





TWELFTH EDITION—Over 66 Million Printed

Here's How!

*A fascinating short story involving
the greatest issue of all time...*

THEY met while flying westward across the nation—two young men, Dr. Westman and Jack Strong. They became fast friends when they discovered they were graduates of the same university. After an interesting conversation about their school a serious discussion arose. It all began when the doctor, after a pause in the conversation, remarked, "We live in terrible times, Jack. Are you ready for what's ahead?"

"I'm not worried about what's ahead," Jack laughed. "I believe this old world has a glorious future."

"Listen, Jack," the doctor returned, "prophecies throughout the Bible predict that this age is going to wind up in such a terrible time of tribulation and war and bloodshed that it will be multiplied times worse than anything that has ever happened in the history of man."

"Part of the end time prophecy predicts that one-third of the people on earth will be killed in a matter of a few months. The earth has a population of almost five billion people, which means that some 1,666,000,000 (1,666

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million) people will be killed in that period alone—not to mention all the rest of the bloodshed and horror predicted for the end. The 23,000,000 (23 million) soldiers and civilians over the world who died from all causes of World War II will be a mere drop in the bucket in comparison.

"There are many end time prophecies about Israel and other nations which are being fulfilled right now. This is no time to refuse to be concerned, and to shut our eyes to the prophecies in the Bible about the last days. *We are living right now in the last days!* It's time to be concerned about being prepared to meet God at any moment!"

"Why do we need to be prepared to meet God?" Jack questioned. "I have no fear nor concern about meeting God."

"You should have concern! We will all stand before God for judgment. As Creator, as the greatest Power, the greatest Intelligence, and as Possessor of the highest moral character in existence it is both God's right and His duty to govern the universe. We are all under obligation to obey the commands of God. And no law is of any consequence if there is not a penalty for every act of disobedience. God says, 'It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.'

"The apostle Paul said, in the book of Romans in the Bible, chapter 14, verse 12,

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'Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.' Jesus Christ taught that every word and act of all persons would come up for judgment. Matthew 12:36 records that Christ said, 'Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.'

"I don't believe that God is keeping a record of everything we do," Jack broke in.

"Look at this then," the doctor answered as he took his Bible from his brief case. "Listen to what it says here in Proverbs 15:3, 'The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.'

"Then look back here in Revelation, chapter 20, beginning with verse 12. 'And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.' So you see God is keeping a complete record of every one of us."

"Well, maybe," Jack answered, "but it says

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there that everyone will be judged according to his works. So, if my good deeds outweigh my evil deeds I'll make out all right."

"Jack, if you had faithfully obeyed the laws of the state up to this time, and then today you killed a man, would the state endeavor to find out if your good deeds outweighed this evil deed, or would you be punished for your crime without consideration being given to your past life?"

"I'd be punished. But that's entirely different."

"Not at all. The state expects you to live right, and you are punished if you don't. God also expects you to live right, and when you fail to obey the moral law of what is right, and when you disobey God's definite commands, you face judgment by God."

"Well, even if you should be right about that, who really knows how to be prepared to meet God? Some people think they know, but I'll be honest enough to admit that I don't know—and I don't believe anyone else knows for sure either. What's more, I'm really not much concerned. I belong to church and try to live a respectable life. Here's the way I look at it—If I live a respectable life and treat my fellow-men right, and if I pay my debts, I'll make out all right. God won't hold anything against me if I do the best I can. He won't expect me to do better than my best. That's my religion, and I think

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it's a pretty good religion."

"Jack, you said you believe that if you did your best you would be ready to meet God. Let me ask you—Are you doing your best?"

"Well, I suppose there are times when I could do better."

"If you could do better you are not doing your best, so you are lost even according to your own religion. The Bible says, 'All have sinned,' and, 'The wages of sin is death.'"

"I'm not a sinner!" Jack interrupted. "I've always lived a respectable life."

