

Ω I	IT	DE	A (\sim L	ı
υı	JI	ᇚᆮ	Α١	⊸ Γ	7

RIGHT OF CHOICE

Most, if not all of us, hold our **RIGHT OF CHOICE** as a very precious possession, and are aware that in much of today's world, people have very little, if any choice, especially about their future.

Even for us, in what we call 'the free world', it would seem in many ways we are free to do mostly what we're told.

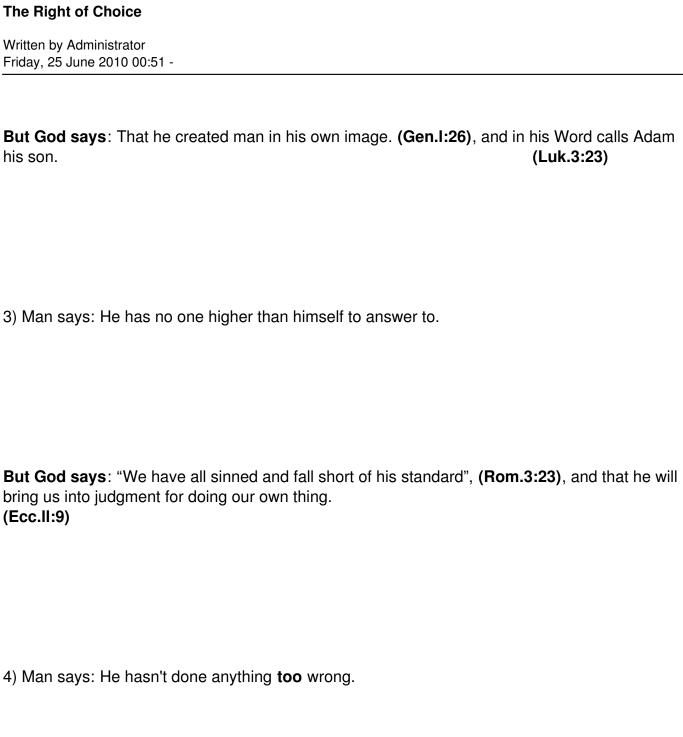
But, in fairness, it must be said that in Australia we do have a **RIGHT OF CHOICE** in most things. As individuals, we can choose, within the limits of our finances, where we live, what kind of car we drive, where we go on our holidays, and so on.

We can also, to some degree at least, control our future, and plan for our retirement. We can control our health costs with insurance, and guard against some of the after effects of accidents in the same way.

We can even prepare for death by making out our will, and can expect it to be upheld by the law of the land.

We exercise our **RIGHT OF CHOICE** in most, if not all of these things, yet for the vast majority, when it comes to the question of what happens to us after death, we refuse to make a choice.





But God says: That thieves, murderers and haters of God, together with the foolish the gossi ps

and

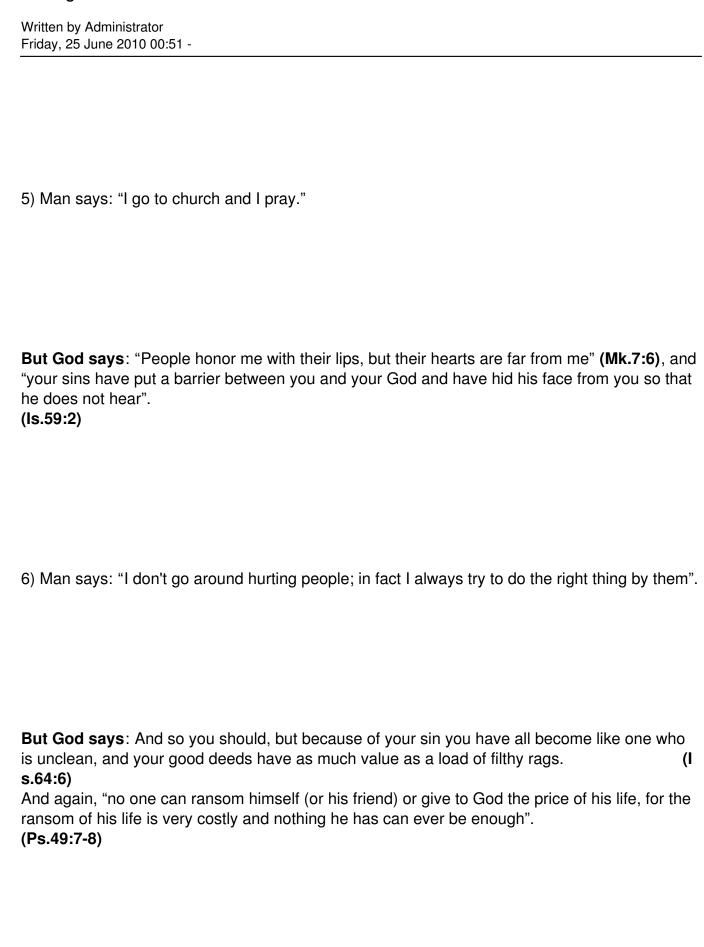
those who disobey parents

, all deserve death.

