

EVANGEL

The Good News of Jesus Christ



PASS IT ON

Is it futile to

Perhaps you have asked this question from time to time. It seems so natural to ask, what is the benefit of serving God? How does it help me? What do I get out of it? What is in it for me? We are conditioned to think that when we do something, there must be something in it for us. I have to enjoy it, or if I do not enjoy it, there needs to be some reward at the end of it. And so also religion has to have something in it for me. If there is nothing in it for us, then why serve God, for it is futile and meaningless.

The Prophet Malachi

The question above this article, "Is it futile to serve God?" is the question that the prophet Malachi had to answer. In your Bible, you will find the book of Malachi at the very end of the Old Testament, just before the New Testament. Malachi was the last prophet God sent to Israel before the Lord Jesus came. He preached the Word of God about 500 years before Christ came. When Malachi preached the Word of God, the people said to Malachi in chapter 3:14, "It is futile to serve God."

Futile means that we say, it is a waste of our time to serve God, because the LORD does not give us anything for serving Him. Why would these people of Israel, God's own people say, it is a waste of our time to serve the LORD?

The situation in Israel

Well you see, the people of Israel lived during a difficult time. Quite a number of years earlier, the

Babylonians had defeated Israel and taken the people into exile. The Jews were scattered among the other nations of the world. After 70 years of exile God brought a small group of Jews back to their own land. They began to rebuild the city walls of Jerusalem and the temple of the LORD. When the people came back they expected everything to return to the way it had been long ago. They thought that the LORD would restore their independence, but instead they continue to be ruled by kings of foreign nations.

When they came back to Judea and Jerusalem, they began to rebuild their homes and their farms. They sowed their seeds and planted their vineyards, their olive and fig orchards and expected to reap a great harvest. The LORD had promised Israel many centuries earlier, when He first gave them the land that if they were faithful to the LORD, He would prosper the land. They could expect great harvests, it would be a land overflowing with milk and honey. Therefore, when they came back from exile, they expected that their farms would again be prosperous, that their crops would be overflowing. But they are disappointed.

The people are disillusioned with God

Their crops have done very poorly and the economy is disastrous. They have to struggle every year to eke out an existence from the land. Their high expectations when they came back has been shattered. They are disillusioned with the LORD. As they look around, they see that wicked men who oppress the poor are doing well and becoming rich. And so they complain to the LORD, "You do not care about us, but you have taken the side of the wicked and greedy. You have blessed them. You are not a God of justice."

It is futile to serve the LORD, it is waste of our time. In fact they say in verse 14, "What did we gain by carrying out God's commandments and going about like mourners before the LORD." You have to understand that the LORD had challenged the people earlier in verse 10, "Test me and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." God says, "Test me; be faithful to me and obey me and see if I will not make your farms and businesses prosperous again." But the people say, "Why should we test the LORD? We have already done His commandments and we have gone around as mourners and it did not help."

A warped sense of God

What is important to notice is the attitude of the people. They have a warped idea as so many people do of the LORD. They think that the LORD should be at their beck and call to do whatever they want. They tie their service to the LORD to what they can get out of it for themselves. We tend to serve the LORD to get something out of for ourselves. If we give, we expect something back. If I obey His rules and commandments, then the LORD should help me.

But that is not the way our relationship with the LORD works. We can never earn the love and care of our God. You can give all your money to the LORD, you can walk around with long faces of mourning, you can try to keep all the commandments of the LORD, but it will not help you at all if you think that you can earn something from the LORD. Now this is the reason that the people in Malachi's days were such arrogant complainers. They thought that the LORD owed them something. We have done all these things for the LORD, but how has the LORD paid us back? "With poor crops and

serve God?



difficult times,” they answer. And so they conclude, “It is futile to serve the LORD. It has not paid off for us.”

In their arrogance, they have not heard what the LORD has been teaching them. The LORD has not blessed them for they have treated the LORD as if they can manipulate Him for their own purposes. They think that by doing certain things, they can get what they want from the LORD. The LORD demands a whole different attitude from His people. He wants His people to serve Him not in order to get their selfish desires filled, but because they want to serve Him out of love.