"Jesus said that a sinful thought was just as wrong as a sinful act. When an evil thought comes into our minds, and we don't put it out the moment we are conscious of it, we are guilty in God's sight of committing the very act of sin we allowed ourselves to think about. Every one of us has sinned, and we all stand condemned before God unless we have found the one and only way to have our guilt removed."

"What do you mean?" Jack questioned. "Even if we could have all guilt removed we wouldn't be able to know it."

"You're in the same place I was, Jack, but a friend of mine showed me some remarkable things concerning life and the hereafter. I'd like to show you the things this friend showed me; how we can *know* what the outcome of our meeting with God will be."

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"How can you be so sure that you know?"

In a firm but kind voice the doctor answered, "I know I've found the truth, and I'm sure you'll agree when you hear how simple and plain and wonderful the truth is. In your present state you are a condemned sinner, which is a terrible condition for anyone to be in. But I can show you how you can receive eternal life instead, and know it."

"All right," Jack agreed, "let's hear it anyway. I can't lose anything by it."

"Let me start by asking you a question. If you were God, what would you do? Just suppose that here you are—you're God—there's nothing but you to begin with. You have infinite power and wisdom. You can do whatever you desire. What would you do?"

"I suppose I'd make some worlds and suns and moons," Jack answered with a grin.

"Why?"

"I don't know. Why did God make them?"

"He made them because He had a need. God never does anything without good reason."

Jack thought a moment, and then said, "The only problem I can see that God might have had when He was all alone would have been that with all that empty space, and without anyone else around, He must have had a very desolate and lonely existence."

"You're right! That was God's need—He needed someone to love, and someone who

would love Him. The Bible says, 'God is love.' His very essence is love. The main driving force within Him is love. There is so much in the Bible about God's love. In fact, the whole Bible is actually a love story—recording the various ramifications of God's dealings with men as He seeks to woo them—using both pain and blessing to bring us to Himself.

"And the only beings that could really love God to His complete satisfaction would be beings like Himself. God loves the birds and animals, but not nearly with the intensity that He loves the sons He has created in His own image and likeness. Genesis, the first book in the Bible, records that God created the earth and the entire universe. Then after bringing forth vegetation and animal life on the earth God said, as recorded in Genesis 1:26, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'"

"Say, I read that once," Jack interrupted. "That doesn't make sense. If God was the Creator of everything, to whom was He talking there?"

"The answer to that is found in the New Testament, in Hebrews 1:2. Let's read it here. 'God hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds.' It says there that God created the worlds through His Son. He was speaking

to His Son and to the Holy Spirit when He said, 'Let us make man in our image.'

"You said something a moment ago," Jack spoke up, "about God creating sons in His own image and likeness, who would give Him the love He so greatly desired. Did He create the Son you speak of here sometime before He created these other sons?"

"No, the Son of God, mentioned here in Hebrews 1:2 and in many other places in the Bible, was not created. He was begotten, or born of the Father. As one of the confessions of faith states, He was "begotten, not made."

"Well, how do you explain that?"

Shaking his head, the doctor answered, "What took place in eternity before the universe was created is something that God has not chosen to reveal to us. However, God *has* revealed to us that He has a begotten Son, and that this Son is our Creator. Therefore, His Son is also God. Then just think what it implied when God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.' In creating us in His own image and likeness God has given us a possible future which is absolutely astounding! But notice what happened.

"Adam and Eve, the first man and woman God created, were placed in a beautiful garden called Eden. They had wonderful fellowship with God there. God visited them, and

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walked and talked with them. But just the same Adam and Eve rebelled against Him. And they were banished by God from this paradise for their disobedience and rebellion. Being created in the image of God, man has the power of choice. God was testing Adam and Eve—and they failed the test!

"They failed to appreciate their true relationship to God—that He was their Father, who loved them dearly. They didn't understand that it was God's great love that had motivated Him to create them. They thought only about satisfying their own lusts and desires instead of seeking to bring joy to their wonderful God and Father.

