Y. YOHANNAN**

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## FOREWORD

There is birth; there is death; Life is the ocean between them. A journey from this shore to the other shore!

There is the poor; there is the rich. The rich enjoys high position and status in life. The poor struggles to eke out a living. But there is hardly any difference between them in one respect. In their effort to swim across the ocean of life to the other shore!

Death of the body is inescapable. But that death should be a comfortable affair. We should be able to conclude the business of physical living without troubling others as well as ourselves.

The life here is an ocean. There are vortexes, trenches, and roaring waves; sometimes whirl winds too. Man struggles to reach the other shore swimming and rippling in it.

Biblically speaking, when you reach the other shore crossing the Jordan of Death, what awaits you is the Land of Canaan where milk and honey flows. Prior to it is the forty years in the barren desert. Traversing the desert is laborious. What all ordeals the Israelites had to go through! Among the six hundred thousand who set out no

one except Joshua and Caleb was able to set foot on the Canaan.

That is why the lyricist has sung:

“Bhoomiyil orkukil enthoru sadhyam  
Sankatam matramanee loka sambhadhyam  
Lokamathyulkada sankadakadalil  
Thazhukil thanmathi jeevitha padakil”

Reckon what is possible on the earth  
Sorrow being the sole asset  
Even if the world sinks into intense sorrow  
Suffice it if thou art aboard the ship of life.

One who has Christ in his heart will complete it blissfully. If we have to continue this voyage braving the waves that pitch, roll, and roar, we must obtain the amazing presence of Jesus Christ. Whosever life the dead and resurrected Christ has patronage on is blessed indeed! That is why C.T. Studd said:

“Just one life, it will soon, soon be past. That which is done for Christ will last.”

Studd and his brother were well-known cricket stars. They were the heart-throb of cricket lovers. It was quite unexpectedly that his brother fell ill. Studd watched with tearful eyes the youngster, who had not long before been the thrill of the pitch, battling death. Though they were millionaires, neither their money nor the medical science could save the life of this young man.

The earlier quoted words were spoken sobbingly by

Studd standing by the sick bed of his brother. Studd dedicated his life to Christ after the death of his brother, relinquishing name, fame, and prominence with a view to realizing the ultimate value of life. He joined the China Inland Mission and went to China for gospel work. Studd was constrained to return due to the restless work there and the inclement climate.

His body reduced to skin and bones, once, when Studd went to church for worship, he noticed a bill on the wall of the church. It said, "The flesh of missionaries in demand to feed the cannibals of Africa. Who is ready?" Studd looked at his body and said, "If the little flesh in my body is sufficient I am prepared to give it to cannibals."

The proceeding in the general body meeting was to ascertain who would be ready for missionary work in Africa. Studd dedicated his life again to the work of God. And that noble life burned down in Africa in God's service.

When they entered the life beyond death, the devotees would say, "O death, where is your victory?" Our loving Christ would say, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!" "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is no deceit. "What a blessed experience God has in store for his elect!

Lord Tennyson said in his poetically rich style:

Death, be not proud

A short sleep,

And I will wake up eternally,  
 A short voyage  
 And I will meet my maker face to face.

What is said in Bhrahadharanyakopanishadh is:

“Asathoma sathgamaya  
 Thamasoma jyothirgamaya  
 Mrithyorma amrithamgamaya.”

From vice to virtue, from darkness to light, from death to immortality, lead me, my Lord.

Thomas Gray, the renowned poet has written a poem 'Elegy written in a country church yard'. In the poem:

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,  
 And all that beauty, all that wealth ever gave,  
 Awaits alike the inevitable hour,  
 The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power- blowing the trumpet of one's nobility and the arrogance of power.

And all that beauty, all that wealth ever gave- advantages like good looks and riches.

Awaits alike the inevitable hour- Waits for death that no one can ever escape.

The paths of glory lead but to the grave- Even the greatest of all finally will die and will be entombed.

Socrates faced death with a smile. Christ gave up his life with the greatest satisfaction, “It is finished”. Those

who have Christ in their heart will not lose their nerve in the face of death, which is inescapable. They will land on the ever bright harbour in great joy. At last they too would say, "O death, where is your victory?" The death of a saint is described in Psalm 17:

"As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness."

The verse is still more lucid in the Living bible:

"But as for me, my contentment is not in wealth, but in seeing you and knowing all is well between us. And when awake in heaven, I will be fully satisfied, for I will see you face to face."

2016 has been a landmark in my life. I saw death face to face consequent on a heart attack following a bypass surgery. I continue in peace with the new lease of life God has given to me. This book resounds my life song. There are a number of spiritual brothers who helped in bringing out this book. Let me register my heartfelt gratitude to them.

I am very thankful to Mr. Chakkappan for taking so much time to translate my book.

Let all readers who study this book carefully get the grace of God to face death with cheer and hope.

Yours faithfully,  
**M.Y. Yohannan**

## Chapter – 1

*“Kalamellam kazhiyum,  
Innu kanmathellam azhiyum,  
Pinne puthuygam viriyum,  
Thirike varathe nam nithyathayil marayum.”*

Time will be past,  
Whatever we see will break up,  
And the new era will rise,  
And we will pass on to eternity never to return.

I often recite this song at the outset of my message.  
It is with a view to reminding me and you of a great reality.

Everything will pass! Days will tick away one by one.  
We will pass on to our eternity.

Everything we see around us are destined to be destroyed. The earth, the makings on its surface and the metals, minerals and salts below it will be burned up. There will be a holocaust. The earth's atmosphere will cease to be.

Two thousand years ago when Apostle Peter prophesied in spirit that everything will be burned up, people refused to believe it.

Now science says the same. There is the likelihood

of a star from outer space bigger in size than that of the earth hitting the earth. Scientists have discovered that the earth can be destroyed in a head on collision with one of the meteors which travel unimaginably fast. Everything is going to be fulfilled.

*"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."*

*2 Peter 3:10(NIV)*

That day comes when one least expects it. There will be a blast when you are the least prepared for it. The base elements - minerals, metals and salts will disintegrate. The day when the earth and the works on it will melt away! The Malachi prophesy says about it:

*"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them."*

*Malachi 4:1 (NIV)*

The arrogant and the wicked will burn to a cinder like hay. Nothing will remain. Everything will be burned up.

There will be a conflagration like the deluge that inundated the entire earth once. Now even the scientists corroborate it. Things are being fulfilled one by one.

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

*Revelation 21:1-4 (NIV)*

The apostle John has visions of things that are going to come. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. The apostle sees the New Jerusalem, the Holy City being established on the earth.

The great voice of the Lord says about the life of the times: The new heaven and the new earth! God tabernacles there with man. There will be no tears then.

One day we will be taken from the earth. Each one of us, one by one, will pass on to the world beyond through the door of death.

We have body; inside the body there is life, there is soul. Body, mind and soul. When the life separates from the body the soul will pass on to eternity. As body goes

back to the soil, the life flies away; and our soul will enter eternity.

Eternity! There is no end to it! There is no finality for it. The soul will see the new world and in it the marvels unseen until now.

The mother hen which sits on the egg tells the chick that is being formed in it:

“Baby, after a few days you will break open the shell and come out. The egg you are sitting in now is not your home. You are going to see an expansive world.”

The chick wouldn't be convinced.

“Mother, you are merely trying to comfort and please me. It is all a pigment of your imagination.”

“Oh, no, in fact I am sitting in the very same world I am describing to you. A world beyond your ken! A world now beyond your imagination! In this world to which you cannot fly now you will be able to fly like a bird after you arrive. Now you have no wings, no feathers. Whereas I have both. I can fly a wee bit. You will certainly come out of the narrow space you are in.”

However you describe, the chick wouldn't be convinced. Similarly, people wouldn't be convinced of the things to come. That we will pass on to eternity and the eternity is expansive everlastingness is something people cannot normally comprehend. We come to apprehend it only when we hear the word of God which Jesus Christ gives us sitting in that eternity.

Jesus says, the spirits of the saints say, the holy people of God say, the word of God says and the Bible says the same. Therefore we believe it.

As each day passes we are nearing our death and the second coming of the Lord. This body will become lifeless. The tongue that talks now will go dumb. The eyes that see and the ears that hear will close forever. The hand and feet which move now will go motionless. The soul will soar away from the body towards eternity.

Eternity - either heaven or hell! The Lord gives us the word so that we may not end up in hell.

In order to appropriate eternity we must prepare on this earth itself. After departing from this world, we cannot prepare for it. The apostles had been prepared for eternity. The martyrs, the prophets and the blessed and the departed holy people had been prepared for eternity. We too should be prepared for eternity. It is possible only during our life time; definitely not after it.

*“Saranathale nin kripayil,  
Maranam adanjoru dhasare nin,  
Jeeva swaram athunarthaname,  
Kabareennudhyanathinnay.”*

In thy refuge and in thy grace,  
Thy servants who died,  
Thy living Voice should awake  
From the grave to the garden.

Only those who lived under the refuge of Christ and

died in his refuge can enter the Kingdom of God. We in this world should prepare ourselves to gain admittance to the heavenly paradise.

We are in the refuge of Jesus Christ when Jesus resides in our heart. When we depart from this world in this intimate relationship with God, we will be admitted to the eternal heaven. If you are not in his refuge and if Christ doesn't reside in your heart you will end up in hell. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. It will be in the terrible Hell Fire which is described as undying maggots and unquenchable fire, you will undergo endless torment!

It is the same our forebears sang:

*“Nin sarane mritharam thathasahodhararil  
Choriyaname modha panineer en natha!”*

Anoint our ancestor fraternity dead in thy refuge

With the lavender of thy bliss, my Lord.

*“Neethiyil widhi cheuum nyayadhipathe, nee  
Ettaruthe widhiyil kadamortheedaruthe.  
Blaheenatha neekki thunacheyyuka nadha  
Rappakal adiyangalkasrayam angallo.”*

Thou Judge, who dispenses justice

Never reckon our sins and put us in trial.

Cure us of our frailties and support us, O Lord,

Thou art our refuge day in day out.

*“Ninnil saranathal nidhrayilayninte  
Warawinu katheedum mritharil kaniyaname,”*

Be merciful to the dead and asleep  
In thy refuge awaiting your advent.

The prayer is to show mercy to those who are dead and asleep in the refuge of the Lord and are awaiting the coming of the Lord. The saintly apostle Paul who thus fell to sleep in the refuge of the Lord says:

*“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

*2Timothy: 6-8 (NIV)*

Apostle Paul has written fourteen epistles. These are the last verses of the last chapter of the last epistle he wrote.

The apostle was in Roman prison. It was certain that he was going to be beheaded by Nero's soldiers.

That is why he said: “For I am already being poured out like a drink offering,”

Death sentence has been pronounced. Yet I am unruffled. I fought a good fight with Satan. I protected myself from sin. I fought a good battle. I kept myself from erring in any event. I devoted myself to fight ahead in Christian life. I didn't weary in the teeth of difficulties.

I went through many sufferings. How many accidents! There were moments when death stared me in the face. The Lord always came to my rescue. I have lived a good life on this earth. Won the race!

I came to faith. I kept that faith. I had been a reviler and a tormentor earlier. I was in the forefront in the stoning St Stephen. I was hurrying along with the authority letter to persecute the faithful.

But after I repented- after I dedicated my life to Jesus Christ- I fought a good fight. I won the race. I kept the faith.

I came in to faith in Christ. I never went back on it. I never retracted. The trials apt to renege faith were so many. Many ridiculed me. There were miseries. Many scoffed at me.

In spite of all these, I kept my faith. I never gave in to be separated from Jesus Christ.

Departed from this world when my soul flew in to the other shore I would gain the crown of righteousness. The Holy Ghost the *Parcalete* would crown me with the laurel He has spun for me. The crown of righteousness!

*“Yajamanan warumannerathunarvullorayi  
Munthiri thoppil paniyayi kanmore dhanyaram  
Pakalellamthan koode panithorawar-  
Kawan araketti parikarmicheedum  
Thathaniruthum mesakkai parikarmikum suthan  
Roohkudisha paracaleta mudayunnoro- mudi  
Halleluiha choodum makudathil.”*

Blessed are those found awake and at work,  
 In His vineyard when the Lord comes,  
 The Son who serves at the table hosted by the Father,  
 Will attend on, his sash girded, those who toiled with Him,  
 And the Holy Ghost the *Parcalet* will crown, Halleluiah,  
 The head of each with the laurel He plaits.

The Holy Ghost, the Comforter will crown my head with the laurel He plaits. The Lord the Master, Jesus Christ will come one day; could be this day as well. It will be sudden. At a time which we haven't ever bargained for. At that time those servants who are awake and are at work in His vineyard are the blessed. God the Father will sit them at the table He hosts. Lord the Son will wait upon them. The Holy Ghost will crown their heads with the laurels He plaits.

The Lord who views everything righteously, who perceives all inner thoughts, will crown my head on that day! He will bless me. Not only will I, everyone who awaits the coming of the Lord get that crown. Dear ones, Christ will come again. Some may be caught sleeping. Some may be at work.

"I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left." Two will separate in to two. Today the seed and the weed are growing together. But the grain only will be stored in the granary. The chaff will be consigned to fire heap by heap.

At the second coming of the Lord Jesus, two may be together in the field. Work in the field is during the day. At the same time two may be in bed together. It is during the night.

When it is night for us, it is day in the opposite longitudes. Night and day at the same time. The Lord comes at the same time. At that time some may be asleep. Some may be grinding grain in the morning. If it is morning in one place, it is night at another place; day in yet another place. The time varies from place to place in different parts of the world. But the Lord comes at the same time.

Where will I be on that day? Among those who are taken or those who are left? It is to be decided here itself.

If I am among the ones taken I will get the invitation:

*“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”*

*“All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”*

*Matthew 25: 32-34 (NIV)*

There is a kingdom established since creation for the Lord's blessed. That is the Kingdom of God. Those who are on the right will be embraced to His fold.

The rejected ones will hear:

*“Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”*  
*Matthew 25:46 (NIV)*

*“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”*

*Matthew 25:46 (NIV)*

Eternal Torture!

Now we have fore-knowledge of all this. One day you go to bed. Or, you are busy at some work. Suddenly you feel uneasy. First, you ignore it as something not serious. But the pain increases. There is a feeling of breathlessness. Then you are struggling for life breath. No way to call anybody. It is as if the chest were torn up.

After some time people are coming one by one. All are crying. A dead body is lying there. Suddenly you realize that it is your dead body.

You can see your body. But you are not aware of your death. When you realize, the soul makes an attempt to re-enter the body. But it fails. After sometime you are being led away by somebody. It is through a tunnel you pass. Pitch dark! You hear dreadful screams from both sides. Wailings, scuffles! You realize that you are going to hell.

Whereas, a soul that is in the refuge of God passing through the tunnel you will be led to a wide and panoramic park. An extremely beautiful garden! The angels are dancing there. The angels and the God's elect are singing praise. Marvellous spectacles! Unseen, unheard, and never ever imagined in one's heart. The Heavenly Paradise!

It is while you remain alive in this body you have to make the choice whether it is to the brutal torture of hell or to the bounteous happiness of heaven you go. If you delay your choice you cannot prepare for it after death.

We should prepare for eternity while we remain in this body. It was at the age of seventeen I got this insight. Prior to it too I would go to church; pray twice promptly; A well-organized life. Never indulged in any outward sin.

But when I heard the Word of God, I realized that my soul had been dead. I realized that my soul hadn't received the forgiveness obtainable only by God's grace, that I hadn't yet belonged to God, and that I wouldn't be taken in to his fold.

The truth came as a big light into my heart as I heard the Word of God. My heart began to melt. I felt as if my heart were being torn apart. I felt as if my heart had been wounded. I sat there sobbing my heart out.

Lord, Breathe life in to my soul. I took pledge to live as a new human being henceforth. I didn't give up my church or my community. I stopped being cynical and

learned to see only the good in others and to love everybody. It was how the foundation for the Christian Revival Fellowship, which respects and loves all the churches, was laid.

There should be repentance in your life. It should never happen that we die without repentance. If you die without repentance, you will be going to hell in spite of your charitable acts or virtues, no matter however carefully you have abstained from committing express sins.

The miracle of repentance should happen here in this world. Jesus will come to your heart. Your life will be ennobled. Your life will be blessed.



## Chapter -2

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”* *Revelation 3:20 (NIV)*

Jesus will come inside. Provided we open the door for him. He will not force open the door. The Lord will come in only with the permission of man. The Lord will come only if we invite him whole-heartedly to your heart.

At the age of seventeen while listening to the Word at the church, I did precisely that. Lord, come in to my heart. My soul is dead. Give life to my soul. I began to cry sitting there. I kept my head bent low to avoid being seen by others.

