

How To Know God - Compile date 09/13/07 – Air date 10/18-22/2007

Many people profess a desire to “know God”... they profess a desire to have some type of a relationship with God. And it seems almost as many people are ready to sell a book, or a television show, that contains the answer or answers to the question: How does one get to know God? Or even better: Can one know God?.

At the time of this recording, a simple google search on the phrase “how to know God”, results in around 212 million hits, with the top one being for a book by Deepak Chopra of the very same title.

Well, I'd like to take just a few minutes to tell you not just about the God that I know, but the God that first knew me. And I'd like to tell you that the answer to the question, “How does one get to know God”, is indeed found in a book – but it isn't one written by Deepak Chopra... It's in a book written by God Himself through men He personally led to write what they did, when they did, how they did. The answer to the question, is in a book known as the bible.

Many people, in their quest to “know God”, look inside of themselves – because after all, wouldn't it be nice to somehow share an existence with God? They believe that God, whatever God may be, is inside each and every one of us. “We are all God”, some would say, and through a process of deep introspection – of meditation, they say that we can find that “divine nature” inside of us, and that we can learn to enhance it – to grow it – so that we become less of us, and more of it.

Others shun that level of introspection, and they cast their gaze outward – because surely, they would say, God must be bigger and better than ourselves. They look at the wonders of the world around them, and they seek to find God in the trees of the field, and the stars of the sky. They direct their gaze down through a microscope, and up through a telescope, and they seek God in the extremes of scale and complexity that the universe has to offer.

But no matter which approach is tried, people undertake these quests for really just one reason: because they are not satisfied with the way things are.

The people that look inside of themselves are indeed on a noble quest – they look diligently inside of themselves for God, almost as if they feel maybe they

had Him once, but perhaps somehow lost Him. It's almost as if they have an inborn knowledge planted deep inside of them that tells them that they have an innate capability, perhaps even a compulsion, to have a relationship with God - but that somehow the comm link has been damaged, and they go about diligently seeking to reestablish contact with whomever or whatever God is.

The people that look outside of themselves are also on a noble quest – they look as closely as possible at the breadth, the width, and the depth of the universe, in order to see if some kind of grand picture of God can be formed from the puzzle pieces gleaned from studious observation. And they do this with the unconscious assurance that they could indeed recognize God if they ever found Him.

What I find very, very interesting as a Christian – someone who has met the truth, and been changed by the truth, and commissioned by the truth to speak of the truth, is that both of these types of people are actually not that far away from the truth.

Indeed, each and every one of us at one time does in fact feel the lack of God in our lives, and we react to that by wondering about Him, and looking for Him.

We say things like, “well, I wonder sometimes if there's anyone up there...” or, “if there is a God, why is the world the way it is?” And if things get bad enough, we even get mad at the “maybe” God and blame Him for the evil we see around us on a daily basis.

But no matter the specific question, the quest for God is something that is not very far from each and every one of us. It's one of the things we think about in the middle of the night when we can't sleep, or when we've been deeply hurt by life, or when we feel all alone in the universe. Our mind seems to turn of its own accord to this question of how to know God.

Well, something else that I find very, very interesting – is that the Bible, God's word, claims to know why we turn to these questions about God: The answer, the Bible says, is that God designed us to know Him, and to be in a right relationship with Him. When we do not know Him, and when we are not in a right relationship with Him, we feel that emptiness in our lives.

Different kinds of people react to that reality in different ways... some seek to fill that emptiness with knowledge – others with wealth or possessions. Some seek to fill that void with other people... maybe it's friendships, maybe it's sexual

relationships – but no finite, on their way to being dead person can ever fill the gap left by the absence of the infinite, always living God, so those relationships come and they go, and the seeker is never fulfilled. Some people simply give up and resign themselves to living with that emptiness – and they continue moving through life – sometimes feeling alive, sometimes feeling dead, but never reaching a lasting peace.

But those that keep seeking eventually realize that something greater is needed, and so they look inward, and the look outward – for God – or at the very least, what they think God is.

You see, it is indeed a fact that God's word presses us to look deep within ourselves.. but not so that we would somehow see God inside of us... but instead, so that we would see the lack of God inside of us. God has a deep, deep purpose, in showing us the truth of who and what we are.

And it is indeed a fact that God's word presses us to look far down the microscope, and far up the telescope at the wonders of His creation... but not so that we will somehow be able to make contact with God at His own level... but so that we will see the reality, and the power, and the certainty of His existence. God has a deep, deep purpose, in showing us the truth of who and what He is.