The LORD wants our heart

The LORD is not interested in the puny gifts man is able to give Him, but He wants the hearts and lives of His people. When the LORD brought them back from exile, He showed them His great love. He did not need to bring them back, but He had promised that He would and that He would not forget about His people. And therefore the LORD expected Israel to serve Him not for selfish reasons, but because of their great love for Him.

But the LORD showed Israel earlier in this prophecy that they did not serve Him from the heart. When they gave Him their sacrifices, instead of giving the best animals

from the flock, they brought Him the blind and the lame; the leftovers. That was a slap in God’s face. They had also been disobedient when they divorced their own wives to marry foreign women who refused to serve the LORD. They had also neglected to give the LORD a tenth of their earnings every year, because they said, “We are too poor.” The LORD accuses Israel of a lack of love. They are not interested in the honour and glory of their faithful LORD, but they are motivated by selfish desires.

Easter Reveals God’s Love

We are now approaching Easter. At Easter we remember that on Good Friday, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was crucified on the cross. His death was no ordinary death. Christ had the power to avoid death, but He wanted to die in order to pay for the sins of His people. That is what makes His death so unique. We cannot avoid death, it is the result of our sins. Christ was perfect and He did not need to die, but He gives His life, so that we may have life. On Easter He conquered death by His resurrection from the dead. His resurrection is the guarantee of our life and our salvation. Christ who is raised from the dead, has the power to give life to His people.

Easter demands a response of love

The question that arises on Easter is, “Do I desire to serve my risen Lord with all my heart?” There are many who say, it is futile, it is a waste of our time to serve the LORD, for we do not get anything out of it. We have done this and that for the LORD, but yet I have these difficulties and these problems. I do not see how religion helps me. The LORD calls such people, arrogant complainers, who are into religion only for their own selfish wants and needs.

The humble believer has a different attitude. What is important is not what I can get out of serving the LORD for myself, but the question is how can I show my love for my Lord, who has given His life on the cross for me. The humble believer denies his or her own needs. They are willing to sacrifice everything for their faithful God. For the question that we began with is not answered by how well the LORD fulfills my wants and desires. But we find the answer when we remember what our LORD has done for us in Jesus Christ.

I serve the LORD not in order to get out of it what I want, but I serve Him because of my love for Him. The wonderful result of such faithful service is that the LORD gives us peace in the midst of the struggles of life. Then I know that my life is safe in the hands of my Redeemer, who lives. The LORD says, “Test me, trust me that I will deliver you through the blood of Jesus Christ.” When God’s people trust the faithful and never changing God, then the LORD will open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. You will experience the wonderful peace of God, through Jesus Christ the resurrected LORD. Is it futile to serve the LORD? Not at all. It is our greatest joy.

Matthew H. VanLuik

What Do You Desire

If I were to ask you to name the one thing you desire most in life, what would you answer. Perhaps some of you would say, “The one thing I desire most in life is to be very attractive or handsome. I like to be a girl who has good looks, one who is very attractive to boys. Or I like to be a handsome boy with a muscular body who has absolutely no trouble being attractive to girls.” Perhaps others would say, “The one thing I desire most in life is to have lots of money. Money is power. Money is affluence. Money enables you to do what you want when you want. And if there is one thing in life that I desire then it is just that: power, affluence, just being able to do what you want when you want to do it.” Perhaps some would say, “The one thing I desire most in life is a healthy body. I’m tired of not being able to sleep at night. I’m tired of being tired all the time. I’m tired of having to take all sorts of pills. All I really want out of life is a healthy body that will make life so much more enjoyable for me.” Perhaps others would say, “The one thing I desire most in life is to have another spouse. When I married, I was in love with my spouse. But over the years, all sorts of differences have emerged. We just are not as compatible as I thought we would be. I just really wish I could have another spouse. My, what a difference that would be to my sense of wellbeing and enjoyment!”