"When creating us in His own image and likeness God put within each one of us the same deep need for love that was within Him. And this need within each of us can only be fully met and completely satisfied when we say an unconditional 'yes' to God, and accept His love as our complete fulfillment for life and eternity. There's an emptiness within each of us that only God can fill!

"We sometimes criticize Adam for disobeying God, but every one of us has spurned God's love, and we've tried to satisfy the craving within us by satisfying the lusts of our body and mind. We have all rebelled against God. We have all gone our own way. Psalm 14:2 and 3 says, 'The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men

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to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.'

"The Hebrew word translated 'understand' in the scripture I just read means to 'act with understanding and intelligence.' Until God took the initiative to reach out and rescue us, none of us acted with understanding and intelligence toward Him. We've all gone our own filthy ways. And Ezekiel 18:20 says, 'The soul that sinneth, it shall die!'

"We find then that even though we have been created in the image of God, and our heritage could have been a glorious heritage with God as His sons, we have all rebelled and we are all under the sentence of death. And this death is more than mere physical death. It will be the second death that we just read about. Death means separation. Physical death takes place when the soul is separated from the body. The second death will occur when the soul is separated from, or banished from God, in the lake of fire."

"That's another thing I can't understand," Jack interrupted. "If God is the God of love that you say He is, where do folks get the idea that He will punish anyone in Hell?"

"You can be *sure* that you will be punished in Hell," the doctor answered, "unless you repent of your sins, and unless the guilt of your sin is removed, because God says so in

the Bible time after time. Whatever God says—positively will happen! He has absolutely no choice—He must punish the sinner! If His nature were such that He had to forgive if we simply asked His forgiveness, His entire Kingdom would crumble. The vilest sinners could then simply ask His forgiveness whenever they were brought up for judgment, and upon receiving His forgiveness they could go right back to their sinning, because they could get by again and again merely by asking forgiveness. The same would apply to the Devil. Terrifying anarchy would prevail.

"Also God is altogether holy and righteous. He would not continue to be holy and righteous if He did not judge sin, because by His very laxness and indifference He would be party to the sin and rebellion He allowed. If God failed to judge sin He would be *permitting* rebellion against righteousness, thereby legalizing lawlessness and anarchy, and giving license and liberty to our lusts and passions, instead of righteously making us responsible to obey Him and do what is right.

"God's very nature of absolute holiness and righteousness *impels* Him to judge and punish sin. Therefore, in your unforgiven state you are hopelessly lost, and doomed to exile in Hell, unless you can somehow be *pardoned!*"

"I never thought of God's nature and character entering into the matter," Jack

admitted, "But say, I was just thinking, you stated that our guilt can be removed. If that happens are we then restored to favor with God, and to our position as His sons?"

"Yes. But you're getting ahead of me. Let me explain. God positively cannot and will not tolerate rebellion and disobedience. He has therefore decreed that every sinner shall appear before Him for judgment. But God's nature is also dominated by love, which impelled Him to find a way by which He could offer pardon for our sins. 'He is not willing that any should perish.' However, in order to offer us pardon there had to be a way found by which God could judge sin—and at the same time make it possible for Him to save the sinner. That sounds like an impossible thing to do—but God found a way. The Bible clearly teaches that God foresaw the fall of man even before the earth was formed, and that He had also determined at that time what He would do, so that He could offer forgiveness.

"Throughout the Old Testament God continually foretold through His prophets the coming of a great Savior of the world. The 53rd chapter of Isaiah even foretold *how* the Savior would redeem us.

"In Isaiah 7:14 we find this prophecy concerning the Savior, 'The Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call

His name Immanuel,' The name Immanuel means, 'God with us.'

"Then also in Isaiah 9:6 we read about Him. Let's read it from the Bible. Here it is: 'For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.'

"Say, it sounds as if He's God too," Jack interrupted. "What's the meaning of that?"

