

Three ways to view work



On one occasion a person stopped in front of the construction site of a new hospital to observe the progress of the building. Among the workers he noticed that between three of them their jobs ranged from the simple task of lifting stones to skilled masons who built the hospital walls. He asked each of them the same question:

"What are you doing?"

"Loading stones," was the first man's response.

"Earning my salary," said the second.

"Helping to build a hospital," answered the third.

Their answers represent important differences among their attitudes about the job, and mostly about themselves.

"Loading stones." The first worker sees his work as just a low-paying menial labor job. He feels trapped because he isn't learning more useful trade skills.

"Earning my salary." This worker endures the rigors of carrying stones only for the wages he will receive. He doesn't even look up from his pile of stones to see the magnificent structure rising above him.

"Helping to build a hospital." This worker's response glows with inspiration and purpose. Seeing the higher purpose, it is a privilege to work and do it well. The work, in addition to being a means of making a living, can provide great satisfaction.

The latter represents the Christian concept of a life of eternal fulfillment and joy. Jesus said: *"I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly"* John 10:10. Every person has a mission in life, but while he has an attitude of discontent, he lives in conflict with himself and with others. A satisfied life begins when we turn to Jesus Christ, acknowledge our faults, and accept the forgiveness He offers us. You can start enjoying that life right now!

Is there any other solution?

Is there any way to correct the evils and avoid the tragedies that affect the world's inhabitants?

Is it possible to educate men to live together in peace and happiness? Could psychologists discover a way to correct personality problems, or chemists invent a drug that can improve the character of mortals?

Many Christians consider individual, personal improvement to be more possible than complete global harmony. Most of the world's problems stem from the evil that resides in the heart of every person, known as sin. Because He loves all people, Christ died on the cross to pay for, and therefore remove, the sins of all who accept Him as their Savior.

But, is there no other way to correct the evils of the world? Some less drastic means other than a sacrifice and death on a cross? Could there not be another way that is less costly and cruel?

God's response is clearly, "No." And



Jesus willingly accepted the crucifixion, paying the penalty that was ours to pay.

The price has been paid, but people, even with their advanced knowledge, keep asking themselves: Could there be a more civilized and less offensive solution? To reach God, is it necessary to accept Christ and His sacrifice? Would not our new political techniques and psychology be enough? Are the new policies adequate to put an end to crime?

When we listen and see how humanity is currently, we are forced to ask if the cross is, after all, the only solution. The Gospels have made it very clear that there is no other way.

"For even the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many".
(Mark 10:45)

What is your main personal problem? Worry and fear? Slavery to some vice? A home undone by selfishness and loss of confidence? After having tested all the theories, you must also recognize that the cross of Jesus is the only solution for you.

Seeing things as they are

Two witnesses saw the same accident from the same spot, but described it differently in court. Both had the same visual capacity and both were equally sincere. They just did not see reality in the same way.

However sincere we may be when we read, see or hear something, what we understand depends in large part on our emotional need, or what we want to believe.

A striking example from the Bible comes to mind. When Jesus' disciples saw the empty tomb on that Easter morning, they remembered Jesus' words that He would rise from the dead. Therefore, they believed that He was alive. The enemies of Jesus saw the same empty tomb, but would not accept the fact that Jesus came back to life. So they accused the disciples of stealing His body from the tomb.

These days people react in different ways to the facts about the resurrection of Jesus. Many believe it and put their faith in Him for salvation and enjoy a whole new life in that faith. Others draw contradictory conclusions and miss out on the offer of forgiveness and eternal life.

If it is true that we all see the facts our own way, is everything relative? Or is there a way for all to know the truth about life?



When you and I look at our personal needs, we may be mistaken as to what they are and reject certain basic truths of the Christian faith. But when we realize that our greatest need is to have our sins removed, the empty cross and tomb represent the most logical and accurate solution. □

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Why some don't believe in God



Two friends, one an atheist and the other a Christian, walked together through a run-down area of a city. As they observed the neglected conditions around them, the atheist, who was a barber, challenged his friend. He asked, "How can you say 'God is good', when He allows such impoverished misery and violence among these people? Why doesn't God save them from all this?"

At that moment, a disheveled, homeless man crossed the street in front of them. He was unshaven and had a long, tangled mass of hair. The Christian pointed him out to his friend and said, "You are a good barber, but why do you allow that man to walk like that without shaving and without cutting his hair?"

The barber looked at him surprised by the question and began to answer stuttering, "B-b-but, he never gave me the opportunity..." "Indeed," commented his friend. "God is willing to help anyone, but men are the way they are because they do not want to approach Him." Jesus once said to His hearers, "*You are unwilling to come to me so that you may have life.*" (John 5:40). □