

Gateway Christian Fellowship

Meeting every Lord's Day (Sunday) at 11.30a.m. in the Maldron Hotel (Butcher Street).

Visit us at gatewaycfderry.org

Number 1003

Believing, declaring and seeking to obey God's Word, the Bible, from its very first verse.

SO MANY QUESTIONS!

Life is full of questions. When we're small we ask our parents, ***"Why is the grass green?" "Why is the sky blue?" "Why was she so nasty to me?"*** They can't always answer us. When we grow up, the questions change, ***"Will Liverpool ever win the Premier League?" "Is the earth heating up?" "Why is there so much violence and hatred?"***



Science can answer some of these questions. But there are nagging, deep questions about the most basic things that science just can't handle. Thankfully, however, the One who created science and who controls it, hasn't left us in the dark.

He gives us light through His Word, the Bible, translated so that each of us can read it in our own language. Let's look briefly at some of the biggest questions there are and turn to God's Word to see how He answers them for us...



WHO AM I?



This symbol suggests that we all fit somewhere on the spectrum of gender.

God, though, tells us **He** made us, male or female, in His likeness. We don't really know who we are if we choose to ignore the One who made us. Am I simply a more sophisticated animal? Animals don't cruelly target members of their own species as human beings do. Or am I a little god? We have pretensions to godhood and would like others to worship us. But can any one of us propose workable answers for all the problems that afflict us?

David, the psalmist, asked the question, 'What is man?' and provides this answer, **"You [God] made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour"** (Psalm 8:5). Jesus's favourite title for Himself was 'Son of Man'. Only when we consider our relationship to Him can we approach who we are meant to be.

WHY AM I HERE?

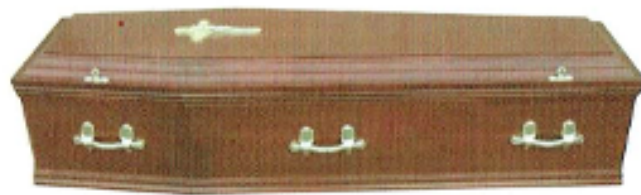
All kinds of answers have been suggested for this question. I



am here to gather up as much as I can. I am here to enjoy as many experiences as I can.

I am here to eat, drink and be merry. But that last one doesn't stop there. It finishes – 'for tomorrow we *die*'. Death is the one unwelcome experience that undermines all we achieve in this world.

Again the book of Psalms reminds us, **"But man, despite his riches, does not endure; he is like the beasts that perish"** (Psalm 49:12). Only those with a relationship beyond death can hope for more, **"But God will redeem my life from the grave"** (Psalm 49:15). Do you have such a conviction?



WHAT WENT WRONG?

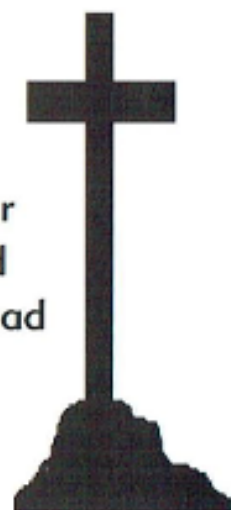


So many politicians promise so much – better housing, less crime, more money in your pocket. But Utopia always seems round the next corner. Do we even believe the promises any more? Our desires reach for the sky, but our feet are stubbornly stuck to the ground. Why? Because, God tells us, we're all sinners by nature. The first human couple ate what God told them not to and foolishly brought in sin and death for all of us.

Nowadays we spend much energy training our children to do what's right. We don't ever have to give them one lesson in doing wrong! If you want an accurate, up-to-date picture of our human condition in its guilt and misery just read Genesis chapter 3. There one sinful act exploded in our faces. **"For as in Adam, all die..."** (1 Corinthians 15:22).

WHY THE CROSS?

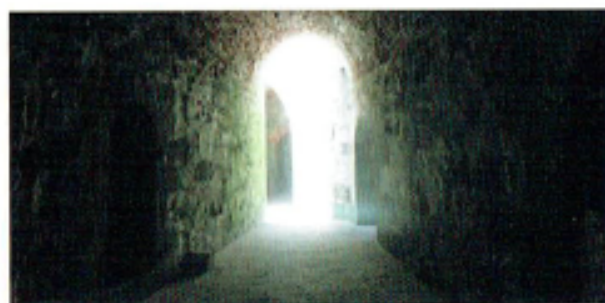
Only a foolish person would claim never to have sinned – never to have thought ill of someone, never to have spoken harshly, never to have acted in pride or malice. But it's different with Jesus. He was conceived in a unique way to show He was human but totally without flaw. At the other end of His life one nailed up beside Him said He had done nothing wrong. So He, of all people, didn't deserve to pay the wages of sin, death.



What took place on His cross was a substitution. Jesus was willingly accepting and paying the death penalty on behalf of every person who trusts in Him. And He was transferring to each believer His perfect life. Without that none of us dares stand before a holy, pure God. **"God made Him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God"** (2 Corinthians 5:21).

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

Many of us might like this life to be all there is. But we know it is not so. For then injustice would win and death would have the last word. God tells us He has set eternity in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11). He says that following our own way will only lead to death – **eternal** death (Proverbs 14:12). Isn't it right to listen instead to



Jesus the Substitute, the only Saviour? **"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it"** (Matthew 7:13-14). He wants people to say they have sinned and deserve God's punishment. He wants us to see that He is the gate to life, **eternal** life, here and in heaven. He only is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?

You need to face the truth these answers uncover. This is **God's** verdict, not man's. You are a sinner by nature, and by action. Your sin affects every part of you. A holy God will find you guilty and will shut you out of His perfect paradise. Only one Saviour can rescue you by His dreadful death and mighty rising again. You need to be saved from the eternal consequences of your sin. You need to hate your sin and all it did to Jesus. You need to believe in all Jesus did in His life and death.

If you have any questions about these things or if you'd like to explore this further, please get in touch with Stephen Neilly on 074 2892 5764, by call or by text. You need these answers for this life and the next. **"Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved"** (Acts 4:12).



**Please don't throw
this leaflet out.
Pass it on instead.**