Lord, I am your property! It was a clear transformation. It was a time when I was at a loose end after passing class ten.

I remember with wonder. Things turned upside down as I gave my life to Christ. The Lord began to lift a person who would, otherwise, have been confined to the lot of tilling with a pair of bullocks. He gave me education. He gave me a career. He gave me step by step promotion in

my career.

It was as the junior-most teacher I joined the Rajarshi Memorial High School. God gave me further education. I still wonder! I took B.A. and M.A degrees in private. The Lord enabled me to pass B.A., M.A., and B.Ed with rank.

When I repented and devoted my life to the Lord, He took over my life. He began to uplift me. I was promoted to High School. Later when a college was started in Kolenchery, I joined there. I ended up as the principal of that college.

Giving life to Christ is never unprofitable. It is profitable. It is bliss to be repented. Entrust your life in to the hands of Christ. Isn't your life in despair now? Isn't your life tearful? Sorrows and miseries? A life full of forebodings, fears and crises? Isn't your life riddled with diseases, sufferings, rivalries and domestic worries? In total life is a hell.

Once you give your life to Jesus Christ hell will change in to heaven. Your life will be bright, illumined, ennobled and blessed. God will take over your life. Then your concerns are the concerns of Jesus. Reason, the righteous God has become our father.

You can ask whatever you need to your father. If you persistently ask, can a father ever deny it to you? Never. So, the first thing is to become the son of the Heavenly Father. Unfortunately, when we pray addressing 'Our

Father, which art in heaven,' those words are empty. We haven't become the sons or daughters of the Heavenly Father. In order to address 'Our Heavenly Father' we should have the prerogative to address him so.

*"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12(NIV)*

We should receive Jesus Christ. Jesus should come in to our hearts. Jesus should come in to our lives. Jesus should take control of our lives.

Each organ of ours should come under the control of Jesus. Our eyes should not see anything which Christ wouldn't see. They shouldn't look at anything Christ wouldn't look at. Our tongue shouldn't speak anything God wouldn't like to utter. No abusive words, no obscene words should come out of our mouth. We shouldn't revile, despise or ridicule anybody.

Our hands shouldn't do anything undesirable. They have become the hands of Jesus once repented. They will do only what Christ would do. Similarly, our legs will carry you only where Christ would go to, since they have become the legs of Jesus. No thoughts which Jesus cannot think will come to our hearts. We have given away ourselves comprehensively to God. He has redeemed us with his blood. We belong to Christ lock, stock and barrel.

Dear ones, try giving yourselves unreservedly to Christ. You will witness your life being led up the

unimaginable steps of success. You will succeed in every realm of life.

There will be great peace in your heart. Peace even in the midst of difficulties, diseases, financial straits, rivalries, feuds with neighbours, or family discords! Reason, Jesus reigns in us.

There is no dissonance with the mother-in-law. There is no favouritism. There is no disagreement among parents and children. There is only love.

Don't you aspire after this peaceful life? There is a life of comfort Christ offers you. Heaven has great things in store for you. Things which eyes haven't seen, ears haven't heard, and no minds have ever imagined.

*“Unnatha rajyamathum saswatha jeevithavum  
Nirmalararjikkum- sathama misiha bhakthanma-  
Rarhikkunnu maha bhagyam!  
Jada nethram dharshikukayo,  
Sravanam kelkukayo, hridayam  
Therukayo cheythillethum.”*

Sublime Kingdom and eternal life  
Won by the saintly- such great bliss,  
True Messiah votaries' just deserts,  
Never been perceived by any eyes  
Heard by any ears  
Or imagined by any heart.

What is to come is a sublime Kingdom! And Eternal Life, which only the saints gain, and the true devotees of

God earn. We should become saints in this world. We should repent our sins and discard them. That is conversion. It has been a sinful life till now - vicious, faulty, dangerous, and malicious.

Till now it has been a life lived without obedience to parents. It has been a life lived causing hurt and suffering to parents. Many such people who have been living such lives, by the grace of God, knelt at the feet of their parents, asked pardon, and now are leading a blessed life.

Sins will be forgiven. However reprehensible your sins might be, they will be forgiven. However profligate and unclean your life might have been, they will be forgiven.

Those who have undergone abortion, those who assaulted their wives in drunken fury, those who sadistically tormented their wives, the Lord will forgive everything that has happened.

What all atrocious things have been done! Received bribes, abetted corruption, harassed others, persecuted them unjustifiably and cruelly, disobeyed parents, showed disrespect to husbands, deserted husbands or wives showing them no regard or respect.

What all have happened! Everything will be forgiven. Only repent.

*“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent”*

*Acts. 17:30 (NIV)*

It is to repent, the Lord asks you to do. It is his decree. The Lord never takes in to account the times lived in ignorance. Don't worry! If you beg, "Lord, forgive me", He will forgive even the sins done intentionally.

Reason; there is the blood of Jesus that flowed out of his heart to wash us clean of all our sins. The blood of the lamb shed on the cross. It washes us clean of all our sins. God will erase all of them from his memory. He is proclaiming with love to all: son or daughter, I am at your door knocking, the door of your heart.

*"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."*  
*Revelation 3:20(NIV)*

Let us open our heart to the Lord.

Lord, I know nothing. I know only that I am a sinner. I happened to commit many sins in my life time. I have no way to do recompense. I am helpless. What shall I do if you don't forgive me my sins? Here I am at your feet. Forgive me. I can only promise you that I won't sin again.

No improper word will come out of my mouth. I will not imprecate; I will not curse; I won't defame; I won't slander; I won't say a lie. Lord, I submit each of my organs to you. This is repentance!

*"That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the*

*cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar  
eaten.”* Joel 1:4(KJV)

Palmerworm, locust, cankerworm, caterpillar- four pests.

The crops were very good. The rice stalks were growing lush green. The farmer went to his lovely field. He had been looking forward to a good harvest. To his dismay he found the leaves shredded. The palmerworms had eaten away some of the crops.

Though disheartened, he consoled himself setting his hopes on the leaves left by palmerworms. He added some more manure.

Next time when he came locusts had eaten what the palmerworms had left. Much had been laid waste this time.

Again he didn't lose heart. He hoped they would straighten up when the new leaves came. The third time he visited the cankerworms had eaten what the locusts had left. Everything green had been eaten away.

It was saddening. Yet he didn't lose heart. New leaves would grow in course of time. But caterpillars came and ate away what had been left by the cankerworms. Even this did not make him lose heart. He still hoped he would get something by way of harvest.

But the very next verse is “Wake up, you drunkards, and weep!”

A large part of the savings frittered away in drinking. Land sold up to pay off the liquor bills. Everything squandered in bad company, wanton ways, debauchery, and orgy. It is ruckus at home after drinking. Daily tiffs, tantrums, fisticuffs and noisy scenes. Children lose concentration on their studies. To make matters worse, persuasion of friends leads to still worse behaviour. Liaisons, infidelity, adultery, divorce, and profligate living. A lot of money frivolled away in cinema and blue film. And finally down to the last penny.

*“That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.”*

Penniless. Health in doldrums. Good name, honour, and status lost. A situation where one cannot look anybody in the face due to shame. Up to the neck in debt. A complete wreck.

Now the Word of God avers:

*“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.” Joel 2:25(KJV)*

Here is the relevance of repentance! Though you have ruined everything, the Lord offers to restore everything. He holds out a time of well-being for you.

Reputation, wealth, health, peace, unity - everything gone to the dogs. Yet, daughter, you will have recompense. Son, everything will be made good. You only need to repent.

*“I have fought the good fight.”*

Nearing the end of life, edging towards the last moment of death, one must be able to say: Lord, you gave me repentance free of cost. Your blood has washed away all my sins. My vices have been rinsed. You have made me a new creation. My Lord, though I don't deserve these things you have been graceful enough to do these for me. Now I am nearing death. I should be able to say as St. Paul said:

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

*2Timothy 4: 7, 8(NIV)*

This is good news! That Jesus is apt to forgive sins is the good news! That Jesus Christ gives repentance, Jesus Christ gives new life is the good news!

Are you willing to receive this good news? If so, you can have supper with Christ today. He offers to come to your house. He will remove your burdens and anxieties. He will give you progress. He will give you peace.

Repairing all the defects of your past life, the Lord will give you days of well-being and steady progress in life.

*“Ahuanam cheyyum papikalil  
Kripaye vilakothon Dheva!  
Ardhrathayal kopathin vadiyum  
Thadanavum neekidaname  
Anandaiswarangal ezhum  
Masabhangale nalkaname  
Sleebayude van rooshmayal-  
Vidhwamsikuka dhushtane nin  
Ardhrathaye vazhthum njangal.”*

O, Lord, who doth not proscribe your grace  
On the sinners who implore you!  
By your mercy, revoke  
The rod of wrath and thrashing.  
Bestow upon me joyous  
And prosperous months and years  
By the great insignia of thy Cross  
Slay the evil one.  
We sing glory to thy mercy.

Lord, you are the one who doesn't deny your grace to the sinners who pray to you. The Evil one is thrashing me and tormenting me mercilessly. The rod of God's anger about my sin is falling on me.

Lord, take the evil Satan off my life. The Satan has played havoc with my life. My children are whiling away their time without any sense of responsibility. Lord, bring to my family months and years of joy and prosperity. By

the great power of the sign of your cross, cast off the evil Satan from me. Then we will glorify you, we will glorify you till our death.

Dear ones, if you want to fight the good fight you will have to come to repentance. To finish the race and win the crown of righteousness, you will have to come to repentance. Repentance is a deliciously valuable word. It should become the great experience of your life.

Let people ridicule spreading lies about us. What do we stand to lose if they ridicule and spread lies? Whoever mistakes us, the Lord Jesus Christ who sees everything straight lives for us. In his perspective we should live a sanctified and sinless life. Then we can obtain the grace of God who perceives the deepest thoughts of hearts and minds. We also transform in to a totally new creation.

In order to become a new creation one need not change church, community or faction. What needs to change is the heart. If we surrender our heart to Jesus he will miraculously change our heart. How simple is the Christian life!

Give away your life in to the hands of the Lord. At this instant you can become sanctified; turn righteous. You can appropriate the experience of having supper with Christ.

Your future will become bright. Your family will be a heaven. No horrors of the hell there. No yelling, no anger, no tantrums, no tiffs. Only peace, love and unity.

Your debts will be paid off. Paths of progress will clear in front of you. The Lord will bless your children. He will give you good times. He will shower his blessings bounteously on you. You will be the most blessed.

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,”*

I dedicate myself to you, my Lord, so as to obtain the crown of righteousness. I dedicate my body, mind, and soul. I forsake Satan; I accept Christ.

My Jesus, I am your property today onwards. I am a new creation today onwards. My Jesus, as you have died for me on the cross, I will live for you today onwards.



## Chapter - 3

*“Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.” A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning - In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered. We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.”* Psalms 90: 1-10(NIV)

The 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm is a prayer of Moses. This is a song

which Moses mourns after the burial of Aaron. How transient our life is on the earth is the substance of the prayer.

When Moses is at the golden age of 120, Aaron who is elder to him by only three years dies. Moses was the man of God who greatly influenced the life of his elder brother. They both came to the fore together in the service of God. But beside this grave they part ways.

Death is a junction where people part ways. At the junction of death everyone turns to the way he has paved for him.

The lifetime on this earth is invaluable. Every moment is precious here. The reason, it is here we make the choice of our eternity - whether it is going to be the Eternal Life or the Eternal Damnation. Whether bound for the Heavenly Zion or for the Torment of Hell, the preparation takes place during this life time.

Though we are aware of this truth, amidst the burdens and hardships and different kinds of pressures of life we go through in our day to day life we hardly bother to think about death. Imagine the scene of the dying man departing to pass on to the other shore watched on by his entire dear and near ones. A scene we hardly ever contemplate.

When we partake a burial service we think about death; we grieve. When it is all over we revert to our normal life. No one conserves for his soul.

Man has body, mind and soul. The body is bound to join the dust on this earth. The life or life breath will fly away from the body. But the soul enters eternity. Eternity is endlessness; it has neither end nor finality. Where should I spend our eternity is determined during the life time on this earth.

Death, Eternity, and Heaven are topics which the Lord Jesus Christ talked most of during his service on this earth. The Lord wondered what good it will be for anyone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul!

It shouldn't be the case that you lose your soul. It shouldn't happen that you go to the eternal hell and eternal torment. The horrible and dreadful experience of eternal fire, that is, undying maggots and unquenchable fire. It shouldn't happen that you go to eternal torture.

The objective of gospel messages and the Lord's ministry is nothing but to prepare everyone to reach the eternal heaven. Christian Revival Fellowship operates with this objective in view. We have no other motive; 'but we preach Christ crucified'. There is no doubt that we will go to eternal hell if Christ is not in our heart. Our soul should go to Eternal Life.

There are many people who go ahead under the illusion that Christ is in their lives. Virgin Mary lost three days under the illusion that Christ was with her.

It was together father Joseph, mother Mary and Jesus went to church. On the return journey there was big stampede. They had travelled under the impression that

Christ would be with them. After a day's journey they realized the fact that Christ was not with them. They wasted a day.

Next day they searched Jesus among the friends and relatives hoping to find Jesus among them; thus two days were wasted.

The first day of journey was under the impression that Jesus would be among them. The second day was of search among the friends and relatives. And the third day of journey back to the point where Jesus was lost. Three days! Retreat to the point where they lost Jesus and finding out Jesus.

Today many repented Christians journey under the impression that they have Jesus with them. They have frequent fellowship; preach gospel; teach in Sunday schools. And they journey eluding themselves of having Jesus with them.

Being regular in going to church, giving confession, receiving the Holy Communion, Jesus cannot be but with them, they think. A delusion! But the truth is that Jesus is not with them!

We must introspect whether Jesus is likely to be within me in my present state. When there is malice and grudge in me, can Jesus reside in me? When there is strife and discord in my family, can Jesus reside in my family? When there is harshness, resentment, and bitterness in my heart, can Jesus reside in my heart?

When there is vulgarity in my heart, can Jesus be with me?

When there is avidity and arrogance in my heart, can Jesus be with me? When there is ambition and selfishness in my heart, can Jesus be with me? When there is avarice and envy in my heart, when I harbour ill-feelings, prejudices, and misunderstandings, can Jesus be with me?

To disillusion ourselves is the first step to enlightenment. The awareness that Jesus cannot be (there) where sin is. Sin is darkness. There is no light where it is dark. We shouldn't ever travel under the impression that Christ is there with us.

The greatest bliss lies in realizing that Jesus is not with us and the reasons for it. Finding out the reasons and shedding those sins is again a blissful experience. Then we will get Jesus back, as we retreat to where we lost him devotedly.

Where did I lose Jesus? While talking to whom? Was it while talking to my mother? Or, while talking to my husband? Or, while dealing with my children? Or, while interacting with my students?

Where did I err in my words? When did I lose my temper? Thus going back to where you actually lost contact with Jesus is a great bliss. We travel and find out where Jesus is.

There is death. And beyond it is eternity. In the

eternity if we are not in the Kingdom of God it is an irreparable loss. Eternity is endless time. The life time on this earth is eighty at the most. In rare cases, a hundred or hundred and ten years. There is no life beyond it. But eternity?

Eternity, not thousand or ten thousand years, not even billions of years. Endless time! Eternity!

Eternity is reality.

Our life time will go in a jiffy and we will fly away from here. When the body joins the soil, soul flies away. Our desire and prayer is for the soul to enter eternal heaven. The church, the Holy mass, the sacraments, prayers, prayer meetings - all these are in view of this goal. Unfortunately we hardly ever give due consideration to this goal.

Dr. D L Moody was a reputed evangelist. His wife and son were beside him while he was in death bed. They had dozed off. Wakened by some sound they found him gasping. Though he opened his eyes in the meanwhile, he closed them again.

After a long while he opened his eyes and said: "Today is the day of my coronation. I am back from seeing heaven. There is great celebration there. The angels are cheering. There is great joy, delight and festivity there. Today is the feast of my coronation." He went on describing heaven till he closed his eyes again.

After sometime he opened his eyes and said: "Today

is my coronation day. You should rejoice. Why should you cry?" Thus he closed his eyes forever consoling those who mourned his death. A death full of peace and happiness!

David Livingstone was a highly esteemed servant of God who went to Africa for evangelisation. A young man by name Stanley accompanied him. In those days to travel from one settlement to another they had to cross the forest infested with lions, leopards, and hyena.

One day amidst a journey a lion pounced upon Livingstone and chomped his shoulder. Livingstone fell down and struggled in agony. Stanley shot down the lion. The servant of God lay fatally wounded. Stanley bandaged the wounds in great hurry, carried Livingstone, as if it were a dead body, to the hut and stretched him on the floor. Then grief stricken Stanley stood praying beside Livingstone.