An old question

This question I just asked you is not a new question. Actually, it is a very old one. One that has been asked many times before – *even by*

God. One day, when a new king, King Solomon, went to offer some sacrifices, God appeared to him in a dream. “Solomon,” He said, “ask for whatever you want me to give you” (1 Kings 3:5). What do you think the king answered? Do you think he asked for a long life and good health? Do you think he asked for lots of money and another wife? No, he did not. Instead of asking for all these things and more, he simply asked for *wisdom*. Wisdom in being able to be that king his God wanted him to be.

You see, Solomon knew there was a divine order in this world. When he looked at the movement of the planets, the variation of the seasons, the balance in the world of nature and many more things, he saw this divine order in God’s beautiful world. And when he looked at human behaviour, he saw this divine order as well. Things had to be done in a certain way in order for them to really succeed. That’s just the way God made this world. When He created it, He put his stamp of wisdom on everything. And so, anyone who wanted to live the right way and experience the blessings of life would do well to be in tune with this divine wisdom. To learn to do things God’s way and not his own.

By the grace of God, Solomon received this wisdom. And by the grace of God, Solomon also passed on this wisdom to others in a number of different books of the Bible that God had him write. In these books as well as the other books of the Bible, you will also find what God thinks of those things we mentioned at the beginning of this article. Things which are not bad in and of themselves, but which can become bad if we make them the thing around which our whole life circles. Let me elaborate on this.

Wisdom and physical attractiveness

Wanting to be physically attractive is a very understandable desire. After all, you and I were not created to be ugly, but beautiful and

handsome. Yet, ever since the fall into sin (Genesis 3), this handsomeness and attractiveness has been lost. Ever since that time, no one possesses the physical beauty and attractiveness that was once possessed. Some are closer to this original beauty than others; yet no one possesses this in perfection. In one way or another, we are all blemished and tarnished. In one way or another, we will all begin to decline and deteriorate. In one way or another, all of our physical beauty and attractiveness will wither and fade. Therefore, to make the main goal and purpose of your life to be physically attractive is just not wise. Actually, it is downright foolish.

Wise, on the other hand, is to seek your beauty and attractiveness in an inner beauty and attractiveness. In the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is of great worth in God’s sight (1 Peter 3:4). Or in adorning yourself with wisdom which is like a necklace around your neck (Proverbs 3:21 and 22). According to Solomon, to have outer beauty without this inner beauty, to have outer attractiveness without the inner attractiveness of wisdom is like a gold ring in a pig’s snout. For in one of his books of wisdom, he says, “Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion (= no wisdom)” (Proverbs 11:22). Just imagine that! A gold ring in a pig’s snout. Why just the thought is already disgusting and distasteful. Well, that is how disgusting and distasteful, so out of tune with God’s wise design for life, a beautiful woman is who has no discretion, no wisdom. And lest you think the Bible is sexist, the same is, of course, also true for a physically attractive man. Without wisdom such a man is also just as disgusting and distasteful as a gold ring in a pig’s snout.

Wisdom, wealth and health

Desiring to be rich is also an understandable desire. For money is, indeed, power. Money is, indeed, affluence. Money can, indeed, enable

Most In Life?

you do do what you want when you want. And yet, desiring to be rich is not wise. On the contrary, it is downright foolish. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. By it many have fallen into temptation and many foolish and harmful desires that plunged them into destruction. Many people who were eager to get rich have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs (see 1 Timothy 6:9, 10).

Moreover, Solomon clearly asks, "Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom (Proverbs 17:16)?" You see, fools do not really know how to use their money. Some spend it wastefully on all sorts of things. Others, lustfully indulge in themselves. Still others, store most of it away letting it collect only interest. *While all along there is so much good that could be done with it!* But since fools do not desire to get wisdom, they do not know how to use their money. They use it mainly in a foolish way, one that contradicts God's wise and judicious order for life. For according to this wise order, money is meant to do good unto others. To enable one to be generous and willing to share and be rich in good deeds. In this way, all wise stewards of their money are laying up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life (see 1 Timothy 6:17-19).

What is true for wealth is also true for health. Wanting to be healthy is also a very understandable desire. For we were not made to be weak and unhealthy, but strong and robust. It can, indeed, be so discouraging to always be tired. It can, indeed, be so depressing to always have to take pills. It can, indeed, be so tiring to never really have a good night's sleep. To yearn for a constitution that is healthy and strong and to make that the main concern of your life.

