

A scenic sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by clouds, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The shoreline is lined with a dense forest of evergreen trees, silhouetted against the bright sky.

*Adoration
Saved Only Through
The Name of Jesus*

Acts 4:12

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Adoration of God

1 Chronicles 29:11-14

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

[12] Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. [13] Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

[14] But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

Prayer of Adoration

You are an awesome God, and you love us very much.
Thank you for sending Jesus, and calling us together to celebrate his work.
Please take away the road blocks that stop us from coming into your presence, and fill in the pot holes that slow us down and make the way bumpy. In Jesus name we pray with the help of the Holy Spirit,
Amen

ILLUSTRATION

"No one thinks of the pen while reading the letter. They only want to know the mind of the person who wrote the letter. That's exactly what I am in God's hand--a little pencil."

APPLICATION

This statement reminds us of John the Baptist's declaration, "He must increase but I must decrease" (John 3:30). If we are to fulfill our stewardship and accurately represent the God we seek to serve, we must forget about ourselves. Like a little pencil in God's hand, we must show the world what's on God's mind.

Mother Teresa concluded, "God is writing his love letter to the world in this way, through works of love."

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow.

Philippians 2:10 –

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;

At the Last Judgment, even those who are condemned will recognize Jesus' authority and right to rule. People can choose now to commit their lives to Jesus as Lord or be forced to acknowledge him as Lord when he returns. Christ may return at any moment. Are you prepared to meet hi

He has purged our sins.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Not only is Jesus the exact representation of God, but he is God himself—the very God who spoke in Old Testament times. He is eternal; he worked with the Father in creating the world (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16). He is the full revelation of God. You can have no clearer view of God than by looking

at Christ. Jesus Christ is the complete expression of God in a human body. Life Application Study Bible.

Blessing, honor, glory and power be unto the Lord.

Revelation 5:13

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

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Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind.

Matthew 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Jesus said that if we truly love God and our neighbor, we will naturally keep the commandments. This is looking at God's law positively. Rather than worrying about all we should *not* do, we should concentrate on all we *can* do to show our love for God and others.

The only way to be saved is through the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Many people react negatively to the fact that there is no other name than that of Jesus to call on for salvation. Yet this is not something the church decided; it is the specific teaching of Jesus himself (John 14:6). If God designated Jesus to be the Savior of the world, no one else can be his equal.

Christians are to be open-minded on many issues but not on how we are saved from sin. No other religious teacher could die for our sins; no other religious teacher came to earth as God's only Son; no other religious teacher rose from the dead. Our focus should be on Jesus, whom God provided as the way to have an eternal relationship with himself. There is no other name or way!

The name of Jesus is above every name.

Philippians 2:9

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

No one can come to the father but through the name of Jesus.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus is our path to the Father. As the *truth*, he is the reality of all God's promises. As the *life*, he joins his divine life to ours, both now and eternally. Jesus is, in truth, the only living way to the Father

God will show believers mighty things.

Jeremiah 33:3 –

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

God is ready to answer our prayers, but we must ask for his assistance. Surely God could take care of our needs without our asking. But when we ask, we are acknowledging that he alone is God and that we cannot accomplish in our own strength all that is his domain to do. When we ask, we must humble ourselves, lay aside our willfulness and worry, and determine to obey him.

Salvation through Jesus, is a gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

We become Christians through God's unmerited favor, not as the result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice, or act of service on our part. However, out of gratitude for this free gift, we will seek to help and serve others with kindness, love, and gentleness, and not merely to please ourselves. While no action or work we do can help us obtain salvation, God's intention is that our salvation will result in acts of service.

There is only one mediator between God and men.

1 Timothy 2:5

For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Though some people think there are many ways to God, in practice, each person must choose a single way. We can stand on one side of a gorge and discuss the possibility of many bridges across the abyss, but if we are determined to cross, we will have to commit to one bridge. Those who insist that there are many bridges to God usually fit one of the following categories:

- (1) They have not personally committed to any "bridge." They are surprised that their belief in multiple ways does not exempt them from having to choose one.
- (2) Their belief in "many ways to God" hides their true belief that finding God doesn't really matter at all.
- (3) They are convinced that arguing for "many ways to God" will insure that they won't be wrong. If there is only one way, their generalized belief will presumably have included it.
- (4) They have decided that believing in "many ways to God" requires less work than going to the trouble of actually considering the claims of various religious systems.

God performs all things for me.

Psalms 57:1-11

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be over past. [2] I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.

3] He shall send from heaven, and save from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his

truth. [4] My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

[5] Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth. [6] They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.

[7] My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. [8] Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. [9] I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. [10] For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. [11] Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth.

57:7 David's firm faith in God contrasted sharply with his enemies' loud lying and boasting. When confronted with verbal attacks, the best defense is simply to be quiet and praise God, realizing that our confidence is in his love and faithfulness (57:10). In times of suffering, don't turn inward to self-pity or outward to revenge, but turn upward to God.

57:8 David calls out to his soul and his instruments to prepare for praise. Before a new day begins, he wants to "wake the dawn" with his song honoring God's faithfulness. Instead of spending a sleepless night worrying about what he cannot change, he uses those wakeful hours to meditate on an expression suitable for the world. David's example shows us how to turn times of stress into times of blessing by considering God's faithfulness in comparison with our fleeting problems. Why worry when you can invest that time in praise?

At times we may be surrounded by people who gossip about us or criticize us. Verbal cruelty can damage us as badly as physical abuse. Rather than answering with hateful words, we, like David, can talk with God about the problem.

We should lay down our lives for our breather.

1 John 3:16

Hereby perceive we the love [of God], because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down [our] lives for the brethren.

Real love is an action, not a feeling. It produces selfless, sacrificial giving. The greatest act of love is giving oneself for others. How can we "give up our lives"? By serving others with no thought of receiving anything in return. Sometimes it is easier to say we'll die for others than to truly live for them—this involves putting others' desires first.

Those who have Christ will not walk in darkness.

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Jesus was speaking in the Treasury—the part of the Temple where the offerings were put (8:20) and where candles burned to symbolize the pillar of fire that led the people of Israel through the wilderness (Exodus 13:21, 22).

In this context, Jesus called himself the light of the world. The pillar of fire represented God's presence, protection, and guidance. Likewise, Jesus brings God's presence, protection, and guidance. Is he the light of *your* world?

What does it mean to follow Christ? As a soldier follows his captain, so we should follow Christ, our commander.

As a slave follows his master, so we should follow Christ, our Lord. As we follow the advice of a trusted counselor, so we should follow Jesus' commands to us in Scripture. As we follow the laws of our nation, so we should follow the laws of the Kingdom of Heaven.

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'"

The physical pain on the cross was terrible but the spiritual pain was far worse. As Jesus hung on the cross the sins of every human being - past, present and future -- were laid on his body. The Bible teaches that sin separates us from God and causes spiritual death. We are cursed by it. Jesus took that curse and laid it on himself.

While he was on the cross Jesus was separated from God and experienced the anguish of sin that no one human can. In his death, Jesus penetrated into the deepest pit of all men's lostness, when all worldly crutches and supports have failed them and God himself seems to be gone. And yet in Jesus' case he did not let God go but dared to cling to him and claim him as My God, My God. Jesus' cry of despair both dives to the depths of all men's doubts and climbs to the height of faith.

No one can suffer as much as Jesus suffered on the cross. His suffering went beyond anything we can experience and no one can have as much faith as Jesus had. God does not expect us to but he does expect us to accept Jesus as our Lord so he can become our curse - our sins can only be removed by being placed on the cross. We receive the benefits of the cross but Jesus also said this - if you are a true disciple, a true follower of Jesus, you, too, must bear a cross.

Being a Christian cannot be reduced to plastic smiles and positive thinking. It can involve defeat, anguish and even despair. Bearing your cross involves denying yourself - you have to take your self-centeredness out of your life and make Christ the center

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

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 ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

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Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print