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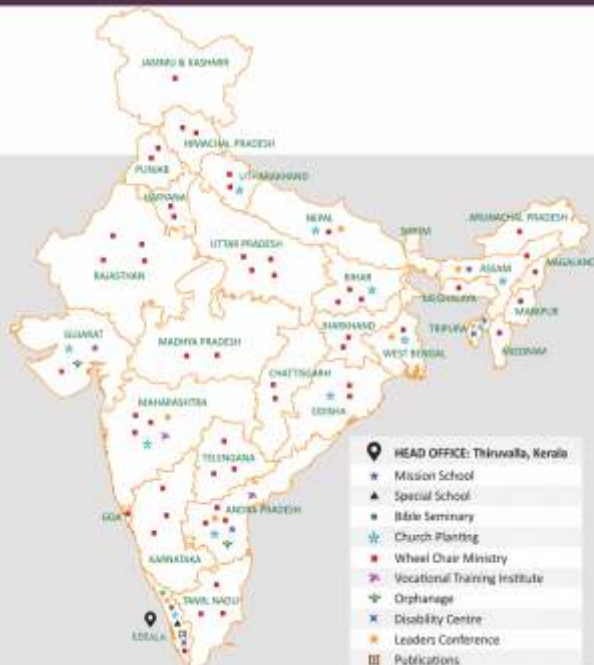
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Editorial

Dear precious brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!



PEACE THAT PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING

In the wake of the recent terror attacks, especially on the day when the Christian community world over is celebrating the resurrection day, is a tragedy unexplainable. Words cannot comfort the loss and the pain experienced by those who lost their loved ones. The unrest and the restlessness experienced by the people of Sri Lanka is intense. How then can we as Christians reach out to them? The best way is to turn back to the word, Jesus Himself who says in the Bible that 'in this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.'. Also, Jesus said 'the peace I give you is not like the peace the world gives.

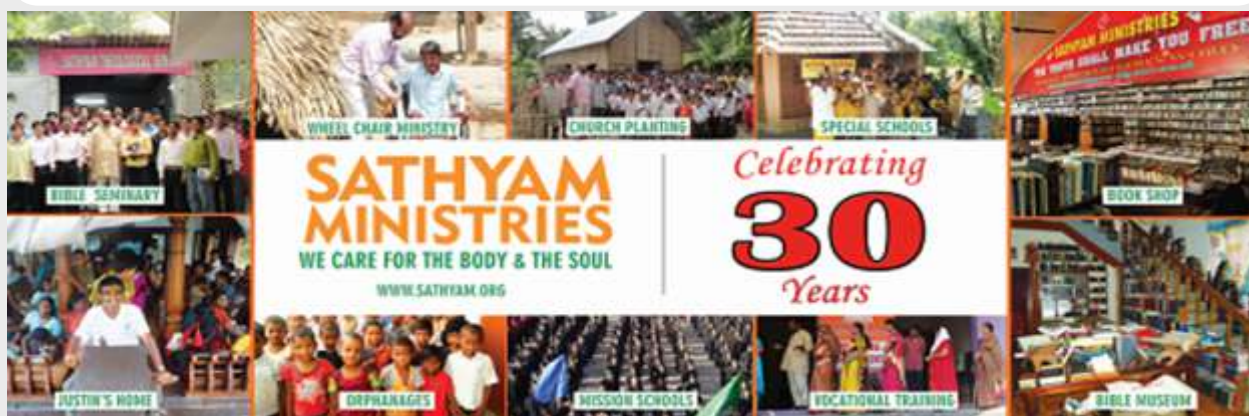
The world can acknowledge peace only if things are going the expected right way. But chaos and confusion seem to still be rampant and there is not a place in this world that is not affected by violence. Even New Zealand which was considered the most peaceful place witnessed terror attacks. Terror and instilling fear seem to be a way for gaining power, yet Bible speaks of joy and peace that one can reach out to in Christ Jesus, the true King and Lord of all!

Paul in Philippians 4:6 & 8 talks about us as believers not to be anxious about anything but trust God so that the peace of God and the God of peace will rule our hearts and minds. This I think would be the best possible way for us to allow our thoughts to be at rest and trust God that our future is in His hands and He will guide us and guard us to the end.

My prayer for the people of Sri Lanka and those affected by the acts of terror is that the peace of God be with them and their loved ones and may we as believers in Jesus Christ be the fragrance of Christ to those around us.

Dr. C. V. Vadavana

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FORGIVING GRACE

Brother Noble George



Throne of grace:

Heb. 4:16 commands the believer to draw close to the throne of grace! "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16). In the Old Testament, we see the throne of Solomon, which is a type of the throne of Grace in the New Testament.

1 Kings 10:18-20. He made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it with the best gold. The throne had six steps and the top of the throne was round behind. And there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom".

There was no other throne like the throne of King Solomon in all of the earth! It was made of ivory which is white and strong, harder than rock, uniform without any blemish. It represented solid consistent purity in life. It is overlaid with the best gold. Gold stands for grace in the bible. But what is the "best gold"? It is grace upon grace.

We also see the lions on either side, and the word of God describes two of the outstanding characteristics of lion, Prov 28:1, "Righteous are bold like lion". Prov. 30:30, "Lion the strongest among beasts which turns not away for any". There is boldness and strength with holiness and purity.

The throne of grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is the source of power for the saint. It can transform any one. It makes the most fearful one bold enough to die for Him. It can make him strong enough to forgive even enemies.

Timothy was a timid fearful young man afraid to use his gifts (1 Timothy 4:14), 2 Timothy 1:6-7, 1 Cor. 16:10. In 2 Timothy 2:1 Paul commands Timothy, "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus". Heb. 13:23, Take

notice that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you. The timid fearful became bold enough to go to prison for Jesus.

Chasm fixed:

If an unbeliever refuses to strive to enter through the Gate of Grace and achieve the forgiveness, a serious consequence awaits him. Luke 16:19-31 is the story of Lazarus and the rich man. Verse 26 "And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us". In short Abraham father says, there is a gulf that is fixed now. The gulf the rich man maintained while he was on earth, with God and with God's people and with Lazarus. The only difference is that it got fixed now.

Due to the lack of forgiving grace, there could be some chasm that exists between us and God's people, our own brothers and sisters. One must bear in mind that the gulf gets fixed beyond this life. Now is the time to bridge the gulf, to close the gap while on earth.

Bridging or Wedging:

The spiritual application to a believer is that, only we know in our heart what gulf or gulfs are maintained and with whom. Here on earth the gulf is not fixed, can be bridged. It might sound like play of words, but we are good at "wedging the gap" instead of "bridging the gap". The wedge is convenient to be put in to close the gap and removed at will. That is hypocrisy and God does not approve it.