(Rom.1:29-32)

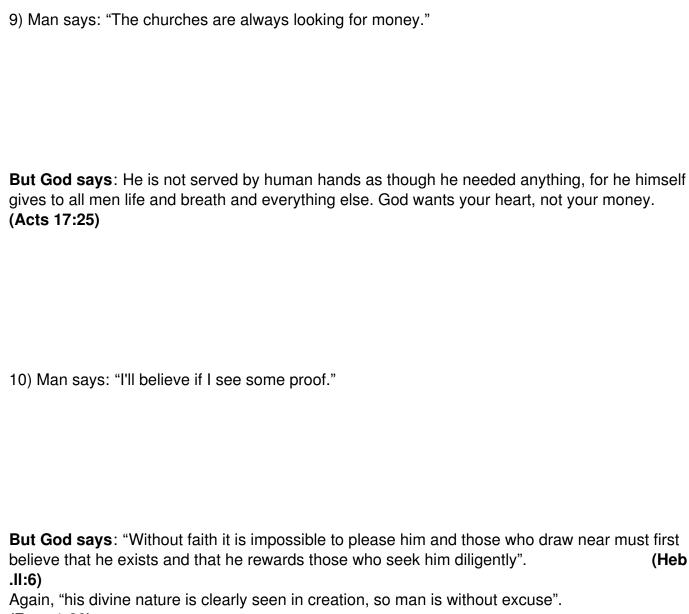
And again, the soul that sins will die.

(Ezek.18:4)



Written by Administrator Friday, 25 June 2010 00:51 -7) Man says: "But what about all the different churches and religions?" And God says: There is only one way. Jesus said of himself, "I am the way, the truth and the (Jh.I4:6) But man keeps trying to life; no one comes to the Father but by me." fit that "way, truth and life" into one neat package within a church group. However, Jesus did really establish a church, but only one. It is the family of God here on earth, and is made up of all those who have been re-created, or reborn of the Spirit of the Word, in accordance with the written Word. We will look later at how you can go through this re-creation process. 8) Man says: "How can I be sure what really is the truth?" And God says: "If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know if a teaching is from God or man." (Jh.7:17) And again, "You shall seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jer.29:13)

Written by Administrator Friday, 25 June 2010 00:51 -



(Heb

(Rom.1:20)

Jesus told a story about Lazarus and a rich man, and in it both men died. Lazarus went to a place of rest, the rich man to a place of suffering. The rich man asked that Lazarus be sent to his brothers back on earth to warn them of what was in store for them. But he was told that if they would not hear or listen to the Scriptures, they would not be convinced if one were to rise from the dead.

(Luk. 16:19-31)

After all, Jesus rose from the dead, but not many people believe that fact enough to find out what it was all about.

Written by Administrator Friday, 25 June 2010 00:51 -

11) Man says: "If there is a God, then why do we have so much suffering? And what about the innocent children and all they have to go through?"

Now God says: When he created man, and gave him authority over all that was to be on the earth (Gen.1:28), this included the children that would be his. Now, remembering that this whole article is about our RIGHT OF

CHOICE

14/0

should know that it was God himself who gave mankind this right. He said to the man and the woman in the garden that 'if they ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die'

(Gen.2; 16-17)

, and they exercised their choice when Satan told them they would not die, but would become like God.

(Gen.3:1-19)

And because they believed his lie instead of God's truth, they suffered the consequences.

We, as their descendants, suffer also, not because we are somehow guilty of their sin, but because the man and the woman, who had been created perfect by God, allowed the poison of a lie into them, and so contaminated not only themselves but all their descendants. (1Cor.15:22 a)

I assume we all know what deadly poison mercury is. Even small amounts, when discharged into the ocean, contaminate it for a long time. The lie of Satan, which the man and the woman allowed into them, contaminated the whole human race, right down to our day, and will continue to do so, to the end of time, as we know it.

It is this same poison which makes it so much easier for us to do wrong than right, to tell a lie, rather than the truth.