And yet, making our health our main concern is not a very wise thing to do. For without wisdom, health is just as useless as money in the hand of a fool. How many people with healthy bodies do not completely

waste their lives? How many people with strong bodies do not primarily indulge in themselves? How many people with sound and wholesome bodies do not completely miss God's purpose for their lives? On the other hand, how many weak and sick people do not reach this purpose for their lives? For they have made righteous living, wise and judicious living, being in tune with God's wise order for life their number one concern. And so, whether they are healthy or sick, they do their best to develop their God-given skill in the art of wise and godly living. They rejoice in doing God's things on God's time. And they are a blessing not only for themselves, but for many others they touch with their happy and joyful lives.

Wisdom and another spouse

What we have said about good looks, wealth and health is also true for desiring another spouse. Solomon clearly tells us that he who finds a wife, finds a good thing (Proverbs 18:22). And the same could be said about a husband. She who finds a husband finds a good thing. In his wise design, God has joined one husband together to one wife. And what God has joined together we should not separate. God does not want us to opt out. If there are not sound Biblical reasons for separation and divorce, He wants us to stay in. God does not want us to be consumers who only look at our marriages from the angle of what's in it for us. But He wants us to be ministers, husbands and wives who serve, who look at their marriages from the angle of what's in it for the other. And when difficulties come our way, then God wants us to see them as opportunities for growth. Growth in holiness. Growth in wisdom. Growth in tuning in to doing things God's way and not our own.

Where do you find this wisdom?

This wisdom is not very hard to find. According to Proverbs 8, she

calls out and raises her voice. She's taken her stand at the busiest places in the city, where the traffic is thickest. "You," she says, "I'm talking to all of you. You who are simple, learn good sense. You who are foolish, shape up. Don't miss a word of this – I'm telling you how to live. I'm telling you how to be in tune with God's wisdom. Prefer my skill in the art of wise living to chasing after money. Prefer my God-knowledge over a lucrative career. For wisdom is better than all the trappings of wealth. Nothing you could wish for holds a candle to her" (see Proverbs 8:1-11). This is wisdom calling out from the structures of this creation and from the facts of our daily experience and urging us to embrace her, to submit to her and do things her way and not our own.

Should we, however, be deaf to the voice of God's wisdom as that comes to us from the structures of this creation and facts of our daily experience, then we can also hear the voice of wisdom calling to us from the Bible. It is in the Bible, that we hear the Lord Jesus Christ – the Wisdom of God in Person – calling to us, "Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Life can be so awfully tiring. Often that is our own fault. We neglect to be in tune with God's wisdom for life and do things our way instead of God's. Our goals and desires are out of focus and we suffer because of it. If that is the case in your life, then I urge you to go to the Lord Jesus Christ. To take His yoke upon you and learn from Him. His wisdom is truly light and pleasing. His wisdom is refreshing and invigorating. His wisdom blesses your life and enables you to live your life the way it was meant to live.

