

*I am the way, and
the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the
Father but through Me.*

*Jesus Christ
John 14:6*

The Reason for my Hope

A Witness to the
Truth Concerning
Jesus Christ

Ryne Dean

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,"

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I am a Christian—one who has placed his complete trust in God's witness concerning His Son, Jesus Christ. For now and all eternity, I have staked my life on Jesus Christ and the personal relationship that God grants to all who place their trust in His finished work. I am writing to point you to the Bible—God's written Word—where you can discover for yourself His answers to some of life's most important questions. My desire is that you too may experience the eternal life which God has given through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

What follows expresses "***The Reason for My Hope***"—the confident assurance that I have peace with God now and that I will live with Him forever!

Who is God?

The best place to start is with creation's beginning. Significantly, the first verse in the Bible declares that all of creation began with God: "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*" (Genesis 1:1). Furthermore, man was part of that original creation: "*Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image' ... God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*" (Gen 1:26, 27). When you think about it, that makes us pretty important to God. It also says something about both God and us. We were created with characteristics that are like God's—characteristics that allow us to know Him and to have a relationship with Him.

The Bible also describes God, our Creator, as holy (Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 1 Peter 1:15-16), absolutely good (Psalm 119:68), and perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4; 2 Samuel 22:31). These attributes (as well as many others which God reveals about Himself in His Word) profoundly affect our understanding of Him and our relationship to Him. For instance, because God created the world and all that is in it, the world is rightfully His by ownership. Psalm 24:1 reminds us "*The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.*" As Creator and Owner of the world, God alone has the final say concerning how the world (which includes you and me) should exist. As the ultimate ruler over His creation, God is all-powerful and He alone sets the standard of right and wrong.

Remember, we are talking about the God who created us (the only true God), and it is not really a question of our opinion—about what we think He is like—but rather how He has revealed Himself in His Word, the Bible. He describes Himself as holy and pure, and He demands the same from you and me (Leviticus 19:2; 20:7; 1 Peter 1:16). Again, the Scriptures teach that because God is holy, He requires holiness. In 1 Peter 1:16 God says, *“Be holy, for I am holy.”* As a reflection of His holiness and as a constant reminder to men that He is holy, God had His law written down in the Old Testament. Romans 7:12 tells us, *“The Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.”* Part of this law is what we know as the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).

What does God’s Law reveal?

There is something very interesting about God’s Law. Not only does it perfectly reflect His holy character (being His Law), it reveals our character as well. How is this so? God’s Law insists that a person is accepted by God when he/she keeps all that is written in it (Leviticus 18:4-5; Deuteronomy 28:1; Romans 10:5); but conversely, it asserts that a person is cursed if he/she does not keep it fully. *“CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.”* (Galatians 3:10).

James 2:10 says it this way: *“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”* Jesus heightens this significance to the Law when He tells us that it is not just the outward keeping of commandments that God requires, but also an inward purity of the heart (Matthew 5:8, 21-48). Jesus makes it clear that in God’s economy, the thought equals the action and that if we conceive the thought in our hearts we are just as guilty as if we had carried out the action. In other words, God’s demand is for perfection within as well as without.

What is mankind’s dilemma?

It is apparent when we compare our lives with what God requires in the way of holiness that there is a problem. Isaiah accurately described our predicament: *“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us*

away” (Isaiah 64:6). God requires perfect obedience; yet not one of us exhibits that kind of obedience.

The Scriptures present the case; first, by declaring, unequivocally, that every human being, as a result of the first sin of the first man (Adam) in the Garden of Eden, is born into the world a sinner, separated from God. To put it another way, we are by our very nature sinners. Paul explains, *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned (v.12)...So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men (v. 18a)..for through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners”* (Romans 5:12, 18a, 19a). Long before Paul made these statements, David personally acknowledged the fact in Psalm 51:5, *“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”*

Not only does the Bible declare that we are sinners by nature, it reveals that we are sinners through our own choice as well. Every one of us has chosen to sin! Isaiah expresses this truth in a metaphor, *“All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...”* (Isaiah 53:6a). Furthermore, Ecclesiastes 7:20 will admit no exceptions: *“There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.”* The apostle Paul summarized it this way: *“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:10-11, 23). We need to be clear in our understanding as to what it means when the Bible says we have “all sinned.”

What does it really mean to sin?

Probably one of the best definitions is simply that WE SIN WHEN WE INSIST ON DOING WHAT GOD FORBIDS AND/OR WHEN WE REFUSE TO DO WHAT HE COMMANDS. You can compare God's court of justice to going before a judge in today's legal system. The judge looks at you and the evidence, and declares guilty or not guilty. It is not really a question of whether you think, or feel, or believe that you are guilty; the decision handed down is based on the evidence presented to the court.