Written by Administrator Friday, 25 June 2010 00:51 -

God says "man's heart is deceitful above all things" (Jer.17;9), and that out of the heart comes evil thoughts, murders, adultery, fornication (free love), theft, false witness and slander. (Matt.15:19-20)

Also, envy, strife, ill will, gossip, insolence, pride, boastfulness, evil intentions, foolishness, heartlessness, ruthlessness and so on.

(Rom.1:29-31)

God asks, "What causes wars and fighting among you? Is it not your passions at work in your members? You desire and you don't have, so you covet and kill. You don't get what you want, so you fight and wage war. You don't have, because you don't ask. You ask and you don't receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

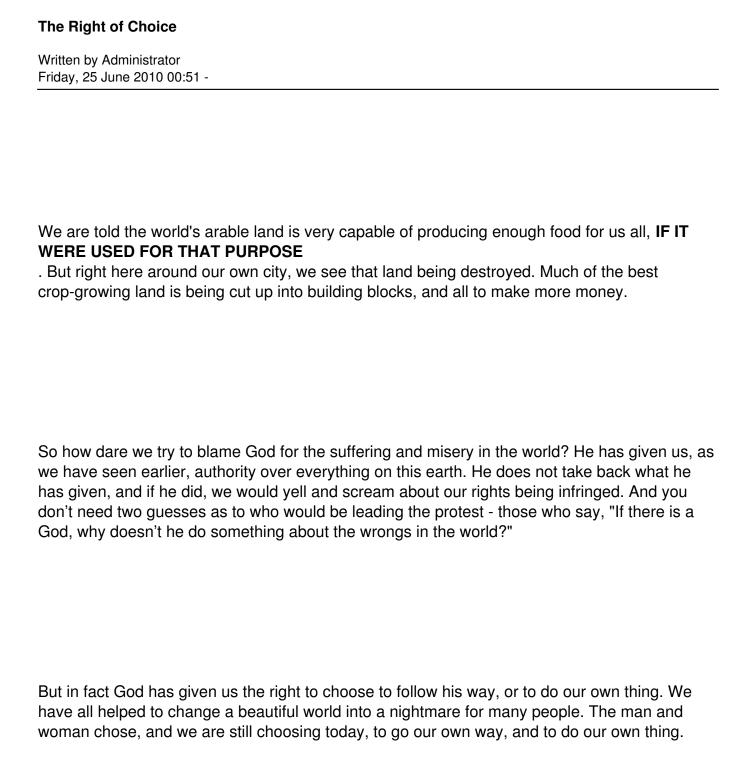
(Jas.4:1-3)

Now please don't think of wars as only between nations. They are much more common in families, between families, between neighbors and so on. And today, we don't kill with the sword and the gun, nearly as much as with the tongue and the pen.

Since men did not acknowledge God, he gave them up to the lusts of their hearts, to dishonorable passions, to a base mind and improper conduct (Rom.1:24-28), and says "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth".

(Gen.8:21)

You see, just about all the suffering and misery we have around us, is clearly the result of mankind's greed and selfishness, of his passions and lusts.



Again, in our vanity, we think we can put things right by our own efforts, but history clearly shows us we can only make things worse. We are told that, 'in this advanced world or ours', two-thirds of the population goes to bed hungry most every night. Now that certainly is no

improvement on our past.

Written by Administrator Friday, 25 June 2010 00:51 -

But coming back to God, he hasn't left mankind alone in this terrible situation, despite our rebelling against him, and our general rejection of his Word. Instead, he has provided a way for all who are willing to believe him, and turn from their ways - a way by which we can be re-created into what he originally intended us to be.

That way is the Good News which, by God's grace we will lay out before you now. Good News, for most people, is news that makes them feel better, or makes things look brighter. But the GOOD NEWS we bring gives people hope for eternity, a hope that does not fail. To help you appreciate this GOOD NEWS, we will briefly re-cap on what we like to term, 'the bad news'.

We have already looked at what God's Word says about his existence, which leaves man without an excuse (Rom.1:20). Man shuns God today, not because he doesn't believe he exists, but because, if he does admit belief, then he must accept that he is answerable to God. We have also seen that God says he created mankind for a purpose - to be his children. But man sinned, and anyone who says he has not sinned makes God a liar. (Jh.I:10)

There are three principal results of sin. **Firstly,** it causes us to die, spiritually, to God. **(Ezek.I8: 4)**Secon dly