You see, God is setting up a masterpiece of art drawn entirely out of contrasting elements. On one side, He shows us the truthful image of ourselves – that when we are honest with ourselves, we know that we are not powerful enough to meet every challenge (that is why we fail), we know we are not complete in ourselves (that is why we seek), and we know that we cannot in any honest way describe ourselves as morally flawless (that is why we hurt – we bring pain on ourselves, and other people, because of our sin). On the other side, God shows us the truthful image of Himself. Perfectly powerful, perfectly complete, and perfectly flawless.

And between these two contrasting elements, God draws what must exist: the dividing line between His moral perfection and our immorality – our moral imperfection.. Without such a line, the concepts of the perfect and the imperfect have no meaning. Because they are different, they must be distinguishable. And because they can be distinguished, there must exist a separator between them.

This separator, this difference, this gap – is what God calls sin. And we all have it and and we all commit it. If we were to define the single, common factor that

all men and women, boys and girls share.. it is this fact of being totally and completely marked by sin.

Just consider the bluntness of the Bible's message concerning sin in Romans 3:23:

Ro 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

It simply and clearly states that every one of us falls short of the glory of God.. not just in the past, but continually – right this very moment. Well, what does that mean? What does it mean to “fall short of the glory of God”?

Well, in a nutshell, it means that we have all missed the mark of what God planned for each and every one of us.

And what is that? Well, God's original plan for mankind was that each and every one of us would live in His immediate presence – we were to love Him, to please Him, and to enjoy Him forever. His plan was for there to be no barriers between Him and us. That we would have the privilege of seeing Him exactly as He is, of talking with Him face to face.. of being not just His creations, but also His friends.

Can you imagine how wonderful that would be? To be able to walk and talk with God, face to face? For the created to be able to gaze into the eyes of its creator?

So, why do we no longer have that relationship with God? Well, simply put – we no longer have that relationship with God because of sin.

We have not missed the mark because God has somehow failed. We have missed the mark because God gave mankind a choice, and mankind blew it. And this was no run of the mill mistake... it was a mistake of universal proportions.

Consider the Old Testament prophet Isaiah speaking about the same thing:

Isa 59:1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. (God isn't weak, and He isn't deaf... - He isn't unable to help us)

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities (which means sins) have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Isa 59:3 For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things.

Now, I think most of us would agree that murder is sin.. someone who has blood on his hands is a murderer “For your hands are stained with blood”. But what about lying? “Your lips have spoken lies”.. What about slander and filthy speech? “and your tongue mutters wicked things”.

Isn't it interesting that God places all of these things together and at the same level? Our sins have separated us from God... just something like murder, that hopefully all of us would agree is horrible? No. But our lying too. Our mouths that speak bad things too. You see, to a Holy God... a God who has no sin, and who hates sin, and who because of His nature must and will judge sin... all sin is equally bad, because all sin brings death and destruction equally well to all that it touches.

We grade sin on the curve, usually by comparing ourselves to our neighbor, “Well, at least I'm not as bad as him”.. as if somehow we think that excuses us before God. It doesn't We grade sin on the curve, but God grades sin as a boolean... true or false, on or off, present or absent.

God, through His prophet Isaiah, continues His thoughts and tells us the results of our sin... and these results are the answers to those age old questions: Why is the world the way it is? Why am I the way I am? Why is that person the way he is? God says, it's because of sin:

What are the results of sin? We saw that it causes us to be separated from God. So what else happens when we are separated from God?:

[Isa 59:9](#) **So justice is far from us** (when you look out at the world do you see justice? Is it just for the innocent to pay the price for the guilty? Is it justice that poor people can't get a just hearing in a court because they can't afford representation?), **and righteousness does not reach us.** (When you look out at the world.. do you see righteousness? Righteousness means to have a right standing before God – to be held blameless of any wrongdoing before God Himself. - is it righteousness for someone to be murdered or raped? How about when that person is an infant? It happens you know, quite often actually. Is it right that the rich trod on the poor and take advantage of their ignorance and lack of ability to retaliate?) **We look for light, but all is darkness;for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.** (We know what we need, because God has built that need of Himself into us – but we cannot find it anywhere that we naturally look... inside or outside of ourselves. Because the one place that “it” is, is the one place we dare not go... before a Holy and Righteous God as the sinful men and women that we are. Like Adam and Eve in the garden.. we run from God..

we hide from God, lest what we are be exposed. So instead, we try to make our own way.)

