

THE SALVATION OF THE SOUL

How to live happy here on earth
And to have
A true hope for the beyond

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THE MOST IMPORTANT TRUTH OF THE BIBLE

The theme of this booklet is so important for your present and future life in the beyond that it deserves all your attention.

Jesus himself has said : « For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul ? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul ? » (Mark 8 : 36-37).

I have endeavoured to present you THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL as simply as possible while keeping to the TRUTH its BIBLICAL wholeness.

The message is understandable to everyone. Once understood and accepted, it makes in each person a happy change of his/her life. The change that operates is such that all those who experiment it do not miss to say : « It is a pity that I have not known it before. »

THE « SALVATION OF THE SOUL » is THE MAIN TRUTH OF THE BIBLE

God has made known to man **what he has accomplished** through love to save him. He has revealed **what the man has to do** to appropriate himself this salvation which is offered to him through Jesus-Christ.

There are many quotations of the Scriptures. They are mentioned between parenthesis, for example : (Luke 15 :3-6). The first figure points out the chapter and the following figures the verses.

If you have not read yet the Gospel, I advise you eagerly to get a copy of the New Testament. So, you can control the teaching of this booklet in referring to the Word of God. Doing so, your faith will be unwaveringly based on **THE INFALLIBLE AND GOD-INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.**

A RESCUE

Help, a child is getting drown !

Women washing their linen by the canal have just seen a 10 years old child fall in the water. They call for help. Nearby, my father is painting the gate of a building. He rushes. He sees a hand outside the water seeking a support. He does not hesitate a second. He is a very good swimmer. He does not take the time to remove his coat. He jumps in the water. With all his strength, he progresses quickly toward the child to get him off from death. Just in time he manages to grasp the hand of the child and take him back to the river-bank. Shivering, the boy recovers from his anguish. He throws himself on my father's neck. He grips him tightly and kisses him to show his gratitude.

This deed of rescue is a picture of the salvation of the soul.

By our faults, we are in a state of loss. We try to hook to something and we find nothing that can help us get out of our position. **The man cannot save himself. There is nobody except Jesus-Christ** who can save him, for « *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* ». (Acts 4 :12).

However, the salvation of the soul is more than a rescue.

It is :

- . **the deliverance** from a situation of loss without any way out,
- . **an inner release** through a complete forgiveness,
- . **the impartation** of a peaceful joy and a divine force

to live a new life resting on a genuine hope of a glorious life beyond the visible.

A LOST TRAVELLER

« Where Am I ? I cannot find my way anymore. »

It is the anguished cry of a traveller lost in a vast forest. He has been wandering for hours and hours, and the night is coming. All is dark around him. He looks in vain for a path that can lead him out of this maze. He is like these people who, in fair feasts, enjoy through a mirror game looking for the exit door. But here, it is not a game... His eyes strive to pierce the unknown of the darkness around him. Numb with cold, worn out, shivering with fear, he walks painfully while groping about. The anguish embraces him and more and more the despair undermines his courage, when suddenly, afar, a very small light, hardly noticeable, shows up.

« Saved ! I am saved ! »

When seeing this light dot, the traveller chest swells with hope. However, he is still in the forest limits of which are without end. A change has operated immediately in him : peace has replaced fear, joy has thrown away distress. Having become lit and happy, he has the impression to be already out of the forest. He knows he is delivered from his state of loss. The light is very far from him, however the distance looks to be only a few meters. He goes on walking, with his eyes riveted on this light. He hurries, through narrow and tortuous paths to reach the aim. Never mind brambles and thorns, he walks joyful. Before him the lit up thatched cottage shows up. Quickly, he knocks at the door. At the doorstep, a friend invites him to get in. **At this very moment, the salvation in hope, produced by the trust in this light, becomes a genuine reality inside the house.**

So it is with the salvation of the soul !

As a lost traveller, man is lost in this world of darkness. He seeks to get out of the night which envelopes him. He does not find the way out.

So, conscious of his state of loss, he hears of the Gospel of the Divine grace. He discovers through this Good News that Jesus is His Saviour, as a light which bursts in the darkness of his heart.

It is the joy of Salvation. (Psalms 51 :14)

From this time, he becomes a disciple of Christ. He follows him in the way that leads to LIFE. (John 8 :12)

The forgiveness he receives from Christ takes away off his heart any fear of condemnation. (Romans 8:1)

The darkness of his past life gives way to a new life in Christ, full of hope. (2 Corinthians 5 :17)

With his eyes fixed on Christ, his Saviour, he progresses by faith toward the glorious final fulfilment of this wonderful salvation. And the entrance in heaven *will be the perfect realization of this salvation* (2 Corinthians 5 :1)

The salvation, as the Gospel presents and defines it, is obtained **from here on earth** through faith in Jesus-Christ. (Ephesians 2 :8)

The salvation begins with the entrance in the SPIRITUAL LIFE. Then the day will come when our soul will see Jesus (1 John 3 :2) and will be with him in heaven (2 Corinthians 5 :8). The entrance in the heavenly life will be the Salvation at its arrival, its final destination. (Matthew 25 :21)

This salvation can also be your experience if you believe in the Bible Truths that we are going to meditate in the following pages.