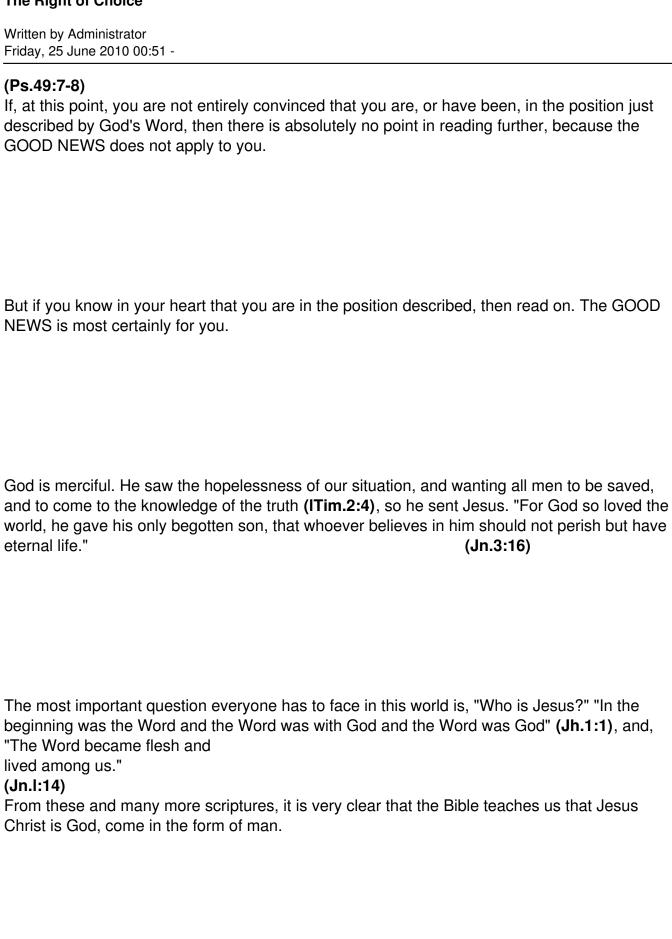
puts up a barrier, which prevents him from hearing us.

(ls.59:2)

. And

thirdly,

no one can, by his own efforts, save himself from this death sentence.



Now, this Jesus did **not** come to be remembered as a little babe. In fact he was **born to die**.

11 / 16

Written by Administrator Friday, 25 June 2010 00:51 -

"He himself bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness, by his wounds we have been healed."

(1Peter 2:24)

He came through to our side of the sin barrier when he took our sins on himself. He came to the place of death, where we were trapped, and he died there at Calvary. "The death he died, he died once for all."

(Rom.6:10)

He came of his own choice saying, "No one takes my life from me, and I lay it down of my own accord."

(Jh.IO:17)

Having died and being buried, he rose again from the dead after three days and three nights. (Matt.12:40)

We must understand here that God, having "overlooked the times of our ignorance, now commands all men everywhere to repent - or turn in our hearts from our old ways - because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead."

(Acts 17:30-31)

When Peter was asked what was to be done by those who believed his preaching about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, he said, "Repent and be baptised every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ." (Acts 2:38) And Paul writes, "Do you not know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

(Rom.6:3-4)

We are put right with God by believing his Word, Jesus Christ, and we lay claim to our share in his death, burial and resurrection by obedience in baptism. (Rom.6:5) Just as Adam and Eve

Written by Administrator Friday, 25 June 2010 00:51 -

were given a simple test of their faith, and failed, (Gen.3:1-6)

, so we too are given a simple test of our faith.

WE MUST NOT FAIL.

Baptism is not an optional extra; it is commanded by Jesus himself. **(Matt.28:19)** Having believed the preaching of Christ, and being prepared in our hearts, by faith, to lay claim to our share in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus in baptism, we are born again, or re-created into what God intended us to be. The Word tells us, "If anyone be in Christ he is a new creation. The old has passed away, the new has come."

(2Cor.5:17)

We find ourselves with a new mind (2Tim.I:7), our whole thinking changes. We have new values - new ideas - new interests - new desires. Instead of forever tending down toward evil and wrong, we tend upward to God and to all that is good in his sight.

(2Cor.4:16 & Rom.6:5-14)

The greatest change of all is that of our attitude to the scriptures. Our eyes are opened and we can see what God is saying to us. We were blind, but now we see. We were held captive by our passions and lusts, but now we are free to say,