In the meanwhile Livingstone opened his eyes and said:

*"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." Revelation 1:17, 18(NIV)*

His words were quite pleasant. Great hope! The assurance that Christ was with him. The assurance that Christ's hand had held him. Great courage, Supreme confidence. Anyway, Livingstone did not die at that time.

He did Gospel service for a few more years.

There was a philosopher, by name Herbert Spencer. He was an atheist. Before his death his friends asked him what epitaph he wanted to be inscribed on the headstone of his grave. He said: Only two words, “The Most Unhappy!”

Dear ones, believers die with great hope having in view the Kingdom of Christ. Whereas the non-believers die in great disappointment, whimpering and screaming.

Apostle Paul said when he was nearing his death:

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

*2 Timothy 4: 7, 8(NIV)*

In the Roman prison even when he was sure that he was going to be beheaded, the apostle says: “I have fought the good fight.” Dear ones, his was a death with great hope. A blessed death. A death with the assurance that his life was in the hands of God.



## Chapter - 4

*“The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”* Luke 12: 16-21(NIV)

This was about the death of a rich man.

The Lord tells this parable. The rich man had an abundant harvest. He had tilled very scientifically. And the result was an abundant harvest.

There arose a new problem. Where would he store the surplus grain? Such an abundance that the available barns wouldn't suffice! There was no chaff. There were no

pest-affected grains. Finest quality paddy grains! Where to store them?

Today many people are like this. What we have is a problem. How to add more to it is another problem. Has man ever been contented?

There is a famous poem by Ulloor:

*“Avaneesatha venamaddya, nurvee-  
Dhavanasippathu chakravarthiavan  
Avano bhoovanidhipathyalubhdhan  
Sivane, martyanu thrishna theeralundo?”*

The baron covets to be the king,  
The king aspires to be the emperor,  
The emperor fancies world dominion,  
O God, is there no limit for man's ambition?

The noble man covets to become the king. The king yearns to become the emperor. The emperor longs for world dominion. O God, is there no end for man's thirst for power?

Except for a God's child, except for the man in whose heart Christ resides, no one is contented. He wants more, always, not only wealth but all comforts.

The rich man in the parable is unable to sleep. He would demolish his present barns and build larger ones. He lay awake in the pleasant thoughts as to where and how he would build them. He had no reason for apprehensions of any sort. He had a harvest which would see him through many years. For many many years!

In these musings he fell asleep. He felt an uneasiness while asleep. His belly was distended. Was it due to acidity? He thought he would swallow a pill, but he was unable to get up.

His body couldn't be lifted. He was not able to get breath. Insufferable chest pain! While writhing in pain he heard: "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you." He reckoned "for many years". But God gave him only "tonight".

Dear ones, he was unprepared for death! He had prepared many other things. He had plenty of properties. He didn't lack anything. But he was not prepared for his death.

Consider whether you are prepared. Have you ever considered the likelihood of your dying any moment? You can be taken any moment. Be prepared!

The Lord addressed him as "You Fool!" From a worldly point of view, he was not a fool. He knew how to make agriculture most profitable. A wise rich man! But he had never contemplated the likelihood of his death. Therefore God called him "You Fool!"

Dear ones, we should have thoughts about death. Some may argue, why worry? Let's face it when it comes. But we should have the consciousness of death. Also the assurance of gaining admittance to God's Kingdom, wherever and however we die. Nothing we have here will accompany us there. Those who love us will be mute

witnesses. Doctors will express their helplessness. Nobody can do anything.

Dear ones, we should always be aware that it is going to happen in our life. There is a day when the man who came alone will return alone from this world. There is no one who can save us from death.

Death! The eternity beyond death! This is a reality. We should confront it any way. We don't know when it would be. How many episodes we have in mind! Our colleagues, our kith and kin who passed away quite unexpectedly!

We will pass away from this world once. The rich man became a fool because he was unprepared for death. He hadn't prepared for death. Would he say he had laid up for many years if he thought about death? He wouldn't be able to survive even one night.

Death may barge in to us any moment. Everything would be over in a wink. In an unprepared moment death enters and we will be taken to eternity. There would be no use holding whatever number of Holy Mass or doing whatever charity since then.

The renowned poetess sister Mary Baneenja sang:

*“Samardhanaya Caesarum prasidhanaya Homerum,  
Samathwamatta Solomon thudangiulla vignarum,  
Amarnnupoyi kalachakra vibhramathilenkilee,  
Namukku pinneyenthushanka? Mattamonnumillithil.*

*Orikkalee jagatheyum jadatheyum pirinjunam,*

*Thirikkanam; visammathangalonnume phalappeda,  
Thirichu pinne vannidatha yathrayanathakayal,  
Karathilullathokke namathirthiyil thyajikkanam.*

*Ihathile dhanam sukham yassassum abhijathyavum,  
Vahichukondu pokayilla marthyan anthya yathrayil,  
Ahantha kondazhukku pettidatha punyamomnu than,  
Mahatharam prayojanam parathilum varuthidum.*

*Janichanal thudangiyenneyomanichu, thushtiyo-  
Denikku vendathokkey nalkiyadharicha lokame,  
Ninakku vandanam! Pirinjupoyidatte njanini,  
Sanikkuzhappamesidatha bhaviye varikkuvan.”*

“If the brilliant Caesar and the famous Homer  
The wisest like the unrivalled Solomon  
Were run over under the ever rolling wheel of life  
Why demur we? Death is immutable.

We should depart this world and this body once  
No unwillingness to any avail  
It being a journey from which there is no return  
Everything we possess to surrender at the border  
The wealth, the comfort, the name, and the fame of  
this world  
Man can never carry on board this ultimate journey  
Righteousness unsullied by ego alone  
Will be of any avail even in the other world.

O this world, which nursed me from the day of birth  
And bestowed on me everything I needed  
I salute thee, let me bid farewell now

To wed a future untarnished by destiny.

We should set out on a journey discarding this world and this body. No delay will be entertained. A journey from which there is no return! We should surrender everything we have. Nothing can be carried across. Wealth, comfort, fame and high birth will be of no avail.

In this world if we win Christ which is the very embodiment of righteousness it will be of great benefit in the other world. There is only one righteousness; that is Christ! Let us win this ever righteous Christ in this world.

Wasn't there Caesar the great? Wasn't there the great poet, Homer? Wasn't there Solomon the wisest of the wise? They were all dead. I also will die, there is no doubt. Death is a certainty.

There was a great poet, Thomas Grey. There is a great elegy written by him, 'An Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard.' It is a poem recited addressing a cemetery of a country church.

He says: How many dead bodies are lying buried in this cemetery! Some of them would have reached very high positions, if they had not been dead. They are all lying motionless and dead here.

“Some village-Hampden, that with dauntless breast  
The little tyrant of his fields withstood;  
Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest,  
Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood.”

We will depart from this world; to the world beyond

death. Unless we have conserved for eternity, we will turn out to be fools.

The rich man had no thought of death. Besides, he had no thought of God. I will enjoy, eat, drink and make merry. I will do this. I will do that.

Everything is 'I'- 'for me', 'my', and 'I'. God is none of his concern. He had no consideration that wealth, riches, abundance, and harvest are all God given. He was not God conscious. He was not death conscious.

Many people are like the rich man. No fear of God. A God who sees me. A God who watches me. A God who perceives my heart. But they have no such thought. We should have the fear of God. A God who constantly perceives me. He perceives me in the dark and in the light. He perceives me in the dusk and the dawn. He perceives me at the table and on the bed. O Lord, you always perceive me.

It is because they have no fear of God, many people don't obey their parents and speak rudely to their mother. Some even beat their mother. They even beat their father who tries to stop it. Arrogance! Reason for all these. No fear of God. No consciousness that God sees everything.

Why do people commit robbery, prostitution, adultery, and murder in cold blood? Because they have no fear of God. Would man commit such atrocities if he thinks there is a God and that God sees them? Would he steal? Would he assault his wife, having come home drunk?

How many women bewail for the abolition of the affliction called drinking!

Use of *Ganja* and drugs, licentiousness, love affairs even before adolescence, boyfriends and girlfriends at school - The parents of school going children should be aware of these things. Parents should give serious consideration to them. A generation without fear of God!

1. The rich man was not death conscious.
2. He was not God conscious.
3. He was not conscious of his soul.

Dear ones, believe that everyone has a soul given by God. A soul in the image and semblance of God. Each one has a good side. But today such goodness is being disfigured. Satan is playing havoc with them.

God has given us a splendid soul. God created us in the image and semblance of God. God created man in His purity. But man gave place to Satan.

Though I had pledged 'I renounce Satan and accept Jesus as saviour', I made room for Satan again. Sin, thus, crept back in to my life. I am involved in fighting, losing temper, bickering, and challenging. I have invited many disasters in to my life. Everything on account of sin!

One should pay great attention to one's soul. The rich man was not conscious of his soul. He was unprepared for death. Do you care to consider whether your soul is disfigured, or marred?

In my youth I hustled off myself preaching gospel in several God-oriented localities. Do I still preserve myself in the faith? Today, there is a lot of paraphernalia on display; do I still preserve the spiritual zeal and jealousy I had in those days? Do I still have the same aspiration and reverence for the word of God?

Return soon to spiritual revival and purify your life.

In my youth I preached the word of God with the purest of intentions and spiritual concern. But in course of time, a gloom took me over unawares. Avarice and vanity crept in to me. I entertained the vanity that I was an orator. I expected people to hold me in high esteem. Though I didn't go in to any outward sins, my heart was in gloom, my heart was in doldrums.

My life revived on a day in the month of May, 19 years after my repentance, at the age of 36. I began to think that I required a long process of purification. I began to think that my unclean thoughts, my base desires, my avarice, my vanity, and my selfishness should be gone, but for which I will not be able to gain admittance to the Kingdom of God.

Lord, I need an absolute cleansing. I don't know anything else. I need a baptism by fire. I prayed. The Holy Ghost descended upon me as fire, by the great grace of God, on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1973. The Holy Ghost came to me. The spirit began to flow through my blood vessels, stir in my brains and transform my character.

It was the beginning of my anointment by the Holy Ghost. I was teaching in college. But I was on top of the world. I tirelessly preached gospel. I was spiritually uplifted.

I would like to humble myself and say this to the repented children of God. Let this be a red letter day in your life. Let this day be the day when the blots of your soul are cleaned, the stains of your soul are cleansed. Let your blemishes vanish by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Let them be washed clean. Let the great blessing of your self getting purified in the fire of the Holy Ghost of Jesus Christ.

1. He was not death conscious.
2. He was not God conscious
3. He was not conscious of his soul.
4. He was not conscious of others.

He had no concern for others. I can eat. I can drink. I can enjoy. I can relax. I, my, mine. There is no consideration beyond it. Absolutely no worry about other people!

If you are a spiritual person you cannot afford to be unmoved by the plight of other people. You will be stirred. Your hands, your tongue will stir. You will thirst for other people. Your heart will throb to do whatever help you can do for others. You will crave to do good for others. You will become empathetic.

The rich man had not prepared for death. He had prepared for the world. He wanted to build warehouses. He decided to hoard grains.

But he hadn't conserved anything for his soul. He hadn't conserved anything for others. He hadn't thought about death. He didn't anticipate that he would have to go from this world once. He never thought that there was a God. He lived Godless. God addressed him as fool.

Now Christ is close at hand, asking you, "Daughter, are you prepared in soul? Do you desire to get the stains of your soul washed? Do you desire to get purification? Daughter, believe me, the blood of Jesus removes all your sins and purifies you. Believe and put your trust in that blood.

Son, you lived for this world. You worried about the affairs of this world. You haven't saved anything for your soul. Have you ever considered where you would end up if you died today? The Eternal Heaven or the Eternal Hell. Have you not realized that you are not destined to enter heaven in your present condition?

Prepare your life. The Lord offers to come in to your heart and bless you.

"I had only two wooden beams to rest my head on - the Cross; only the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea to be buried in. Even they didn't belong to me. I travelled far and wide. I wondered who would open his heart for me. No one did."

You are in jeopardy spiritually. A very dangerous situation! You have realized that you will not be admitted to heaven if you were to die this instant. Prepare now. Son, prepare now. Come to a definite determination. Be prepared.

Be prepared for death. The rich man hadn't prepared for death. But St. Paul had prepared for death.

*“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

*2 Timothy 4: 6-8(NIV)*

Would I be included among the 'to all'? The Holy Ghost of God says it is in store for all who have longed for his appearing. No one has been kept out of it. The Lord doesn't ask anybody's past life. The great love that forgives all your sins unconditionally and free of cost. The love on the cross. The miraculous power of the blood on the cross. Jesus is the only saviour. Beg of him: Jesus, come to my heart. He is right at the door of your heart knocking.

Daughter, now, your heart is the seat of Satan. I would like to reign there. I will dispel the darkness and radiate light. The Lord offers to erase your sin, dissipate

darkness, the pitch darkness and make the light of truth rise there.

Now, open your heart. Jesus, come to my heart. I have misused my life, I haven't gained anything that endures. I haven't saved anything for the Kingdom of Heaven. The times I have wasted, the times Satan played havoc with my life! The times Satan led me by the nose! The times I revelled in sin!

Lord, I submit my life in to your hands. Yes, I give myself lock, stock, and barrel in to your hands. My body, mind and soul are now in your hands.

Jesus, be gracious to come to the heart of this poor soul. To the heart of this man who is a sinner, to the heart of this petty woman. Come in to my life that has been devastated by Satan.

Pray. Give yourself in to the hands of Jesus. Tell Jesus: Jesus, it should not turn out that I go unprepared. I do desire to go prepared. Here I am, I take refuge at the foot of thy cross.

The blood that oozes out of the Cross of Jesus will trickle down on your head. That Holy Blood will cover all the past times. However atrocious the sin be, it will be forgiven. Whatever immorality that has taken place will be pardoned. Everything will be pardoned.

Let the blood of Jesus that washes all sins wash you clean. Let the miraculous grace of Jesus descend. Let the miraculous love be passed on.

Our merciful Heavenly Father, bless these children who are reading this book. Strengthen the decisions they have taken. Accept the dedication of these children granting them thy heavenly grace. Prepare them so that they may look forward to thy second coming. In the very name of Jesus, Amen.



## Chapter -5

*“Kuriseduthen Yesuvine  
Anugamikkum njan anthyamvare.  
Maridum manujarellam  
Marannidum snehitharum  
Mattamillathavon en Manuel.  
Mahimayil vazhunnu innumenikkay.  
Theeranam parilennal  
Thirupadha sevayathal  
Cherum njan oduvilen priyannarikil  
Arumayodavanenne marodanakkum.”*

Bearing the cross  
I will follow you to the end.  
Men will desert  
Comrades will forget  
The immutable one, my Immanuel  
Still reigns in glory for me.  
Let my days be consumed  
In service at thy feet.  
And I will finally join my beloved,  
Who will fondly enfold me to his bosom.

Lord, you have given me a short life time. I want to utilize it doing your work. I want to do my Lord's labour till

the end of my life, till my last breath. When it is finished, I will join my Lord, my beloved. When I join him he will hug me to his bosom. I will enter eternity, eternal heaven. I will fall at the feet of my Lord. I will kiss the holy feet which bore the wounds for me. I will soon be one with him.

Every man on this earth will die one day. We hardly know at what age, and in what manner. Die he will. He will pass on to the other shore. Just think, your forbears were there, your relatives, your dear ones, your parents- all these have passed away. One day we also will be reduced to a mere memory.

There is no point in learning what must be happening in this world after we have passed away. What all hardships do we bear while living on this earth? What all miseries do we go through? Do these problems ever touch us when we reach the other shore? Do we ever become aware of them at all? Here we have to make delicious food; we have to do work; we have to educate our children, we have to bring them up well.

But after death we have passed on to another world where there are no anxieties, and where we cannot think of anything. Life has separated and soared from the body. Then the soul blends with eternity and there we have no worries of this world.

The word says: "Blessed is the one who always trembles before God," This is not due to fear of death, but everyone should have the consciousness that there is

death.

The case being that one can depart from this world any moment, we cannot afford to have a spat with husband or wife, or to have dissension with parents. What use in regretting or reviewing if you pass away while being in bad terms with your father? You talked rudely in utter disregard for husband, children, or parents. There is no question of regretting afterwards. It is impossible to express regrets or ask forgiveness. The person has passed on to another world.

We should have the consideration that we will have to go one day. It is not advisable to lose the eternal life for the sake of this world. We cannot afford to lose eternal life. We cannot afford to entertain malice, bitterness, aversion, revenge, hatred or lasciviousness in our life.