Another thing in Verse 25, But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony". Now nothing could be done. The rich man was asking for just a drop of water since his tongue was being tormented. But unfortunately, not even a small drop of blessing could come, because of the gulf that got fixed.

(To be continued.....)



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Tom Lehrer



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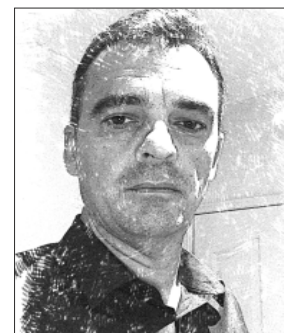


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LESSON 2

UNITY : SO WHAT IS THE BIG IDEA?

Daniel Walker



KEY CONCEPT: *An effective sermon will have one BIG idea that holds the entire sermon together. The BIG idea of the sermon should always come from the biblical text. The BIG idea is a clear simple sentence that expresses what the sermon is about.*

RULE 2 - The BIG idea of a sermon is one or two sentences that clearly express what the sermon is about.

J.H. Jowett says:

*"I have a conviction that no sermon is ready for preaching, not ready for writing out, until we can express its theme in a short, pregnant sentence as clear as crystal. I find the getting of that sentence is the hardest, the most exacting, and the most fruitful labour in my study... I do not think any sermon ought to be preached or even written, until that sentence has emerged, clear and lucid as a cloudless moon."*¹⁵

Bryan Chappell says the BIG idea of a sermon should be simple enough to pass the "3:00 A.M. test."¹⁶ He says to imagine someone from your church wakes you up at 3:00 A.M. and asks the simple question: What is the sermon about? If you can't give a quick and clear answer, then the sermon is probably not ready to be preached.

Note that having a BIG idea is good communication practice. Chris Anderson says about TED talks:

*"A good exercise is to try to encapsulate your throughline in no more than fifteen words. And those fifteen words need to provide robust content. It's not enough to think of your goal as, 'I want to inspire the audience' or 'I want to win support for my work.' It has to be more focused than that. What is the precise idea you want to build inside your listeners? What is their takeaway?"*¹⁷

Look at the two examples below. Which one is a helpful BIG idea sentence? Which one will help the preacher in his preparation? Which one will help the listener of the sermon?

Example 1

When the sinful nation of Israel went into exile, it messianic hope and vision were mistakenly and faithlessly diminished because pre-Ezra and pre-Nehemiah proofs of God's sovereign plan, purpose, and intentions for his people were obscured in Babylonian circumstances of incarceration and oppression that would not be relieved until the Persian emancipation and further covenantal revelations in advancing redemptive history.

Example 2

God remains faithful to faithless people.

SUMMARY

An effective sermon will have one BIG idea that holds the entire sermon together.

Two basic rules for the BIG idea:

RULE 1 – The BIG idea of the sermon should come from the biblical text

RULE 2 - The BIG idea of a sermon is one or two sentences that clearly express what the sermon is about

What to do with the BIG idea once you have it:

Make the BIG idea shape everything you say in the sermon

EXERCISES

What is a possible BIG idea sentence that could unify the following main points of the sermons below? Remember the BIG idea sentence should be clear and short.

Exercise 1

God is good God is faithful God is sovereign

Possible BIG idea?

Exercise 2

Christian parents discipline their children.

Christian parents sacrifice for their children

Christian parents love their children

Possible BIG idea?

Exercise 3

Noah was wise

Noah was fearless

Noah was faithful

Possible BIG idea?

For the following two exercises write a clear BIG idea sentence about the topic and then add three main points.

Exercise 4

Topic: Cricket

BIG Idea sentence:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Exercise 5

Topic: Curry

BIG Idea sentence:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Exercise 6

Read Psalm 117. Write down the BIG Idea of the psalm and then two main points from the psalm that relate to the BIG idea.

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.

2 For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord! (Psalm 117)

What is the BIG Idea of the psalm?

(Hint: Why has the psalmist written this psalm? What is he telling people to do?)

What are two main points that support the BIG idea?

(Hint: What reasons are given in the psalm?)

- 1.
- 2.

¹⁵ Jowlett, J. H. *The Preacher: His Life and Work*, P.133

¹⁶ Bryan Chappell, P.45.

¹⁷ Anderson Chris.

(To be continued.....)



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TIME MANAGEMENT

Thomas Kulanjiyil, PhD



In the previous column I have discussed the importance of time management and offered some practical advises. In this article I shall suggest some more helpful strategies.

PLANNING: Lack of planning is a key problem in time management. Planning ahead is a great time saver. It is said that every minute one plans for a day saves 3 minutes when completing a task. In addition to mentally planning activities for a day or week, it is good to put those plans in writing. Make a written schedule helps to keep the focus. There are different kinds of planning that include day planning, weekly planning, and month Planning.

SETTING GOALS: To handle time efficiently it is important that the goals set are realistic, achievable, specific, and concrete.

DEALING WITH PROCRASTINATION: We postponed things that are unpleasant, things that are difficult, and things that involve tough decisions. It becomes a habit and a psychological problem for some. It is said that procrastination breeds procrastination. There are two solutions to procrastination: Procrastination is a subconscious message that one's priorities are out of focus, and therefore clarifying one's objectives and priorities is the first step to right direction. Developing the habit of planning each day is another step to take. Developing a do-now habit is a good skill to learn. **"Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today."**

FLEXIBILITY: Life is not always predictable, and as a result having a mindset of flexibility is useful to get works done. Avoid rigidity and don't be dictated by

a time table. The principle is to be sufficiently organized to have a "buffer zone, so that you can give the time needed without over-stretching yourself.

GETTING ORGANIZED AND STAYING ORGANIZED:

Using lists, color coding files, and keeping journals are constructive ways to organize tasks. Make use of such organizational tools as palm handheld organizers, personal organizers, wall calendars, address books, sticky notes, and schedule management software.

DEVELOPING A DO LIST: Make a list of everything you need to do (a do list) day by day, and hr. by hr. Prioritize the list based on deadline; things to do today, tomorrow, this week, and everything else. Marking the jobs/tasks completed is a way to monitor the progress.

TIMING ON EACH TASK: It is said that "Some things are worth doing well; some things are worth doing very well; and some things are just worth doing." Working out how much time one needs to spend on each task, and allocating time, accordingly, is a skilled way to manage time.

EVALUATING YOUR TIME: Asking such important questions as "Is time wasted?"; "Is time unbalanced?"; "Is time spent profitably?"; "Is time used creatively?" are the right questions to raise.

I hope, the readers will pay attention to these valuable ideas and put them into practice to improve your time management skills. We will continue this theme in future columns as well.



