

# RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

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Questions

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Grace and Sanity Ministries, February 2007

How much grief could we avoid if we knew everything? How can we know when we are ignorant? I am sure glad Christ has paid for my sins. His covering reaches entirely into the most wicked parts of me.

Places we don't even know about, he has covered. How could it be otherwise? We don't know who we are. We cannot confess all our sins because we don't know them all, our wickedness is beyond our comprehension. But couldn't good works offset some of that? No, that's not possible. If we really knew the extent of our sins, it would be obvious we could not make things up. We cannot make things right. For the most part, people are by far unaware of their own malice, vengeful feelings, and cheating hearts. Only the Bible, because it is the word of God who knows us intimately because he made us, only the Bible, I say, can describe accurately who we humans are. How can we live next to him, have eternal life, be alive for evermore? The very fact that he is Holy, Pure and undefiled makes it impossible for us. The undefiled would become defiled if it were ever to come in contact with the defiled.

Everybody dies. Old people die, young people die. One generation after another, we all die. A long parade of history passing by the window. The parade appears on one side of the window and disappears on the other. We are born, grow up, work for vanities, vex our spirits, struggle for nothing and then die. And after that, what? A short life full of trouble and death, and that's the human being? You retire at 65 and your energy is almost gone by then. The vigor of youth you still have in your mind does not translate to your body. You'd rather take a nap than take a walk. It is easy to become embittered when you finally are in a position to relax and don't have enough energy to enjoy it. Death gets closer and closer, we are the generation on deck for demise and our memory will soon be gone.

Aaah, the mercies of God! The unsearchable mercies of God! The promise we have from him is eternal life. Is it possible for us to jump up and grab a hold of his coat? Can we force him to forgive us? Can we force him to take us in? No, no, no, no, no, we cannot get near. His very holiness demands that he would have to destroy us before we can even get started.

The world is blind to this. The search for Holiness exists in every religion. The awareness of the vast gulf fixed between us and God exists in every human being. The Buddhist looks to the Eight-Fold Path of Righteousness. That's not too far from the impossibility God gave to Moses. Right occupation, right thinking?

What are these? Right thinking? How can I be not wicked?

I've done all the meditations. They don't work. Why is the Dalai Lama occupying himself with the injustice going on in Tibet? Why does a Buddhist concern himself with the suffering in the world? Check it out, according to Buddhist doctrine the cause of all suffering is desire. To eliminate suffering you eliminate desire. There's nothing to it. Of course, if you desire to eliminate suffering, you're in fast moving waters without a paddle. You cannot desire to eliminate suffering if desire is the cause of suffering. Elimination of suffering is defeated by the desire to eliminate suffering, if desire is the cause of suffering. All this mumbo-jumbo never ends, it puts you nowhere and makes you crazy. If you can see this other guru, he has the answer. He will tell you what you can actually *do* to obtain peace. There is a practical thing, a certain ritual, a certain kind of prayer, a certain kind of meditation that will get you on the right path. When you go in and pay your money and come up empty, you will hear of yet another somebody, somewhere else, another person who has the answers, someone who will straighten you out and put you in the way to peace. Because that is what everybody wants. Peace. No more strife. No more struggle to live. Let me do what I want. Let me be creative, let me do something over which I have total control.

It's a lovely concept. Peace that guarantees I will not go to Hell after I die. Who doesn't want that? Even an idiot like me can appreciate that.

Can we ever approach the love of God? The depth of his love? We have to consider we are talking about love toward ungrateful children. Love in spite of being despised. Would we be able to love when that love is despised? To be despised is to be shunned, to be pushed away, to be the subject of scorn. Could we love anyone like God loves us? I know about Eros, Phileo, and Agape. If I have to get to Agape in order to be saved, I can tell you right now, I would not make it at all. It wouldn't be even close. I am rotten to the core. This admission is no more than what God says about me. I agree with him 1000 percent. My heart is desperately wicked, who can know it? All the thoughts of my heart were evil from my youth. The love of God surpasses understanding. There is absolutely no reason to save me, or someone like me. Why go through the trouble? Let him go to Hell, that's what he deserves. By all rights, without any fabrication of evidence, there is no question that's what he deserves. I've made up my mind about all this. I don't want to go to Hell. Hell is a place of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. I'm all for avoidance of pain. We all know something dreadful is waiting. Is it true? Is it true that there is something dreadful waiting? What if there is? Can I take a chance? Well, some people say it is all superstition. Man has to find some meaning to his life so he invented God. Yeah sure. Maybe. Maybe there is no God. How dismal would that be? How dismal is it to be born and have to die?

Anything outside the Bible is dismal. Only the God of the Bible gives us something for nothing.