

BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

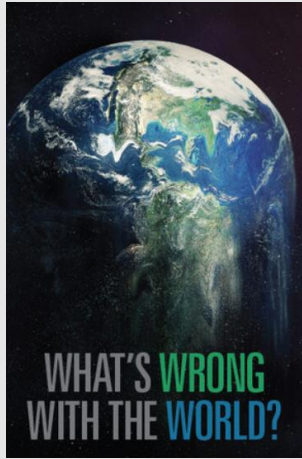
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'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

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Charles R. Brown, once head of the Department of History at Roanoke College answered the question this way: "Practically everyone admits that the world is sick, but just what ails it continues to baffle all the doctors.

In fact, no one up to the moment has offered any genuinely intelligent diagnosis, yet there are thousands of remedies being urged and tried. Of course, many people have attempted to tell us what ails the world, but their suggestions are usually prejudiced by their own personal interests and for that reason fail even to approach a good diagnosis.

"Man alone of all creation is considered capable of devising and improving standards of living. Every generation since the advent of man has been charged with the responsibility of maintaining a high standard of morals and history testifies strongly that whenever man has neglected his morals, his civilization has suffered accordingly. Loose morals have undoubtedly contributed much to the downfall of all civilizations previous to ours and loose moral living if not corrected will most certainly wreck our world.

"What is wrong with the world? It is morally and spiritually sick and no one seems to have the courage to administer the cure. Therefore, the challenge to all people must be to get ready to stand on their own feet in simple, rugged and honest living, if our civilization is to survive. The danger from without is small: the danger from within is becoming huge.

It will take a great deal of courage to disentangle our lives from the modern meshes which are gradually pulling us under and to stand again foursquare for lofty thinking, virtuous living and honest dealings. But such is the price if man's divinest mission is ever to be fulfilled."

These are eloquent words and in many respects they speak truth while in others they manifest a sad lack of a real understanding of the issues that confront the world today. The world is "morally and spiritually sick." The symptoms of violence, drug addiction, greed, lawlessness, lack of morality, abortion—all prove we are in the last days of grace—days like those of Noah when violence and corruption filled the earth and brought forth the judgment of God. **Sin** is the root cause of all these dreadful symptoms that plague the world today, and there is only **one remedy** for that root cause. It is found in the once crucified, now risen and glorified Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

A mere return to morality and outward change of conditions will be neither effective in solving this world's problems nor even possible while the underlying cause of sin remains untreated. There **must** be, on man's part, repentance of his sin to God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Until that point is reached, there can be no remedy for the devastating ills of the world.

God has commanded all men everywhere to repent, for He has appointed the day when He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus—a fact that He gave assurance of when He raised Him from the dead
(Acts 17:30,31).

The crux of the whole matter is man's treatment of the Son of God.

No matter how lofty the moral standards or how spiritual the principles adopted, until men have made the Son of God their Saviour, they are lost!

What about you? Are you concerned about what ails the world? Do you search for an answer to its symptoms? If you're concerned, that's good! But what about your own soul?

No matter what level of morality you seek to pursue or what level of spirituality you think you have obtained, if you haven't repented of your sins to God and trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you have not addressed the great need of your soul!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" (John 14:6).

We urge you to get right with God yourself through Jesus Christ: then you will have nothing to fear as the blessedness of a home with Him in glory brightens before you.

He died on the Cross at Calvary to put away your sins by the sacrifice of Himself. There He shed His precious blood by which your redemption can be accomplished (1 Peter 1:18,19).

Your destiny and mine thus depend on whether or not we put our trust in Him as our personal Saviour.

May God grant that each of us concerned by the events of the day may be searched out in the presence of God and led to repentance and faith in that Blessed One whom God gave—His only begotten Son, that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). J.B.R. (Moments with the Book)



The Concordia

WHO IS TO BLAME?

No one had forecasted a shipwreck as the Costa Concordia cruise ship left its port near Rome. Over 3000 guests on board the luxury liner were expecting a safe and enjoyable trip. They looked forward to relaxation, delicious food and scenic stops before returning to home port. Whatever Captain Schettino was thinking and doing we can't be sure. But in January 2012, the cruise ship slammed into the rocks off Giglio. With an enormous gash in its hull, the ship quickly began to list and sink. The head of Costa Cruises blamed the captain for the wreck because he deviated from frequently travelled routes. Thirty-two people lost their lives.

Have you ever thought of this world as a big cruise ship that slammed into a massive rock somewhere along the way?



Rivers of tears, broken hearts and homes, wasted lives, starving people, scandals, empty dreams, mundane living, anger, and abuse mark our world. A colossal disaster did occur.

The first man, Adam chose to deviate from the God-planned route for the journey of the human race. Adam slammed the ship into rocks of sin when he rebelled against the Creator in the Garden of Eden.

Most, though tragically not all, on board the Costa Concordia had the option of scrambling into lifeboats. Who is to Blame? It would have been foolish to drown out the noise by turning up the music or to waste time tidying up the cabins. The ship was doomed. Get off! If anyone ignored realities and lingered in the luxurious rooms, that would be their choice. If someone preferred the sinking luxury liner over the rescue lifeboats that too would be their choice.

**The 7 billion passengers
on board the ship of life today, have
their own choice to make. We can go
down with the ship and perish, or
climb into the rescue boat that has
been so graciously and generously
provided for all by God.**

Read the best known verse in the Bible with the additional notations. Do you see that you are given a choice?

“God so loved the world – so shipwrecked and devastated by sin, that He willingly gave His One and only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to pay for our sins by dying on the Cross, in order to rescue perishing sinners; that whoever – no matter who the person is or what the person has done believes in Him, that is receives, accepts or trusts Christ as their personal Saviour, should not perish in Hell, but have everlasting life – right now in this life and forever in Heaven” (John 3:16).

God has given you the ability to make the choice. He has clearly provided the way of escape. You must bear the responsibility for the choice you make.

The resulting damage is still felt everywhere and in all of us today. The Bible says,

“Therefore...through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”
(Romans 5:12). *Via Magazine*

THE CHRIST – THE CROSS – THE COSMOS

The Maker of the universe,
As Man for man was made a curse.
The claims of Law, which He had made,
Unto the uttermost He paid.

His holy fingers made the bough,
Which grew the thorns that crowned His brow.
The nails that pierced His hands were mined
In secret places He designed.

He made the forest whence there sprung
The tree on which His body hung.
He died upon a cross of wood,
Yet made the hill on which it stood.

The sky that darkened o'er His head,
By Him above the earth was spread.
The sun that hid from Him it's face
By His decree was poised in space.

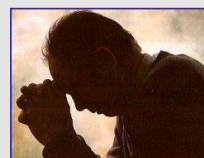
The spear which spilled His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God.
The grave in which His form was laid
Was hewn in rocks His hands had made.

The throne on which He now appears
Was His for everlasting years.
But a new glory crowns His brow
And every knee to Him shall bow.

F. W. Pitt



POINT TO PONDER



One ship sails East,
And another West,
By the self-same winds that blow,
'Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales,
That tells the way we go.

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