Passing on to the other world we must enter eternal life. Getting Everlasting life. There is heaven. There is hell. It will be an irremediable loss if we don't reach heaven. In his epistle to Timothy St. Paul wrote towards the end of his life- my death is imminent; I have fought the good fight.

*“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all*

*who have longed for his appearing.”*

*2 Timothy 4:6-8(NIV)*

All those who have longed for his appearing will get the crown. The apostle had the conviction that there is in store for everyone a crown.

St. Paul asserted that he could die fearlessly; one day he would be led out of his cell. He would be made to stand at the place of execution. He would be beheaded by Nero's soldiers in public. But the apostle would enter eternity in peace.

It is fortunate to pass away in peace. Not to be disappointed at the point of death is a bliss. Dying without screams or moans is a bliss. I am in the hands of Jesus, Jesus has held me in his hands. To go with the assurance that I am going to the place of Jesus is a bliss indeed. But it is not on the cards for everyone to die like that.

*“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.*

*So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'* Luke 16:19-24(NIV)

This is a real story. Lazarus was a poor man, an invalid, who lay at the gate of the rich man on the lookout for the leftover food from the rich man's table. The name of Lazarus is mentioned. If the name of a person comes out of the mouth of the Lord, his name must be there in heaven.

The name of the rich man is not mentioned. If the Lord has to utter his name, his name must be there in heaven. This is something to be considered very seriously. Is my name in heaven? Is my name in the book of life?

There are two books with God. One, the Book of Life. Two, the Book of Memory, or the Book of Reminiscence. Each one of us has account in the Book of Memory. The Account is maintained with regular entries. Every sin committed in life is posted meticulously.

The Book of Life contains the names of people who have secured citizenship in heaven. We all claim Indian citizenship. We have identity cards. We have our names recorded in school, college and panchayat. As we are Indian citizens we have our names in respective records.

Only if we become citizens of Heaven, we will have our names in heaven. We require citizenship of Heaven.

There is the Lake of Fire. “Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.” There is a final judgement. When we enter there after death on completion of life in this world, what we confront is a judgement. Everyone has to face this trial.

Even those who deny and persecute God will have to face this judgement; kneel down there; no one is exempted. According to the Word “Every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” Everyone will bend his knees. The Book of Memory will be opened on the day of Judgement. So will the Book of Life too.

Periodical events in your life are recorded in the Book of Memory. It is not that anybody records it. They get recorded automatically. The things recorded in the Book of Memory will be read out in public. For all to hear, all irrespective of age.

Everyone will assemble in front of the White Throne, for the Final Judgement.

*“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded*

*in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

*Revelation 20: 11-15(NIV)*

O, we should have our name in the heaven. We should thus have Heavenly citizenship. For, we will have to appear for the Final Judgement. Before we depart from this world we should achieve the bliss of getting our name written in the Book of Judgement.

Be always prepared! We have got in hand a day what we call today. Death can come any moment. It is not necessary that we will survive till next morning. So uncertain is human life. Therefore what matters is that the day we call today is at our disposal. “Yesterday is a history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift.” We should get our name entered in the Book of Life now, today itself. Don't wait for tomorrow. What if death comes before that! Therefore, we should take advantage of the day we call today. Lazarus was a person who took advantage of his day like that.

Lazarus was a guttersnipe; his body was infested with sores. People would avoid him like plague. When the left over from the table of the rich man was dumped in to

the bin the dogs would eat them; Lazarus had to vie with the dogs to get a share of it. He was so poverty-stricken. A life of misery upon misery!

Though he had nothing in this world, no good looks, no education, no shelter that can be called his, no comfortable life in a materialistic sense, he had his name entered in the Book of Life. Even if one is penniless, even if one is chronically ill, the name should be in the Book of Life. The Most blessed thing about Lazarus was that the Lord of the Heaven pronounced his name. God addresses those he loves by name.

God addressed Abraham as 'Abraham, Abraham'. God addressed Adam as 'Adam, Adam'. God addressed Samuel as 'Samuel, Samuel'. God addressed Martha as 'Martha, Martha'. It was with a lot of affection God pronounced their names twice. Today is the day when the Lord is going to call you by name. Provided you have the aspiration to get your name written in the Book of Life.

Even when there are no outward sins, it is all sin inside. There has been avarice and arrogance. I have been haughty with my parents and created discord in my family. I have been a thorn in the flesh of the college I studied in. Many students were constrained to discontinue their education on account of me. I have teased my teachers. I have erred in multiple ways.

However, I happened to read this book for the single reason that you want my name to be written in the Book of

Life. Therefore, Lord, I believe that you will address me by name.

Jesus is calling you by name now. The Lord knows your name, your back ground, your past life, in short, everything about you. The one who addresses you by name is all knowing. You can't hide anything from God. The eternal God has called you by name in order to write your name in the Book of Life.

This is a worthy matter. For a man his soul is more valuable than the whole world. Even if you win an unimaginable amount of wealth, what is the use of it if you don't go to the Kingdom of God?

Therefore the valuable time you have at our disposal should be devoted towards getting your name entered in the heaven. You should pray for that. You should repent the sins committed in your life. How shameful those sins are! Sins abhorred by others! Sins looked down upon by people! If you introspect you will identify countless sins that have occurred in our thoughts, in our emotions, in our feelings, in our touches, in our words, and in our deeds.

If you begin life anew from today onwards, putting faith in the power of the blood of Jesus Christ, firmly believing that Jesus Christ died on the cross to expiate your sins, all those sins will be washed clean by his priceless blood and your name will be got written in the Book of Life.

All sins will be cleansed! That is for which his side

was pierced. How severe the sins might be, murders committed in cold blood, adultery, acts of the cruellest and the most reprehensible kind, they will be cleansed. "And the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin." And we get our name entered in the Book of Life.

The name of Lazarus had found place in the Book of Life. Whereas the name of the rich man was not there in the Book of Life. The rich man was affluent on the earth. He was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. The rich man who had boundless wealth, high status and all accomplishments died. His burial was grand. It is said of him that the rich man also died and was buried. But it is said of the beggar only that the beggar died. Nothing is said of his burial. He might have been buried somewhere as an unclaimed body.

But when the beggar died angels descended from heaven in hosts and hosts. The people of this earth didn't see them. They came down in hosts descended on the earth and carried him to the array of the saints, on to the bosom of Abraham; just because he had his name in the Book of Life, Lazarus who suffered only grief, privation and disease in this world was carried to the paradise on to the bosom of Abraham. Whereas the rich man who was dressed in silk and fine linen was dead and buried in state. But he went to the Hades; the place of torment.

Lazarus whose name was in the Book of Life was carried to the paradise. But the rich man's name was not

in the Book of Life. He had no repentance. He had no faith. He misused his life. Priding himself of his wealth and position, he misused his life. His only goals were the riches and the comforts of this world. He wallowed in luxury.

When he died he went to the place of torment. He was parched and he thirsted for a drop of water. He might have had stashed away in his refrigerator on the earth bottles of the choicest brands of liquor. A wide variety of them. Among the costliest. He had had wealth. He had been welcome everywhere. He had held high positions in the church. He had been in the forefront in politics. He had been seated on the stage in public meetings. He had had a place of position wherever he went.

But after his death he landed in the Hades. Eternal Torture! Unendurable Torture! Endless Torment! Everything separated in to two ways. While on earth they had been in the same place-the rich man in his mansion; the beggar at his gate. Yet they had been in the same place.

After the life on the earth they landed in places mutually inaccessible; one cannot cross over from there to here; nor from here to there. One cannot cross over from the Paradise to the Hades; nor from the Hades to the Paradise. But they could see each other; that was the most saddening.

*“But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where*

*you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!*

*“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.” Luke 13:27,28(NIV)*

Sitting in the Hades the rich man saw in the Paradise Abraham and Lazarus sitting in his bosom. While being on the earth he never had deigned to look up. He had had weighty business. The rich man and his five brothers had been running a business in partnership. They had lacked nothing on the earth. But when beyond this earth he was thirsting for a drop of water.

He looked up; while being on the earth, he had had no time to pray. No time to attend fellowship. If anyone called him to the fellowship, he reacted with clear derision. He derided those who preached the word of God.

While living on the earth you can do all these things; never looked up. Forgotten to pray; It is not a serious matter for thought; here is no Evening Prayer; nor Morning Prayer.

You should sing songs, read from the word and pray every evening and morning. A family which prays together will hold together. A family which pray will not degenerate.

A family which pray will never be ruined. The rich man had no prayer. He looked up only when he reached the Hades and faced severe drought.

*“And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us that would come from thence.”* Luke 13:23-26 (NIV)

A great gulf is fixed between The Hades and the Paradise. You and Us- divided in to two now.

Husband and wife lived together in privation, in grief, and in happiness together on this earth. Wife heeded the word of God, repented, and got her name written in the Book of Life. But the husband didn't bother. When the two passed away, wife was taken to the Paradise; and the husband in the place of torment. How would you take such a situation? Husband undergoing torment in the Hades.

This could be the other way round too. Similarly, father in the Heaven, son undergoing torment in the Hell. How intolerable. Undying maggots and unquenchable fire. How could a father witness this?

Unending torment; eternal pain. If we comprehend this the direction of our life will change. People will live in unity. We will have a thirst for everyone to reach the Kingdom of Jesus. Due to this, efforts will be made to bring everyone, husband, father, or son to hear the word-everyone so that they may not go to the place of Torment!

The rich man got sad, what is the way out? Pater Abraham, it is the case that Lazarus cannot be sent to this place; but can you send him to the earth? I have my five brothers there. They haven't repented. They have no faith. They are also bound to come to this place of Torment. Father Abraham, send Lazarus to the earth. Let him witness the things he saw and heard here.

There are people who believe it is not in good taste to witness Christ in front of other people. They associate such things with the protestant churches. For those belonging to the Orthodox churches giving witness is anathema. It is all rehearsed and prompted by others. There are people who deride such practices. But a day will come when truth will look you in the face.

When you reach the other shore you will lift your eyes. You will see the wise, those who turned many to God, shining like stars. The pastors, those who are doing

God's work, those holy pastors who worked selflessly for God will be found standing by the side of the Lord with the luminous crown on their head.

Today you can ridicule, deride, misconstrue, and disdain. You can spread canards. Then, on reaching the other shore, you will see the elect of God with the luminous crown on their head standing by the side of the Lord.

Friends, life does not end with the life in this world. We should experience Jesus while on this earth. We should secure him and experience the forgiveness Jesus gives. To be taken to the side of Jesus, we have to prepare here.

*“He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment. “Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.” Luke 16:23-26(NIV)*

Moses and the prophets are there on the earth. Why should another dead person go there? The prophets have been appointed there. There are God's children who are designated to preach gospel from time to time. Let them listen to them. Let them repent hearing their words.

But they will repent only if one among the dead went back to preach gospel. They are not the ones to listen to the words of the pastors on the earth. They are rich,

politically enlightened, leaders of society, important people in the church. So this rich man said, “if someone from the dead goes to them they will repent.”

Repentance is the greatest treasure a man can find. It is a great blessing. Lazarus had it and the rich man did not have it.



## Chapter-6

*“Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.”*

*Psalms 90:1-3(NIV)*

There is a day when we return from this world. Each one will go in the appointed hour. We don't know how. May be after being ill and bedridden; or at a moment when we have hardly expected death to come. At a time when we are in perfect health and in the pink.

If we have this thought in mind we will organize our life. I am destined to go from here one day. Nothing I possess will accompany me. Even the dearest of my relatives cannot accompany me other than grieving as mute witnesses. I came alone in to this world; I must go alone from this world. This is the stark truth. We know this but hardly are alert about it.

The 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm is a prayer Moses makes during the burial of Aaron. Aaron is the elder brother. Aaron and

Moses were leading the exodus of the people. The Israelites were six Hundred Thousand in number. A very hazardous journey! It had been scheduled to be completed in eleven days. But it took forty years as it turned out.

The journey was so harrowing and perilous. Towards the end of the journey, towards the end of forty years Aaron was removed from this earth. 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm is the prayer Moses makes looking at the dead body of Aaron in extreme agony.

We can appreciate the abundance of meaning if you read each verse with care and keeping in mind its background. "A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night." Days are fleeting. Reminiscences rolled out in the mind of Moses. The times when Aaron and Moses moved together! The times he had spent in the palace! Prior to that, the times Moses had spent tending the sheep of Jethro in the desert of Sinai! Moses saw all these in a flash.

The forty years Moses and Aaron had travelled together! Moses recollected how he had admonished Aaron when he had erred, though he was younger. He would sigh, wipe tears once in a while, as the memories flashed through his mind. Moses was praying and submitting his appeals.

What all thoughts are likely to flash through our mind when we are nearing death!

When our dear ones have departed, the memories of the time we had spent with that person, the things he had spoken to you, things of this sort rush in to your mind. Sometimes despair, sometimes grief pass through our mind. Sometimes we cry out of joy. The departure of those who had lived together with us is unthinkable. Yet it is inevitable. We have to go one day.

Death is a subject that I often contemplate. Mine is a house where five deaths had occurred. My father died when I was only one year old. My brother died when I was two years old.

My brother was thirteen years when he died. I have no recollection of having seen my brother. I have no recollection of having seen my father too. My father was thirty three years when he died.

I have heard my mother say that three infants had predeceased me. Thus a house where five deaths had taken place! A house afflicted by the scourge and curse of death! My mother used to say that the house had gone in to hibernation. A house which had entertained many people! As father had a successful business many people used to visit us. A house which had cooked and served food to many business associates! We had times of prosperity.

But everything changed. Everything subsided and the house went incommunicado. There is no one to talk to. A sister of five years. A one year-old younger brother. My mother cried away her time grieving for the two tender

children. She would cry iterating and reiterating her sorrow.

Death has thus been green in my mind as a fact. Then, today and forever. What is going to happen after death is a topic I often think, study and pray for.

I read a book 'To Hell and Back' written by Dr Maurice Rawlings, a cardiologist. The book narrates the experience of a man who reached the gate of Hell and returned. He saw Hell. He had witnessed the brutal torment there and understood it, when he got the command to return, for his time hadn't yet arrived.

What is narrated in the book is the account he gives after coming back from death, the experience of hell and the brutal tortures there. When I read the book the dreadful face of death seems to loom large in my mind. I am able to understand the horror of hell. When I contemplate these pictures the joy of heaven rushes to my mind as a contrast.

Man can experience the joy of heaven. Heaven is kept open for man. There is no need for him to descend in to the horror of hell. There is no need for any horrible sinner, any malevolent sinner to go to hell. The marvellous gospel truth is that the way to go to heaven escaping from hell is kept open for man! The truth that any sinner can be saved, the truth that any inexorable sinner can reach heaven. The Good News! The Gospel! My heart leaps up when I think of this truth.

*“The rich man also died and was buried”*

*Luke 16:28(NIV)*

1. He died without contentment.
2. He died unprepared
3. He died unconverted
4. He died unchanged

The life and death in the world is like sleep. Can we go contented, joyfully, and prepared to go when you hear the invitation, "Come up here?"

*“Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.”*

*When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders.*

*“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”*

*“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”*

*So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.”*

*Matthew 27:1-5(NIV)*

He hanged himself. He was unchanged. He died

unchanged.

*He was one of our number and shared in our ministry. With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out.” Acts 1:18(NIV)*

He died in despair. He died unchanged. Judas Iscariot had travelled with God for three years. The Lord had known that he was dishonest, avaricious, and untrustworthy. Yet the Lord gave him an opportunity.

We do wish to travel with the Lord. But, remember, it is disastrous if we don't change our character and conduct. We should change our hot temper. We should change our greed. We should change our deceptiveness, our habit of betraying others. It is imperative to get rid of the filthiness inside. If not, it is going to be a formidable disaster. We will have to die a desperate person. Our last moments are going to be deplorable.

Brothers and sisters, how is our life? Do we have peace and happiness in the real sense? May be you are sick; may be you are hard up for money; may be you are going through miseries and problems; but my dear ones, take my tip, if you are a true believer, you will have peace in the midst of all these. If you are able to recognize this truth, you are really blessed.

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” You do have trouble, the Lord

says. He doesn't say that it is all pleasant. He asks if it wouldn't suffice if the victorious Lord who has overcome the world is with you. The Lord asks what it matters if you are sick as long as the grace of God is with you. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Apostle Paul had a disease. Certain pious forebears have said that most probably his eyes pained and welled up with tears. Tears always flowed out of his eyes. That he had an eye related disease is presumed from this verse "I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me." Such intense was the love Galatians had for the Apostle. But there are some other theologians who opine that it was a stomach related disease. He had a chronic stomach ulcer. Relentless pain! The apostle worked bearing this pain. Whatever the case, it is certain that the Apostle had absolutely no disappointment on account of it. My prayer has healed the sick. But why am I not healed myself? Never did he raise this question. However, he appealed to God: Can you cure me? No reply. He asked again. No reply. The third time the Lord replied: Won't my grace suffice? What else do you require? My power is made perfect in weakness. My power is something that makes you perfect even with your weakness. Son, won't my grace be sufficient for you? Our reply can't but be: That will do, my Lord. Gaining the grace of God. That will do.