Isa 59:10 Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.

Isa 59:11 We all growl like bears; we moan mournfully like doves. We look for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away.

All of us are guilty of sin. We must agree that if God is loving, and if God is in fact good, and if after seeing all that He had made, He said that “it was very good”... if all of that is true, there has to be something that has since happened to change us from what we once were, into what we are now.. because when we look at ourselves, or we look out at the world, we cannot say “it is very good”. It isn't. It's actually very, very bad.

Something that God never intended for us has happened to us that changed us into something that God never wanted us to be. This something is sin, and because of it two very bad things have happened. 1. The very makeup of what we are has changed. Once we could stand before God in our innocence. Now we cannot stand before God because of our sin. Our very natures were ruined and now we have sin as our default setting. That doesn't mean we all run around and murder people, it doesn't mean that everyone runs around stealing from everyone else.. and it doesn't mean that we NEVER do anything that could be considered “right” or “kind”. But it does mean that our natural inclination is towards sin.. so much so in fact, that often times we don't even notice it when we sin. It's like the age old question: does a fish feel wet? Probably not, because being wet is it's natural state. Such are we with sin.. quite often we don't feel “sinful”, because it is our natural state. And 2. because of our sinful nature, we are separated from God. Because God is holy, He cannot abide sin. It's as simple as that. We became sinful and as a result we lost our communion with God.

We saw from the passage earlier how sin effects us in the here and now.. it separates us from God, and as long as that is true our world will lack true justice and righteousness. But sin also has an eternal effect on us, in that this separation from God that it brings will simply continue after we die. But the big difference is in the consequences of that separation.

Now, God's grace is extended to us, and anyone (and I mean anyone), can repent and trust in Christ and be saved. For those that do, an eternity in God's presence in Heaven awaits. For those that don't, an eternity in hell – separated

from God – awaits.

That is how serious this gap between us and God is.

It is the reality lost of the sinlessness with which God originally created us, and it is the reality present of the systemic corruption that has taken that goodness's place.

And God has given us the compulsion to look inward, and the compulsion to look outward, so that we can understand who and what we are.. and who and what He is. So that when He shows us this grand tapestry of contrasts through His word, we can recognize it as true.

God wants us to understand beyond any shadow of a doubt, that we cannot reach Him because of what we are. Because of our very natures, that which we cannot change, we are cut off from God. We can see glimpses of Him from afar, but we cannot reach Him.

So what did God do? What does He still do?

Well, God moves. Because the portrait that He paints is not a static thing, but a dynamic thing. God's word is a living, breathing thing, and as we come to understand the chasm that exists between us and Him, He adds something... something that each and every one of us is familiar with for bringing together two different parts... a seamstress might call it a stitch... an engineer might call it a bridge... a nerd might call it an adapter... but God calls it our salvation. It is a linkage between what we are, and what we are supposed to be.

So consider the continuation of our passage in Isaiah, and listen to how God solves this problem.

Isa 59:15 Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

Isa 59:16 He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him.

Isa 59:17 He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

Isa 59:18 According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due.

Isa 59:19 From the west, men will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along.

Isa 59:20 “The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD.

This is God's solution: The Redeemer – God Himself... man cannot provide his own righteousness... his own right standing before God. We are systemically corrupted, and because of that, everything we touch is also corrupted. We cannot make a way across that gap back to God... so because He loves us, God bridged the gap for us. “His own arm (his own power) worked salvation for him”.. “and his own righteousness sustained him”.

These verses out of Isaiah are about God's solution to the problem of sin... God Himself rising up to address the problem personally. And He did this through His messiah.. His “anointed one” - The Redeemer. This passage is a prophecy (which is telling history before it happens) about the Messiah – God's only solution to the devastation of sin.

But God doesn't call His solution, “the redeemer” an it, because it isn't an it. It's a person - our salvation can be found in none other than His one and only Son, Jesus Christ. Because this business of reconciliation, of offering a way across the chasm and back to God, is a personal business. You might say, it's a family business: “Reconciliations Unlimited Inc. Father, Son, and Spirit since eternity past”.

See, God trusts only His Son to do the work necessary to accomplish the impossible task at hand: of somehow marrying the imperfect to the perfect – without destroying the perfect in the process.