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What Is Christian Moderation?

Victoria Johnson, Houston

Moderation is temperance or self-control. The dictionary defines moderation as “avoiding extremes.” “Moderate” is defined as “kept within reasonable limits.” Philippians 4:5 says, “Let your moderation [gentleness] be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.” Too much of almost anything is not good. “And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things....I discipline my body and bring it into subjection...” These verses are found in 1 Corinthians 9, where Paul discusses the Christian race and striving for the imperishable crown. He is temperate and has self-control. Christians should use moderation in all things to follow what the Bible teaches and to keep a pure testimony.

One example of the lack of moderation is when a person becomes drunk from too much wine. The sin is drunkenness. Ephesians 5:18 says, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.” Dissipation means “excess” or “over indulgence in pleasure.” Proverbs 23:21 tells us that “the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty.” Overeating – or gluttony – is as wrong as drunkenness. Obviously, one has to eat, but without temperance in how much he eats, he will become a glutton. Don’t live to eat; eat to live. “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that *they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is their destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is their shame – who set their mind on earthly things*” (Philippians 3:18-19, emphasis added). Proverbs 25:16 speaks about moderation: “Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, lest you be filled with it and vomit.” That verse can apply to everything we do, not just to eating.

Smoking and Gambling

Are smoking and gambling sins? The Bible does not specifically command not to do these things,

but that doesn't mean that those things are good to do. While the Scripture doesn't address such topics, it does provide principles to guide us on these issues. Both, like drinking, can become addictive. These things do not help us in our Christian walk. Paul says in 1 Cor. 6:12, “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” If it is not a help, why do it? Paul is saying he will not allow himself to become addicted to something unhelpful. Furthermore, gambling becomes a way to “get rich quick” without working, which destroys work ethics. But more often, gambling leads to the loss of money. With determination and training, we can become productive members of society and useful members of the Church.

Idols in our Life

Some Christians can have idols, perhaps not of stone which they bow down to, but things which they count as more important than God. Idols for some may be the sport they play, making money, being in fashion, being good-looking, or a person they love or admire. These things become idols when they are to them the “most important things in life” that keep them from serving God. Hebrews 12:1 tells us to “...lay aside every weight, and the sin which easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Most agree that we must put off sin. But then there are the extra things in life that take our mind off of the things of the Lord; we must decide what we can rid ourselves of to become more Christ-like. Jesus kept Himself free of things that could weigh Him down and pull Him away from God's plan. Often we complain of the busyness of life, but we could solve that problem by laying aside the weights. Then we will run the Christian race with new energy, and see God's will more clearly.

(To be continued.....)



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The Wargyan Research Institute and Usability Center, is the result of an immense need to apply the disabled posture to the Indian scenario. Sankar's Seeking to find a charitable society based in Kerala built as he was working in the field of Social Welfare are Charities for the last 2 years by shedding light on the contradictions in society. Through a series of projects it has many tested in scenarios in the area of stability preparing thousands of individuals to become entrepreneurs.

The Director, Mrs. Mary Jane Vadasz, and SRDC were initially averse to do something so morally challenging as to award her second child rights in violation of a learning discipline. After reading Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life," and beginning to find hope in the idea of prayer, we decided to try. After reading Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life," and beginning to find hope in the idea of prayer, we decided to try. After reading Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life," and beginning to find hope in the idea of prayer, we decided to try.

It is an expensive networking, for the rehabilitation of mentally handicapped children. This centre provides services to children who are suffering from mental retardation, autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy and emotional disturbance.

To encourage the diversification of the members' subjects

- To expose and develop the hidden skills and abilities in persons with disabilities
- To train and develop individual life skills
- To promote and direct employment opportunities for people with disabilities
- To remove social, cultural and economic barriers that are associated with disabilities
- To implement a comprehensive integrated program of research and training
- To develop rural community infrastructure in order to enhance opportunities for people with disabilities



Other prosthetics (orthodontic) and orthotics (braces, a support and supplement, wheelchair, crutches) can be used to remove barriers associated with physical disabilities.

Gain approved from RCI for conducting
Foundation Courses: Managing (5
month course) and HRD (6)

State approval from MG University to conduct rehabilitation exercises.

- Sufficient inherent learning activities
- Proving technology
- Unbreakable log
- File making
- Time cost making



Stop Typing and Start Talking

"To the churches of the United States: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to remind you that you are one body through Christ and are united through the Spirit. In saying this, you need to get over yourselves and talk to each other face-to-face (not on Facebook) about politics."

Elise Miller



If Paul were to write a letter to the church today, I think it might read like that.

The church is divided, though few of us talk about it. We shove it under the pew, listen to the sermon and move on. We ignore a major stumbling block that we need to address.

It's not easy to be a Christian in this intense political atmosphere — especially when you know that your political views may be polar opposite from your brothers and sisters in Christ. Disagreements are inevitable, but they shouldn't keep us from being transparent with one another and having the relationship that God intended for members of the church to have.

While it is easy to say that we, as Christians, put our faith in God before our allegiance to America, the political debates in which we engage — and our social media accounts — suggest otherwise. The phrase "conservative Christian" itself puts political ideology before religious identity. This is unfortunate, as Christians could be spending their time combating the intense climate of this political season rather than adding to it.

There are so many other things that should capture our attention and prayers right now. Christians suffer in the Middle East. ISIS and other terrorist groups commit atrocities. Here at home there's racial tension. Children are separated from their parents. Drug addiction destroys lives. Souls are lost.

Yet we bicker about a politician's email or a real estate mogul's tax returns. Or we complain that neither is addressing the real issues. 'While I admire people of faith who proclaim the truth about God's Word on Sundays, I am disappointed when I see them post hateful things on social media.' We are the issue. Our obsession with things that don't matter has taken our minds away from God's call to seek and save the lost. The demeaning rhetoric used by many Christians

about other souls — including political candidates, protesters and those practicing different religions — drives people away from us.

In [Matthew 15:8-11](#) Jesus says, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me... What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

While I admire people of faith who proclaim the truth about God's Word on Sundays, I am disappointed when I see them post hateful things on social media.

Do we apply God's commands equally when we take stances on the issues that divide us politically? We oppose abortion because of the sanctity of human life while we rail against any attempts to limit our access to firearms. What about the lives of victims of gun violence? We preach about love and unity, but have we tied our faith to a particular political stance?

In [John 16:12-14](#), Jesus tells us, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

We need to talk with one another — and talk to those with whom we disagree — to find understanding.

This should not be an "I'm right, you're wrong" kind of conversation. If we listen and understand, this dialogue has the power to mend churches and make us into the family that God envisions. 'We need to talk with one another — and talk to those with whom we disagree — to find understanding. 'Soon, all of the sound bites, advertisements and endless chatter of this political season will vanish.