Perhaps, there is discord in the family. Husband

assaults you. He comes home heavily drunk and attacks you. He assaults you very badly. Otherwise, the wife always throws tantrums; she is always in a huff; she grumbles and complains; she cries over trifles. Children fall ill one after the other. Medical treatments fail to cure. Children fail in the examinations. Not because they don't work hard; they do, but, strangely, it turns out that they don't do well. My Lord, why is it that this has happened to me? Am I not appealing to you? How many children do well in their examinations! They are progressing steadily. But why are my children not able even to pass their exams?

It is not because they don't study, it is not because they don't work hard, but they don't get marks. The sad part of it is that they are not able to retain what they study. They are not able to commit anything to memory. Thus goes the problems you live with. I have problems too. But I have a firm conviction. I have experienced the hands of God hold me even in the midst of diseases and hardships.

I have experienced the hand of Jesus Christ wipe my tears and stroke my back. I have experienced him sitting by my side. Brothers and sisters, are you believers? If so, I would suggest you place in front of Jesus Christ your burdens and anxieties one by one; all burdens at the feet of Jesus Christ.

It is in the able hands of Jesus I have deposited my worries. It is at the feet of the most trustworthy person I have fallen. I have come to Jesus Christ who loves me. I

can guarantee that Christ has died on the cross for me. He shed his blood for my sake. Out of his boundless love for me!

O, Lord, who died on the cross to remit my sin and to lift my curse, I believe in that and I come to you. O God, cleanse me of all my sins. Lift all the curses from me. Release me from all which The Wicked Satan can lay claims on. I won't carry back my hardships I have already submitted to you, my sorrows and my miseries. I get up and leave as a liberated person in the belief that you have taken over everything.

Your word says: "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken." Also, "cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." I trust all these verses. And I leave upon you all my anxiety.

"Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death." I trust in this too. My Lord is the one who bears our burdens every day. I have entrusted my life in to the hands of the one who is the most trustworthy.

If we entrust our life to Christ, He will take it over. He will lead from the front. He will make you walk. He will take over all your anxiety. It is not necessary that you get your reply on the same day itself. Don't mistake that it is denied. It has only been delayed. It is not denial. Your prayer may not be answered instantly. It does not indicate

that your prayer has not been heeded or your prayer has been denied. God has heeded your prayer.

“Delays are not denials”

God said to Daniel: I heeded your prayer as soon as it was made. But now I have come to you after twenty one days. Though God had listened to his prayer on the same day, He came to Daniel only after twenty one days. In fact, God had sent Gabriel on the same day. But the angel was delayed as he had to battle the Satan midway.

*“Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.”*

*Daniel 10:12, 13(NIV)*

Daniel, as soon as you prayed repenting your sins as well as the sins of the people, I heeded your prayer on the same day. Gabriel reports: I have come now on account of you. It was due to a battle I had to fight I was delayed for twenty one days. When I set out in response to your prayer, the prince of the Persian Kingdom resisted me.

Satan has appointed territorial Commanders for

every kingdom. The evil princes of Satan! They resisted Gabriel for twenty one days. The evil Satan resisted Gabriel when he was going to Daniel with God's message. In the meanwhile, Michael came in rescue of Gabriel. All the princes of the Kingdom of Persia joined the evil forces against God's angels. Gabriel left Michael alone defending against them singlehanded and has flown down to Daniel.

The God who heeds your prayer, has sent his angel to you. The God who knows your needs has sent one of his angels for you. Pray incessantly. Pray untiringly. Ask him to help you. Pray telling Him that you have nowhere to go if He forsakes you. When your prayer is so compelling there is a God who responds to it. A God who listens to your prayer!

*“I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. Then the Lord replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.”*

*Habakkuk 2:1-3(NIV)*

Pray unremittingly confessing your sins and repenting. Pray assuring God that you won't sin again. Insist that you wouldn't relent at any cost till you got a

reply. Tell him that you have no other resort, and ask him to help you insistently. When you ask with such vehemence, the Lord will come to your help. "It speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

Judas Iscariot got many opportunities; the children of God who travel with the Lord should abstain from sin straightaway, without wasting a moment; *"Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy."* It is the word of God. It is the word of life. It is the divine commandment. You are listening to the special message the heaven has to give you. If you listen to it and ignore it you will have to face instant destruction without any chance for remission.

They will be destroyed before they get any chance to repent. Their life span may be shortened. They may not get a chance to repent. It is because the Lord doesn't want this kind of an end to happen to you that He gives us clear guidance. Judas Iscariot wasted the opportunities he was given. He had received all the three and a half years. He was with the Lord when the miracles were performed.

When the Lord healed the paralytic patient Judas was there. When the man who had been an invalid for thirty eight years was healed Judas was with Christ. When the woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years was healed, he was there with Christ. When Jesus placed his hand on the bent back of the woman who had been crippled for eighteen years, she straightened up.

Judas was witness to it. Judas was also there in the house of Jairus where his daughter lay dead. He saw the girl coming out of the bed with a smile. He was witness to the resurrection of this twelve year-old girl.

The dead body of the only son of the widow was being carried in the city of Nain. The widow was behind the procession mourning her son's death. Jesus asked her not to cry. Jesus touched the hearse. The boy stood up in the coffin. The boy resurrected and Judas saw him walking beside his mother, holding her hand. Judas also saw Lazarus resurrect on the fourth day of his death. When Jesus was asked to pay tax, He asked Peter to go to the lake and find a four-drachma coin in the mouth of the first fish he caught, the coin being sufficient to pay the tax both for Christ and Peter. This too was witnessed by Judas.

Judas saw Jesus walking on the rough seas; he heard Jesus rebuke the wind and saw the wind die down. He had thus seen many miracles.

I am in fear and trembling. What all miracles have we seen! I personally have experienced many miracles in my life. Miraculous healing! Miraculous changes! Those who once roared like Satan turned meek like lambs. Those who went to the brink of suicide now live with zest. Those who got asphyxiated with heavy debts and was about to end their lives now live in great joy and in praise of the Lord.

Those husbands who used to batter their wives are

now seen happily coming to attend the fellowship with their wives. I saw Jesus doing miracles. I saw Jesus walking among the living men. I saw Jesus caressing and endearing hard core sinners. I saw so many such miracles. Therefore I am in great awe. I have an appeal to you. Don't go without Jesus. Don't take another step ahead without Jesus. Don't fail to address God. Don't ever be discontented or tired. Lean on to Jesus Christ. He is so trustworthy. He is so lovable. He is worthy to be followed.

Jesus gives great accomplishments in life! He is the fountainhead of everything good! He is the treasure of graces! He is the abode of love! He is an ocean of mercy! He forgives sins! He lifts curses! He unbinds the bondages! He destroys fortresses! He brings harmony in the family! He gives remedy to our problems! He untangles the mazes we are caught in! He is ever living! Don't think of ever living without Jesus. He will bless you; fill you with divine bliss.

Judas saw everything. But he didn't attach any value to the great things he saw. He didn't get rid of the avarice in him. It is not read anywhere that he had done any other mischief. He was the treasurer of the group. He was in charge of the finances. Judas, who was so close to Christ, betrayed him.

Dear ones, no one among you should never ever betray Christ! You have heard the word, realized certain truths. But don't misrepresent these truths by giving twisted versions of them to other people. Don't give

chance for others to vilify the word. Don't give room for others to crucify Christ.

Don't let the wicked wantonly scatter to the four winds your hard earned bounty of blessings. "Don't throw Pearls to Pigs." Pigs don't know the value of pearls. They will trample on them. Then they will turn back and tear in to you.

*"Don't give what is holy to dogs or throw your pearls to pigs. Otherwise, they will trample them and then tear you to pieces."*

*Matthew 7: 6(NIV)*

Judas was given ten chances to repent. It was during the last chance Judas kissed the Lord at the garden of Gethsemane; there had been a conspiracy; He had plotted with the High Priests to betray Christ in return for thirty silver coins. All in the group of Christ had looked alike. Therefore whoever Judas kissed would be captured. Judas addressed Jesus as Rabbi and kissed him.

The Lord asked him: Do what you came for, friend. The Lord knew he came to betray him. He kissed Jesus so that the soldiers might identify Jesus. The Lord went on to ask him: Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

Judas went away from there. He was in torment. He had no peace. Jesus was sentenced. He was ordered to be caught and handed over for crucifixion. Thrice the

Pilate answered, "I find no guilt in him." "Take him yourselves and crucify him," Pilate said. "I find him not guilty." Caiaphas, Hanna and Herodotus levelled charges against him. He was put under trial again and again. They could establish no guilt. How could they punish a person against whom no guilt stood? The chief priest and the officials shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But they failed to find him guilty.

Some gave false evidence. They said Jesus was against giving tax to Caesar. But Jesus had never said that. He had only said, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." They charged that they had heard him say that he would destroy the temple. But he was speaking of the temple of his body. He meant he would raise up his body in the resurrection after three days. They levelled false charges and decided to crucify him.

Judas was convinced that Christ was going to be crucified. He lost his peace and was in utter disquiet. Sin eats in to our quiet and peace. The filth in your heart eats in to your peace and quiet. Whereas, there is courage where there is no sin. We can be very bold if Satan cannot lay any claim on us. As long as we cannot be tempted in to undesirable behaviour and don't engage in calumny, we have nothing to worry. We are not against any church or any fellowship. Why should we be afraid?

When Judas heard that Jesus was sentenced to be executed,

*“When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”*

*Matthew 27: 3, 4(NIV)*

The confession Judas made was genuine. He didn't confess in general that he had done all sorts of sins, but specifically that he had betrayed innocent blood. He openly admitted, but they disowned any responsibility and told him that it was his lookout.

Judas made an effort to return the blood money to the chief priests and elders, they refused to accept it. He threw the coins in to the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The Bible says he fell headlong, burst open in the middle, and all his bowels gushed out.

He died unchanged. Brothers and sisters, we should die changed when we die. We should die in contentment. St. Paul died in contentment. The rich man died unprepared. The other rich man died without repentance. Now Judas died unchanged. How are we going to die? We should die as St. Paul died. He died contented.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous

judge, shall give me on that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. We should reach the other shore, the course finished, faith kept, with the satisfaction that the race has been won. We should get the invitation: Come up here.

The angels should welcome us. Our Lord will extend his hands to receive us. We will kiss the wounded feet of the Lord repeatedly. He will place his hand upon our head. We will hear the words: 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.' We will be enlisted in happiness in to the blessed paradise.

The Lord asks whether you don't desire this good fortune. Let us change today onwards. Let the Lord perform miracles in your life. Let the Lord take over your burdens. Let your bondages be severed. Let your worries be removed. Let your debts be paid off. Let your problems be solved. Let your life turn peaceful. Let your future be bright. Let your life progress by leaps and bounds in to a blessed tomorrow.



## Chapter -7

*“Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure. “Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be.”* Psalms 39: 4-6(NIV)

When I reach the other shore, I will receive an honour! A heavenly honour! No one cannot divest it of me. Whoever tries, it cannot be divested of me.

*“Labhikum nitchayam en viruth enikku  
Sathrukal arume kondupokayilla  
Prapikkum annu njan rajan kayyil ninnum  
Dhoothanmarude madhyathil.”*

For sure I will receive my honour  
No enemy can divest it of me  
I will receive it at the hands of my Lord  
In the convocation amidst the angels.

I will receive that heavenly honour at the hands of

Jesus, the King of kings. That day on that blessed moment I will be honoured, I will be felicitated, I will be admired, and I will be acknowledged. I will be fulfilled. How blessed is the life of a man who departs from this world in this blissful experience!

We will depart from this world one day. There isn't any doubt about it. Our dear ones can only stand by in grief. Our closest relatives, may be wife, husband, mother or children, can't do anything beyond standing by watching breathlessly, in intense grief.

At the border of death the man who came alone should go over to the other shore alone. It hardly matters what you have attained in this world. It is also not important how much you have saved in this world. Whatever you have will have to be left behind.

“Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be.” You cannot carry to the other shore whatever you have gained and saved in this world. "Show me, LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.”

How ephemeral a life! Temporary! Mortal! We will leave everything behind. All of us have to confront this critical moment. Nobody can evade it.

Stalin, who was the dictator of Russia, wanted to do away with death. He had got eliminated many of his rivals in order to consolidate his position. He saw to it that many

brilliant officers in the administration and the army were assassinated. His personal doctor would examine him in the morning and evening. He wanted to ward off death. He tried to do whatever he could do towards this goal. But death overtook him. His daughter Svetlana Stalin has described his last moments in a book. His last moments were full of despair. He would close his fist and punch in to the air irrationally and would shriek out loudly something unintelligible.

Sometimes he would break out in to a loud uproar. Sometimes he would moan. Very pathetic moaning! He would be convulsed in horrible restlessness. When death was close at hand his agony was terrible. What all might have passed through his mind? What might have been the turmoil of his heart? Horror, fear of death, and panic cast dark shadows on his face. His soul broke away from his body in extreme agony.

Hitler too was a powerful dictator. He considered showing compassion to another human being as a weakness.

According to him if a man was empathetic to another sick or suffering human being, the man who showed empathy had grown weak and invalid. Therefore he exterminated the sick and the invalid. Besides, he dreamed to mould a society of heroic people by eliminating the old and the sick.

Even Hitler was in a state of consternation towards the end of his life. Hitler too moaned, shrieked, and raised

an uproar. He couldn't face death in a state of peace.

Voltaire was a great philosopher in the world history. While he lay dying, there was a large group of people including his friends and disciples around him. He said, "Won't you bring a Christian priest to pray for me?" His infidel associates resisted his recantation. "What are you saying? A Christian priest? Have you not denounced Christ? Have you not denied Christianity? Have you not censured the Bible? Have you not condemned theism as utter bankruptcy? How could you ask us to bring a Christian priest?"

Voltaire said, "I can't! I can't! I am simply helpless. I am sinking in to depths. It is only now I am able to understand what life is. I'm lost and I'm lost. He repeated. God has abandoned me. Have you too abandoned me?"

"No, we will not call anybody. There is no justification for the impetuous recantation of a person who had been a self-declared atheist till the moment of death. No question of our going to call anybody." They said. He lay with his eyes closed for some time. Suddenly he sprang awake in death throes. He cried aloud and raised an uproar.

"Oh! I am sinking deep in to the raging inferno of hell. Who can rescue me from this fire of hell?"

He asked his doctor: "Doctor, can you give me an extension of six months to my life?" The doctor said, "What do you mean? Why six months?" Voltaire replied, "I am a person who renounced theism and faith throughout

my life. I pleaded that there was no God. I had my own logic to substantiate it. But now I have no peace. At least for six months I want to be reconciled with God; proclaim to the world that a God exists, that Jesus Christ is the real God, and that the only salvation for man is to believe in Christ as the saviour. Just six months!”

Doctor said to him, “The medical Science offers you not even six days, leave alone six months.” He cried again in despair. He cried on in utter remorse. As his end drew near his condition became frightful and he breathed his last in despair, in horror, and overpowered with remorse.

The nurse who attended on him at his death bed said, “For all the wealth of France I would never attend on an infidel on his death bed. I can't watch that agony. I can't watch that misery. Whatever the offer, I would never see another infidel die.”

Each one of us has to confront death one day or other. We don't know when it is going to be. It could probably be tonight. It could probably be after a few days. That is what the Psalmist said: "Show me, LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.”

Death is a reality. The eternity beyond death is a reality as well. We have body, mind and soul.

Only body has death. Soul has no death. In the eternity there are two realms - one, the Kingdom of God and the other, Hell. God, who is our creator, aims

everybody on this earth to reach the Kingdom of God. Man, who had the image and identity of God, abdicated the holiness of God in him and cast off the image of God. He became one with Satan by sinning. And the man who became similar to Satan would go straight to Hell after death.

But, if the man who had assumed the identity of Satan, who had become slave to Satan, and who had become the son of Satan, fortunately, repented, became born again, and became God's property, he would be taken to the Kingdom of God.

There is a day of judgement when it will be decided whether we are going to Hell or Heaven. Each one of us has to stand trial on the day of judgement. The Judge has no bias.

How long you have done the work of God will not be considered. It will only be considered whether you have the image of God; it will be considered whether you have the image and identity of Christ, the King of kings. If you have the image and identity of Jesus Christ, you will be admitted to Heaven. If not, you will be consigned to Hell.