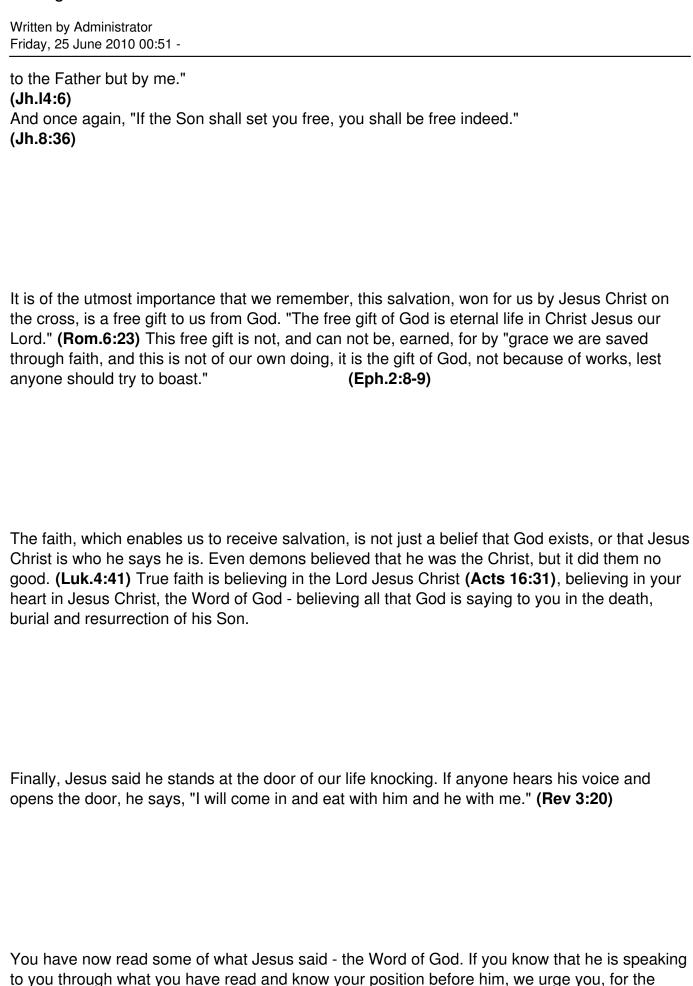
'NO'

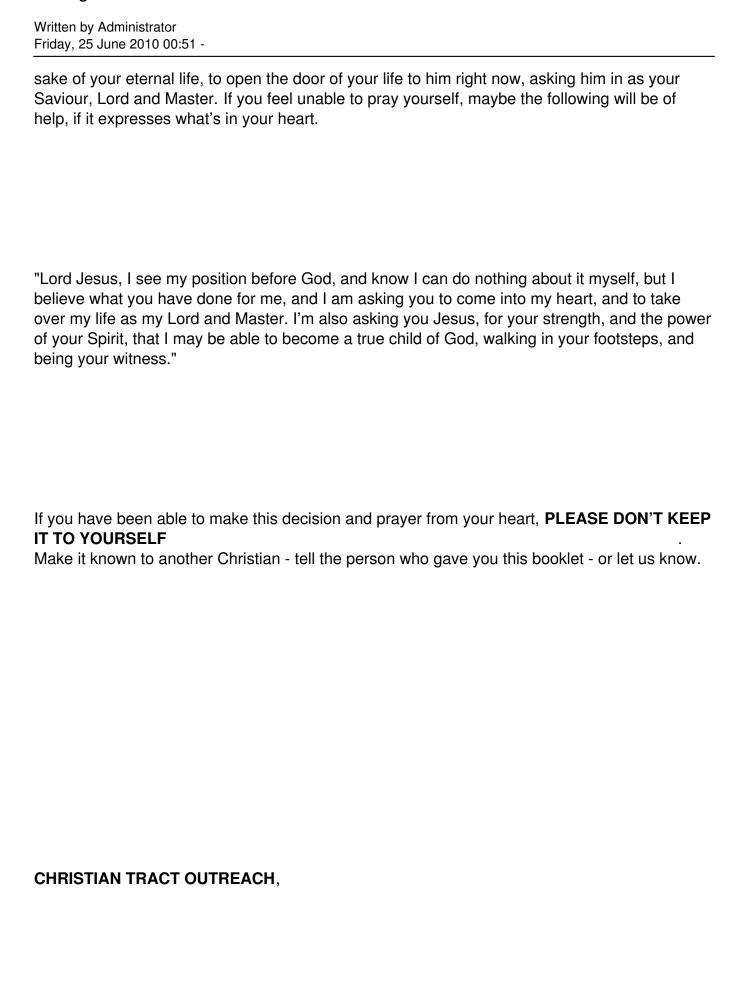
to them

(Luk.4:18)

, and walk away.

Jesus said, "I am the door, if anyone enters by me he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." (Jh.I0:9) Jesus is the doorway in the sin barrier that we can pass through to reach God. Again Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes







Email: danny@christiantractoutreach.com

WWW.CHRISTIANTRACTOUTREACH.COM