Because God is good, He provides this remedy. And because God is good He comforts us with the names He has assigned to His son. He calls Him the Messiah – which as we've seen means God's anointed one.. that means God approves of Him, and God dispatches Him for this service... He is God's personal emissary for this task.. there is no other. God calls Him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

He calls Him Immanuel, which means “God with us”. Which when you think about it, is just the very thing the inward and the outward seekers hope to find. They know there is something more.. they know there is light, but everywhere they go they find varying levels of darkness... “ Like the blind THEY grope along the wall, feeling THEIR way like men without eyes. At midday THEY stumble as if it were twilight...”

God is ready and willing to give us His own light, but it can only be accepted in the manner that God has said that it can be accepted. Which is through repentance and faith.. through turning from our sin that has separated us from God, and instead embracing God in faith. We have to stop pushing God away, and instead fall on our face before Him and ask Him to pick us up and cradle us in His arms. It's the only way. And unless we are willing to recognize that as true, and to humble ourselves before God and cast ourselves at Him like little children, we have no hope.

Some refuse to humble themselves before God. They reject His light and instead seek to substitute their own.

Listen to what God has to say about this through something else Isaiah wrote. In this passage, God is drawing a contrast between those that listen to Him through His messiah, His redeemer, and those who refuse:

Isa 50:10 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Isa 50:11 But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment.

That was in the NIV translation of the Bible, the New International Version... but listen to the rendering given by the Amplified Bible. The Amplified Bible sacrifices pure readability to achieve a more in-depth understanding of every word and thought in the underlying text. This is Isa. 50:10-11 in the Amplified Bible:

Isa 50:10 Who is among you who [reverently] fears the Lord, who obeys the voice of His Servant, yet who walks in darkness *and* deep trouble and has no shining splendor [in his heart]? Let him rely on, trust in, *and* be confident in the name of the Lord, and let him lean upon *and* be supported by his God.

Isa 50:11 Behold, all you [enemies of your own selves] who attempt to kindle your own fires [and work out your own plans of salvation], who surround *and* gird yourselves with momentary sparks, darts, *and* firebrands that you set aflame!—walk by the light of your self-made fire and of the sparks that you have kindled [for yourself, if you will]! But this shall you have from My hand: you shall lie down in grief *and* in torment. [Isa. 66:24]

God is making something very clear in this passage: He's indicating how His nature effects the two kinds of people in this passage: those that trust in Him, and those that refuse to trust in Him.

For those that put their trust in God's salvation, He is light and warmth. For those that refuse to trust in God's salvation, and instead seek to provide their own salvation, God is a consuming fire – and it is in those flames that they will lie down in torment.

Because of who and what He is, God must judge sin. For those that trust in God's salvation, their sin has already been judged and punished in the person of God's redeemer.. His messiah... Jesus Christ that took all of our sin upon Himself and paid our debt. For those that trust in Him, there is no longer any condemnation before God. Because of our relationship with Christ, and because of Christ's intercession with the Father on our behalf, we have a right standing before God. Not because of our own righteousness – not because of anything we have done for ourselves, but on account of what God has done for us... on account of the righteousness that God gives us through Christ... God's very own righteousness.

But those that refuse to trust in God's salvation are without remedy. The guilt for their sins will remain where it is now.. upon their own heads.. and it will be their responsibility to make that payment themselves. That payment is death. But unfortunately this kind of death, spiritual death, is not a one time event... it is constant, experiential death for an eternity.

That turn of events is the last thing that God wants to have happen to anyone. That's why He took the initiative to save us and send us His redeemer, His one and only Son.

There is a little passage of scripture in the Gospel of John, and in this one little passage God addresses the most pressing questions mankind asks about Him. Things like: “Is there really a God?”. And, “If there is a God, what is He like?” And, “If there is a God, and He's a loving and a kind God, how can I meet Him? How can I come to know Him?”

Consider this from God's word:

Jn 3:16 **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that**

whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Jn 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Jn 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son

A very, very well known passage of scripture that one is for sure.

But within this one little passage, God addresses all of those heartfelt questions:

“Is there really a God?”. The bible answers with a resounding “yes!”. The Bible never questions the existence of God, it instead proclaims it as an established fact. In our passage, the word simply says “For God...”... it treats God's existence as a given...

“If there is a God, what is He like?”. The bible answers back to that question, that God is a loving God.

Now, many people will fire off loving words in your direction.. but how many really mean it? Because if they mean it, that love will not just end with kind sounding words. Real love always results in real actions... actions that cost the one doing the loving. Actions that don't seek to self protect, but to selflessly serve.