Let's not live for the things that will pass, but for the body that will last for an eternity.

ELISE MILLER is a senior at Plano East High School in Texas. She worships with the [Waterview Church of Christ](#) in Richardson, Texas. Though she isn't old enough to vote on Nov. 8, she's an avid follower of news. As editor-in-chief of her school newspaper, she hopes to pursue a career in journalism — and to have a positive, Christian influence on news media.

SATHYANIKETHAN SENIOR LIVING

A Sathyam Service Trust Undertaking Providing Christian and Personalized Senior Care Services

OUR MISSION

To provide a Christcentered care that enables our senior citizens to have the highest quality of life.

OUR VISION

We care for body and soul

Isaiah 46:4

"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

OBJECTIVE

SathyaNikethan Senior Living's aim is to offer senior citizens a spiritual and caring opportunity to lead an active life, spiritually, mentally and physically. It aims to provide social support to facilitate people to lead productive lives.

To daily practice the words of Galatians 5:13..... To serve one another humbly in love.

PERSONALIZED, COMPASSIONATE CARE

SathyaNikethan Senior Living is registered under Sathyam Service Trust, Thiruvalla.

Our aim is to put a great deal of thought into the activities and social opportunities that we plan, from 30 years of experience and our small community setting allows us to personalize both activities and their schedules to the daily routine and preferences of our residents. Smaller communities mean that each individual resident receives personal attention and care. The small number of residents that we can house enables our staff to become familiar with each guest personally, and to learn their needs and preference.

PRIMARY SERVICES

- Safe and protected environment
- Chaplaincy
- Regular prayer meeting and Sunday worship
- Christian library
- Three well balanced, home cooked, and nutritious meals
- Special dietary requests
- Feeding as needed
- Personal assistance with daily needs like bathing, dressing and general grooming
- Daily tidying and bed making
- Weekly housekeeping and daily trash removal
- Weekly personal laundry and linens
- Scheduled transportation for medical appointments
- Common recreation room and facilities
- Guest accommodation available
- Beautiful garden

ABOUT ALL WE AIM TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SECURITY FACILITIES

- 24x7 security personnel.
- Safety lockers.
- Emergency alarm bell.
- Availability of basic health care monitoring on a daily basis.
- CCTV

ADMISSION

Admission is based on medical evaluation by in house staff and medical consultants and on completion of financial procedures. The assessment is designed to provide us with the following information about the resident:

- Mental Health
- Physical Health
- Emotional Health
- Existing Medical Conditions
- Currently Prescribed Medication

The information gathered during the pre-admission assessment determines the precise type of care that our residents require in order to live as independently as possible. It also allows us to tailor a care program that will address each resident's particular needs.

DAY-TO-DAY CARE

Our Day-to-Day care is designed to ensure that residents are as happy and comfortable as possible. Each resident is provided:

- Private En-Suite Bedroom
- At Least One Shared Bathroom
- Housekeeping Services
- Laundry Services
- Provisions & Services for every aspect of personal care
- Custom Routines
- Activities to support Mental & Physical Health
- Transportation to and from medical appointments
- Medical Administration & Medication Distribution

MEDICAL CARE

SathyaNikethan Senior Living seeks to provide comprehensive assistance for the medical needs of our residents as a tie-up with two of the prominent hospitals in Thiruvalla. Our long term care facility provides access to:

- On-Call Nurses 24/7
- House-Call Ready Doctors
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Hospice Treatments
- Incontinence Care (Rate Adjustment)
- Dementia: Forgetfulness

PRICING

Pricing for residing in one of our assisted living homes varies depending on single occupancy or double occupancy, a short term stay or long term stay. Prices also vary depending on the level of care your elderly loved one needs. The pricing includes round the clock care, ADL support, nutrition, activities and housekeeping.

Below is the basic pricing structure. Actual pricing would be decided only after the medical assessment is done by the nursing team.

Single Occupancy

Long Term: INR 35,000/- + 18% GST per month

Double Occupancy

Long Term: INR 25,000/- + 18% GST per month (Each)

Twin Sharing

Long Term: INR 20,000 + 18% GST per month (Each)

ADMISSION PROCESS

Document collection:

Prepare all important documents including government identification, legal waiver, medical authorization, and financial records/bank statement.

Medical assessment:

Our Facility Manager will visit the elderly or do a Skype assessment to understand if we are equipped to provide the level of care that is needed. We may also need additional tests and all the latest medical records.

Service agreement:

Once approved, you will need to complete and sign our service agreement - this will include an agreement of the move-in date.

Security deposit and Advance Payment

Finally, you will need to pay your one time refundable security deposit of INR 200,000 (as this is the only way to guarantee a spot in our facilities).

Logistics + preparation:

Once it's time to move in, we will help prepare your room and assist in the transition including booking and arranging accommodation for visiting family.

Moving + settling in:

Our Facility Manager will be there to greet you and ensure the move is smooth. We request high involvement from the family during this time.

COMMITMENT OF SERVICE

We believe in providing personal care and attention to the elderly.

"My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever." Psalm 73:26

SPECIAL ATTRACTION- READY TO OCCUPY UNITS

For more information, please contact us: Sathyam Ministries, Thottabhogom P.O., Thiruvalla-689 541, Kerala, India

Mobile: +91 9446513555 Email: director@sathyam.org

Great Christian Preachers Of All Time

HYMAN APPELMAN

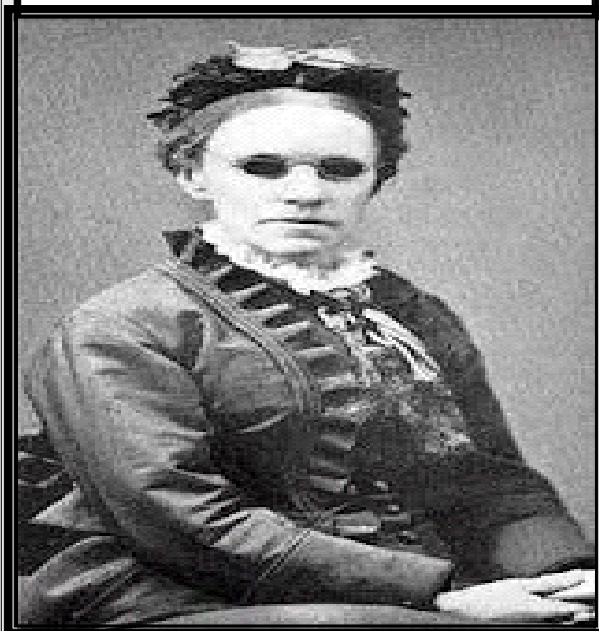
Evangelist Preacher



- ❖ **Hyman Jedidiah Appelman** (1902-1983)
- ❖ He was born in Russia to orthodox Jewish parents who moved to America in 1914. Appelman became a trial lawyer in Chicago. At age twenty-eight he was converted to Christianity, causing his parents to disown him. His father said to him, "*When your sides come together from hunger and you come crawling to my door, I will throw you a crust of bread as I would any other dog.*" Feeling a definite call to preach, he attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and became one of the greatest evangelists of his generation. Dr. Appelman made eight or nine trips around the world and several trips to Russia as an evangelist. It was hard to find a day in his long ministry of fifty-three years that he was not preaching somewhere. He was the author of some forty books.