THE LOSS

THE APOSTLES IN GREAT DANGER ON THE LAKE

The need of being saved exists only if we are conscious of being lost.

The apostles have experienced it when they went across the Lake of Galilee, when the wind blew suddenly with violence. They were in the middle of the lake and the storm was so strong that the waves were invading the boat. While some of them were roaring with difficulty, some others were trying to empty the water that was filling the boat. But, it was sinking, it was more and more heavy. During this time, the Lord was sleeping peacefully in the boat. They were conscious of their state of loss. They awakened the Master whom they knew the power. They cried him their distress :

« Lord, rescue, we are perishing ! »

At their call, Jesus got up. He threatened the wind and the sea. He commanded them to stop their violence. Immediately the calm came back. (Matthew 8 :23-27)

There is no effort to make to get lost. All the men are so, as the Bible says : « They are all under sin ... there is none righteous... *all have sinned*. » (Romans 3 :9-10 and 23).

If you are conscious of your state of loss, if you have no hope, no inner peace, know that Jesus is ready to answer to your cry of distress. « *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.* » (Psalms 46 :2).

The Lord is willing to rescue us. He is full of love toward all sinners. There is no situation, as dramatic it can be, that he cannot solve.

A SHEEP WAS LOST

A sheep is missing !

After having counted up all his sheep he has just brought to the fold, the shepherd notices that there are only 99 instead of 100. Immediately, he goes to seek the lost sheep. He loves her as much as the others.

Alone in the dark, via steep paths over the hills, he calls his sheep. An anguished cry of the sheep echoes in the valley. Gradually, the shepherd gets nearer and nearer the sheep in distress. Under the pale glimmer of the moon, he finds her trapped in bushes, on the top of a rock. He gets near with caution, the brambles tear him, the thorns hurt him. It is with high risk that he bends toward her. He manages to grasp her, puts her on his shoulder and, quickly, he goes back to the fold. He calls his friends and neighbours. He tells them : « Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. ». (Luke 15 :3-6)

Via this story, Jesus himself compares the man to a lost sheep, far from the fold and the shepherd, i.e. far from the presence of God. He introduces himself as the GOOD SHEPHERD seeking the lost sheep.

If, as the lost sheep, you are conscious of your state of loss and you call God for help to give you a new and happy life, know that the message of SALVATION is for you. Jesus himself has declared : « For the Son of man is come to seek and TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST ». (Luke 19 :10)

The LOSS of soul is very severe. About it, Jesus has said: « For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul ? ». (Matthew 16 :26)

This loss will be everlasting to those who do not accept on earth the Salvation that God offers them. It is written in the Bible : « that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ who shall be punished with EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power ». (2 Thessalonians 1 :9)

This loss is the consequence of man's faults. It is what the Bible asserts : « But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you. » (Isaiah 59 :2)

THE SIN

A DEFINITION WITHOUT AMBIGUITY

Since the sin we are all guilty of is the cause of our loss, we must know what it means at the Bible light.

In our world where words have lost their initial value, it is necessary to emphasize on the **BIBLE TRUTHS**.

Here is a definition without ambiguity in John's first epistle: « SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW. » (1 John 3 :4)

Which law is it about ?

The answer is given in the epistle to the Romans :

« The commands :
you will not commit adultery,
you kill not,
you steal not,
you covet not,
and others,

are summed up by this word :

« You shall love your neighbour as yourself ».

Love works no ill to his neighbour : THEREFORE LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW. » (Romans 13 :8-10)

In other words, all forms of sin are disobedience of the law of love, for « whosoever shall offend in ONE point, he is guilty of ALL. » (James 2 :10)

« GOD IS LOVE » (1 John 4 :16). He asks us to love him with all our heart and love our neighbour like ourselves. (Luke 10 :27-28)

This love for our neighbour does not consist only in not doing evil. However, many people say : « I have done no harm to anybody » to justify themselves before God. They delude themselves in convincing themselves that for sure God owes them heaven.

The Bible teaches that the divine law of love is both to forbid to do evil under whatever form, and the order to do good whenever it is possible. « Therefore to him that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin. » (James 4 :17)

Who can claim to have always do the good he/she could have done ? If, on the road, we see a wounded person and we go by without helping him/her – we have done no harm -, But if we do not help him/her, we do not do the good we should have done. So, we commit a sin, we disobey the law of love.

To be a sinner, it is not necessary to steal, kill or lie. It is just when we do not do the good we can do to others.

The Bible says : « There is none that does good, no, not one, For ALL HAVE SINNED...» (Romans 3 :12 and 23)

All men have in a way or another disobeyed the divine law, the universal law of love and as a result they are ALL sinners.

THE SINNERS

THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS

All men do not recognize themselves sinners at the same degree. Some people like to say this sentence which witnesses of their own justice: « Me, I have not killed, not stolen ... ». They are like the pharisean Jesus talked about in his parables. The Lord showed him standing in the magnificent Temple of Jerusalem. He prays like this : « O God, I thank you that I am not like the other men, who are robbers, unjust, adulterous or even like this publican : I fast twice a week, I give the tithe of all my income ». (Luke 18 :9-14). In order to emphasize the difference with the repenting sinner God agrees, Jesus praises the poor publican, not daring approach, who dared not even lift his eyes to heaven ; but he was striking his chest, saying : O God, have mercy on me, who is a sinner ».

Indeed, every man must have the attitude of the publican : accuse himself and recognize he is guilty, imploring God's forgiveness and not justifying himself with respect to others.

God can grant forgiveness only to those who recognize their sins. It is for them that Jesus has come. (Matthew 9 :13 and Timothy 1 :12-15).

THE UNWORTHY

Maybe, you are one of those whose conscience is deeply tormented and wonder whether there is a possibility of salvation for them.

A few years ago, I met on a countryside path, near Granville, several caravans aligned near each other along a hedge. I talked about the Good News of the Salvation in Jesus-Christ to men, women and children who gathered around me. Among them, a man made this remark to me : « I am too bad, God cannot forgive me. » I said to him that Jesus forgives all sins. « No, he said, for me it is not possible, for I am too wicked ». This Gypsy was often drunk. He was violent. He beat his wife although she had tuberculosis.

Then, I took the New Testament and I read the following : « The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.» (1 John 1 :7) . Seeing me reading the Bible, he said to me « Is that really in the book of God ? » I answered « Yes, this book is the Word of God. God is saying himself that Jesus-Christ has poured HIS blood on the cross to forgive all our sins without exception. If you want to believe it, the forgiveness is also for you. »

While listening that, tears began to flow along his face. Broken hearted, touched by the message of God's love, he knelt down in the path, asking God for forgiveness. In pouring these repentance tears, he accepted the forgiveness Jesus was giving him at this very moment. He became a new man and his life was changed. He stopped beating his wife who was healed by God. And, some time later, he became a Gospel preacher.

EQUALITY CONCERNING GUILT

The Gospel considers all men on a same equality basis. There is no degree in guilt. All men have sinned. So they are all guilty sinners. A guilty man is always liable to condemnation. All men being guilty, they are all liable to condemnation. « Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. » (James 2 :10)

THE EXPIATION

THE PUNISHMENT THAT SAVES US

God has proved his love toward his sinner creature in sending his Son Jesus-Christ on earth because of sin to make expiation of it. « God has loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. » (1 John 4 :10)

HE HAS EXPIATED all our sins of our whole life and all the sins of all the men who want to believe in HIM. For Jesus is himself a expiatory victim for our sins, not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world. (1 John 2 :2)

The word « expiated » means « calmed ». It means also « completely paid ». Sin is considered as a debt or a fault that must be settled by a punishment equivalent to the offence.

The expiation is the punishment imposed for an offence. Men themselves require condemnations according to the seriousness of the fault made : fine, prison, electric chair. In common language, we say that a condemned person expiates his fault in prison. There is an idea of repair.

The expiation of sins by Jesus-Christ is both the payment of our debt with respect to God and the repair action which cancels the sin « *The chastisement of our peace was upon him.* » (Isaiah 53 :5)

Jesus, the only innocent, the only righteous, has been stricken for guilty's sake. The expiation has been accomplished once for ever. The divine justice has been satisfied. The expiation is perfect and final, and he/she who believes in it becomes the beneficiary of this love deed from Christ (Hebrews 10 ;10). He/she receives in exchange of his/her faith the salvation of his/her soul.

The Bible declares clearly that :

- . **the only place of expiation** is Golgotha
- . **the only expiatory victim** is Jesus-Christ.

If we believe that, God can say to us :

« My child, your sin is expiated, your sin is removed ». (Isaiah 6 :7)

THE SAVIOUR

JESUS IS THE PROMISED SAVIOUR

The coming of Jesus the Messiah in the world was predicted by many prophets in the Old Testament :

- His birth from Vergin Mary (Isaiah 7 :14)
- His birth at Bethlehem (Micah 5 :1-4)
- His sufferings (Isaiah 50 :6 and 53)
- His hands and his feet pierced (Psalms 22 :17-19)
- The betrayal for 30 silver coins (Psalms 41 :10 and Zachariah 11 :12)
- His death as a criminal (Isaiah 53 :9)
- His tomb with the rich man (same reference).

« Of this man's seed has God according to **HIS PROMISE** raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus » (Acts 13 :23).

« Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believes in Jesus.». (Romans 3 :25-26)

JESUS IS THE PERFECT SAVIOUR

Jesus is shown in the Bible as « the Lamb of God who removes the sin of the world » (John 1 :29). He is « the immolated lamb, saint, innocent, without dirt, separated from sinners and higher than heaven » (Hebrews 7 :26 and Revelation 5 :9). If Jesus has had the same imperfections as we have, he could not have been our Saviour. But he is saint. If he had been guilty, he could not have taken charge of our faults. The Bible says that « none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him. » (Psalms 49 :8)

Jesus is the perfect Saviour, because he did not have to offer any sacrifice for his own sins, separated from the sinners (Hebrews 7 :26). He could die in the place of all sinners, because himself did not deserve death. (Hebrews 4 :15)

Willingly, he, the righteous, gave His life for the unrighteous. « Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, » (Hebrews 7 :25)

JESUS IS THE UNIQUE SAVIOUR

Through the centuries, men have always sought for a means to reach God. Today, all sorts of philosophies appear and some men dare present themselves as prophets and messiahs, claiming to be intermdiaries between God and men.

The Bible declares that « For there is ONE God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus». (1 Timothy 2 :5).

Moreover, the Bible says that **Jesus is the only Saviour** for man lost in his sin (Romans 3 :25). Peter, the apostle, filled with the Holy Spirit talking to religious chiefs who has thrown him into prison made this wonderful statement concerning Jesus : « Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. » (Acts 4 :12).

The Samaritans who believed in Jesus made this confession of faith : « We know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world » (John 4 :42)

THE GRACE

The salvation of our soul **is not obtained through our merits**. The Bible says that **this salvation is offered in Jesus**. Its source is in grace.

This Bible truth is mentioned in Ephesians 2 :8 « By grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. ».

The salvation is a deed of the divine mercy. A grace cannot be deserved otherwise it is not a grace. If somebody gives you a present, you do not ask him how much you owe him... You will take the risk of offending the giver.

Evenly, we do not have to try and win our salvation through our works or our own efforts, our offerings made to the church or even our religious deeds or our prayers. Wanting to pay one's salvation is offending God. It is considering as insufficient the work of Jesus-Christ accomplished at the calvary.

God's grace cancels the sinner punishment since the only Son of God has undergone this sentence at his/her place. The grace cancels the punishable fact that is the cause : « I will remember their sin no more. » (Hebrews 10 :11-18 and Jeremiah 31 :34) ?

Let us be grateful and let us praise God for his great mercy.

THE FAITH

IT IS MORE THAN A BELIEF

« What must I do to be saved? » (Acts 16 :30-31)

To this question that the prison jailer of Philippos asked him, the apostle Paul answered simply by these words : « Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved. »

To believe is an easy thing. Everybody can believe, but some people do not want to believe.

Imagine that you fall into the sea and a sea-man throws you a life buoy. Your first reaction will be to grasp this buoy in order not to perish drowned. Why ? For the only reason that you believe that the buoy can maintain you on the water. Your faith in the buoy makes you act : you grasp it.

Just like the buoy for the one that drowns, Jesus-Christ is the subject of faith for the lost sinner.

Can it be of any use if the shipwrecked person discusses in looking at the buoy ? And wonders : « Is it capable of maintaining me on the water or not ? May I without fear lean on it without sinking into the water ? » Under such circumstances there is no room for reasoning. He trusts and he clings to it.

Faith is the ACT of TRUST. It is trust that grasps the gift of Salvation in Jesus-Christ.

Faith is not God's gift but the possibility to receive Salvation. Salvation is the gift of God (Ephesians 2 :8)

All those who WANT CAN believe and appropriate themselves this salvation.

Do not wait until God gives you the faith to be saved. The capacity of believing is in you. Faith in Christ comes when listening the Word of God. If the Gospel says « BELIEVE », it is because we are able to believe.

« He that BELIEVES on me has everlasting life » (John 6 :47).

« You may know that you have eternal life, and you may BELIEVE on the name of the Son of God » (1 John 5 :13).

Faith in Christ is not only a BELIEF in his coming on earth, an ADHESION through intelligence to the truths he has taught, it is more than that, it is TRUST in his person, a COMMITMENT to follow him, the ACCEPTATION of his lordness over us.

THE REPENTANCE

IT IS MORE THAN A REMORSE

Faith leads us in the right direction.

Repentance is a rupture from all the bad past. It is to recognize our misleading, regret it and not want to rest in it anymore.

There is no true « return to God » without « mea culpa », without repentance.

Some want to preach a wrong gospel, that of unguiltiness in saying : « you are not sinners, you do not need repentance, your habits called immoral are normal ». So they think they can live their life at their fashion in sin, while asserting they believe in Christ.

A faith without repentance does not lead to salvation but to a semblance of piety.

Jesus has taught us how to come back to God, through the story of the prodigal son.

After the young man has spent all his money living in debauchery, a famine came in the country where he had gone to « live his life ». Forced to watch over pigs – that was humiliating for him, a Jew – he realized all his misery. Conscious of his guiltiness, he thought and said to himself : « How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger ! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you. And I am no more worthy to be called your son: make me as one of your hired servants. » He got up and went to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him... and he said : « My son was dead, and is alive again; and was LOST, and is found. » (Luke 15 :11-32)

There is a difference between remorse and repentance :

Remorse is a suffering caused by a fault which degrades us. It is a feeling of decay we turn red of, a regret that makes unhappy and sad those who are consumed by the remembrance of the made fault.

While **repentance** is both regret of a fault and resolution of not making this fault anymore. It is giving up the sin for which we ask for forgiveness to God and commitment to live a life of victory over sin. Trusting in the help of Christ, the believer can produce fruits « worthy of repentance ».

This repentance leads to salvation. (2 Corinthians 7 :10)

As soon as we turn our back from sin to turn to Christ, we begin a fantastic experience. All our life is changed.

Our come back to God, called **conversion**, introduces ourselves in a new life, full of joy and hope.

THE CONVERSION

A CHANGE OF ROAD

One day, while visiting Gypsies parked near a village, I got lost in a no-way road. I spoke to a friendly inhabitant :

- « Do you know where the Gypsies are parked with their caravans ? »
- « You have gone too far ! You must do a U-turn, he said to me, and take the path on your right. You will see them, they are just by the bridge. »

I believed in his words. After having followed his indications, I found the caravans.

Evenly, the trust in Jesus-Christ's words must produce in us a change, a U-turn, an abandonment of the wrong path to follow the right one, this is called « conversion ».

In one of his messages, Peter the apostle said :

« Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. » (Acts 3 :19)

the word « to convert » is not the passing from a religion to another one. This word means « to come back to God ». (Isaiah 55 :7)

« To convert », is to turn the back from the wrong way which leads to loss and take the right, narrow path, which leads to the eternal life (Matthew 7 :13-14). It is to go to God through Jesus, **THE ONLY WAY**, in repenting from our faults (John 14 :6).

A DECISION TO MAKE « TODAY »

The salvation of the soul is a miraculous work of God, a blessed experience at your hand from **TODAY** on.

From the very moment you respond to the love cry of Christ : « Come unto me, all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest » (Matthew 11 :28), the salvation of your soul becomes a living reality in you.

The Gospel tells that one day a man called Zacchaeus made the decision to go to Jesus. He was small and he climbed on a tree for the crowd around Jesus prevented him from seeing him. When he arrived by the tree, Jesus saw him perched on a branch and said to him : « Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for TODAY I must abide at thy house. » Zacchaeus was happy to welcome Jesus in his home and he told Jesus about his resolution to repair his faults and to live a better life. Seeing his repentance and his faith, Jesus said to him : « THIS DAY is SALVATION come to this house. » (Luke 19 :1-10)

Yes, « **today**, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. » (Hebrews 4 :7)

God calls each repenting person to come to Him with confidence. He calls you personally.

« God loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. » (1 John 4 :10) « Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God ! and WE ARE SO. » (1 John 3 :1). We are so TODAY, from the moment we receive Christ in our heart.

THE REDEMPTION

A CHANGE OF MASTER

The word « redemption » means « buy back a prisoner ».

A story says that during the slavery period in America a black man was put for sale by « his owner », in a public square of a village. A rich man showed up. He was in favor of the abolition of slavery. He put the highest price and bought the black slave. Instead of treating him as a slave, he said to him :

- « It is not you I have bought, but your freedom. Now you are a free man. You can go where you want to ».

Touched by the generosity of his liberator, this ancient slave threw himself to his feet and said to him :

- « Master, I have nowhere to go. I wish to be your servant. Will you accept me ? »

Formerly, to make free a prisoner, there was a price to pay. The Bible says that all men are sinners, slave of the power of sin. It says also that « Jesus died for us, while we were slaves. » (Romans 5 :8). That means that the paid price to liberate us was through the death of Jesus-Christ on the Cross.

« You are bought with a HIGH PRICE. » (1 Corinthians 6 :20). « You were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. » (1 Peter 1 :18-19).

A slave could not buy himself back. Somebody had to intervene in his favor. Evenly, we cannot liberate ourselves from the power of sin that holds us captive. Christ has come and he gave his life as ransom as the price of our buy back !

« God has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. In whom WE HAVE REDEMPTION through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. » (Colossians 1 :12-14)

He/she who believes in the sacrifice of Christ at the Calvary is FREE and can say : « I HAVE REDEMPTION, I AM BOUGHT BACK BY JESUS ».

To the Jews who claimed not to be slave of anybody, Jesus made this comment : « Whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin...If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be FREE indeed.. » (John 8 :33-36)

Bought back, the sinner surrenders himself WILLINGLY and joyfully to Jesus his libeator. This change of Master changes his whole life in a happy manner.

The love of God is THE SOURCE of Redemption.

The death of Christ is its ACCOMPLISHMENT.

We who believe, we are the beneficiaries of it.

WE ARE BOUGHT BACK PEOPLE !

« Being justified freely by his grace through the REDEMPTION that is in Christ Jesus. » (Romans 3 :22-24)

THE REMISSION OF SINS

THE FORGIVENESS OF ALL OUR OFFENCES

The Salvation is the experience of a new life that begins by the forgetting of the past, i.e. the forgiveness of sins that the Bible calls the remission of sins « **In Christ WE HAVE REDEMPTION through his blood.** » (Ephesians 1 :7 and Colossians 1 :14) .

The word « remission » is equivalent to the word « forgiveness ». Formerly, there was a letter of remission which was a letter of grace granted by the king in favor of a condemned person sent to judges. Today, we possess the letter of remission of the King of the kings, Jesus himself.

The day before his death, the Lord Jesus gathered his apostles for the last meal. When he serves the wine, he said to them : « Drink all of it ; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins » (Matthew 26 :28)

The apostles having received from Jesus the mission to put back sins (John 20 :23), went and preached everywhere the Good News of Salvation.

But how did they do to put back sins ?

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read the way the Lord's disciples proceeded at the beginning of the church. At Pentecost, Peter announced to the crowd the repentance for the forgiveness of sins and, that day, 3000 souls accepted the Gospel. So they had their sins put back, i.e. forgiven.

Later, Philip the evangelist announces Jesus to an Ethiopian who was returning to his country after having gone to adore God in Jerusalem. He shows him simply the redeeming work of Christ for the sin put back.

The apostle Paul announced the same message. When the prison jailer of the town Philippe in Greece asks him this question : « What must I do to be saved ? » Paul did not say to him : « Confess your sins to me, I will give you the absolution and your sins will be put back... » He said to him simply : « Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved. » (Acts 16 :30-31). That night, the jailer had his sins put back, he was saved, forgiven.

Those who believe in the good News of the Gospel have all their sins put back :

« God has quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. » (Colossians 2 :13)

ALL OUR OFFENCES, without exception, are put back, i.e. cancelled, the soiled pages of our past life have become white, a new life in Christ has now begun.

« **I cancel** your transgressions as a cloud, and your sins as a cloud ; come back to me, **for I have bought you back.** »

THE ATTITUDE OF GOD TOWARD THOSE WHO BELIEVE

This word « righteousness » is difficult to understand for it does not belong to the common language. « All those who believe are freely justified. » (Romans 3 :22)

According to the Bible, to be righteous is both being forgiven from our sins and considered by God as if we had never sinned. This new situation is the result of faith and make us righteous people, while in fact we are not since we have sinned. God sees us so because we just have faith in the work of Jesus-Christ his son. Yes, « a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. » (Romans 3 :28).

As a righteousness example, we can use that of the apostle Paul. He said : « I am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God » and, despite that, he adds « By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain ». So God has not taken into account his past. He has settled him as apostle as if he had never committed any fault, in other words God has justified him.(1 Corinthians 15 :9-11).

« Being justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus-Christ » (Romans 5 :11)
What a grace to know that God does not treat us according to our sins. We are reconciled with him for ever. He treats us as His children and he does not reproach us our past faults. He has discarded them from HIM for ever because of the sacrifice of Jesus. It is a life entirely new.

THE NEW BIRTH THE ENTRANCE IN THE SPIRITUAL WORLD

The new life in Christ, it is the entrance in the spiritual life. It is to be born in a spiritual world and have access to fellowship with God. Jesus has talked of this experience to a pharisean called Nicodeme to whom he said : « Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. » (John 3 :1-3).

To be born means : « to get into life or to come to the world ». The new birth Jesus talks about concerns the soul, not the body. The apostle John mentions this spiritual birth in his gospel : « As many as received him, to them **gave he power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name, which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God !** » (John 1 :12-13).

This confirms once more that the salvation is God's work and that we are not made christian at birth. We may be born from catholic, protestant, anglican, orthodox parents, without being christian as a result.
It is only through faith in the Name of Jesus that we get born again, i.e. we become children of God. God is the creator of this new and spiritual life.

TO BE A NEW CREATURE

« Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. » (2 Corinthians 5 :17). When we are saved, the bad things of our life are not only past, but they disappear to make room to another way of life, better. From then, we act and think differently.

« What is something is to be a new creature » (Galatians 6 :15). The Bible says : « For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them. » (Ephesians 2 :10).

We are not saved through good works, but for good works. Works do not save us, as good as they can be ! It is God who saves by grace through faith in Jesus-Christ. The good works we do after having received the Salvation of God demonstrate that we are really saved, born again. On the contrary, if we go on **practising** bad works, we prove in doing so that we are not yet a new creature.

Being saved means having become a child of God and bear fruit that witness we are really a disciple of Jesus-Christ. Having become « a new creature », through the new spiritual birth, it is a grace to serve Jesus-Christ here on earth.

But we are not only saved for the time being. The Salvation is an eternal salvation, without end. In the beyond, there will be an extension of the salvation received here on earth.

THE ARRIVAL IN HEAVEN

THE LAST STEP OF THE SALVATION

« If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. » (1 Corinthians 15 :19-20)

Our hope goes beyond the earth onto the other life in Heaven.

This hope reserved in heaven (Colossians 1 :5) is for all who have become children of God through faith in Jesus.

The vision of the christian goes toward the dwellings of God the Father whose Jesus has spoken of to his disciples before he left earth :

« In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. » (John 14 :2-4)

To introduce us in this heavenly country, when he comes back – for he will come back soon – Jesus-Christ will change our corruptible body into a uncorruptible one like his glorious body.

« OUR CONVERSATION IS IN HEAVEN; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body. » (Philippians 3 :20-21 and 1 Corinthians 15 :53)

And if we leave the earth before his come back, the Bible says that our soul will immediately go « near the Lord » (2 Corinthians 5 :8).

In heaven, we will see the face of our Saviour and we will reign with him in the centuries in the infinite universe. (Revelation 22 :1-5).

The first experience of the Salvation of the soul is the entrance in the spiritual life ; the second one is the entrance in the heavenly life with Christ.

Then we will be ALWAYS WITH HIM, in his visible presence.

(1 Thessalonians 4 :17)

« Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be ; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. » 1 John 3 :2

NO MORE CONDEMNATION, REWARDS

IN THE BEYOND , THERE WILL BE NO MORE CONDEMNATION FOR HE/SHE WHO BELIEVES.

He/she who is saved through faith in Jesus has not to fear any punishment for :
THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus. » (Romans 8 :1)

Nevertheless, it is written that « we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. » (2 Corinthians 5 :10).
Don't worry, it will not be to hear a sentence of condemnation since Christ has been condemned in our place and he has taken on him our punishment (Isaiah 53 :5).

This « judgment » of the children of God will simply be the granting of the « rewards » for the works we will have accomplished at the service of Christ since our conversion.

« If any man's work abide which he has built thereupon, HE SHALL RECEIVE A REWARD. If any man's work shall be burned, HE SHALL SUFFER LOSS; but HE HIMSELF SHALL BE SAVED; yet so as by fire. » (1 Corinthians 3 :14-15).

We are saved BY GRACE, and we will be rewarded according to our works, according to our work at the service of Christ.

« Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that WE RECEIVE A FULL REWARD. » (2 John 8) and « EVERY MAN SHALL RECEIVE HIS OWN REWARD according to his own labour. » (1 Corinthians 3 :8).

Our Saviour Jesus-Christ has specified himself that the rewards will be given in Heaven : « Great is your REWARD IN HEAVEN » (Matthew 5 :12, 10 :41-42)

THE CERTAINTY OF SALVATION

IT RESULTS FROM OUR FAITH IN THE « BIBLE TRUTHS »

The traveller lost in the forest at night KNOWS that he is SAVED when he sees afar the light. The drowned person KNOWS that he will not perish when he has grasped the buoy.

Evenly, concerning THE SALVATION OF OUR SOUL, the important thing is not in « FEELING » inside that we are saved, but it is mainly in KNOWING that we are saved.

Base your faith, not on your feelings, but on the written truths of the Word of God.

I have gleaned a few verses of the Bible to help you strengthen your faith and to make it unshakeable :

John 6 :47 « HE THAT BELIEVES ON ME HAS EVERLASTING LIFE » . Jesus does not say « he will have », but « he has ». It is a certainty.

Ephesians 4 :32 « GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE HAS FORGIVEN YOU. » It is not written « God will forgive you », but « God has forgiven you ». It is a thing done. It is certain.

1 John 2 :12 « YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN YOU FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE. » it is an accomplished fact. Your sins ARE forgiven. You do not have to ask for forgiveness anymore. It is an indisputable certainty.

Colossians 2 :13 « GOD HAS QUICKENED TOGETHER WITH HIM, HAVING FORGIVEN YOU ALL TRESPASSES. » It is not written « God will be merciful to you », but « Dieu has forgiven you ». Indeed, he has done it. And for ALL your offences. It is useless to try and remind you in detail all your past faults and ask for forgiveness for each of them as you remember them. God has scrapped your past. In one time, from the moment when you have accepted the Salvation of your soul through faith in Jesus. ALL THE OFFENCES, all the faults, all the sins of your life have been cancelled for ever.

As you have entered a new life with Christ, whatever at human sight the seriousness of our sins, God has mercy. All our past, as dark as it has been, is cancelled.

Since God have had mercy, I do not have to ask him for forgiveness, but to thank him and praise him for his wonderful salvation.

1 John 5 :13 « These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that YOU MAY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. » He/she who believes KNOWS he HAS the eternal life. There is no pride to say « I have the eternal life », to declare what the Bible says. The unbelief and the ignorance keep the soul in the uncertainty. The knowledge of the Word of God and faith in it produce in our heart a solid assurance. This assurance, the Bible invites us not to give it up (Hebrews 10 :35-36) but to keep it until the end : « **We are made partakers** of Christ, **if** we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end. » (Hebrews 3 :14).

1 John 3 :1-2 « Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God ! And WE ARE SO. Beloved, WE ARE NOW CHILDREN OF GOD. » We are. Not tomorrow, but today, NOW. The Salvation of our soul is not a « vague hope », but a DEFINITE CERTAINTY.

If one day, it happens that your heart is doubting of this salvation, read again this verse and others. Register them in your memory. When reading them, these BIBLE TRUTHS will remove the doubt.

Romans 8 :1 « THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS. »

Memorize each word of this Bible verse :

Now... NOW, from the moment you believe in Jesus-Christ as your Saviour... there is NO CONDEMNATION ! What a certainty ! What a bliss to know that ! No more fear. The heart is from NOW in peace. What a wonderful salvation !

This is a GREAT JOY. When Jesus is born, the angel said to the shepherds near Bethlehem : « I bring you GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a SAVIOUR, which is CHRIST the Lord. » (Luke 2 :10)

Yes, be joyful, for YOU ARE SAVED, you who have understood what you have to do to receive the Salvation and what Christ has done to give it to you.

And, now as you believe, please put your name and your first name down in this golden text of the Gospel of John (chapter 3. verse 16) :

GOD HAS SO LOVED.....
that he gave his only begotten Son, that BELIEVES IN HIM should
not perish, but
HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

THE FATAL SLOPE

- « Look at these beautiful eggs ! »
- « O yes ! There are three in this nest and there are two in this other nest there. We will get them. »

It is like that that with my little friend Bernard, we decided to gather these beautiful eggs grey-blue of the sea-gulls which glide without rest along the high cliffs of Normandy.

Nearby, the lighthouse of Antifer is solidly planted to enlight ships at night. My father is one of the lighthouse keeper.

I am about twelve and I venture the first on the grassy slope. I go slowly toward the perched nests on rocks at about 10 meters lower down. Here the cliffs reach about 100 meters high.

Suddenly, the tuft of grass to which I was gripping gave up. The day-before rain had soaked the ground and, with my body weight, the grass went off. Having nothing to hold me, I slip.

With all my strength, I try and plunge my hands into the ground, then grip to stones. The soil crumbles away between my fingers, the stones give up and, my body laid against the cliff slope, I definitely go down to the abyss.

I cry, I shriek, I call « Mummy, mummy ! ». I realize that if I fall, it is death on the down rocks against which the waves break.

At the very moment when I was about to be plunged down, I manage to clasp tightly a stone which resists. But my feet swing in the void. I succeed, I do not know how, to put a knee on a slight and I call my friend with tears and supplications. Risking his life, he draws slowly near me. He grips a rock and holds his hand to me, I grasp it and, as a miracle, I can climb the slope with him.

Under emotion, I cannot say one word, but in my heart what a relief to feel safe on the solid ground.

This episode of my life reminds me very often of the position of our soul attracted by envy of sin and slipping toward its destiny of torments in the beyond.

So, I bless God to have sent Jesus to give us a hand and give his life on the cross to pull us out of our state of loss. Without him, it is death, definite separation from God.

Let him save you, tell him :

Lord, come to my rescue. As I am, with my misery, I come to you in order for you to save me. I love you, for I know you have loved me first. I believe in you and I commit myself to serve you for ever.

THREE USEFUL ADVICES

Having accepted Jesus as Saviour, you have become **CHRISTIAN** through faith in Him. The word Christian, the origin of which dated from the time of the church of Antioch (Acts 11 :26), means simply « **DISCIPLE OF CHRIST** ». You understand that each disciple must love his Master and please him in obeying him.

Therefore, considering that your growth in spiritual life depends on yourself, here are a few useful advices. They will help you possess a joyful christian life and be a source of blessings for your neighbourhood :

1 . LISTEN GOD SPEAK TO YOU. STUDY HIS WORD

Read first the NEW TESTAMENT. Dedicate each day about 15 minutes to let God speak to you through his Word. Jesus said that : « Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God » (Matthew 4 :4).

The Word of God is food for the soul, and a new-born desires « the sincere milk of the word » (1 Peter 2 :2).

2 . PRAY A LOT. TALK TO GOD.

To pray is to talk to God. Present to God all your difficulties. Speak to him about your joys and your griefs. Talk to God in your current daily language : « Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. » (Philippians 4 :6).

**3 . SPEAK OF GOD AROUND YOU.
GAIN SOULS FOR JESUS.**

For spiritual growth, it is not enough to get food, we must also work for Christ. The work Jesus asks us is to WITNESS around us to make known its wonderful salvation and so gain souls for him (Mark 16 :15 and Romans 10 :9).

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Bible truths

In our confused world where numerous doctrines show up based on opinions or men traditions, it is more than ever useful to go back to the BIBLE teaching.

The author wanted to realize a series of booklets introducing on a simple and concise way the BIBLE TRUTHS essential to the christian faith.

The reader is invited to follow the example of the christians from Beree of which it is said in the Acts that they examined every day the SCRIPTURES to know if what was said to them was accurate. Acts 17 :11

Be this biblical presentation of which the evangelist Douglas SCOTT said it was the most comprehensive he has ever read the subject of your attention.

Beyond the visible world, there is an invisible spiritual world and your soul is a reality in your body that expresses joys and griefs.

Be the reading of this BIBLE TRUTH a means for you to discover THE JOY of Salvation, the peace of heart

If you desire to join a church or a community whose members have already experimented this wonderful Salvation of soul, write to :