And because God really does love us, He was willing to put His money where His mouth was, so to speak, and He allowed His love for us to cost Him, and to hurt Him. In order to give us the possibility of rescue, He sent His son to bear the cost of our sin. My sin, and your sin... and of all of the sin that has ever been committed against God. All of that sin, all of that dishonesty and that immorality.. all of that rebellion against God, past, present, and future, He laid on His own son - so that you, and me, and anyone who will believe, won't have to pay the cost for their own sin. That's what kind of a god God is...

This reality is how much God loves you, and how much He loves me. God the Son (Jesus), died for God the Father, so that you and I could be deemed innocent before God and could once again be in a right relationship with Him.

God is a god that truly loves, God is a god that loves unconditionally. And God is a god that you must know.

“So how can one come to know God?”. The bible points out that we don't have to go to where God is... and that in fact, we can't go to where God is... Now, there is no place in this universe where God's presence is absent, but His home is in heaven – a place of absolute sinlessness. If you or I went there, it would no longer be sinless would it? No, the bible says that we can't go there like we are – so God took the initiative, and instead He came to us. He still does.

The bible says that, “God gave His one and only Son”.. and that “**God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**”

And the way that we can have God's salvation, is by believing in His Son.

But what exactly does believing in God's son, Jesus Christ, really mean?

Does it mean whatever we want it to mean? Or has God given us a specific answer to this question in the Bible?

If you have a bible handy, please turn to John 6 and find verse 44.

I want to read this passage where Jesus is talking about who and what He is, and what He came do do.

And I want to study this passage because it ties in very nicely with the question of what it means to believe in Jesus Christ.

Jn 6:44 **“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.**

Jn 6:45 **It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.**

Jn 6:46 **No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.**

Jn 6:47 **I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.**

Jn 6:48 **I am the bread of life.**

Jn 6:49 **Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died.**

Jn 6:50 **But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.**

Jn 6:51 **I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”**

Christ tells us plainly in verse 44 that no one can come to Him unless God the Father draws that person to Christ. So right off the bat we must understand this great truth of God's initiative... the only reason salvation is possible is because God first moved. The possibility of salvation is God's idea. The work done to make salvation possible is work that God has already done. The mechanism by which salvation is applied to individual men and women is God's work to do, not ours. The ONLY part we play in any of this, is that we must accept God's salvation – and in that acceptance, cease trying to save ourselves. Cease trying to light our own fires, cease trying to provide our own light and our own warmth, and instead to cling to what God has provided.

So if no one can come to Christ unless the Father “draws him”... how is it that God “draws” us to His Son.. and what does it mean to be “drawn” to Christ?

The underlying word translated “draws” in John 6:44 means to drag, to draw, to pull in.

So what mechanism does God use to do this dragging, this drawing, and this pulling in? Does He take over our minds and remove any element of choice from us? Does He remote control us for the purpose of accepting His Son?

Well, we have the answer to this question in the very next verse:

Jn 6:45 **It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.**

In this verse where Jesus says, “They will all be taught by God”, He is quoting Isaiah 54:13.

And of course Isaiah 54 comes right after Isaiah 53. And what is Isaiah 53? It is the last of the “servant songs” in Isaiah... it's the servant song that describes the “suffering servant”.. God's redeemer... despised and rejected by men, pierced and crushed for our sins, and who would bear the sins of many in order to bring us peace and heal us. It is a passage in the OT about Christ penned some 800 years before He was born.

And the passage in Isaiah 54 to which Christ refers is part of a transition from the suffering servant of Isaiah 53, to the glorious results of the servant's work in Isaiah 54.... our restored relationship with God, our forgiveness that is possible

because of His redeemer's work... it proclaims the exultation, the new birth, and the new hope of those that trust in God's redeemer, Jesus Christ. And the next chapter, 55, continues with an invitation for everyone to come to the Lord's redeemer to be saved.

Isa 55:6 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

But consider how God says one must seek Him, consider how God says that one must call upon Him: the one who would have God's mercy... the one who would have God's pardon for their sin, must “forsake his way” - he must reject and abandon his life and actions of sin. And he must “forsake his thoughts” - he must reject and abandon his mind of sin. He must turn to the Lord – and that means repent (to turn from one direction and to go another direction) – and in abandoning and rejecting his sin, instead cling to and rely on God's redeemer.

Then and only then will God have mercy on him. Then and only then, will God freely pardon. Because then and only then, is the sinner one with God's redeemer... bound up and encapsulated within God's solution for sin.

There is no forgiveness, there is no salvation without repentance. Listen to what God says in His word about repentance – turning from sin to God:

In 2nd Chronicles 7:14:

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

In Ezekiel 18:27 & 28:

But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life.

Because he considers all the offenses he has committed and turns away from them, he will surely live; he will not die.

In Isaiah 30:15, God says:

“In **repentance** and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength”

And all of this made possible because of what was foretold of God's redeemer in

Isaiah 53. By His atoning death on the cross – meaning, by taking upon Himself all of our sin and rebellion against God, and God then pouring out His just wrath on that sin – on Christ – and Jesus paying that price in full - He opened the way back to God for anyone and everyone... for all that will call upon Him (in repentance, in turning) and place their trust in Him.

See, Christ is pointing specifically to Himself here, what was written about Him long ago, but also to all scripture.. and He's making His point loud and clear in three simple steps. “Everyone who (1) listens to the Father.. AND (2) learns from Him... (3) COMES to me (to Jesus Christ)”.

That is how God draws people to His son.. His word.. that is: scripture. The very word of God draws people to His son.

Anyone that makes an honest examination of the scriptures (that is, everyone who listens to the Father),,, and everyone that believes what is thus revealed is true (that is, everyone who through listening actually learns from the Father), will logically end up at the mission and the person of Jesus Christ. There is no other logical conclusion to scripture.

God has laid a narrow path in His word, brick by brick, stone by stone, that when followed faithfully leads directly to Jesus Christ, God's Redeemer: Jesus is the fulfillment of the law. He is the gate for the sheep. He is the way and the only way, the truth and the only truth, the life and the only life. No one comes to the father except through Jesus Christ (that's John 14:6)

When one reads the scriptures and does not harden their heart against the ensuing witness of the Holy Spirit, the only place they CAN end up is at the completed work and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the only destination that the Bible provides.

So here is the grand question. Are you an Isaiah 50:10 person? Or an Isaiah 50:11 person?

Are you trusting in the salvation that God Himself has provided through Jesus Christ, the light of the world? Or are you busily trying to save yourself.. to be good enough yourself... are you lighting your own fires and waving them in front of you so that you can see, and in so doing rejecting God's light?

It really is that simple of a question.

Jesus Christ is God's redeemer. He is the only adapter, the only interface, the only intercessor between God and man – because He is both God and man. He is Immanuel – God with us, and He is Yeshua – Jehovah is salvation – or God saves. And He is the Christ (Ha Mashiach) – meaning God's anointed one.. God's chosen one- the one and only messiah. God's redeemer.

If you have not trusted in God's salvation... if you have not trusted in Christ... Why haven't you?

Do you think you can do a better job of reconciling yourself to God, than God can Himself? Because reconciliation with God is what is required for life. If you are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, you have life. If you are not reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, you are merely waiting to die and then face the judgment of a righteous and holy God.

If you can stand before God and truthfully say to Him that you have never done wrong, then by all means, light your own fires.

But if you cannot, then you need to not walk, but to run to Jesus Christ for safety. Not next week, not tomorrow, but right this very moment – God's word says that today, this very day, is the day of salvation. If you hear His voice, don't harden your heart and refuse to believe... because you never know how much time you have left.

If you would like to accept God's salvation, if you would like to be saved, if you would like to know God, then you can, but you can only do these things in the manner God has indicated that you can... and that is by accepting the gift of His son for yourself, personally – by turning from your life and mind of sin, and of your own efforts to save yourself - and instead turning to Christ. If you would like to do that, pray a little prayer like this:

Dear God. I realize that you sent your son to take my place, so that you and I can be together. But I admit to you God, that I haven't accepted your gift in Christ... really, I've been trying to know you, to be with you, to be right before you – under my own power. And I understand now that I can't do that. It's impossible. It is only through your son that I can be saved, that I can know you, and that we can be at peace. I don't want to be against you. I want to be with you.

Right now God, I want to give up all of my sin. My life that is against you. The things that I love and the things that I hate that are against you. My thoughts and ways of thinking that are against you.

I want the life of Jesus instead. I want His loves and hates instead. I want His thoughts and ways instead of mine.

Right at this very moment, I want to accept Jesus as my Lord... as my God – as my redeemer. I accept the gift of your son for my sin, and I accept your Spirit into my life to empower me to turn to you – I know I can't do it by myself. Thank you Father, for saving me. Thank you Jesus, for dying for me. Please take my life from me, and make it what you want Lord. Lead me to think what you want me to think, to go where you want me to go, and to be what you want me to be.

Thank you for saving me Father.... In the name of your son, and my Lord, - the one who brings us together: Jesus Christ. Amen.