Christian Hymn Writers

FANNY CROSBY



- Frances Jane Crosby)
(March.24.1820)
- Although blind from shortly after birth, Fanny Crosby wrote 8,000 songs. Among her most beloved was the hymn "Blessed Assurance". About her blindness, she said: It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me



COURSE FEE

The course, food and accommodation is completely free.

DORMITORY

Special dormitory facility is provided. Men and women are segregated.

DONATION

Sathyam Theological Seminary is financed solely by the free will offerings God's people from around the world. No state or church money is sent to SLS Trust.

WORK SCHOLARSHIP

All students must do the manual work to which they are assigned.

Chairman: Dr. C. V. Madhavana

Principal: Sunilman Lukose B.Th(BCC), Mathandoor,
M.Div(BRRC&S, Bangalore), M.Th(HRI), Chennai, D.H.D. in
Missions (Ch. IATA)

Administrator: Dr. Matthew F. John



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

SATHYAM
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
WE CARE FOR THE BODY & THE SOUL

SATHYAM MINISTRIES

A Christian Institution to train faithful men
to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and
establish local assemblies according to the
New Testament Pattern.

**Developing Christians of
influence in India**



SATHYAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
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OUR AIM

- Train in Systematic Theology and Biblical Theology
- Teach the students to apply the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Prepare students to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord.
- Equip the men to establish local assemblies in the New Testament Pattern.
- Train men to preach the Gospel in various parts of India.
- Train the laymen in the local assemblies to fulfill their duties in their respective assemblies.
- Give basic training in personal evangelism and homiletics.

WHY STUDY AT SATHYAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY?

- Ministry oriented training
- Leadership training
- Encouraging & training graduates for future ministry
- Sports and games
- Opportunity for research studies

LOCATION

Sathyam Theological Seminary is situated at Kavalan, Thiruvalla, Pathanamthitta (Dist), Kerala. We preferred this location with the aim of focusing church planting in different villages of South and North India.

COURSES OFFERED

Bachelor of Theology

It is a three year program in English. The minimum qualification is SSLC/Plus Two.

Graduation of Theology

It is a two year program in English and minimum qualification is 10th passed and above.

Certificate in Theology

It is a one year program in English and minimum qualification is 10th failed or passed.

Basic computer awareness course



CHAPEL SERVICE

We give prime priority to the Chapel Service. It is a must for every student to participate in the Morning and Evening Chapel Service. Primarily students are given the opportunity in preaching from the service. Students will have the opportunity to lead a service and preach the Word of God.

LIBRARY

Seminary has a gargantuan library having more than 30,000 books and almost all periodicals. Each year we plan to add more resources. Books including commentaries of renowned authors, Basic Theology, Church History, Hermeneutics, Homiletics, Preaching Arts, Devotional Books, etc. with computer and internet facilities.

PRACTICAL TRAINING

There are various ministry opportunities to help students to develop their individual ministerial skills. Every weekend students go for outreach ministries in the nearby villages and cities.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

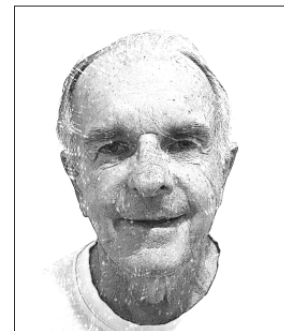
One year is divided into three trimesters. Examinations are conducted at the end of each trimester. For a minimum pass, one has to obtain 50% aggregate marks in each subject.



TALKING TRUTH

HOW TO PREPARE & PRESENT GOSPEL TALKS

Alan Bartlem



You will have quite enough material from the text and background information for a good sermon. You will also have the basis of an outline. You could take three or four of these questions, and make them your main headings. You might even leave them in question form, and make your answer to each the material for the sermon, thus:

1. What was Paul trying to prove?
2. How did Abraham show he believed God?
3. Why was it reckoned to him for righteousness?
4. How does this prove Paul's point?

Later we shall talk about introductions and conclusions and subheadings, but at present we are concerned in getting at the chief ideas, which provide the main headings of the sermon.

Dr. James Black, in "The Mystery of Preaching," emphasizes the same idea. "When I have my text or subject, I put a series of questions to it, and try to answer them. With something like this: What does it mean? What did it mean for that man in his own day? Why was he led to say this? ... And is it true always? Does it mean the same for me today? What would it mean for me if I accepted what the text teaches? What principles or duties does it involve for me? ...

What must I do to make this message real and true in my own life? How can I illustrate in modern terms what the text teaches for myself and others?"

You will notice that Dr. Black's questions ask for the meaning of the words when they were written, and the truth of them, but particularly concerning their meaning and truth for us, today. That is how a great preacher applies Scripture teaching to life.

We must all learn to do that, more or less. It would repay you richly as a preacher if you memorized those questions from Dr. Black, as you would learn a poem. If you can ask questions of a text in that way, and can answer them at all intelligently, you could hardly fail to be an interesting preacher. It means work, of course--hard work. To be a worth-while preacher you must be prepared to work.

EXAMPLE #1

Sometimes there is a lack of imagination, but there is often a suspicion that there has been a lack of sufficiently hard work. Cultivate the habit of asking many questions, so that when you have answered them you have sufficient material for a sermon.

Let us take an example. **Heb. 11:24-26:** "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be evil entreated with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he looked unto the recompense of reward."

Now for your questions. It would pay you to pause here and ask your own questions and compare them with what follows.

What are the historical facts behind this text? (You must read Exodus to get them.)

What were the circumstances when Moses came of age that made a choice necessary?

What choices did he make?

What afflictions did he suffer because of his choice?

What does the reproach of Christ mean?

What did he renounce?

What was involved in being the son of Pharaoh's daughter?

What pleasures of sin were meant in Moses' case?

Is sin pleasurable?

What treasures of Egypt would have been his had he done the other thing?

What enabled him to make such a great renunciation and such a choice?

What is faith?

How does it act to make such choices possible?

Is my faith strong enough to make me do something worthwhile?