"It's just this, Jack: It was determined in the councils of God before the earth was formed that the Son of God who created us would also make the way possible for God to forgive our sins. The Son of God, our Creator, took upon Himself a body like our own and became a man. He was born of a virgin, the virgin Mary, just as God foretold. He had no earthly father. His father was God.

"Our Savior is none other than Jesus Christ. In many ways He manifested the fact that He was the Son of God—by His miracles, the greatest miracle being when He arose from the dead, by the words He spoke, and possibly most of all by the perfect and sinless life He lived. The apostle Peter wrote concerning Him, in these words, 'Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth.' The apostle John said concerning His sinlessness, 'And ye know how He was mani-

fested to take away our sins, and in Him is no sin.' Jack, Christ was the first and only man who ever lived without sin. He lived the only perfect life ever lived. If that's the case, here was one man who was not under the sentence of death for sin, not even physical death. But He did die, didn't He?"

"Yes, that's what I've heard."

"Why did He die, Jack? The answer is—He came to this earth for the express purpose of suffering and pouring out His life's blood for us—because of our sins. By His sacrifice for us, and by His resurrection from the dead—gaining VICTORY over sin and death—He became THE WAY through whom we can be redeemed and pardoned by God.

"As you no doubt know, Jesus Christ was hated and despised for the truth He spoke and lived. Finally, He was beaten and nailed to a wooden cross, on which He died. God allowed this to happen to Christ. In fact, that was the plan. God JUDGED sin by offering His Son, in whom there was no sin, as a sacrifice for sin! The prophet Isaiah prophesied. 'The Lord hath laid on Him (on Christ) the iniquity of us all.' Isaiah also prophesied, 'He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.' The main theme of the Bible is—*Salvation through Jesus Christ!*"

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"Well, just what did Christ's death on the cross accomplish?" Jack questioned. "I mean—How can His death be the means of removing the sin in my life?"

"It's like this," the doctor answered, "God placed all sin upon Christ, including your sin and mine. It seems that God considered Christ on the cross as SIN PERSONIFIED, because the Bible says, 'He became sin for us.' JUDGMENT was poured out upon sin on the cross! God sacrificed Christ on the cross as a sin offering for the sins of the whole world. Up to this time God had directed that various animals were to be sacrificed for sin, but these animal sacrifices merely pictured the great sacrifice for sin which God would give. When Christ walked on earth John the Baptist pointed to Christ and prophesied, under the inspiration of God, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!' There is now no more need for animal sacrifices. God now offers us pardon for our sins because of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for us. He paid the redemption price with His own blood. He suffered for you, for your sins and mine. Peter said, 'Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . . but with the precious blood of Christ.'

"I can't explain in just a few minutes all that is involved in Christ's death for us. In fact, no mortal man fully understands what

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God in His wisdom has done for us through Christ. But we do know that God's Word says that 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

"No one can explain what electricity is, but we use it. We have eternal life offered us through Christ, and through Him alone. We must use the means God has provided, even if we cannot fully understand it, or we are forever lost! Christ said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.' There is absolutely no other way. God will recognize no other way—no matter how logical it may seem—and no matter how sincere a person may be. Until one recognizes and accepts the sacrifice of Christ on the cross as the sin offering for his sins, he is still lost!

"Paul the apostle states, in Colossians 1:13, 14, 'God hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.'"

"Can everyone receive God's forgiveness now," Jack asked, "by simply asking forgiveness?"

"Anyone can now receive forgiveness from God, if he is willing to fulfill the conditions required for forgiveness."

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"What conditions do you mean?"

"It would be wrong for God to forgive anyone whose mind was still set in rebellion against Him," the doctor answered. "No honest civil government would pardon a criminal if they knew that in his mind he planned to continue in his old life of crime. The only conditions upon which God can righteously forgive any sinner is if the supreme desire of that person has changed from selfish, self-centered, self-willed indulgence to a supreme desire to live in full obedience to God.

