

Depth is a funny thing. Some of us need it; some of us don't. Depth of thought, that is. Depth of reflection, deliberation, reasoning out, exploring, investigating, and explaining. You can often tell a person who needs or craves depth in their thought: you ask them a simple question, and they give you an encyclopedic answer. Yes or no would have done, but they give you the reason, too. Do you want butter on your sandwich? Their answer gives you the caloric content, their weight trajectory, and their digestive state, too. And they leave it to you whether their answer means yes or no.



Depth can indeed be a distraction. But depth can also be a powerful tool. John 3:16 pretty much says it all: God gave his Son to save the world. Yet in that inestimably powerful and starkly simple construct lies riches untold. The simple statement of God pouring himself out on the cross for us is wholly enough. That realization may have come to you at an altar call or in the middle of a very dark night. But hearing that statement alone, some seekers will want more before embracing its full truth. They will need to learn and be able to articulate to another from whom or from what God saves. They will need to learn how the sacrificial act of one, even of God's perfect Son, could save another. They may need to learn that God's self-sacrificial act was less judicial and more redemptive, less avoiding punishment and more paying punishment's price.

Everyone has a sweet spot when it comes to reasoning. For some, a few words is enough. Others, though, only wish it were so. Your lost brother or sister may need fewer words and more love, or they may need more words so that they understand love's source. Scripture tells us that faith comes from hearing the word of God. God has given his word many expressions. The apostle John tells us that Christ himself did so much that the world could not hold the books attempting to write those things down. If your friend needs more words, more depth, more thought, rather than less, then help your friend find the deeper thoughts. No subject has had nearly the quantities written about it as those many rich things written about the Christian faith. Nothing is deeper than the truth in Christ. Deep calls to deep in the roar of his waterfalls.