Dick Moes

Our King Has Come

Bible Story

Based on Matthew 21:1-11
and John 12:12-19

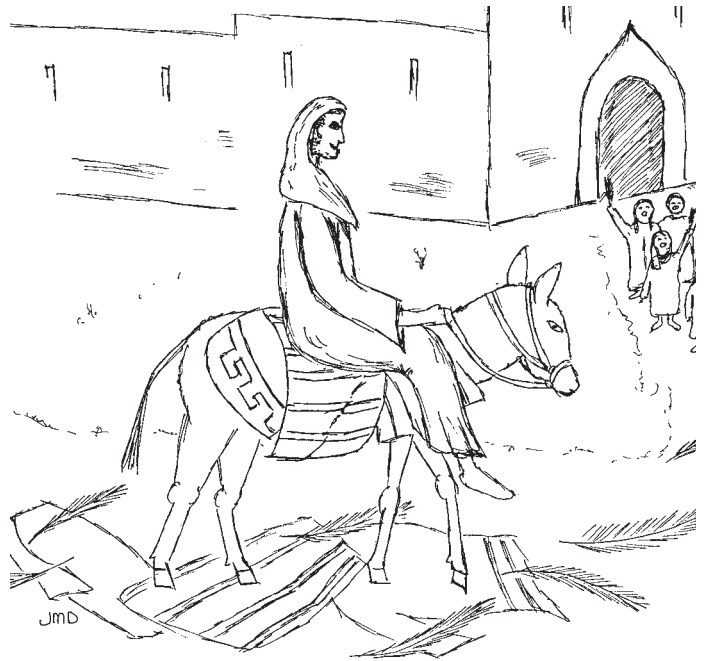
It is now three years ago that people started to notice Jesus. This man from the northern part of the country was very unusual. When He talked, He made you think. Sometimes He said harsh words, even to the leaders. Without fear He told them to serve the Lord with their hearts, and not with self-made rules. But Jesus could also be very kind. He had dinner with people that were looked down on. He made many sick people better. He talked about the Lord as the good shepherd, who looks after His sheep. Yes, Jesus was different, both in what He said and in what He did.

Everyone was still talking about the events of a few days ago. Lazarus, one of Jesus' friends had died. His sisters had hoped that Jesus could have come when their brother was still alive. Surely, Jesus would have made him well. But no. When Jesus showed up, their brother was already in the grave. To every one's surprise Jesus had gone to the grave, and with a loud voice had called Lazarus back from the dead. Those who had seen it, could not stop talking about it. What an unforgettable moment, to see a dead man walk out of the grave alive! Yes, this Jesus was a very special man.

The leaders became very upset with Jesus. More people listened to Jesus than to them. Lazarus' return to life was the final straw. The leaders made up their minds. Jesus must die. And because so many people wanted to see the risen Lazarus, the leaders decided that He must die too. They did not understand that the Lord cannot be stopped by the wicked plans of selfish men.

Jesus knows that He has only a few days left before He must die. The leaders' plan to kill Him is used by the Lord to fulfill His own plan. He had come to earth in order to die. As son of God He had become man, so He could die for man's sins. But before He could die, He must let the people know who He is. They already know He is special. But they must also know that He is the one who was promised a long time ago. The prophets had written about this special person, who as their king would save His people. These prophets had mentioned that their king would arrive riding on a colt. . . . The time has come that Jesus must show the people He is that special king.

"Go into that little town over there," Jesus instructs two of His helpers. "When you get there, you will find a young donkey, tied up. Untie the colt, and bring it to me. The colt's owners will ask you what you are doing. Don't worry about that. They know me. Just tell them it is for the Master." Immediately the two helpers leave. They are happy to obey their Master's words. In the town everything happened exactly as Jesus has said. Coming down the road to the village, they recognize the colt that Jesus was talking about. As they untie it, the owners question what they are doing. "The Master needs it," is their confident answer. Gladly the owners give permission.



"We'll bring it back," the helpers say as they take the colt to Jesus.

Then things happen fast. Jesus' helpers take their coats off, and throw them over the young donkey. As Jesus mounts the colt, all the people who had come out to see Him, get excited. Following Jesus on His way to Jerusalem, they also take their coats off, and throw them on the road in front of the colt. They tear branches off the trees and swing them in excitement. This Jesus is their King! See, He is riding into Jerusalem on a colt! He has done so many things for them. Now He is ready to become King. They will be so proud of Him. He will destroy their hated enemies, and bring peace back into the land. Waving their branches they burst out into an old, prophetic song, "Hosannah to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

The shouts can be heard all the way in Jerusalem. There were a lot of people in Jerusalem that week. Many had come out from all over the country to celebrate the Feast of Passover. These people leave the city to meet up with Jesus and the crowd that was already following Him. The sound of praise to Jesus echoes back and forth, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Not everyone is happy. The leaders are very upset. Angrily they decide to try to get rid of Jesus sooner than they had planned at first. But by changing their plans, they actually follow the Lord's plan. Jesus must die on the day before the Passover, as the lamb who dies for the sin of His people.