"The apostle Peter said, 'Repent ye, therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out.' That's the condition God lays down. The prescription for eternal life is 'repentance toward God, and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ' as recorded in Acts 20:21. The word repent means to have a changed mind, or a changed heart.

"Throughout the Bible you will find God dealing with men about the condition of their hearts. God is not speaking here of the physical heart in the human body. He is speaking about the very governing center of your being—the heart center where your supreme desires and affections are rooted.

"Our desires and affections have produced sin and rebellion against God and righteousness. God testifies to the fact that we all 'have turned everyone to his own way.' To

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repent means to consciously and definitely *turn* from our selfish, self-centered, self-willed way, to unconditional surrender to God—asking *Him* to rule in our hearts, and purposing that the supreme and ruling desire of our hearts shall henceforth be to please Him in all things.

“Christ called this change of heart being ‘born again.’ He said to a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, ‘Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Later on He said to the same man, ‘Ye *must* be born again.’ Notice the emphasis Christ gave to this truth.”

“I don’t believe I could hold out,” Jack responded.

“Jack, when a person has a *change of heart* toward God, and trusts in Christ as his Savior—something wonderful happens. It’s this: God actually enters the heart and life of that person to reign there. He is also there to *help* that person in his living.

“This is another mystery which cannot be explained in the natural. However in John 14:23 we read that Christ said, ‘If a person really loves me he will obey my words. Then my Father will love him, and we will come to him and will make our home with him.’ In Revelation 3:20 and 21 Christ is shown knocking at the door of man’s heart, and He says, ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door,

I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.’

“Christ will help you to overcome. He knows better than you do that even as a Christian you cannot overcome temptation and sin without His help. I Corinthians 10:13 states, ‘God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.’ Then also, Philippians 2:13 states, ‘It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.’”

“Do you mean that God does everything for us?” Jack questioned.

“No, God will never tamper with your power of choice. The actual decisions are your responsibility. God is even now knocking at your heart’s door, convicting you of your lost condition, but He will never *force* you to give Him entrance. Also, even though God works in a Christian ‘to will and to do of His good pleasure,’ He does not force His will even there.

“Even a Christian is tempted by Satan to do evil. One of Satan’s prime areas of attack is in our thought life. But our Lord has commanded us, ‘Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.’ But then the question follows,

'How do we resist him? How can we resist him when he is so much stronger than we?' The answer is that Jesus gained victory over Satan for us when He was crucified on the cross for our sins. Satan is a defeated foe! He now must obey the true Christian when he *resists* him by command.

"What I do, personally, and what many others do, is to command Satan in the name of Jesus Christ. Usually when an evil thought comes into my mind, I put it away and think of something else. But if the thought keeps coming back I realize that I need help. Therefore, I resist Satan by saying to him, 'Satan, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ my Savior, *leave me and stop tempting me!*' And it works!

"A Christian has temptations and decisions which must be met daily. But with God's help—and with a new mind and heart with desires and affections that are toward Christ instead of self—we can overcome victoriously. And if we should stumble and sin, we have the loving promise in I John 1:9 that 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'

"However, one cannot take this promise of forgiveness as meaning that a Christian can live his life just as he chooses, and be forgiven whenever he chooses. A person who reasons this way is not a Christian. John

warns about this a few verses further on, as you see here, 'And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him (or, I'm a Christian) and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.' "

"Well," Jack again spoke up, "I know several folk who are supposed to be very sincere Christians, but they are just as self-centered and self-seeking as anyone else."

"Jack, look at this passage in Matthew 7:21-23, 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? . . . and in thy name have done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'

"It's a sobering thing, Jack, to realize that the Lord warns here that there will be *many* who think they are right with God who will discover that they never did have a real change of heart. And they will be lost! Paul says in II Corinthians 5:17, 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.' A person who becomes a

Christian becomes a new person. He no longer lives to please self—but God.

