

**FREE**

**Better  
to have  
Never Been  
BORN?**



*Matthew 26:24*

*Mark 14:21*

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**A***fter sunset*, when evening had come, Jesus was reclining at a table with His twelve disciples. It was a very special meal, but unbeknownst to them, it would be their last together. They shared sweet fellowship together, cherishing a special, intimate time of sharing and talking with one another. At a pause in the conversation, a troubled look came over the usually calm countenance of their leader. Looking around at His twelve closest friends, the Master, in a low voice broken with the extreme emotion that revealed His sadness, said,

*“I tell you the truth, one of you will betray Me.”*

*They sat in stunned silence, reeling at the words He had just spoken. No one uttered a word for some time, each caught up in his own reflection about what their Master had just said to them. Each began searching his own heart, recognizing the potential in himself to be the one to whom He was referring. Being deeply grieved, they each began to earnestly question Him,*

*“Is it me, Lord?”*

*And He answered and said, “The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! **It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.**”*

*(Matthew 26:24; Mark 14:21)*

One man stands in infamy, alone on the stage of history as an object of derision and contempt. His name is so colored, so *tainted*, that no one would ever think to name another child that same name. *Judas*.

His name alone brings to mind imagery of *betrayal*: furtive exchanges of money cloaked in the night, whispered plots of treachery, and a heart so clouded by darkness that he would go so far as to betray his closest friend *with a kiss*.

Generations before, the Messiah's forefather King David

had written in anguish of betrayal, perhaps looking forward to that night:

*"And when he comes to see me, he speaks falsehood; his heart gathers wickedness to itself; When he goes outside, he tells it. All who hate me whisper together against me; Against me they devise my hurt, saying 'A wicked thing is poured out upon him, that when he lies down, he will not rise up again.' Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me."*

*(Psalm 41:6-9)*

*"For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, that I could bear it; nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, then I could hide myself from him. But it is you, a man my equal, my companion and my familiar friend; We who had sweet fellowship together walked in the house of God in the throng. Let death come deceitfully upon them; Let them go down alive to Sheol, for evil is in their dwelling, in their midst."*

*(Psalm 55:12-15)*

What kind of eternal destiny do you think awaited Judas, the

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betrayal of the Son of God? In the other account of His betrayal, Jesus gave Judas the morsel of bread and then,

*After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you must do, do quickly." Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him. For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast";*

*or else, that he should give something to the poor. So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately and it was night.*

*(John 13:27-30)*

*It was night.* Literally and figuratively. Darkness filled his heart. He was completely given over to Satan — so much so that the Bible declares that at that point he was the very *incarnation* of Satan.

The book of Job gives a picture of this kind of *night*, this form of darkness:

*Others have been with those who rebel against the light; they do not want to know its ways nor abide in its paths. The murderer arises at dawn; he kills the poor and the needy, and at night he is a thief. The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, "No eye will see me." And he disguises his face. In the dark they dig into houses, they shut themselves up by day; they do not know the light. For the morning is the same to him as thick darkness, for he is*

*familiar with the terrors of thick darkness.*

*(Job 24:13-17)*

What eternal destiny do you think awaited a man for whom it was night perpetually in his heart, a man intimately acquainted with “the terrors of thick darkness”? No amount of grief could rectify the wrong he had committed. No amount of tears shed or the acknowledgment that he had betrayed innocent blood could cover his sin. He had committed a sin deserving of death, and he knew it.

*A man who is laden with the guilt of human blood will be a fugitive until death; let no one support him.*

*(Proverbs 28:17)*

The religious authorities could not and would not absolve him of his guilt: “What is that to us? See to it yourself,” they told him. So he went out and hanged himself, the only just end for what he had done. But that was not the *end*. Certainly, immediately after hanging himself he was thrust alive into Sheol, or *death*, a place of bitter torment — weeping and gnashing of teeth — as each awaits

the final judgment to determine his eternal destiny.

### **Better to Have Never Been Born**

The Master had said what He said, and meant it. He never chose His words lightly. He always said what He meant and meant what He said. “Woe to that man,” He had said — and He meant — “woe.” *Woe* is a very strong word. It is no light thing at all; it is never used bandyingly or trivially. It means “*grief or distress resulting from a serious affliction or intense misfortune; heavy calamity; A curse or malediction, a denunciation.*”

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In fact, so terribly dire were the consequences of Judas' actions that Jesus had gone so far as to say, "*It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.*" Ponder that for a moment. The Son of God had said, in essence, that it would have been better for Judas' mother to have aborted\* him rather than give birth to the one who would ultimately betray Him. It would have been better

for Judas' sake, and for the sake of his eternal destiny, if she would have miscarried him and the fetus would have been spontaneously aborted.

Is that shocking? Does it offend your sensibilities?

Like it or not, that's what the Son of God said. Jesus knew His malediction to be true because He knew His Father's heart. He knew the deepest truths of the Creator's

heart because He intimately knew His word. He knew what His own forefather in the royal line of David, King Solomon, had written so many hundreds of years before. Solomon had written in the book of Ecclesiastes as to the futility of living for this life only and of those who did not use their time on the earth for doing good:

*If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years,*

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\***Abortion** — The act of giving premature birth; particularly, the expulsion of the human fetus prematurely, or before it is capable of sustaining life; a miscarriage. **Miscarriage** — The act of bringing forth a child before the time it is viable; a premature birth, resulting in death of the fetus; spontaneous abortion.

*however many they be, but his soul is not satisfied with good things and he does not even have a proper burial, then I say, "Better the miscarriage than he, for it comes in futility and goes into obscurity; and its name is covered in obscurity. It never sees the sun and it never knows anything; it is better off than he."*

*(Ecclesiastes 6:3-5)*

In giving his denouncement, Jesus was making an unequivocal\* statement — His intent was not mysterious or unclear and was not open to more than one interpretation. It was not shrouded in allusion or designed to be a parable for only the wise and discerning to understand. Rather, He said what He meant: *it would have been better for Judas to have been miscarried than to be the one to betray Him.* For He knew

the eternal destiny awaiting His betrayer.

*"It would be better for that man to have never been born."*

### **Fatherless Children**

How many children are alive on the earth today for whom that is also true? How many children today are being conceived (in or out of wedlock) and then left to roam the streets like a pack of so many animals, raised by

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\***unequivocal** — Not doubtful; not ambiguous; evident; sincere; plain; admitting of no doubt or misunderstanding; having only one meaning or interpretation and leading to only one conclusion; clearly defined or formulated. This is contrasted with **equivocal** — open to more than one interpretation, especially in being deliberately expressed in an ambiguous way in an attempt to mislead somebody; difficult to interpret, understand, or respond to.

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television, video games, and the public education system rather than by caring parents? How many of these children lack parents who love them and earnestly desired their very existence, finding instead that they were an unwelcome, unplanned accident? How many children internally echo the painful sentiment of Job as they cry for attention by doing deeds which will only make

them worthy of eternal hell:

*“Why did I not die at birth, come forth from the womb and expire?  
Why did the knees receive me,*



*And why the breasts, that I should suck? For now I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept then, I would have been at rest... Or like a miscarriage which is discarded, I would not be, As infants that never saw light. There the wicked cease from raging, And there the weary are at rest. The prisoners are at ease together; They do not*

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*hear the voice of the taskmaster. The small and the great are there, And the slave is free from his master. Why is light given to him who suffers, and life to the bitter of soul, who long for death, but there is none, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures, who rejoice greatly, and exult when they find the grave?"*

*(Job 3:11-13,16-22)*

How many children today would be better off never having been brought to term? How many would be better off having been

miscarried [spontaneously aborted] in the womb? How many aborted fetuses will have a better life and a better future when they are raised to life in the ages to come when evil isn't present on this planet? They will never have tasted war or pain, nor have experienced the rule of the evil prince of this world (1 John 5:19). But most of all, they will never have known the painful internal sense of rejection created by parents who didn't love them and didn't desire their existence in the first place.

*"It would have been better to have never been born..."*

Think about it. ☹️

\* \* \* \*

*So I congratulated the dead who are already dead more than the living who are still living. But better off than both of them is the one who has never existed, who has never seen the evil activity that is done under the sun.*

*(Ecclesiastes 4:2,3)*

# What do you think?

What do you think about what you have read? We want to hear from you. Please let us know what's in your heart about these things. Call us. Write us. Visit our web site for more stimulating social commentary. What you think really matters to us — *let your human voice be heard.*

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# THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

Is God so unjust as to  
throw unborn babies  
and others into eternal  
torment who have  
never had a chance  
to hear the Gospel?

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed... (Romans 1:16-17)*

The Gospel is something that reveals the righteousness, or *rightness* of God. The knowledge of His righteousness is instinctively known to mankind:

*...because that which is known about God is evident within them;*

*for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1: 19-20)*

In v. 18, Paul says that the truth they suppress is something that is evident within them (for God has made it so). It is an inborn understanding of God's invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature. Not only is that

knowledge known deep within each one of us, but it is also substantiated through what has been made. Nature clearly reflects the righteous character of God.

### THE CONSCIENCE

Is this “truth” revealed to them speaking of John 3:16? Is that what is known about God innately? Not according to Romans 10:14 and 17:

*How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

So John 3:16 is not instinctively known, but has to be *heard*. What kind



of knowing could they innately have of God and how could they honor Him as God according to that knowing? There is a requirement put upon men based on what they are born with, apart from John 3:18 (active disbelief). There, Jesus said that the one who has not believed in Him is judged already. Paul would ask, “How can they believe if they haven’t heard?” *Not believing* indicates a *conscious rejection* of something that has been clearly presented — it is understandable that God would hold one accountable for that. However, to say that God would hold accountable those who have not heard the message from a reputable source *conceals*, rather than *reveals*, the righteousness of God — taking away the power of the gospel.



The gospel derives its power from the fact that it reveals His righteousness to man. When that is revealed, the heart of those who have a will to do His will is captured and the love affair begins. It is the love that produces 2 Corinthians 5: 14,15. The innate knowledge that Paul was talking about in Rom 1 is referred to in chapter 2 as the *conscience* — the law written in men's hearts as to what is good and evil, and also a witness to their deeds. Since God put the conscience in us, when we obey that inner voice, we honor Him.

*For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the*

*Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them... (Romans 2:14-15)*

The ones Romans 1:25 is talking about exchange that truth for a lie that suits them better at the moment, allowing them to do what they want, rather than what they *know* to be right. They elevate themselves to the stature of their Creator, saying in their hearts that there is no one greater to determine what is right and wrong than they themselves. They say in their hearts, "There is no God," becoming the fools that David wrote of in Psalm 14:1:

*The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they*

*have done abominable works; there is none who does good.*

Can one honestly say that there is no difference in the eyes of God between a terrorist and a hard-working farmer who wears himself out in his struggle to feed his family? Will God send them both to the same eternal destiny of the Lake of Fire simply because he never heard the Gospel? This is certainly not the impression of God that Abraham had when he pled for the lives of the few righteous in Sodom:

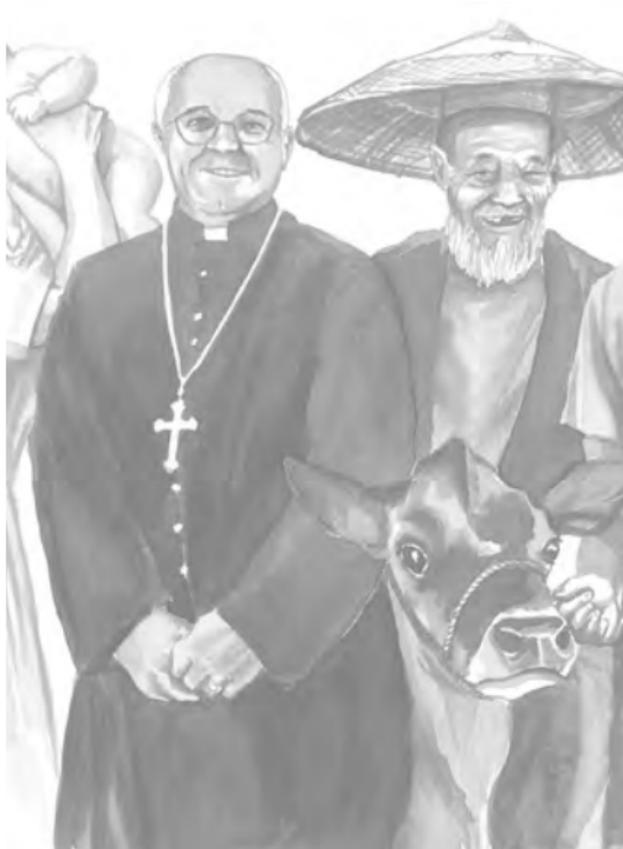
*Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from Thee... Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly? (Gen 18:25)*