Will my faith stand in a crisis?

Is there any great renunciation I should make?

Are there any great choices, fraught with big consequences, that I should make?

You see there are many questions you may ask a text. Some of them, and the answers, may be useless for your purpose. But out of them all, when by diligence and hard work, you have answered them, you will have abundance of material for a sermon.

We have not studied introductions and conclusions yet, but you would not find it difficult to provide them here. Your answers may suggest an outline like this:

(To be continued.....)



• CELEBRATING 30 YEARS •
**SATHYAM
 MINISTRIES**
 WE CARE FOR THE BODY & THE SOUL

Sathyam Ministries is an organisation dedicated to transforming the lives of the people and communities by showing love and care for individuals for the past 28 years. We are engaged mainly in charitable activities such as running orphanages, special schools for the mentally challenged children, mission schools, vocational training centers for women, providing free wheelchairs for the physically challenged (approx. - 100,000 wheelchairs already provided), relief works, sending our gospel team to various parts of India to spread the good news about Jesus and to serve the poor and organizing church leaders conferences all over India. Moreover, we carry out evangelical programmes and provide services to the people even in the outskirts of India. We, through Christ, continue our steadfast labor of love in proclaiming the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and our personal ministry to the saints and the unsaved. We strive to restore dignity and self-worth to the down-trodden of society, irrespective of their religion, caste, creed, race or gender.

JOIN US.

BE A PART OF OUR MINISTRY. Every good deed needs constant support. We need your good wishes. You can help in the following ways and contribution at any level will be greatly appreciated.

- ✎ By remembering us in your prayers.
- ✎ By sponsoring a child.
- ✎ Be part of a mission team in our mission fields.
- ✎ By providing ideas that can be executed to enhance our work and activity.
- ✎ By providing for donations, funds and other financial aid for the organization.
- ✎ By visiting our schools and orphanages to encourage our children.
- ✎ By helping spread awareness about the cause among family members, peer groups, colleagues and other social networks.
- ✎ By volunteering your time at Sathyam Ministries.
- ✎ By contributing in any ways possible.



• CELEBRATING 30 YEARS •
**SATHYAM
 MINISTRIES**
 WE CARE FOR THE BODY AND THE SOUL

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BANGALORE NEWS

Now, Christian Prayer Meet Called Off in Bengaluru Over 'Conversion' Allegations

A Christian prayer meeting was cancelled in the country's IT capital Bengaluru on Saturday after complaints were lodged that this could facilitate forced conversions in the city which was to host two American preachers for this event.



Bengaluru: A Christian prayer meeting was cancelled in the country's IT capital Bengaluru on Saturday after complaints were lodged that this could facilitate forced conversions in the city which was to host two American preachers for this event.

The cancellation came just about 12 hours before the prayer meeting was to be held. Nearly 1,000 people were expected to attend the meetings spread over Saturday and Sunday. It was cancelled in the wake of protests lodged by Hindutva groups like the Bajrang Dal.

A similar prayer meeting was cancelled in Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh, after the

Hindu YuvaVahini, founded by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, alleged forced conversions (allegations that were later proven wrong) in the meeting that saw barely 150 people participating.

In Bengaluru, the first complaint was filed on Friday afternoon by one Girish Bhardwaj, who wrote to the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office — a police wing that tracks foreigners visiting Karnataka — that two American evangelists were in India for "religious conversion", in violation of their visa norms.

"The two foreigners had applied for Indian visa only to attend religious campaigns. Clearly, they are misleading the Indian Consulate," he alleged.

Later on Friday, Bajrang Dal convenor Keshav Nayak filed a police complaint that this programme was "aimed at converting innocent Hindus....it was being held daringly in public, where cash would be offered to the converts. As such, it hurts the religious sentiments of the Hindus." He asked that the organisers be arrested and suitable legal action be taken.

That the programme was hastily cancelled was evident when News18 spoke to one of the organisers. "We have always held retreats and services at this church. This event, too, was only for our church parishioners. We don't know why questions are being raised about permission. We are not converting anyone, only Christians are attending this," said a puzzled prayer coordinator. Interestingly, the programme actually charged participants Rs 100 if they wanted to attend it — and the posters did not make any claims of giving anyone money or gifts.

Police officials did not want to be drawn into the controversy but merely said they did not ask anyone to cancel any event. "If there are allegations of visa violation, we will verify. But if there are no non-Christians attending it, where is the issue of conversion? That too an event inside the premises of their own auditorium of a local church," said a senior police officer.

The programme — themed Power and Reality of the Kingdom — was to be held in a church in east Bengaluru. Comments on social media by the two preachers who posted pictures of their visit to a place in interior Maharashtra — where over 8,000 people are said to have attended — were objected to by Hindutva activists.

Fani Juggernaut Leaves 32 Dead in Odisha, Hits Over a Crore Residents as Govt Makes Efforts to Restore Normalcy.

At least 1.5 crore people have been affected by the cyclone, which passed through the state with wind speeds ranging between 200 and 240 kmph.



Bhubaneswar: The death toll in Cyclone Fani rose to 32 on Sunday even as the state government mounted massive restoration exercises with the help of several rescue and reconstruction organisations.

Two days after the "extremely severe" storm that barrelled through coastal Odisha, causing widespread destruction and leaving hundreds grappling with water shortage and power cuts, pictures of the extensive devastation came to light.

At least 1.5 crore people have been affected by the cyclone, which passed through the state with wind speeds ranging between 200 and 240 kmph.

Of the 32 deaths, 20 took place in Puri — the worst hit among all the districts, followed by Khorda. Unofficial figures of the death toll across Odisha remained as high as 40.

According to the office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) of the state, 145 blocks were affected in 11 districts and areas close to the Bay of Bengal coast. As many as 15,846 villages and 773 wards in 51 urban areas came under

the monstrous spell of cyclone Fani. The mighty winds and incessant rain caused the death of 17,280 domestic animals.

As many as 3.32 lakh houses were damaged by the cyclone, which made a landfall in Puri district at 8 AM on May 3. The death toll of 32 remained low mainly because the state government had evacuated 13.88 lakh people from low-lying areas to shelter homes two days prior to the landfall, in what is being hailed as a historic evacuation exercise.

The SRC's office said that 15,179 cyclone shelters are currently operating in the affected districts and that as many as 25.63 lakh people are being served food and water at these centres.

CM Naveen Patnaik announced a special relief package for the cyclone-hit people in Puri and Khorda. Each of the families, covered under the food

security scheme, will get 50 kg rice apart from polythene sheets and Rs 2,000. Other families affected by the cyclone will get a month's quota of rice, polythene sheets and Rs 1,000.