“Do you know others who profess to be Christians who really live it?”

“Yes,” Jack replied thoughtfully, “I surely do. If I’m ever going to be a Christian I’m going to be like them.”

“Right now is the time to make your decision on this, Jack. ‘Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ’ is what God requires. If you recognize and believe the fact that Jesus Christ died for your sins, the only other thing that remains on your part is to turn from your self-will in submission to God’s will, and receive Christ as Savior and Lord of your life.

“Look what God says here in Ezekiel 18:31, 32, ‘Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die. . . ? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.’ The moment you truly do that in your mind and heart God will forgive. Repentance and all that it means, on your part, and forgiveness, on God’s part, happen at the same moment. God stands ready to forgive the moment you truly repent. God’s offer of forgiveness is yours today. It may be too late tomorrow, or even an hour from now.”

“I don’t believe I’m quite ready just yet,”

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Jack replied.

“Do you mean that even when you understand the way to eternal life, that you are actually telling God that you would rather remain a condemned sinner than to receive His pardon?”

“I don’t mean that,” Jack answered. “I just don’t feel in the mood for making such a decision just now.”

“You have your chance *now* to receive eternal life, Jack. Suppose that God should decide that you have had all the opportunity you need, and should take you from this life before another day dawns. It’s utterly foolish to put off such an important decision for even one hour.”

After some moments of silence, Jack answered, “It will cost me too much.”

“It will cost you too much not to obtain God’s forgiveness,” Dr. Westman answered. “Think of the cost of judgment in Hell! Is anything worth going to Hell for?”

“No.”

“Then make the right decision. This is a matter of life or death! Life in this world is becoming more uncertain every day, and it’s foolish to put off such an important decision! Is any cost too great if it means getting right with God and obtaining everlasting life? ‘What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul’?”

“You stand condemned already until you

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turn from your sins in surrender to God. Each hour you live will bring you that much nearer the bar of God's justice."

After another moment of careful thought, Jack answered, "I know you're right." There was another pause. Then Jack stated, "I really do want to get right with God. I realize it's the only thing that really counts."

"Be sure you fully count the cost, Jack. If you mean business with God, fine. But if you don't really mean business—remember, you can't fool God. God must have all—or nothing! God will not pardon and give you peace of mind unless you truly yield your will to Him."

"I mean business."

"If you really do, let's tell God about it right now."

The doctor prayed first, and then, Jack, in a short prayer told God what was on his heart.

As Jack finished he sat in silent thought. Finally he turned to Dr. Westman and said, "I don't think it will do any good."

"It will be your fault if it doesn't do any good, Jack. The apostle Paul said, 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.' If God would forgive the chief of sinners, He will forgive anyone else. What are you holding back from God, Jack? No, it won't do any good unless you surrender that thing that God is allowing the

Devil to test you with right now. Surrender that along with the rest and God will forgive and give you peace and joy."

Jack sat in silence for several minutes. Finally the doctor spoke. "Just talk to the Lord about it, Jack. God wants to help you even concerning the testing that's before you now."

Jack turned slightly toward the window, and with his elbow on the armrest he bowed his head in his hand. A struggle was ensuing in Jack's burdened heart as the Spirit of God sought to dethrone self and enthrone God there. The Spirit of God wrestles in such moments to give birth to a new life. After several minutes Jack wiped a tear from each eye with his handkerchief. Decisions and surrenders of eternal importance were being made in those solemn moments. After several more minutes Jack again used his handkerchief. Then he turned to the doctor, and with moist eyes, in glistening, grim determination stated, "It's all settled, Doc. From now on, I'm on God's side. Whatever He says goes." As he spoke, the words seemed to release all the burdens of his heart. Grimness gave place to the sunrise of a smile which quickly spread over his entire face, as the two men grasped each other's hand.

"It's as if a big load had been lifted from me." Jack spoke again, with deep emotion. "I wish I could tell others about it in the

same way that you've told me. Life doesn't have much meaning without the certainty of a happy future. I've been forcing myself to believe that everything would turn out all right. But now I know I was wrong. I'm certainly grateful to you for showing me the truth, and for convincing me to face the issue NOW. Everyone should be told this wonderful news!"

Dr. Westman was thrilled with the joy which only a winner of souls can experience. "That's exactly what the Lord wants you to do!" he exclaimed. "Christ's great commission to us is recorded in Mark 16:15, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.'

"The thing for you to do, Jack, is to immediately search out a real Bible-believing and Christ-loving church in your town, get baptized there and get busy with them in winning others. Make friends of Christians who really mean business, and serve the Lord together with them. In the book of Daniel we have the promise that 'They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever.' I don't know what that shining means, but you can be sure that it will be something of great value.

"Christ commanded that every one who trusted in Him for salvation should be baptized. So, be sure that you obey your Lord in this as well as in all other things."

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"Dr. Westman," Jack again spoke, "I can never repay you for showing me the way to everlasting life, but I hope I can be the means of doing for others what you've done for me."

The doctor smiled as he saw the set determination in Jack's face and eyes. "That's proof enough for me that you've really come through for the Lord," he answered. "My prayer for you is that God will use you as a fearless weapon in His hand.

"God bless you, Jack."

* * * * *

Listen, friend, you too are lost unless you have come to God for forgiveness of your sin through Jesus Christ, and unless you have been genuinely born again.

It isn't enough merely to know and believe these facts about salvation through Christ. "You must be born again." And that new birth must be manifested by a changed life resulting from a changed mind and heart.

God loves you and wants to save you. Undoubtedly He has arranged circumstances so that you would read this little booklet, that He might show you your hopeless, lost condition, and then show you how you may receive His pardon. God says in the book of Hebrews that to refuse the truth and spurn His love means for that person "a *certain*, fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation." God has here shown you the way by which you can be pardoned. There is no

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other way. You may receive life *on His terms*—otherwise forget about Heaven, and face the fact that *you have chosen* to continue in your own will, and toward judgment and the fearful punishment of Hell. Remember, God is not mistaken; it will do no good to argue with Him. A loving God urges you, "Prepare to meet thy God!"

Think what it would mean to be lost. Count the cost! Lost!! Without hope! Don't wait for a more convenient time. Come to God now. "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found."

* * * *

This may be your first real introduction to God's plan of salvation. On the other hand you may be one of the many professing Christians to whom the Lord will speak those fateful words, "I never knew you." You never were really born again. You may have believed—but as you now analyze your belief you realize that it has been really only mental, and not from the heart, as it *must* be. "With the *heart* man believeth unto righteousness." If what you have called being a Christian has not included surrender to God and a changed life, you are still in your sins—and lost! Don't compare yourself with others who claim to be Christians. Your only safe guide is the Word of God!

You are at the point of decision, friend. You cannot be neutral in this matter. As you

lay this booklet down you will do one of two things: You will either sincerely surrender your heart to God and receive His forgiveness, or you will continue in your self-willed living and toward the judgment which will surely follow. Your decision now may be your last. *Your eternal destiny is at stake!*

...A wrong decision here may influence your family, and loved ones and friends, and drag them with you into the same chaos toward which you have decided to continue, while a decision for God may lead them all to surrender to God and receive forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ. You'll never regret such a decision. You'll thank God for it throughout eternity.

* * * *

The Devil is a real being, and he will give you every reason possible why you can safely put this decision off until later. He will tell you that there is still plenty of time.

Don't let the Devil fool you! The issue is too great! The stakes are too high! Also, the game of sin is *fixed* and you *cannot* win. The pleasures of sin and the temporary winnings only serve as the "come on" which gets you more deeply involved. You can win by leaving the game NOW, no matter how deeply you are involved. The Devil knows that if he can get you to put off surrendering to God now that it will be comparatively easy for him to get you to put it off tomorrow,

and the next day and the next—until it's too late!