Every man has to face the trial. It is thanks to the Word of God that we have this perception while being on this earth. We are able to understand all these from the Holy Word of God. Jesus Christ has revealed all these things to us. The Holy people of the Lord, the apostles and the prophets have interpreted these things for us. And thus we have an understanding of these things.

That there is a life beyond death, and the choice to determine whether one is bound for Heaven or Hell is entirely of each individual. Whether I should choose Hell is my look out. Not my children's, not my wife's, not my parents'. Not of anybody else's, but mine.

What I should do for this is to assume the image of Christ while being alive in this world. To assume the image and identity of Jesus Christ. The Lord, Jesus Christ died on the cross for us to come to that experience. Jesus Christ died on the cross and revived us.

The Lord desires each one of us to be born again. The Lord has ascertained that those of us who were born as sons and daughters of fathers and mothers could become the sons and daughters of God during our lifetime. It was precisely for this the Lord died on the cross.

When we enter there after death, we should be able to hear the invitation: 'Well done, good and faithful servant!' We should receive the honour from the Lord, receive the award, and receive the heavenly degrees from the Lord. Here we have degrees like B.A., B.Com., B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., MBBS, B.Tech., obtained as a result of hard efforts. All these degrees have value only till death. Whatever knowledge you have acquired will last only unto death.

However scholarly a person might be, on his death the brain which has stored all the knowledge will disintegrate. His knowledge will be of no use. It is all over with his death.

But when we reach there we should acquire the heavenly honour.

I will get that degree from Christ, the King of kings. What is the degree we are going to get? 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things!' A really good degree!

You have been faithful with a few things. You have lived on this earth for a short while. During that period you have been faithful. The time given to you has been utilized faithfully. The money entrusted to you has been spent faithfully. The body I made for you has been maintained faithfully.

The family I gave you has been lived with faithfully. The good and faithful servant, you have been faithful with a few things. Now I will lead you to great glory. I will put you in charge of many things. This is the degree we are going to get.

There was a missionary by name Peter Milne. He went to the New Hebrides Islands to preach the gospel. For some time he worked among the people there. He led a life of supreme sacrifice.

After his death, the Islanders got engraved on his headstone: 'When he came, there was no light here; and when he died, there was no darkness here.'

It is a good certificate. A good award; but an award given by man. We should get the award from Heaven.

Think for a moment. If I passed away today, and when I reached the ever shining Throne of the Lord, what would the Lord say? Would He address you 'The good and faithful servant' or 'You wicked servant'.

Either you will address me as 'The good and faithful servant, or 'You wicked servant'. The Bible says that he will be tied hand and foot and thrown outside into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!

Today we may not understand this. But when you enter there you will understand. You will marvel then. You will recollect that these things have been heard while on the earth.

The apostle Paul died contented. We should also be able to die contented.

No one knows when and how one is going to die. But whenever we die it should be said of our death as it was said of the apostle's death: "He died contented."



## Chapter - 8

1. The Apostle Paul died. He died contented
2. The rich man died. He died unprepared.
3. The rich man in the event of Lazarus and the rich man died. He died unconverted.
4. Judas died. He died unchanged.

There was a thief on either side of the cross. Both of them reviled Jesus. They had only heard unfavourable reports about Jesus. While traversing the length and breadth of the province indulging in loot, riot and murder, they could not have heard anything better spoken about Jesus. They swallowed whatever they heard about Jesus.

The High Priests ridiculed Jesus. The chief priests in the synagogue in Jerusalem spoke ill of Jesus. The scribes in the synagogue, who were supposed to be great scholars, criticized Jesus. The Pharisees who were zealous about their religion condemned Jesus. The Sadducees who had political leanings vilified Jesus. They hardly heard anything good spoken about Jesus.

They were plunderers. In their life time on the earth they hadn't heard anything good spoken about Jesus.

Even while they were convulsed in pain on the cross, they reviled Jesus. It was not out of any benefit they had meant to derive from reviling Jesus. It was only the outward expression of certain deep seated prejudices they had entertained.

At a certain moment Jesus prayed: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." This made the thief on the right think: How could a man pray like this? At that time on the cross, convulsed in the throes of death, his back torn in to furrows scourged by the whiplashes, blood flowing in streams from his five wounds, face spat upon, cheeks slapped hard, head penetrated by the crown of thorns - a perfect picture of agony, how could he pray like that? How could he pray like that for those who had inflicted such cruelty on him?

He died repented. His was a blissful death. He said: 'Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.' The thief on the right side turned to look at Christ when he heard the prayer of Christ. He had a positive vision of Christ. He realized that Christ was not at all a person as represented by the High Priests.

The personality of the Christ he saw on the cross did not match the description he had heard from the church, as preached from the pulpit! He repented. And he died repented. There are those who have died with joy. There are those who have died in grief, in utter misfortune. We are to face death. When death comes, we should be prepared, we should be converted, we should be

repented, and we should be contented. It will be a big disappointment unless we are able to pass away in that positive note. We should never be unconverted or unprepared.

*“When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? See thou to that.” Matthew 27: 1-4(NIV)*

“Oh, I have sinned. I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.” He said. They replied: “What is that to us? See thou to that.” They told him that it was his lookout. As far as they were concerned they had paid him the amount as agreed between them for his help. There was no point in telling them of his sin as they were not responsible for his sin, nor could they do anything for the remission of his sin. They asked him to get lost.

He repented after the time had lapsed. He grieved. But they had already taken Jesus for crucifixion. There is no point in crying after the deadline. There is a deadline for repentance and conversion. For everyone there is a

time of visitation. The Lord has given us a deadline. “My spirit must not for ever be disgraced in man.” “Wholly evil as he is; I will give him 120 years to mend his ways.”

*“When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”*

*Genesis 6:1- 3(NIV)*

Man has been given a time limit. He has been given opportunity to repent. He has been given the word. He has been given necessary admonition. He has been given sensitivity. “My spirit will not tolerate man indefinitely, because he is only flesh.”

Friends, we have been given a limited time. When will it terminate? We don't know. It could be now. It will be over, anyway, at a certain point of time.

The present time is for man to repent. God commands every man to repent. Leave your present ways. “Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.” There is a time when the Lord may be found. You can call upon Him. He will bless you. He will give us peace, He will forgive all our sins, all the sins that have been committed till now.

Noah preached for hundred and twenty years. Standing at the door of the ark, he proclaimed: The ark has been designed in deference to God's decree. Hurry up, board the ark. You will be safe in here. It is a sanctuary. Have no fears. This is your refuge. Those who seek shelter have already boarded it. You are welcome.

Though Noah exhorted for a long time nobody paid heed. They scoffed at him: This is the business of those who are at loose ends. This old hat Noah must be crazy. Is it going to rain here? What nonsense does this old man say? It hadn't ever rained on the earth before. People wouldn't believe Noah's story. What is this affair called rain?

The earth had been moistened by snow. They hadn't seen the phenomenon of rain. Therefore, they refused to believe it. Noah spoke again: Fellows, listen to me. It is not as you think. Water drops will fall off the heaven to the earth. The people shouted: Where are those water drops? What the hell are you saying? Noah replied: I don't know anything beyond what God has spoken. He has said, rain drops will precipitate from the sky. The earth will be inundated. You will be drowned in the water. The ark has been built to save you. The doors are open. All are welcome.

Leopards, bears, hyena, tiger, lion and all wild animals and predators are admitted. Those with wicked hearts, those who have led evil lives, and prostitutes are welcome. Noah proclaimed. No one paid heed. Even the

carpenters who built the ark wouldn't listen. They wouldn't buy the story.

This man, out of his eccentricity, designed something in the shape of a ship. We built it as per the design given to us. Though we built it, it is none of our business to enter in to it. There were scholars who had doctorate in theology to research and interpret the significance of the ark. They had the skills to write a treatise on the ark. But they wouldn't enter it.

Noah went on exhorting people to board the ark. But God said: 'My Spirit will not contend with mankind forever, because they are corrupt.' I have given him hundred and twenty years to straighten his ways. No one has entered the ark. Time is out.' The door of the ark was closed. It didn't rain the first day. It didn't rain the second day. It didn't rain for successive seven days. The people said: The nut case is inside the ark. So are his wives and some animals. How irrational of them! Outside the people strutted around mocking at those on board.

Lo and behold, at the end of the seventh day water drops began to fall off the sky. It began to rain. The earth began to fill up with water. It was only then people saw the peril. Wallowing in water they began to wail. Oh! Noah, open the door. We have been ill-advised. But no use, they were late! Late weeping!

Judas Iscariot wept after the time was out. When he learned that Jesus had been sentenced for execution he was filled with remorse. He threw the thirty silver coins in

to the temple, went and hanged himself. He committed suicide in desperation. He had been one of the chosen twelve. He had been given an official responsibility, in addition. He had been in charge of the cash box of the group. But Judas dissipated all his blessings.

Dear ones, retrospect and introspect, haven't you been given opportunities? Situations have been given for you to exploit? Hasn't the word been proclaimed at your door step? Hasn't the word reverberated in your ears? Hasn't the word been brought to the tip of your tongue? Hasn't the word been proclaimed in your native place? Haven't you been given adequate opportunities to listen to the word?

Haven't you met people who have accepted the word and have lived in accordance with the spirit of the word? No matter who ever makes fun of us, whoever criticizes, we have clear insights. We never ask for money, we never demand subscriptions, and we have no membership drive. We are not a new church. We are not a new community. People who attend this fellowship still go to church in to which they were born; they still attend service there. They also live following the directives of the church. How many youngsters have come to me offering their first salary! I never accepted them. I have never asked for money.

Dear ones, Shall I urge you with all love and concern for you. You have plenty of scope for salvation. You have been given enough time for that. After the lapse of the

given time you have no escape. Esau wept bitterly. It was late when he wept.

*“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birth right for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.”*

*Hebrews 12: 15- 17(NIV)*

Weeping after the given time is futile. Repent before it is late. Now the time is open for you.

Jude died unchanged!

1. St. Paul died contented
2. The rich man died unprepared.
3. The rich man died unconverted.
4. Jude died unchanged.
5. The thief died repented.

What will be your fate if you were to die today? Will you be prepared? Will you be repented?

There is one and only wish, Lord, I must hear you address me “the good and faithful servant” when I stand before you after death. Nothing else I seek. I don't want to save anything here. Nothing will last. No bank balance

here can be withdrawn there. Man works hard. He amasses wealth here, little knowing who is going to enjoy it ultimately. The properties today I deem mine are going to be in the possession of somebody else tomorrow. Somebody else will lie tomorrow on the coat where you lie on today. Somebody else will sit at the table at which I sit and write today.

The pen which is my keepsake today is going to be used by somebody else tomorrow. It is possible that the Bible I use today will be read by somebody else. The man who is 'I' will have to pass on to eternity. What will be my state? Will I be able to go in peace? Will I be able to go contented? Will I be able to go converted? Will I be able to go prepared? Will I be able to go changed? Will I be able to go repented? If so, it is a bliss. The Lord has given us a good time, valuable time, so valuable that we cannot afford to fritter it away.

Now you can repent. You can appeal to the Lord, who stands close by: Lord, forgive me. Wash me clean of my sins. Sins, countless sins have occurred. I have no means for recompense. I have no capability.

Lord, what else is possible for me other than your blood rinsing my sins? I have no other leeway. Lord Jesus, wash me with the precious blood that flowed out of your side. Please place your blood smeared hand on my head. Anoint me with your holy blood.

Give me the imprint of your blood. Lord, prepare me to soar up to your presence if I were to die today. Won't

you dedicate yourself? Will you give yourself in to the hands of Christ? Here is Jesus extending his hands to receive you. Son, give me your heart. Give me your heart before it is late. Give me your heart before your life time is over.

Abandon your sins forever. Say goodbye to your sinful life. Begin life anew. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" Appropriate this new experience.

Don't waste your time. Repent. Get sanctified. Give word to Christ: I am your property today onwards. As you have died for me on the cross I will live for you today onwards. Feel compassion for me. Come in state in to my heart. Make me inherit your Kingdom.



## Chapter -9

*“Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them.’”*  
*Revelation 14: 13(NIV)*

The voice of Heaven resounds on the earth. Those who die in Christ are the blessed. What matters is not how long we have lived on the earth. What is blissful is that we are able to die in Christ whenever we pass away. What is blissful is not which church you go to, which fellowship you attend, whether you are rich or poor, or whether you are educated or illiterate. What is bliss is to be able to pass away in Christ, to die in Christ.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”

How did the thief on the left side die? He died unrepented. He died stone hearted.

*“One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other criminal rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said,*

*'since you are under the same sentence?'*

*Luke 23: 39, 40(NIV)*

Each criminal was lying on either side of Jesus Christ. One of them died repented. He repented the sins that had occurred in his life and died in peace. He inherited the Kingdom of God.

Whereas the thief on the left side, one of the criminals being hung, reviled Christ saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" Both of them were criminals. When we read the gospels of Mark and Luke, we learn that they both had been criminalized to the core. Till the very moment of death they remained criminal minded. But the words Christ said lying on the cross touched the heart of one of them: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." He discovered the love of Jesus Christ. That prayer won him Christ.

Even today if you discover that love, you will repent. If you are not able to discover that love, you are stone hearted. The love of Christ! The love that Christ loves me! The love that prays for those who spat on his face, those who punched in to his face with their fists! The love that prays for those who tore out the hair from his face! The love that prays for those who hammered down the crown of thorns on to his head!

The love that prays for those who mocked him putting a staff in his hand saying 'Hail! King of the Jews!' The love that prayed for those who stripped him, dressed him up with the robe, and made him carry the cross! The

love that prayed for those who repeatedly lashed at his back with a whip! The love that prayed for those who pierced his side with a lance! The love that prays for those who nailed his hands and legs to the dry wood! When you witness this love your heart will break.

The criminal on the left of Jesus saw all these. But his heart didn't break. He was stone hearted. There are many like him. Those who can't weep whatever they see. However heart breaking a scene is, their heart wouldn't break. Their inside will be as hard as stone. Can you perceive why they remain stone hearted? If they have hurt the Holy Ghost of God, their heart will remain as hard as ever.

The heart will remain stone hard, if someone has opposed the word the Holy Ghost gives, if they have scoffed at the word, and if they have disbelieved the acts of the Holy Ghost. What is the state of your heart? Will your heart stir while seeing the pain of the pained? He may be a stranger. But we hear of his great distress; we read in the newspaper of a poor girl whose life is ruined by becoming victim to unspeakably repugnant atrocities. Will we not weep in the heart when we see or hear such atrocities? My Lord, why have men become like this? Why have they become so stone hearted? Have we ever felt this in our heart?

The love of Christ rises in us only when we are able to pain with the pain of the pained. We must be able to convert the pain and grief of another person in to our own

pain and grief. We must be always compassionate. The criminal on the right side of Jesus heard Jesus pray for his enemies. He said: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

The heart of the criminal on the left side was stony. He too heard the prayer of Christ as the criminal on the right did. He also could have turned to Jesus like the criminal on the right. Instead, he blasphemed Christ saying: 'If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.' His prayer is asking to save.

Today many entreaties are in this vein: Lord, Show your grace to bless us. Lord, reply to our prayer and bless us. There is the utterance of the prayer. But no prayer rising from the heart. No whole-hearted prayer.

We pray addressing 'Our Father, who art in heaven'. Do we actually consider the heavenly, eternal Father as our Father? Do we have the image of the Father? Have you ever contemplated? What indiscretion is our prayer! Do we have the legitimacy to address him so? Have we yet become the son or daughter of that Father? Do we have anything after the image of that Father? Do we possess the holiness of that Father? Do we have the mercy of that Father?

Lord, I presumed to call You Father without having Your image. I am a person who preaches the word of God. Sometimes when I sat at the feet of God and prayed, I would say: I have no prerogative to utter Your Holy Name. Who am I to address the ever Holy, ever resplendent God

as 'Father'?

I would add: Praise be to thee for your having given me the dignity to address the ever Holy, the ever high, the perpetual Father, the Lord of Heavens as my 'Father'! It is the status of addressing Him as 'Father' He has given us.

Now you should say: Lord, Give me the authentic prayer. Give me the liberty to appeal to the Heavenly Father, the liberty to speak openly to Him. Give me the experience of gaining the legitimacy to pray to the everlasting God. Today we should become God's children who are capable of the authentic prayer.

The criminal on the right side prayed: "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!" And the one on the left side said: 'If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.' Although he is asking to save them, it is not a sincere prayer, not a prayer that comes from the heart. There is derision in that prayer. There is no participation of the heart in that prayer.