But Jesus's death will not be the end of His reign, as the leaders hope. Not at all. His death will be the beginning of new life. After three days in the grave, He will rise up in a glorified body. He already has shown His power over death by raising His friend Lazarus. Through His death King Jesus can prepare new and eternal life for all His friends, those who believe in Him. Hosannah to the Son of David!

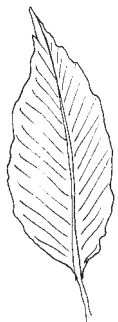
Jane

Activity Page

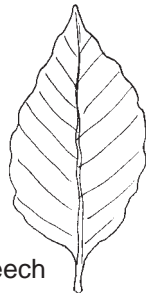
Spring Is Coming

God uses many signs to show us that winter is passing and spring is well on its way. Our world becomes colourful and loud with new life all around us. Flowers and trees bloom. Frogs and toads croak as streams swell over onto their banks. Happy birds sing, busily preparing their nests and the sweet sound of bleating newborn farm animals can be heard. Isn't it wonderful how God gives us constant and beautiful signs in which we can see the coming of a new season? God promised Noah that the seasons would always follow each other year after year. We can read about that in Genesis 8:22. "As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

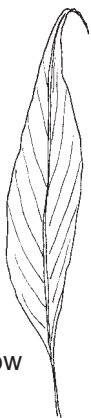
One of the most obvious signs of spring can be seen by looking at the trees. Leaves come out of their tiny buds and flowers of various colours fill trees' branches. Have you ever noticed that the flowers of some trees come out before their leaves? A chart is provided for you, complete with leaf identification pictures. Go outside, look at the trees around you and chart when the leaves and flowers appear. Be sure to look every day because sometimes it seems as if the leaves and flowers pop out of their skins over night!



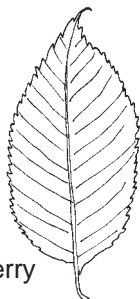
Horse Chestnut



Beech



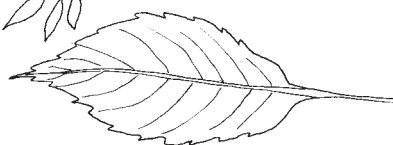
Willow



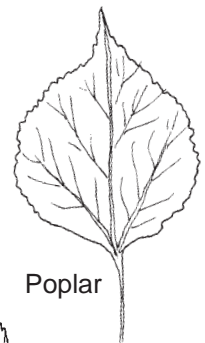
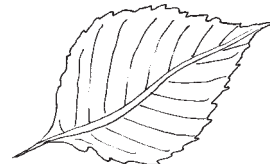
Cherry



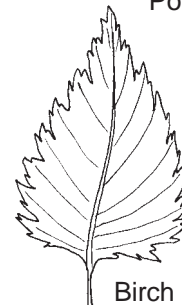
Ash



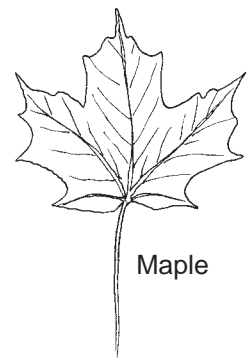
Hawthorn



Poplar



Birch



Maple

Tree	Leaves appear first	Flowers appear first	Leaves and flowers appear together	Date
Ash				
Beech				
Birch				
Cherry				
Hawthorn				
Horse Chestnut				
Maple				
Poplar				
Willow				

On the Third Day He Arose from the Dead

The Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on a Friday but that God raised Him from the dead on the following Sunday – Easter Sunday. This teaching is often mocked. Dead is dead! How can someone rise from the dead? The resurrection is an impossibility!

Brilliant theologians scoff at the New Testament's proclamation of the literal, historical, physical resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. One of this century's most influential New Testament scholars, Rudolf Bultmann, denied that the tomb was empty on that first day of the week because "a corpse cannot become alive again." We are to understand the story of the empty tomb as myth rather than literal history. It belongs, we are told, to the legend interwoven with the historical facts of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. The early church is said to have created the story about the resurrection of their dead leader. The proclamation of the resurrection is written off as the product of hero worship. A resurrection from the dead is just too hard to believe. And so the fifth article of the Apostles' Creed, "On the third day He arose from the dead," is, at best, highly doubtful.