For houses which got fully damaged, an assistance of Rs 95,100 will be disbursed while Rs 52,000 will be doled out for partially damaged houses. The government will pay Rs 3,200 for houses that suffered minor damage, announced the CM.

According to a state government official, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha to review the situation. Modi spoke to Patnaik on Saturday and assured continuous support from the Centre for the rehabilitation work. The East Coast Railway (ECoR) partially resumed operations on the Howrah-Chennai route on Sunday.

"Barring the Bhubaneswar-Tirupati Express and the Visakhapatnam Intercity Express, all trains originating from the state capital, including the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, will be running normally from Sunday," an ECoR official said.



INDIA NEWS

5 Prayers We Must Pray This Election

The 17th Lok Sabha elections are here. This election will determine what course the nation will take in the next five years. The country has been through hell in the past five years. Lynchings in the name of cow protection, demonetisation, GST, religious tensions, tanking of the GDP growth, gagging of all institutions and the rise of aggressive Hindutva politics have seen minorities being terrorised, the economy getting battered, justice being denied and the nation becoming a laughing stock in the international arena. Rather than deliver on its promises, the incumbent government has resorted to spin politics, propaganda and blaming Nehru for things he did not even live to see, leave alone execute.

As responsible citizens of the country, we have a political mandate – to exercise our franchise and vote to power capable men and women of character. Our votes will determine the future of polity and democracy in the country. However, as mature Christians we have a spiritual mandate too – to pray and let God shape the destiny of the people of the nation and the world at large. Here are 5 points that must weigh our hearts so much that we will pray for them every day till the elections are over and a government that is efficient, transparent and pro-people is voted to power.

1. Pray for the peaceful conduct of Lok Sabha elections in April and May. In this elections, 900 million people have so far registered. May there be no violence or bloodshed in the country. May wisdom prevail upon people of all states irrespective of their religious and political leanings to elect a government that is pro-poor, works for development, shuns corruption at all levels and ensures the safety of the minorities.

2. Pray for righteous men and women who are God-fearing to be at the helm of the Election Commission, the state election commission offices and police departments in every state and every district and every village to check malpractice during campaigning, polling and counting of votes. Let this election not be a farce or an insult to the people of the nation.

3. Pray that the people of the nation primarily take into account four factors – social, political, local and livelihood issues – while exercising their mandate for the local MP or MLA (in states where byelections or assembly polls are due). Pray that God helps people rise above casteist considerations to vote a government that takes the country forward, not backward. As Christians, we need to remember what happened to our churches, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, NGOs and other minorities in the past five years and vote responsibly.

4. Over 15 million first-time voters are expected to press the EVM button in this election. Pray that these young voters are guided to vote for the right parties in all earnest by their parents and elders in their families. Where right guidance is not available, pray that these voters will be able to make up their minds in favor of candidates who are honest in their conduct and earnest in their desire to serve the people. May all candidates who are corrupt, casteist and have criminal and fundamentalist backgrounds be roundly defeated.

5. Social media apps and websites will play a major role in swinging votes. All parties are spending big on social media campaigns. Pray that the Election Commission is able to clamp down heavily on political parties that incite violence in the run-up to the elections through rumors and propaganda. May the people, especially the youth of the nation, also be wise in their political choices.

12 things you may not know about Graham Staines, Missionary to India who was Burnt Alive.

Graham Staines was an Australia missionary who served in India. His two children and he were brutally burned alive.

1. An ordinary day conducting a 'Jungle camp' for Indian tribals turned out to be his day of martyrdom. Graham Staines (58) was burnt alive in his old four-wheel drive Willy's station, along with his two sons, Phillip (10) and Timothy (7) on January 23, 1999. They were sleeping in the van on that night, in the wilderness of Manoharpur village, where about 150 Santhali tribal families lived



2. The doors of the residents were locked from the outside, ensuring that no one was able to come out and rescue Graham Staines and his two sons.



3. The murder was masterminded by Dara Singh, a man who was involved in Hindutva. He was anti-Christian.



4. Born in Brisbane, in the year 1941, he came to India in the year 1965, to meet his pen-pal Santanu Satpaty of Baripada, Orissa. He made India his home. Santanu and he shared the same birthday.

5. Graham Staines, fresh out of school, fell in love with the Mayurbhanj Leprosy home and dedicated his life to serving lepers in the home, on the outskirts of Baripada. This was started in 1896 by the Evangelical Missionary Society. Graham was the superintendent-cum-secretary-cum-treasurer of the Evangelical Missionary Society, and ran the home.

6. Graham Staines met Gladys in 1981, while working with leprosy patients. They married in 1983 and served together in the Mayurbanj leprosy mission. Gladys is a trained nurse.



7. Leprosy was considered a dreadful disease and lepers were treated as social outcasts. Graham Staines empowered them to live with dignity and respect. He provided them vocational skills so they could earn a living.

8. Graham Staines was fluent in Oriya and Santhali, the two local languages in the region. He took the gospel to the tribal people. He assisted in translating a part of the Bible into the Ho language, including proof reading the entire New Testament manuscript.



9. Graham used to conduct jungle camps to instruct tribals on a range of subjects from public health to the Bible.

10. Graham Staines and his wife, worked tirelessly caring for burn victims, when a major fire broke out in Baripada, in 1997, in which over 200 died, and 500 were injured, most of them critically. They earned the love of the localites.



(Scene from the movie 'The least of These' based on the latter life of Graham Staines.

11. Graham Staines had been elected president-designate of the local Rotary chapter for 2001, Staines played a key role in the Pulse Polio immunisation drive.



12 Graham Staines Memorial Hospital was founded and built in the year 2004 in memory of him. It is a 15 bedded Charitable Hospital, situated in the heart of Baripada. Unfortunately, due to a standoff with the state government the Hospital is not functioning, since There is still a strong anti-Christian governance in Orissa.



13 Till today the people amongst whom he served, weep in his memory. They remember his death anniversary every year. His legacy lives on.



[The Least of These:](#)
[The Graham Staines Story](#)



WORLD NEWS

6 Questions with Sri Lankan Christians following the Easter Bombing Attacks



In the wake of the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka that killed more than 350 people, Christian Headlines reached out to persecution watchdog Open Doors who has a team on the ground to ask them about the state of Christianity on the South Asian Island.



1. WHAT IS A TYPICAL EASTER SUNDAY LIKE IN THE COUNTRY?

Easter Sunday is one of the highest attended Sundays and one of the most celebrated holy days for Christians in this region. They observe Lent, the time period leading up to Easter, as a season to reflect on their relationship with God. Easter is the celebratory end to this season that culminates in remembering the resurrection.