It is with regret I mention: We have exquisite prayers in our liturgy. Our '*promions*' (prefaces) and '*sed'ros*' (attachment/ what follows) are extremely splendid. Even our songs are rich in meaning. But do we ever wonder what we are praying and who we are praying to? Do we ever meditate while we pray?

*"Krobe srappikal than savidham vittawatharanam  
Cheytha kanyaka tha- nnudhare vanone  
Adhamyare sathan mrithiyiva than adimayilni-  
Nnettivan meyyenthiya veera sthothram."*

Forgoing the abode of cherubim-seraphim  
 Conceived in the womb of the virgin  
 Born to lift Adam's brood from bondage of Satan  
 and death  
 Praise be to thee, thou, champion!

The heroic God, who left the dwelling place of the cherubs and seraphs, who lived in the womb of Virgin Mary, and who took human birth to liberate the descendants of Adam from the bondage of Satan and Death, We praise you! We sing this in the midst of the Holy Mass. Do we ever think of its meaning?

“O Lord, Thy love for us didst make Thee come down to us from Thy place. That by Thy death, our death be abolished: Have mercy upon us.” Do we pray this small prayer understanding its meaning? Hardly ever is the truth.

We pray in the manner in which the criminal on the left side prayed; 'Save us' is the phrase. Though there is the appeal to save in the body of the prayer, there is hardly any passion in it. If you have the passion to be saved. “I will now arise,” says the Lord; “I will place him in the safety for which he longs.” The thief on the left side had no longing for safety.

Now each one of you should make a decision to make your prayer understanding its meaning. It will make a tremendous difference in your life. You pray, “Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in

heaven.” What is the meaning of that prayer? The Kingdom of God should come on the earth.

If the Kingdom of God is to be established on the earth, the quality of the Kingdom of God should come in my life. What is the quality of the Kingdom of God? There is love; there is amity; there is unity; there is no schism, there is no strife, there is no division of minds, there is no bickering; there is no impurity. There is only holiness. We should acquire these qualities in our nature. If the Kingdom of God has to come on the earth, the Kingdom of God should come in my heart. Has the Kingdom of God arrived in my heart? No, it hasn't. Then, what is the meaning of our prayer?

When Heaven comes in to my heart, Heaven will come to my home! When Heaven comes to my home, Heaven will come to my place! Can you, one person, live with the experience of having Jesus Christ in your heart? Your home will be blessed. Your children will be blessed. You should decide to live a blameless life. You should decide to live a sinless life.

In no circumstances will I, for one, revert to sin. I will never lose my temper. I will not trouble my wife. I will not hurt anybody with my words. I will see to it that my words are never insulting. I will do whatever good I can do to others. I will live as a new person from this day.

Can you take a decision of this sort? If a single person decides so, his home will be a heaven. Reason, when a single person decides, a lamp is lit. Lamp is lit in

the home where there has been darkness. The light spreads to other parts of the house. Light reaches each nook and corner of the house. Light dispels darkness and light spreads to those at home.

If you, for one, will stand fast in faith and holiness, the class room you study in will become a heaven. The hostel which you live in will become a heaven. Your roommates and classmates will commence experiencing this light. Your colleagues will experience this peace. Miracles will happen. There isn't any doubt in it.

I worked for thirty three years in the college in Kolenchery. For thirty three years since its inception. I have never used my college as a forum for preaching gospel. I have never preached gospel in my classroom. I would teach my subject earnestly. Today I have been able to feel the advantage of my stand. Many people visit me. The students I have taught, those who have worked with me. This attests the sincerity with which I have taught.

Let me say this to teachers. It is your character and conduct you transfer to your students. It is not the words you teach that you transfer, but your character. Your students will emulate even your handwriting. They will emulate your style of talking. When they become teachers, they emulate your teaching methods. Your life should thus be inspiring and influential. Your life thus becomes bright. You can be the light of your house. You can be the light of your classroom.

You should resolve: Lord, I will glow as a new lamp in

my house, to my wife, to my children, to my parents, or to my husband. I will be a role model for them.

I long to depart after living a life of testimony in this world. I long to depart after showing my dear ones how a true Christian should be. Even after my departure my conduct in this world should remain a strength and inspiration for many. Do transform me to that effect. Abolish my sins, which you alone can accomplish and I cannot.

Send me smearing a drop of your holy blood my forehead. Lord, please send me transferring the grace of your holy blood on to me. Accompany me home. I want to enter my house in your company. Let, thus, the Kingdom of God come to my home. Let my home prosper thus. Give me peace. Let me have the good fortune to live in Christ and die in Christ. I dedicate my life to you in view of it. I am your slave from today onwards.



## Chapter -10

*Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!*

*Psalms 14:7(NIV)*

*Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When God restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad! Psalms 53: 6(NIV)*

God restores his people. He eradicates man's misfortune. God heeded the prayer of those who knelt down at his feet and put an end to their miseries and pangs. "When God restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!"

*"In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,"*

*Joel 3: 1(NIV)*

*"and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes[a] and have compassion on you and gather you again from*

*all the nations where he scattered you.”*

*Deuteronomy 30: 2,3(NIV)*

*"Also for you, Judah, a harvest is appointed.*

*"Whenever I would restore the fortunes of my people,"*

*Hosea 6: 11(NIV)*

There are people who go through different kinds of misery and grief. There are those who bereave the sudden death of their dear ones. There are those who languish having lost their peace. There are those who feel wretched on account of financial straits and huge debts. There are those who are afflicted with diseases. Various problems, predicaments, family discord, disagreements, and dissonance. Unending problems that vex people!

But, God's Word says: I will restore you. God says this not just to console you. He is the one who keeps the word He makes.

He will restore. Our present condition will change. Our hearts will fill with peace. Peace will prevail in our lives.

God will dislodge your strains and replace them with affluence, welfare and blessedness. Brothers and sisters, when you devote your life to Christ; pay careful heed to the word of God; Internalize the essence of the word, accept Christ as the Saviour and the Lord and experience a great conversion in your life, you go ahead humbling and surrendering yourself in consonance with the image of Christ, you will have your rewards.

I will introduce a person who has been restored in

this manner. A young man who has been restored!

Caught in a crisis, all his property attached by bank, family in dire straits having lost everything! No money, no food, the entire life gone wretched! But today, in a splendid position, he lives in peace, having built up a brilliant career. Dear Mr Thomas is running a prosperous business in Dubai. Let us read in his own words the unhappy developments in his life and how his life was later made good.

My name is Thomas. I am a member of the parish of Marthoman Jacobite Church, Mulanthuruthy. I am a member of the Purappadathil family, widely known in Mulanthuruthy, a family very closely associated with the church. I have six sisters and a brother. We had everything in a worldly sense. But, simultaneously, it was in the bondage of Satan.

Bondage of mental disease and suicide! Bondage of smoking and drinking! Bondage of occult and superstition! Bondage of mixed marriage and love marriage! We had all these in our family.

We had lost all our property even before my birth. We had no house or land holdings as they had been attached by the bank. We had such a dismal past! We, who once had held our head high, had to walk with our head bent down in shame for many years. A long period of privations!

We eked out a living by selling milk and taking tuitions for many years. Privation for clothing, privation for

food, privations of all kind. There wasn't a single family in the locality from whom we hadn't borrowed. Debts in the ration shop, debts in the kiosk, debts in the cloth shop, debts everywhere. We had borrowed heavy loans from banks. A period when we had no way ahead, all roads having closed in front of us!

We were good at studies. I was also good at studies. But at the end of class eight I began to read unsavoury books. Impurity began to creep in to my life. The things I saw, heard and read began to have a strangle hold on me. The habit of abusing oneself overpowered me. I had no control over my eyes. I began to view everything sinfully, whether near and dear ones, whether older or younger, humans or beasts. My interest in studies petered out.

I passed SSLC and Pre-Degree with very poor marks. Failed in all subjects in the degree first year and second year, when there was hardly any scope for passing in the final year, on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1992, I walked in to the meeting of the Christian Revival Fellowship, which I had been disposed against, accompanying an already widowed sister and her child, with a closed heart.

I was a member of the Jacobite Youth Association then. I was very close to church. I observed the Lents and rituals meticulously. When I look back now, the spirituality I had was devoid of Christ, oblivious of Christ, and absolutely in dissonance with Christ.

I was constrained to escort my sister, who had received the Lord on the very first day she attended the

meeting of the Christian Revival Fellowship, repeatedly for days to the fellowship. And after three months, when I was badly in need, I got a good job, which I hardly deserved, just because I had come to this fellowship. This made me think.

My income began to increase. So did my acts of sin. Drinking and smoking, which I had determined against, overpowered me. I lent myself to various trespasses which a young man would ordinarily detest and abominations which cannot be spoken of in public.

I began to frivol away my income. I destroyed the peace of my family. I used to torment my sisters. Though I wouldn't torment my parents my words were apt to break their heart. For about ten years I continued, enslaved to sin, in the bondage of Satan, drinking the dregs of this world. For all the six days of the week, I would walk in sin. In grime. On the seventh day, I would come and bend my knees in the fellowship. Ten full years thus passed in hypocrisy.

But after ten years, in December 2000, the Lord who had seen me even before I was formed in the womb of my mother made me take a dedication. Following this, I secured a very good job in a reputed company in Oman. And a degree I passed in five years! I wasn't conversant with any language other than Malayalam. Though I had ideas, I couldn't perform due to my poor communication skills. After four days since I joined My Team Leader remarked: 'He is good for nothing.' Reporting to the Head of the Department that I was unfit, he got me transferred to

a less important Department.

But, dear ones, after a tenure of ten years, my God made me the best performer in all the posts I held in that company that had branded me good for nothing. Subsequently, I was offered a good job in Dubai and I shifted to that country. But even after two months I didn't get visa, nor did I get the job I had been offered. Meanwhile I visited my native place twice. It was a great disappointment.

I had only ten thousand rupees in my hand. There was hardly any scope for getting a job. All roads closed in front of me. Again, quite unexpectedly, when I did not even have a bank account, my God made me set up a big business in Dubai. Today I have a company of my own in Dubai. Our family, which had been despised by all and sundry, has been turned in to a marvel. Jesus, who has restored our fortunes ten times as much as we had lost, still lives. Jesus, who gives us triumph over the sins we were being beaten by, still lives.

I had had no children for four and a half years of my marriage. Both of us had multiple complications. We had approached several fertility clinics and adopted all the methods Medical Sciences offered. We had tried Ayurveda. We took treatment in four reputed hospitals in India and abroad. All was in vain. Four times we adopted artificial methods. No use.

When we had lost all hope, we approached Yohannan sir and the fellowship asking for prayers. The

Servant of God pointed his finger right in to our heart. He convinced us of the affairs which needed correction in our life. He restored us giving us the true word. He prayed for us. Within a month my wife conceived normally, while we had been written off by the Medical Sciences. Today I have four healthy children.

Today I, my family, my brother and his family, with our mother live in close association with Christian Revival Fellowship enjoying all the sweetness of a Christian life. I had jotted down in the inner recess of my heart on the very first day I attended this fellowship with a closed heart that it was not the church or the community that require to be changed, but the heart.

I have been close to this fellowship for about twenty years. We have never been asked a Paise till now. The fellowship only familiarises the Lord Jesus Christ who has given us all these blessings. My only loss is my stinking sin instincts.

Today I live in peace, in happiness, and with hope. I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

Glory to God. We have read how God restored Thomas. "When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad." The God who restores! I recollect a real episode I read in a church weekly. It was heart-rending.

A man was in a super market. A grandma came there

with a four or five year old child in the meanwhile. They selected a doll. The grandson stood holding the doll in his hand. When the grandma found out the price of the doll she told the grandson that the money they had wouldn't suffice to pay the price of the doll. The boy's face turned gloomy. He looked at the doll turning it upside down. He didn't feel like dropping the doll. But, sadly, they didn't have enough money to pay for it.

The boy asked the grandma: 'Grandma, wouldn't the money suffice?' She replied: 'No, son. It wouldn't suffice.' The boy's face turned further gloomy. The grandma moved on to another section. The boy stood there sadly. Then the man approached the boy and asked him, "Son. You haven't enough money, don't you?"

The boy said, "Yes. In fact, I meant to send this doll to my sister."

"Why so?"

"We had hoped Santa Claus would give my sister doll and toys this Christmas. But it wouldn't be."

"Why so?"

"Before that she has gone to another world from which she will not be able to return! That is what my dad told me."

A place from which there is no return! He understood that the boy's sister had been dead!

"Daddy told me. My mummy is soon going there. I thought I would send the doll through my mummy. My

sister is so fond of dolls! We came to buy the doll hoping that mummy would carry the doll with her to give it to my sister. Last night I prayed a lot to God: Lord, give me a doll to send to my sister. But sadly, the money wouldn't suffice.”

The man stood closer to the boy and said: “Son, let's find out if you have enough money. Show me your purse.” The boy gave his wallet innocently to the man.

The man took a few currency notes from his wallet and slipped them in to the boy's wallet. Then he said, “See, there is enough money in the wallet. In fact it is much more than you need now.” The boy hadn't noticed the man slipping currency notes in to his wallet.

He said: “I was wondering how I shall ask God one more than thing. I had meant to buy one white rose too. I want to buy a white rose flower. For, my mother likes it. When she goes I meant to give her a white rose. Now God has given me enough money to buy a white rose in addition to the doll.”

The boy bought both the doll and the white rose. The man stood apart and wiped his eyes. Reason, two days ago he had read in the newspaper about a big car accident. A young lady was at the wheel. She had her little daughter by her side. A truck hit the car and the car was completely wrecked. The girl died on the spot. The mother was not yet dead, but she was in the ventilator and was not expected to survive. It is in this context the boy had come to the mall. Before leaving he had said to his dad, “Tell mummy not to go before I come back.” He looked on

with a broken heart and wet eyes thinking about the innocent boy's grief, his love for his sister and his mother.

Meanwhile, the grandma came. The boy left with his grandma. Next day he read in the newspaper about the death of the lady. It was the day of the burial. He felt urged to go there. He searched out the house and went there. He saw the lady lying in the coffin with a white rose in her hand and a doll as if held close to her heart. He stood there and sobbed.

When I read this episode I too cried for a while.

Dear ones, what all kinds of ordeal man goes through! The death of close relatives! Untimely death! Unexpected and sudden accidents! What all troubles! But on all such scenes of anguish filled life the Lord can give you peace. However, man does not comprehend how the Lord gives us peace.

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." The last words the Lord had spoken! Before going to the cross, before going to the scene of the trial, he had spoken these words to his eleven disciples.

Brothers and sisters, whose hearts are smouldering? Baffled in the teeth of misfortunes? Sobbing in the face of troubles and tribulations? Mind distressed and throbbing? Our Lord Jesus Christ lives to comfort us. The last words Lord Jesus Christ spoke lying on the cross: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

The eternal saviour, though departed from this world committing the spirit to the Father, resurrected and live. Christ will give us relief. He will bring solace to our heart. He will bring peace to our family. If he is in your heart he will bring you consolation in any complicated situation, in any critical moment.

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*  
John 16: 33(NIV)

If you receive Jesus, the heroic Champion who has overcome the world, in state into your heart, if Jesus lives in your heart, He will hold your hand. You will experience miraculous peace. You can be relaxed when Jesus goes in the lead. Your home will be a heaven, serene and splendid. Your life will be resplendent. You will be blessed.

You will gain the legitimacy to kiss the holy feet of the King of Kings in the eternal land of Heaven and to raise glory to Jesus, when you soar to eternity after completing the ephemeral life in this world. You will gain the good fortune to praise the Lord in the array of the sanctified who are the elect to soar with the Lord on his Second Coming. Christ is inviting you to this great reward; He is hailing you. Rush to his feet. Enjoy the peace offered at the foot of the cross.



## Chapter - 11

St. Augustine was a saint. It is not only that he had not been a saint in his earlier life, but he had lived an abominable life; a life obnoxious to the boot. He had lost his father when he was very young. It was his mother who brought him up. His mother tended him quite lovingly. As he had no father to exercise control over him, he led a prodigal life indulging in sin. 'The confessions' is an autobiographical work Augustine wrote.

In 'The confessions', which means open admission, he describes the internal conflicts (stress and strain) he experienced in his life. He was writhing in conflicts!! The dreadful tentacles of sin seized him and dragged him in to maleficence.

But, his mother went on praying for her son. She cried her heart out for her son. There was also a Bishop praying insistently for Augustine. Augustine repented. He became St. Augustine. He gave up his prodigal life. He abandoned his maleficent ways. He came out of the vicious cycle he was caught in. The words Augustine said after he had repented are famous. "My mother gave me breast milk to drink. And my mother drank her tears for me."