These skeptics are not the first to mock the resurrection. In Acts 17:32 we read that when Paul proclaimed the resurrection of Christ, some of his listeners mocked.

Paul was in Athens. He spoke in the synagogue and in the market place with whomever he could about the Christ. He met some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers.

Stoics wanted to live in harmony with nature. They subscribed to a pantheistic theology. God was the soul of the world. They identified the creator and the creature. Stoicism also promoted "death with dignity." It commended suicide as an honourable escape from a life which could no longer be lived with dignity.

The Epicurean school of thought said that pleasure was the main goal in life. The Epicureans said that our lives are subject to luck and chance. The best you can hope and strive for is some pleasure in life.

Stoicism and Epicureanism were two pre-Christian pagan attempts to make some sense of life. *Post-Christian* paganism has not come up with anything better. The contemporary pagans of the Green Movement endorse the pantheistic theology of the Stoics. They believe that all is god and god is all. As well, the "death with dignity" movement of today

goes back to Stoicism. Other modern pagans are concerned only with pleasure and enjoyment. To get some pleasure out of this rotten life is their Epicurean goal.

The philosophers heard Paul speaking about Jesus and the resurrection. Some thought he was just a babbler peddling second-hand scraps of philosophy. Others said that he was promoting foreign divinities – Jesus and *Anastasis* (the Greek word for "resurrection" – Acts 17:18).

This caught their interest. Athenians loved to hear something new. The philosophers took Paul to the Areopagus to have him explain somewhat this talk about these foreign gods, Jesus and *Anastasis*. The Areopagus was a court which had jurisdiction over things to do with religion and morals.

Paul held forth in the Court of the Areopagus. He proclaimed God the Creator who made all things and sustains all things. He called his listeners to repentance and to faith in the one true God, because the day in which all people will be summoned to appear in the *supreme* court, the Court of God, is coming. God will judge the world by a man who He has raised from the dead.

The Stoics and Epicureans listened up to this point. They realized that Paul was not speaking about some foreign gods, Jesus and *Anastasis*. He was warning them about impending world judgment by the only true God. This God who created all things is no foreigner in Athens. He is the God with whom all must reckon whether they live in Athens, Jerusalem, or Rome. He will judge the world by Jesus whom He raised from the dead.

Many lost interest when Paul began to speak about the resurrection. Some said they would like to hear more about this topic at a later date. Others mocked.

If Paul had spoken of *noble* things, like the immortality of the soul, they would have kept listening. But the idea of the resurrection of a dead body was repugnant. The ultimate goal, in their opinion, was for the human soul eventually to *escape* the body, like a bird escapes its cage.

Today, as well, many mock the resurrection. The bones of Jesus of Nazareth are supposed to be lying somewhere in Palestine. Dead is dead. They deride the teaching of the resurrection of all people. They scorn the notion of the great and final judgment. You see, if there is no judgment, then there is no need for repentance. If dead is dead and there is no resurrection, we need not worry about how we live. We can make our pleasure the main goal of life rather than obedient service of God.

Modern day Epicureans

If we live in a closed universe where all is god and god is all, then when we die we enter into a new relationship with the Divine All which is creator and creature at the same time. We need not concern ourselves with making ready to meet our Maker and be judged by Jesus Christ.

Contemporary Stoics

The Word of God, the Bible, proclaims the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The church of Christ believes that Jesus Christ arose from the dead on the third day and that He is coming again to judge the living and the dead.

Some mock

What about you? Do you believe in Christ and His resurrection? Are you making ready for His return and the judgment?

George van Popta

EVANGEL

Volume 15 No. 3

Editor — Dick Moes; Layout & Printing — Premier Printing Ltd. Illustrations — Cover: Scenery; p.6 by Jane DeGlint; p.7 by Jacqueline Jonker. *Evangel* is published 4 times per year by Reformed Evangelism Taskforce. All correspondence & subscriptions to: *R.E.T., 21804-52 Avenue, Langley, B.C. V3A 4R1.*

Compliments of: