

生(Birth), 老(Aging), 病(Sickness) 死(Death)

生(Birth), 老(Aging), 病(Sickness), 死(Death) are inevitable events that may also be regarded as the progression of one great disease. There is no cure, one can only try and delay the progression of the disease. The Chinese Emperor, Shi Huang Di died in 210 BC while seeking the cure. Who would not want to live forever? Since the beginning of mankind, kings and prophets have been seeking the Cure. If no Cure can be found, why do people still continue seeking for it?

Perhaps it is hardwired in the human mind that if there is a disease, there must be a cure. If there is hope, there might be fulfillment. Many hints exist to suggest this idea. The God of Nature supplies our needs. A lonely heart is answered by providing him or her a life partner. How happily a duck swims when the flood fills a pond. In other words, when there is a need, there is also satisfaction of the need. Of course, I cannot prove by this observation that a disease necessarily implies the existence of a cure, or that death implies eternal life; but at least we can hope, can't we? While I cannot prove by scientific experiment that there is life everlasting, no one has proven scientifically that the opposite is true either. If there is real hope, shouldn't there also be a real fulfillment? What if the escape from death is real? Would you not desire everlasting life? What price must be paid to obtain this eternal life? Has anyone ever obtained this eternal life?

Detractors may argue that this is nothing more than a delusion. But what have you to lose if you believe? You have nothing to lose, but everything to gain. If men can have an everlasting life, this must be the ultimate Good News. How can one obtain this everlasting life? Is there more than one way to obtain this life? Which then is the correct way? Well, I cannot prove that my religion is the true way by laboratory experiment or by research data. But of all the religions of the world, mine is the only one that tells of this Good News through many witnesses. I have found the Cure. I cannot prescribe anything, but I can recommend to you the Great Physician who has healed us from this disease of death, and point you to a great company of witnesses.

I must first explain how sick we are. It is evident that from the beginning all men must die. Life expectancy in our country is 83 years. Our existence on earth is very short compared to rocks and trees and mountains and seas that continue after we are dead and gone. I simply find it unacceptable that mankind is less worthy to exist longer than inanimate things. The maker of Nature determines how long his creatures exist. Why did He decree that men must die so prematurely? The answer, I think, must be that God is angry. If we look at the cruelty we inflict on one another, we must also be angry with the wicked, and demand that justice be done. He who sheds blood, by men must his blood be shed. We cannot fully understand why all men must die because we do not yet fully understand God's anger against all men. Only God can reach out to men, and reconcile men to Himself. But why should He save us since He is not obliged to do so? This question is answered in the Bible.

The Bible has been the bestseller of all time. No other religious book provides such a wonderful account of how the Creator seeks and saves lost mankind. From the beginning, many of God's people have found peace with God, and they testify of how God is just and faithful. His mercy lasts forever. Who does not wish to be reconciled with our God? Did you know God can restore our souls, and that He can wipe away all tears of all the years we have been afflicted by his wrath? In our present condition, we can sense our shortness of time, and the misery of life. Our life is like a flower that blooms in the morning, by evening it is withered and gone. Yet within the short life whether 70 or 80 years, the years are full of pain and sorrow.

Who can know the guilt of a person better than himself? All men seek to cover up their shameful acts. But under the thin veneer of outward decency, all men feel guilty. All men would seek to silence their conscience and continue to hide their guilt before other men. Only the threat of exposure drives men to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with God. Where the threat is absent or gone, men would live pretending there is no God. But when troubles come, men would turn to God. When all else fails, God is our last resort. Why should God hear us when we regard him last? Even our closest friend will turn us away when we beg for help once too often. We ask for a loving and merciful God. We got one, for the mercy of God endures forever. The Bible is replete with examples of His faithfulness. Those who trusted in Him abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

A broken and contrite heart seeks after God. Often it is so difficult to find Him and God seems to hide his face. Yet in the pages of the Bible we are encouraged to seek Him, but on His terms, not on our terms. His terms are clearly set out. The only way to reconcile with God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. How can you be sure about this? Because throughout history there are many witnesses who have experienced the goodness and mercy of God through faith in Christ. I too have experienced the unspeakable sweetness of receiving His mercy. The guilt I feel for the wrong I have done, I am too ashamed to disclose. I read this story a long time ago. Jesus was willing to grant mercy to a despised woman. She laid hold of Him and would not let go till she received His mercy to save her daughter who was afflicted by a demon. In the eyes of God, she was like a wretched dog. She acknowledged her unworthiness and only begged that even a dog may eat the crumbs that fell off the Master's table. A broken and contrite heart, God would not despise. This is the story that made me turn to Jesus Christ. Since then, the more I learn of Jesus, the sweeter my experience of his mercy and goodness.

God's way is higher than our ways. We only want to prolong our lives, to keep looking young and be healthy forever. But God would give us something far better. In order to give us everlasting life, He regenerates us; we are born again, spiritually. Without this new birth, we cannot appreciate the things of God. There is so much that God has revealed in the Bible, and

much that is hard to be understood. Yet even a child can read and understand how God would reconcile Himself to men through the mediation of His Son.

The story does not end yet. What happens when we die believing in Jesus? Though we die, yet shall we live. We shall be with Christ in paradise when we die. Our bodies will undergo decay. One day, Jesus will resurrect our body, and we will have a new spiritual body. There will be no more suffering or tears, in the presence of God there will be unending fulfillment.

Will you believe in Jesus and be reconciled to God through Him? This is the Cure that you need.

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