The children of tears are never lost. The children who are entrusted in to the hands of God in tearful prayer will never be lost. They will grow, they will rise, and they will repent. I will now introduce you to a person who repented as a result of the insistent prayer, tears and sobbing of his parents. He is Shri C. V. George, who, by the grace of God, is an active worker of Christian Revival Fellowship preaching in our meetings.

“Let God's name be glorified. My house is in a place called Mazhuvannur. I was born and brought up in a Jacobite family which is in the parish of St. Thomas Jacobite church. Mine was the family of an ordinary farmer. My father's brothers had had been employed in high positions. Though we had landholdings, we were hard up for cash. During my school days I had to do with a single set of dress. There was no scarcity for food as we had farming.

My father was a person who had never touched liquor in his life. But I recollect, my father and mother would often lose their temper, throw tantrums and used to be cross with each other. Ours was a namesake Christian family. My brother used to be closely associated with the church and the Sunday school in those days.

Those were the days when we never knew who Christ was. It was during this period a strong wind of revival blew from Trivandrum over places including Kadayiruppu, Kolenchery, Mazhuvannur, and the High Ranges. As I have said already, the wind blew in

Mazhuvannur too.

My parents and my brother moved close to this fellowship. They had got the experience of a conversion. But I was unaffected by this experience.

My parents had been regular in the fellowship for a long time. But I failed to comprehend who Christ was, what his love was like, and what a pure life was. As I grew up, my heart went deeper and deeper in to sin and the charm of this world. As days progressed, it transpired that nobody in our family except my father and mother would attend the fellowship.

My family was in the grip of affliction of disease. My father had disease. My younger sister was bedridden, unable to move about on account of a chronic disease.

The older I grew, the more disobedient I became of my parents. I had plenty of friends outside. I would work hard in our farm till noon. But in the afternoon I would plunge in to the ways of the world, visiting the haunts of wayward youngsters.

The times frittered away in loafing about in the temple compounds, watching plays, going to the cinema, living immorally, and indulging in wayward behaviour. In the family my father and mother were spiritually inclined. Yet there was no family prayer in which all in the family prayed together. Once I left in the afternoon I would come back to my house only around eleven o'clock in the night.

Time passed in this manner. No amount of drinking

fetches me any comfort or peace. Though I wasn't a compulsive drunkard, there were times I would lie passed out after going on a binge. Times whiled away watching sleazy movies. Whenever I came out of a bout of drinking, or a movie, I knew there was a void in my heart. I was not able to reach out anything I longed for.

Meanwhile I got married. There had been antagonisms between me and my wife ever since the early days of our marriage. I was a person who would go mad with anger. I would fly in to a tantrum irrespective of father or mother. I would fly in to a rage with my wife and use abusive words. My wife would grumble and burst in to tears. She would sulk for days together.

My mother would ask my wife seeing her burst out crying why she was crying so bitterly. She would advise her to lend ear to the word of Jesus Christ so that she might get solace. Sometimes she would ask me permission to go to the fellowship meeting. She would also attend some of the meetings in the company of my parents.

When she came back from the gospel meetings she would tell me that what was preached there was only the true word of God, and nothing else. She would persuade me to attend the meetings. But I would tell her, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them." I was reluctant to give up sin.

Dear ones, I was not a human being, but a beast who lived in the garb of a human being. I had absolutely no

qualms about doing sins of the meanest sort, about indulging in misdeeds of the lowest kind. So infamous were the company in which I moved.

Time passed in this manner. My wife continued attending the fellowship meetings occasionally. But I had no interest in attending them. Even when I shunned these meetings I knew Christian Revival Fellowship was a gathering where the true spirit of God prevailed.

My studies discontinued in class eight. It was quite accidentally that I got the good fortune to repent. At the age of thirty four I happened to attend a meeting in the chapel of our church. The gospel message of that child of God shook my heart to the bottom.

He stood up and quoted the thirty sixth verse of the thirteenth chapter of the Acts. "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation," In continuation, he asked: Each one who is sitting under the canopy of this convention tent, whose purpose do you serve? Do you serve the purpose of God? Or do you serve the purpose of Satan?"

No question or no verse had ever touched me till my age of thirty four. The Bible I hadn't read. I had never participated in any prayer. I was not even a church mouse. But the question that came out of the mouth of that child of God sank in to my heart. I began to say unknowingly: I am a man who serves the purpose of Satan.

My eyes drooped. I began to weep unknowingly. A

man who had had a stony heart shed remorseful tears that night under the influence of the word of God. I felt that every word and every verse he spoke for one and a half hours in that tent was what the God of Heavens had sent for me.

I told my Lord one thing during the dedication service at the end of the convention: My Father in heaven, I am willing to serve your purpose from today onwards. I am submitting my remaining days in to your hands. I said those things little knowing what dedication was, what the service of heaven was, or what was repentance. My heart began to soar ever since I got up from that convention tent.

In that night Jesus walked in to the void of my heart, the void which no worldly pleasures were ever able to fill. From the moment I got up from that convention tent I began to say quite unconsciously: Praise be to thee, Jesus. My heart filled with happiness. My eyes welled with tears of contrition.

I came back home. When I sat down to supper with my parents I announced for everyone to hear that I had submitted my life into the hands of Jesus. It was a night of happiness in our family. It was a night when my parents' longstanding tearful prayer was acceded to and allowed.

I hadn't known what repentance was, but I realize now, my life had changed as night and day. Since I got up from that convention tent I haven't seen any of my former friends. I felt nothing in common with them.

It was a Sunday. From the following Monday I began to go to the meetings of Christian Revival Fellowship and bend my knees before the Lord. My Lord has held me close to this fellowship till today. I had mistaken till then that piety meant nothing beyond going to church, attending service, and praying at home morning and evening. But I realized on that day that the heart of a God's child lives in close communion with God. I hadn't ever aspired for these things. I got the companionship of the Father in Heaven.

While working in the field with my workers, while they took rest after food, I would sit apart and pray pouring my heart to the Lord. I would praise my Jesus. I gained the experience of being in the company of Jesus while sitting in a vehicle or travelling.

In that single night my habit of drinking, my impure relations, my carnal desires, and my infamous company all dropped out of my life.

My Jesus held me close to the fellowship. He placed me under the pastoral tutelage of the God's servants in this fellowship.

Ever since I repented I have had a longing in my heart. I longed to become God's servant. I longed to live a stainless life. I did not reflect on whether it would be possible for me.

I recollect how I prayed sitting alone in my prayer room in my house: Lord, I am not wise. I haven't read your

word till this age of thirty four years. Yet I have a longing. I want to preach your gospel.

The God in Heaven brought me up step by step under the tutelage of this fellowship. No one in my native place may be able to cite any great achievement on the part of my father. But the relentless prayer of my father and mother enabled them to win through their life in this world the inheritance to the Kingdom of God and also to profit their children to Christ.

When I came to this fellowship and bent my knees I realized that a Jesus lives. I hadn't heard what the Holy Ghost was. The consecrated water sprinkled in the church on the feast of the Pentecost had fallen upon me too. But here when I knelt, the Holy Ghost began to dwell upon me the carnal man whom once evil had played havoc with, evil forces haunted, the forces of darkness reigned triumphantly on. My Lord lit a spark of the divine fire in my heart. The Holy Ghost has been ever giving me the blessing for blowing it alight to prevent it from going out.

The Lord has given us the good fortune to be close to the work of the Lord as a family. The Lord has given us the good fortune to hold fellowship meetings in my residence. God has restored many God's children in to his fold.

My brother who had forsaken faith once got the blessing to go to the U.S. My brother, who had lived many years without Christ, without repentance, fallen from

grace got a golden opportunity to repent, dedicate himself for Christ and to be reclaimed. He now lives in the U.S working there and in close association with the work of God.

When I lived in drinking, debauchery, and family disharmony, no one from the church came in search of me. But once I repented and joined this fellowship and when many people in our locality came to repentance the reverent priest of my parish happened to call me and tell me: 'George, what is the point in your going to that fellowship when we have a fellowship here? We have family units. Won't it do if you stick to them?'

That night I said to the reverent father: 'Mine is a humble life touched by the Holy Ghost. A life got lit by the divine fire. I once had lived as a prodigal in this place. But the Holy Ghost transfigured me. The Holy Ghost prevails in this fellowship. I cannot afford to forsake this fellowship. Come what may, I will live in close association with this fellowship.'

Children of God, even if I am excommunicated from the church or ostracized by anybody, I have absolutely no worry. I have no hesitation. For, Christ resides in my heart. Today, it is not the church that needs to be changed, but it is the heart, reiterates our most respected Professor Yohannansir. I am still in the Jacobite church. And I have no apprehensions.

Whether banned by the church or excommunicated from church or threatened by anybody, I will live in peace,

the peace that has been brought by the Christ who resides in my heart. As a family we associate closely with the work of God and this fellowship. The Lord has freed us from the bondage of disease since we bent our knees before the Lord in this fellowship. The Lord has given us, though we had transgressed, a contrite heart. Once starved of cash, we have now enough to take care of our needs by the grace of God.

I conclude dedicating my life to spend myself, the remaining part of my life, in the service of God in close association with this fellowship and the God's children in it. Glory be to God.



## OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. അമൃതയാര</li> <li>2. ആന്തരികശാന്തി</li> <li>3. ശുഭഭാവം</li> <li>4. ശാന്തിതീരം</li> <li>5. മധുമൊഴി</li> <li>6. മുക്തിമാർഗ്ഗം</li> <li>7. നിത്യവിശ്രാന്തി</li> <li>8. നിരപഹ</li> <li>9. ജയജീവിതം</li> <li>10. വിശ്വാസജീവിതം</li> <li>11. വാടാമലർ</li> <li>12. ദിവ്യാരാധന</li> <li>13. എനിക്ക് കുടിപ്പാൻ തരുമോ?</li> <li>14. നീതിമാനാകുന്നതെങ്ങനെ?</li> <li>15. തുറന്നവാതിൽ</li> <li>16. വരവും ചിലവും</li> <li>17. ദൈവരാജ്യം</li> <li>18. AMRUTHADHARA</li> <li>19. ഓർത്തുകൊൾവിൻ</li> <li>20. ക്രിസ്തുവിൽ</li> <li>21. പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവ്</li> <li>22. പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവ്യാപാരം</li> <li>23. പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാക്കൾ</li> <li>24. ഉത്തമഗീതം</li> <li>25. സങ്കേത നഗരങ്ങൾ</li> <li>26. മരുഭൂമിയിലെ നീർപ്പൊയ്ക</li> <li>27. യോന</li> <li>28. പച്ചവെള്ളം വീഞ്ഞാക്കി</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29. കൈരീതിന്റെ വക്കിൽ</li> <li>30. എത്രത്തോളം രണ്ടുതോണിയിൽ?</li> <li>31. ഏലിയാവിന്റെ ദൈവം എവിടെ?</li> <li>32. പ്രവാചകനല്ല<br/>പ്രവാചകശിഷ്യനുമല്ല</li> <li>33. മുദ്രാമോതിരമാക്കും</li> <li>34. എനിക്ക് കാഴ്ച പ്രാപിക്കേണം</li> <li>35. എനിക്ക് ആശയ്ക്ക് വകയുണ്ടോ?</li> <li>36. INNER PEACE (English)</li> <li>37. അവർക്ക് ഭക്ഷിപ്പാൻ കൊടുപ്പിൻ</li> <li>38. GLITTERING FUTURE (English)</li> <li>39. ഏകാന്തതയുടെ അന്ധത</li> <li>40. STREAMS IN THE DESERT</li> <li>41. WAY TO LIBERATION</li> <li>42. നിന്റെ മുതന്മാർ ജീവിക്കും</li> <li>43. വന്നു പ്രാതൽ കഴിച്ചുകൊൾവിൻ</li> <li>44. എന്നെ തൊട്ടതാർ?</li> <li>45. സൗഖ്യമാകുവാൻ മനസ്സുണ്ടോ?</li> <li>46. അത് സഹിക്കാകുന്നവൻ ആർ?</li> <li>47. എന്നെ ആർ വിടുവിക്കും?</li> <li>48. നന്മയുടെ പാനപാത്രം</li> <li>49. പ്രത്യാശയുടെ പ്രഭാതം</li> <li>50. ഇനിയും വൈകണമോ?</li> <li>51. ARE YOU WILLING TO BE HEALED?</li> <li>52. കണ്ണീർപ്പാടം - ഭാഗം ഒന്ന്</li> <li>53. കണ്ണീർപ്പാടം - ഭാഗം രണ്ട്</li> <li>54. BESIDE CHERITH</li> <li>55. യഹോവയുടെ ഭൃജങ്ങൾ</li> <li>56. കണ്ണീർ തോരുമോ?</li> <li>57. കണ്ണീർക്കണങ്ങൾ</li> <li>58. എല്ലാം നന്മയ്ക്ക്</li> </ol> |
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| <p>59. ആശയിൻ പ്രകാശം</p> <p>60. കഷ്ടങ്ങൾ സാരമില്ല</p> <p>61. നിന്റെ ഗൃഹകാര്യം<br/>(കമത്തിലാക്കുക)</p> <p>62. ഞാൻ എങ്ങനെ കണ്ടു സഹിക്കും?</p> <p>63. ഉത്സവം</p> <p>64. അത്യുന്നതന്റെ മറവിൽ</p> <p>65. ഇനിയും തോൽക്കണമോ?</p> <p>66. മരണാനന്തരാവസ്ഥ</p> <p>67. മരിക്കാത്ത മനുഷ്യനുണ്ടോ?</p> <p>68. ചുളപോലെ കത്തുന്ന ദിവസം</p> <p>69. ഗിരിനിരകൾ</p> <p>70. THE CITIES OF REFUGE</p> <p>71. ഗിരിശൃംഗങ്ങൾ</p> <p>72. THE BLINDNESS OF LONELINESS</p> <p>73. യുദ്ധയുടെ ലേഖനം</p> <p>74. കാറ്റിന്റെ വഴിയേ</p> <p>75. കയ്പിന്റെ മധുരം</p> <p>76. തളിരണിയും കാലം</p> <p>77. ജീവജലത്തിനരികെ</p> <p>78. BEYOND DEATH</p> <p>79. ദാഹജലം</p> <p>80. ആശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ ഉറവ</p> <p>81. പുന്തേനരുവി</p> <p>82. കെണിയും കുടുക്കും</p> <p>83. അഴിയാക്കുരുക്കുകൾ</p> <p>84. ഭയപ്പെടേണ്ട</p> <p>85. ഭീരുത്വം മാറണമോ?</p> <p>86. പ്രതിസന്ധികളിൽ തളരാതെ</p> <p>87. നെല്ലും പതിരും</p> <p>88. ശാപമോക്ഷം</p> <p>89. അനുഗ്രഹത്തിലേയ്ക്ക്</p> | <p>90. HOW LONG IN TWO BOATS?</p> <p>91. കണ്ണീരിലെ മഴവില്ല്</p> <p>92. കിതപ്പും കുതിപ്പും</p> <p>93. നഷ്ടസൗഭാഗ്യങ്ങൾ<br/>തിരികെ കിട്ടുമോ?</p> <p>94. ശക്തിയെ പുതൂക്കണമോ ?</p> <p>95. ചെറുകുറുക്കന്മാർ</p> <p>96. കൃപയുടെ ഉറവ</p> <p>97. കൃപയുടെ നീർച്ചാലുകൾ</p> <p>98. മടങ്ങി വരുവിൻ</p> <p>99. കാലേബ് ധീരനായ വിശ്വാസ വീരൻ</p> <p>100. IS THERE ANYBODY WHO WILL<br/>NEVER DIE ?</p> <p>101. ഭാഗ്യശാലികൾ</p> <p>102. സ്വർഗ്ഗതീരമണയുന്നവർ</p> <p>103. സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ രോദനം</p> <p>104. വിശുദ്ധനായോരു ദൈവപുരുഷൻ</p> <p>105. പരിശുദ്ധാത്മപ്രവാഹം</p> <p>106. CALEB - A BRAVE HERO OF FAITH</p> <p>107. രക്ഷ പ്രാപിപ്പാൻ ഞാൻ എന്ത്<br/>ചെയ്യേണം?</p> <p>108. ശുമുദ്ര</p> <p>109. LITTLE FOXES</p> <p>110. വരൾച്ചയും വളർച്ചയും</p> <p>111. മരണമേ, നിന്റെ ജയം എവിടെ?</p> <p>112. സമർപ്പണം</p> <p>113. ON WIND'S WAY</p> <p>114. സന്തോഷത്തിന് വല്ല<br/>വഴിയുമുണ്ടോ?</p> <p>115. भाम्यशाली</p> <p>116. ജയാളികൾ</p> <p>117. സൂര്യനുദിക്കും</p> <p>118. VICTORIOUS LIVING</p> |
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