## THE JUDGMENT

These considerations start to give understanding of the final judgment:

*And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it... And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ...and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's*





*name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:11-15)*

This judgment is based on deeds. Books are opened, which are the individual records of a person's deeds as recorded in his conscience. It is according to each one's deeds, not religious beliefs. On that basis, a person's name is either kept in or erased from the book of life. What we see in Revelation 20:12-15 is the separation of two types, or categories of people. They are all outside of the realm of John 3:18, having never been faced with the opportunity in John 5:25.

Those who stand in the final judgment are the ones spoken of in John 5:28,

*Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the*

*tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

So there are two categories of man clearly described in the judgment of Revelation 20, each with its own destiny. Those having the righteousness of man, living according to the inborn knowledge of good and evil, will go to a second (eternal) life in the nations of eternity (Revelation 21:24,26; 22:2). Those who hated all righteousness (the filthy and unjust) will have as their eternal destiny a part in the Lake of Fire, which is the second (eternal) death (Revelation 21:8).

## THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF MAN AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

The people of the nations must struggle to live according to the voice of their conscience and uphold the righteous standard within themselves. Jesus mentioned them in Matthew 6:31-32 but was not condemning the Gentiles for their anxiety to provide food and clothing for themselves and their families. He knew it is a normal part of life — they have no choice but to consume themselves with getting what they need for survival. The issue for them is *how* they go about it.

Matthew 6:31-32 is not for the nations; rather, it was given as a standard to those who wanted to follow Jesus. To them He said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and

His righteousness.” They were called to a higher dimension of righteousness than those locked in the struggle of working for what they need to live. They were called to partake in His righteousness by trusting and obeying Him *completely*. These are His *holy* people — those wholly devoted to bringing about the purpose of God on the earth — a witness of His righteousness.

Such was the life recorded in Acts (especially chapters 2 & 4). The life of serving one another to meet each other’s needs rather than one’s own needs is what expresses His righteousness. This love between them was the sign that they belonged to Him. After all, isn’t that why He died? (2 Corinthians 5:14-15,21) 🌿



# Community Churches

*where all who believe are together and have all things in common... Acts 2:44*



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## Like a Beehive

Have you ever watched a beehive? It is fascinating seeing thousands of little bees working together to produce honey. As you come near the hive, you can hear an exciting buzz as they go about the many tasks necessary to keep the hive alive. The workers are responsible to collect nectar and guard the hive. The young bees keep the hive in good condition, feed the larvae, and support in other household chores. There is never a dull moment in the busy life of a little bee.

This is much like the life that we have. No matter what we do, we love to do it together. Daily we gather to thank our Master for His salvation, and to hear Him speak to us through one another. This gathering keeps alive a genuine love and care for each other. As we work, we take advantage of the daily situations, guarding ourselves from the selfishness and pride that would come in to separate us and take away our love. Our children are a vital part of our life. We not only homeschool them, but we work with them to accomplish the simple tasks necessary to maintain a family life. Our life is not a dull routine of chores, but is full of the warmth that comes from the sweet fellowship of friends speaking their hearts to one another.

But there are a few things that differ in our life from that of a beehive. One is that we are not driven by instinct or controlled by something separate from our own will. Each of us is here because we chose to leave behind our own separate lives to increase the life of this hive. Our life is not enclosed like the hive of a bee, nor do we have a stinger to harm any uninvited guests. We welcome anyone to experience our life with us. Please come and see what it is like to be part of a beehive of people expressing the warmth and love of our Creator. 🐝

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# Choose Life!

— so the billboards and bumper stickers proclaim. “Aren’t you glad *she* did?” Well, of course I’m glad my mother had me! Or am I? But what if I was unwanted and unloved? Wouldn’t it be better to be aborted than raised to go to hell?

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*Proverbs 13:24  
& 23:13,14*