In that light, consider the evidence that God has on each of us when it comes to whether or not we have perfectly fulfilled His Law—His

requirement discussed above. The Scriptures describe the all-encompassing nature of God's knowledge. David writes in Psalm 11:4, "*The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.*" Solomon captures this truth in Proverbs 15:3: "*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good.*"

Consider also your own conscience. In your heart, the center of your being, you know how well you do or do not measure up to the requirements of His Law. Romans 2:15 makes it plain that God has written the standards of His Law on every person's heart. Try as we may (and invariably we do try) we cannot dismiss the fact that our own conscience testifies against us that we have violated God's Law. This is a very significant problem, because in describing Himself to Moses, God makes this awesome declaration about Himself: "*The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished*" (Exodus 34:6-7). Did you catch that last phrase? "***He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.***"

What is the punishment for breaking God's Law?

The Bible answers very pointedly: "*For the wages of sin is death...*" (Romans 6:23a). What does death mean in the context of sin? Actually two aspects of death are implied—physical death and spiritual death. All of us can relate to the physical death. We experience it around us all the time. Sometimes it comes very close, through a relative or a friend whom we have known intimately. Often we witness it in the news or encounter it in other things we read or see. From the very beginning, when mankind first disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, physical death became a reality. Its presence with us is a constant reminder of our connection with the first man and that sin has permeated the entire human race (Romans 5:17). Yes, even we must face death.

Far more serious than physical death, however, is what the Bible refers to as spiritual death. Keep in mind that you and I were created by God, in His image, to have fellowship with Him. Spiritual death is just the opposite. It is to exist in a state alienated from God's life and presence. The Bible refers to the final phase of spiritual death as

“Hell.” Jesus’ words describe the gravity of this state when He warns, *“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”* (Matthew 10:28). Revelation 20:6 refers to this final existence as *“the second death.”* To be separated eternally from the Creator and Giver of life is indeed the ultimate death!

Please understand, *The Day of Judgment* will come and with it God will mete out eternal punishment upon all those who have rejected His offer and provision of salvation through His Son. John writes in Revelation 20:11-15:

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Whether you and I spend eternity with God, or forever separated from Him, rests upon the judgment He will make concerning our lives when we die and stand before Him. The Bible emphatically states, *“It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment”* (Hebrew 9:27). There are no exceptions, even though we like to think so and we may even deceive ourselves into believing that there will be for us. Tragically, we fail to realize the devastating effects that are resulting from our sin. Paul warns that one aspect of God’s wrath in the present is to surrender an individual up to more sin when he/she refuses to retain their knowledge of Him (Romans 1:18-32). God warns us not to deceive ourselves in believing that He treats sin like we do (see Psalm 50:16-23).

So God created man in His image to enjoy an eternal relationship with Him. Yet man through his own choice—each of us through our own choice—has alienated himself from this holy and righteous God. God’s justice demands satisfaction for sin—that the penalty be paid.

Remember, *“He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished”* (Exodus 34:7). As was shown above, however, we have no righteousness, no means whereby to account for this shortfall on our part. How can we who are unrighteous ever measure up to a perfect, holy, righteous, and just God? If, as Isaiah said, *“our righteousness is as filthy garments,”* what can we do to be saved from the judgment that is rightly ours?

The answer is rather bleak because the fact of the matter is that our sin renders us powerless—we cannot do anything. We are, in Paul’s words, *“dead in our trespasses and sins”* (Ephesians 2:1). Dead people are unable to affect change in themselves. To use another metaphor, our sin has placed us in total opposition to God—we consider Him our enemy, and we act toward Him accordingly: *“The foolishness of man ruins his way, and his heart rages against the Lord”* (Proverbs 19:3). Not only are we unable to do anything, but we are also entrenched in our opposition to the very idea of being in a right relationship with God. The Bible speaks clearly on the matter, as does the testimony of our own conscience. We are in violation of God’s perfect righteousness—we *are* guilty of breaking His Law—and the punishment for our offense is severe!

Is there a way out of this dilemma?

YES! God, being the loving and merciful Creator that He is, has provided the solution for our dilemma. The Bible explains: *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”* (Romans 5:8-9). *“The wages of sin is death,”* as Paul stated above in Romans 6:23a; but, in the second half of the same verse, Paul proclaims a far greater truth, *“the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23b).

How does Christ dying on a cross solve our dilemma?

Consider the fact that our offense—our sin—is against an infinite,

eternal, holy, God. Payment requires a perfect eternal sacrifice. Only Jesus Christ meets that requirement, for He has always existed eternally, and He alone has lived the perfect sinless life as a man.

John captured the essence of Christ's eternal existence, with these words, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being"* (John 1:1-3). Jesus' own words confirm John's understanding. In His answer to those who were challenging His identity, Jesus declared in John 8:58, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."* The Jews, knowing perfectly well that Jesus was claiming to exist eternally as God, *"picked up stones to throw at Him"* (8:59). Their intent was to stone Him to death, as a later exchange in John 10:30-33 reveals:

Responding to Jesus' statement, *"'I and the Father are one.' The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?'" The Jews answered Him, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.'"*

Next consider that the Bible witnesses to Christ's sinless perfection. The writer of Hebrews records that Jesus was *"tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin"* (Hebrews 4:15). The apostle Peter wrote of His *"unblemished and spotless"* life that was sacrificed for our redemption—a plan God had from all eternity (1 Peter 1:17-20). Paul unfolds how, through Jesus Christ, God canceled our debt of sin and credited us with His Son's righteousness: *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus did this when He died on the cross for our sins. He took the curse that was rightly ours in our failure to fulfill the righteous demands of God's law.

Paul explains: *"For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, 'CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.' Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, 'THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.' However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, 'HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM.'"*

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE'” (Galatians 3:10-13).

Paul brings together both concepts—that of Jesus' eternal existence and that of His perfect humanity—in Philippians 2:6-8, as he describes what took place when Christ came to die for us: “...although He existed in the form of God, [He] did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:6-8).

The Bible plainly states that it is only Christ's work that can effect our salvation: “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3:5-6).

Here is revealed *The Wonder of all wonders!* Christ “became a curse for us”—He bore the curse of His Father's wrath on behalf of all those who will, through faith in Him, accept God's provision for their sin. God has taken it upon Himself to rectify man's sinful separation from Him. The Father sends His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” 1 John 2:2); to be sin/a sin offering on our behalf (“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21). The apostle Paul explains further:

“But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:21-26).

How do we know that God has accepted Christ's sacrifice as payment for our sin?

The proof is in the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead. He lives today, never to die again. All that Jesus taught, all that He represented as the perfect disclosure of God to man (Hebrews 1:1-3), was vindicated—confirmed to be true—by God in His resurrection (Romans 1:3-4). This was the foundation of all that the followers of Jesus taught. For this reason, Paul wrote, *“I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; see also Romans 4).

The significance of Christ's resurrection cannot be overstated.

The implications are monumental to our understanding of what God has done and just exactly who Jesus Christ is. When we consider God's own declaration that the wages of sin is death (see Romans 6:23 above), then for Christ to be raised from the dead explicitly shows that there was no sin in him—otherwise, the penalty of death would have remained on Him as well. This, however, was not the case. He arose and with His resurrection came His vindication and the assurance that He has all power and authority even over death itself (Matthew 28:18). In a statement, **“Sin and Death are defeated.”** As a result, death can claim no hold—no rights—over the one who enters into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In fact, he has the promise that he too will be raised from the dead: *“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead....‘O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Corinthians 15:20-21, 55-57).

Does this make sense to you?

Does the Bible's teaching about our responsibility to God and our failure in that responsibility find a witness in your heart?

In Matthew 11:25-26, Jesus prays these words, *“I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.”* He then declares, *“All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one*

knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him” (v. 27).

Having said these things, Jesus then makes this offer, *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light”* (Matthew 11:28-30).

Will you believe in Christ and repent, or will you remain under God's wrath?

Do you understand what I have been discussing? If so, then I encourage you to repent of your sins and receive God's forgiveness. The word repent literally means “to turn or return.” The Old Testament prophet Isaiah wrote, *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; And to our God, for He will abundantly pardon”* (55:7). John echoes the same thought in the New Testament: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9).

The Bible teaches us that this is the proper response to God's salvation through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance in Faith means acknowledging that what God has said about my condition is true: confessing that I have broken His righteous law—that I have not met His requirements of living a perfect and holy life before Him. It means acknowledging that apart from His salvation I am hopelessly lost (John 8:23-24). It is believing and placing my trust in the finished work that His Son has done in paying the penalty for my sin through His death on the cross. In short, it is turning in faith from my way to His. It is trusting my life to Christ. Jesus *“was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it'”* (Luke 9:23-24). *“And He was saying to them, 'You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins'”* (John 8:24).

It is my prayer that you will turn to Jesus Christ in faith and confess Him as your Lord and Savior. *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Romans 10:9-10).

Remember:

—God created us.

—God alone has the right to determine the bounds and the conditions of our relationship to Him.

—God has provided a means through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, which reconciles us to Him, if we will believe in Him and follow His command to repent.

As you ponder what I have written above, please remember:

The Lord ... is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:9-10).

Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead” (Act 17:30-31).

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. . . . He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:16-18, 36).

One last question is appropriate: “What does God have in store for all of those who put their trust in His Son, Jesus Christ?”

The writer of Hebrews describes a place in which “*God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them*” (Hebrews 11:16). John writes in Revelation 21:1-8:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.' And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' And He said, 'Write, for these words are faithful and true.' Then He said to me, 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.'"

John goes on to describe the city this way:

"And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The

one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:10-27).

But, as it is written, *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9 ESV).*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5).

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost" (Revelation 22:17).

I urge you to place your complete trust in Him.

In the words of the apostle Paul,

“We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God”

(2 Corinthians 5:20).

May God grant you an understanding of these important truths! May He grant you life eternal through faith in His Son!

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

*"I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,
AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."*

*Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach **Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God**. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Written by Rynold (Ryne) D. Dean

email: rynedean@juno.com

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Additional Contact Information:
