



Theophilus' Quest: Discovery Stage Five

Our fourth stage of discovery with Theo looked at the predicament we are in because of our rebellion against God and why we need rescuing. On this fifth stage of discovery, Theo will investigate how and why Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave is the greatest news in the world for us!

The quest continues . . .

Thank you God ... we needed some good news!





Our dilemma

We can do nothing to undo or make amends for our rebellion against God. Our sin created a gap between us and God that no amount of sincere effort on our part could bridge. We are totally dependent on God if we are to be reconciled to Him and made whole again.



God's dilemma

There are two aspects to God's character we need to understand:

1. God is loving, merciful and compassionate.
2. God is also righteous and just.

God's character presents Him with a dilemma when it comes to dealing with our sin:

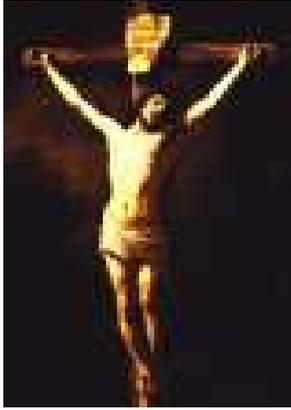
Justice alone would bring judgement against us, resulting in the death penalty (separation from God, what the Bible calls "Hell"). *But God's love and mercy seek another solution.*

Mercy alone would want to overlook our guilt. *But turning a blind eye to our sin is not an option for God because justice and righteousness demand that the penalty be paid.*

God's costly choice ...

If God is to rescue us, there is only one way ... **Both mercy and justice are brought together and satisfied on the cross.** In the person of Jesus, God became a human to suffer and offer up His own life in our place (God's love and mercy to our rescue!) In dying on the cross for us, Jesus paid our penalty in full (so justice and righteousness are upheld!) Because, *and only because*, of what Jesus has done for us on the cross, God can now declare us *not guilty* and reconcile us to Himself if we choose to accept His offer of forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ, God's Son. **That's grace, God's gift to us all!**

Don't have troubled hearts ... in my Father's house are many rooms ... I go to prepare a place for you ... I am the way, the truth, and the life ... no one comes to the Father except through me ... (John 14:1-7)



God's costly choice

For God so loved the world that He gave His Son (John 3:16)



Justice + Mercy = THE CROSS (God's grace and love towards you and me)

Jesus' death, burial and resurrection from the grave are our assurance that God is not only **willing** but that He is also **able** to deliver on His promises.

God sent His Son, Jesus, not only to suffer and die for us, but also to be raised to glory and to return to His Father in Heaven. Jesus has opened up the way to Heaven for us and He calls for us to follow Him, now and into eternity, on the road back to our Father – and home.

**The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
That is the heart of God's gospel.
That is God's *very good news* for everyone!**

Would you care to think about and describe your **SPIRITUAL** life-journey so far? I wonder where you would place yourself on life's **SPIRITUAL** road at this point in time? Where to next?

My life's spiritual journey so far ...