Pray for God's help in this time of decision! This is a matter of life or death, of wondrous eternal joy or hopeless doom. This could be God's *last call to you*. **You know the way**—you have no reason to expect further mercy from God. If you decide to continue a little longer in your sin, God may decide you've had your last chance!

Talk it over with our heavenly Father, while He is willing and waiting to receive you as His very own. Surrender your heart in love and obedience to Him NOW.

"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found. Call ye upon Him while He is near."

Will you sincerely make the following prayer to God *your* prayer?

"Lord be merciful to me—a lost sinner! Forgive me Lord! My only hope is placed in Jesus Christ who died for me. Possess my heart, and reign there supreme. Lead me by your Holy Spirit that I may know your will in all things. My Lord! My Savior! My God!"

My name

Date

If the above is YOUR prayer, do this. Write this prayer on a sheet of paper in your own handwriting, and sign your name, and

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date. As you write, say the words in your heart to God. Make it your very own prayer, from the bottom of your heart. **Keep that paper forever!** It will be a reminder to you of the day you turned to Jesus—from sin and God's punishment, to God's forgiveness and everlasting life.

And then, as soon as possible, tell somebody the good news that you have truly believed in Jesus Christ and that you have received Him as your Lord and Savior. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, **THOU SHALT BE SAVED**. For with the heart man believeth **UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS**; and with the mouth confession is made **UNTO SALVATION**. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed." Romans 10:9-11.

If He is truly your Lord you will not be ashamed to stand up and be counted on His side, by speaking up for Him.

Don't fail here. Confessing Christ to others by baptism and by the words of your mouth are evidences to God of your sincerity. Your changed life will be the other evidence.

Not all your friends will appreciate your testimony, but some will. You may lose some of your old friends, because there are those who will refuse to go God's way, and you

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cannot continue to go with them in their way. But God will give you many wonderful new friends to replace those you lose.

Don't wait until you are better able to testify for Christ. You learn by doing. God will understand any present lack of ability or knowledge on your part—and your friends need your witness now. Countless numbers have never been shown the real truth. Tell them of Christ in the best way you know how.

And maybe you can share the message of this booklet with them. Don't fail them! And don't fail your Lord.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

Just this further word for you when you have made your peace with God—There is much that God wants every Christian to know, both concerning this life and that which is beyond. This important knowledge is obtained through reading the Bible and through fellowship with God in prayer.

It's best for a new Christian to read the New Testament first. Start with the book of Matthew, chapter one, verse 18.

* * * *

We would suggest that you read this message through again. The profound truths presented here cannot be fully digested in one reading. And this time, ask God to be with you as you read.

THERE'S MORE!

We have many other dynamic little books like this one . . . some illustrated, some not. But each one has a fascinating, dynamic message. **A SAMPLE PACKET**, each book containing a different vital message will be mailed to you for only \$5.00. Take action on this now! Obtain these from your Christian bookstore or directly from Life Messengers. Price is guaranteed through 1986.

What Others Have Said—

"I am a college student who has been living in sin, separated from God. I found a copy of **HERE'S HOW** on the street. I read it and discovered the answer to my great longing."

* * *

A soldier testified: "After reading this booklet I knew the kind of religion I had wouldn't get me to heaven. Now I have Christ."

* * *

"I was lost and didn't know it. I thought I was a Christian. . . I was a believer. I had been baptized. . . Then I read **HERE'S HOW** and found what was really necessary to receive eternal life."

* * *

"My boss gave me a copy of **HERE'S HOW**. When I got home I poured me a glass of wine, lit a cigarette, and started to read it. I never finished the cigarette or the wine. The message in that booklet broke me all up, and I found God!"

You may purchase copies of this booklet at your Christian bookstore or directly from the publishers.

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