2. WHAT IS IT TYPICALLY LIKE FOR CHRISTIANS IN SRI LANKA? WHAT ABOUT MISSIONARIES?

Sri Lanka is #46 on the Open Doors World Watch List—a comprehensive ranking of the most difficult places in the world to be a Christian. This means it is not one of the ten or twenty most hostile countries, where this sort of violence would be expected. But life for Christians can still be challenging there.

Local Christian leaders and our staff have reported they face tensions between some adherents of the majority religion, Buddhism, and another minority group, Muslims. (Christians in Sri Lanka are the smallest religion in the country, making up just 1.9 million of the 21-million-person population.)

Typically, these believers are subject to harassment, discrimination, or exclusion from their families and communities. Sometimes they are pressured to return to the native Buddhist faith.

Open Doors has seen Christian churches attacked by its neighbors and mom protests outside of churches. For example, in September of 2018, a group of 100 people interrupted the worship service at a church at Beliatta. They damaged a window and vehicles in the parking lot, they took down crosses, and they threatened to kill the pastor. Still, with routine harassment and violence going on, we had no reason to expect the scale of attack that unfolded in Sri Lanka a few days ago. The severity and coordination seen in this attack is truly unprecedented in this part of the world.



3. WHAT HAS THE ENVIRONMENT BEEN LIKE IN SRI LANKA SINCE THE ATTACKS?

From Sunil, an Open Doors team member in Sri Lanka: “I was at church when my daughter came in and informed me that my brother-in-law, who happened to be in Batticaloa, called to say a bomb had gone off at Zion Church there. I was shocked and heart broken. Couldn't believe what I was hearing. I stopped what I was doing and prayed for everyone there. This was the reaction among Christians around the country as well, as they learned of the other bombings. Many congregations interrupted Easter services to pray for those affected.”

“The Christian community here is shocked. The question everyone is asking is, ‘Why did this happen?’ People were confused and didn't understand why churches were being targeted. They are gathering in prayer and encouraging their people not to retaliate and further inflame any hostilities. And some are already telling us they intend to go back to church on Sunday if the government will allow it.”



The Latest from Israel: Why Did Jesus Have to Die for Us?

Benjamin Netanyahu seems to be in position to win a fourth consecutive term as [prime minister of Israel](#).

As of this morning, 97 percent of the votes have been counted in Israel's parliamentary election. As I explained yesterday, [no party has ever won a sixty-one-vote majority in the Knesset](#) (their Parliament). The party leader who seems most likely to form a majority coalition with other parties will be given an opportunity to do so.

So far, that leader appears to be Mr. Netanyahu.

"I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES"

Yesterday we asked the question: '[Why dont the Jews accept Jesus as their Messiah?](#)' There's a related question that is especially relevant to American culture as well.

Job was confident: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God" ([Job 19:25-26](#)).

While life after death is affirmed in the Old Testament (cf. [Isaiah 26:19](#)), Judaism has evolved in its beliefs about the afterlife across the centuries since.

[Rabbi Evan Moffic](#) writes: "Heaven has [an] open door policy: Heaven is not a gated community. The righteous of any people and any faith have a place in it. Our actions, not our specific beliefs, determine our fate. No concept of Hell exists in Judaism."

[Rabbi Tzvi Freeman](#) believes that "in the afterlife, the soul is liberated from the body and returns closer to her source than ever before." During this passage, "the good deeds and wisdom the soul has gained on her mission below serve as a protection for her journey upwards." Then, "at the final resolution, all souls will return to physical bodies in this world."

Writing for Haaretz, [Elon Gilad](#) notes that "even today, Jews believe in different, often irreconcilable, theories of what life after death is like." For instance, according to the Talmud (Eruvin 19b), most people go to a place where their sins are purged, then they are ushered by Abraham into heaven.

Additionally, some Jews do not believe in an afterlife at all. They claim that we live on through our influence in the world and in the memories of those who knew us.

IS MOTHER TERESA IN HEAVEN?

To summarize: Some Jews believe that we simply cease to exist at death. Others believe that the "righteous" go to heaven, either because they are considered sufficiently moral or because they pass through a purgatory-type cleansing process.

Either way, Jews are confident that there is no hell to fear and no atonement necessary.

This belief helps explain why Jews do not accept Jesus as their Messiah. As we noted yesterday, [they are expecting a Messiah who will be a conquering hero rather than a suffering servant](#). As we have seen today, they also reject the need for Jesus' death on the cross.

I make this point not just with regard to Judaism, but also because many Americans feel the same way.

Reportedly, [77 percent of people with no religious affiliation are confident they are good enough to go to heaven](#). In a poll taken a few months before Mother Teresa died, 79 percent of Americans surveyed thought she would go to heaven. However, [87 percent were confident they would go there](#).

Apparently, most Americans believe they do not need to trust in Jesus' atonement for our sins to go to heaven.

What can we say to them?

WHAT JESUS COULD DO THAT BUDDHA COULD NOT

We know that "God is love" ([1 John 4:8](#)). Why, then, doesn't he forgive our sins just because he loves us? Why did he send Jesus to die for us?

God is also "holy, holy, holy" ([Isaiah 6:3](#); [Revelation 4:8](#)). His heaven is therefore perfect, a place where "death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" ([Revelation 21:4](#)).

For us to be granted entrance into God's perfect presence, our sins must first be removed. The debt we owe for them must be paid.

What is this debt?

"The wages of sin is death" ([Romans 6:23](#); cf. [Ezekiel 18:20](#)). This is because death separates us from the holy God who is the only source of eternal life. It's like cutting off a flower to place in a vase. It may look healthy, but it is dying and its appeal will soon fade.

Only one person in all of human history has lived a sinless life. Not Muhammad, or Confucius, or Buddha, or anyone else. Only Jesus.

Sin leads to death. This is why the payment for sin must be death. It's why sinners are separated from God for all eternity in hell, a place of living death.

And it's why we cannot pay this debt for each other. Because I have committed sins, I cannot die for yours. It's as if I owe the hundred dollars in my pocket to the bank; I cannot use it to pay your debt and mine.

The only person who could pay the debt of our sins would be someone who never committed sins of his own. And only one person in all of human history has lived a sinless life. Not Muhammad, or Confucius, or Buddha, or anyone else. Only Jesus ([Hebrews 4:15](#)).

WHAT HELD JESUS TO THE CROSS

"It was not nails that held Jesus to that wretched cross . . . it was his love for sinners like me."

—D. A. Carson

This is why Jesus could die on the cross for our sins. And it's why he had to die on the cross for us to be forgiven for our sins. When we make him our Lord and depend on his sacrifice to pay our debt and purchase our salvation, he gives us eternal life. Guaranteed.

D. A. Carson: "It was not nails that held Jesus to that wretched cross . . . it was his love for sinners like me."

And you. And me.



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