

GOSPEL 'shorts'

Danger



The following are in no particular order.

DANGER

1. Tomorrow is promised to no one.
2. Everyday graves are filling up with generations that go off to judgement, and at the same time houses are filling with new generations growing up. The dead were once as you are, what they made of the message of the gospel is what counts now.
3. In A.D. 79 a large volcanic eruption destroyed the city of Pompeii. Large clouds of searingly hot ash, called piroclastic flows, hit the streets and houses killing the inhabitants of the city instantly. The remains of those people's bodies have since been found, preserved as carbon 'statues', clutching gold and precious objects as if these things could save them. Or maybe they were completely unable to let them go and irrationally thought they could survive and have all that they loved and lived for. In any case it graphically shows how people can cling to the things of this present and passing world, which ultimately serve no purpose, and lose their lives. Were they much different from the ancient Egyptians who believed that they could take their material possessions into the afterlife to help them? Man is greedy for material gain and yet foolish and unprepared for the great judgements that can, and will, come upon them.
4. Man is like a moth (a very lowly creature, frail and temporary) which is attracted to the light of a candle but stays away from daylight. When it comes too close to the flame it burns up. This is the danger when we are attracted to the bright, man made, lights of this fallen world and not to the true light of the Son.
5. Our days are numbered indeed. All of us are in jeopardy everyday and every hour; we are reminded of the frailty of human life when we see sickness or human tragedy. Our hearts beat out a march toward death, and the last step may be our next! If at that time we are unconverted, because of our stubborn will from within our fallen nature, then we should have to endure the wrath of God for ever in that dark realm where not a single ray of hope or one cooling drop of consolation will mitigate the miseries of any child of wrath who hears the dread sentence, "***And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.***" **Matthew 7.23.** We cannot bear even to think of the doom of those who have died impenitent.
6. If I gave you this deal, would you take it? I will give you a nice looking house, with a slightly

leaky roof, for free for 20yrs. But after that you have to spend 50yrs in prison. Good deal? Well, the deal you get if you follow this world's ways and its prince Satan is far worse, but many people take it. In effect he says, "Take money, possessions, fame, take your ease, and do as you please, no rules, all you life is yours to do as you will". What he doesn't tell you is that this won't even secure happiness in this life (it's like the leaky roof) and it certainly ruins you for all eternity (far worse than any prison sentence.)

7. Being dazzled by the lights of this world (all its distractions, amusements and allurements) away from true spiritual things, and ultimately God, is like a rabbit transfixed and dazzled by a vehicle's head lights, soon to be run over and die.

8. This is a story from 'D' Day, 2nd World War. A man in a French hospital tried to prevent it from being bombed in a great raid. So he laid out some bloody sheets into the form of a cross in the courtyard, which was visible from above, in order to show the pilots it was a hospital. In the subsequent bombing raid, only this building and the cathedral were left standing. This is like Christ's death on the cross, and its protection for all those to which 'the blow was due'.

It is also akin to the Jewish Passover which itself pointed forward to the protection of Christ's work.

9. Beelzebub- King of flies- Lord of the dung heap- Flies are stealthy, quick, sneaky, unclean, lovers of filth, feeders of rotting flesh. Like Satan. Do not underestimate your enemy who can rule a soul.

10. The pride of man is his ruin. It is like a mad man on board a ship in a storm. He is causing trouble so the sailors lock him in a room below deck. But the man hasn't been properly restrained and starts hacking a hole in the bottom of the ship. The sailors try to steer the ship through the storm, but it sinks and all are lost.

The ship is us, the storm is life, and the mad man is pride stopping us from coming to the LORD for forgiveness in humility.

11. This present world, and the life we live within it, is like a condemned ship ready to be exploded having the red 'live' flags upon it. The foolish man does not heed these warnings, instead finds small satisfaction in exploring the rusted old vessel instead of bailing out, and so he subsequently loses his life when the ship explodes.

12. In a violent land a boy is stabbed and is bleeding slowly to death. He had lived by the sword and was likely to die by it. Those who stabbed him stand guard waiting for him to bleed to death. It seems hopeless, but if a physician finds him, and causes all around him to flee, he may be saved.

This is the state of the unconverted. Pierced by their own sins. That devil Satan stands guard, making the situation worse. Salvation must come in the form of that Great Physician of souls. He is what we need, and if we lay hold of Him there is not the possibility or the probability but the definite

assurance of God's own word that we shall be saved.

13. The gospel is like a man trapped in an underground train tunnel. A train is coming and the only way his life is to be saved is to stand in the manhole provided in the walls while the train goes past.

Upon its side the train bears its name 'Execution in Judgement'.

14. A simple truth; As life goes on the believers hopes come upon them, but for the non-believer, their fears come upon them.

15. A man is standing on a platform addressing a crowd. A chair is set behind him, but as he speaks he is unaware that he is edging the chair backwards with his own legs. One of the chair's feet moves over the edge of the platform. When the man sits down he will fall backwards to his great harm! However, a man seated in the front row sees this and, just before the speaker sits down, stops him, shows him the danger, moves the chair forward and sits the man down. This is salvation.

16. Every 2 seconds 3 people pass from this life into eternity by dying. Our souls are eternal but there are only two destinations, where we reside depends upon whether our names are written in the Lamb's book of life. The Lamb is He who takes away the sin of the world. Out of every nation Christ Jesus has His people- will you be one of them?

17. Knowing the message of the Gospel and doing nothing about it, is like a family who are all in a small rowing boat and are rowing down a river. They are all blindfolded apart from the daughter whose blindfold has been partially removed so she can see. She sees that they are heading for a large waterfall, but instead of changing course and warning her family she puts her blindfold back on, continues rowing and says nothing, fearing that if she raises the alarm this may cause trouble for her and rock the boat. So she tries to put the thought out of her head. What a foolish decision!

18. From 'The Holy War' by John Bunyan: Captain Judgment, whose banner was red and whose emblem was the burning fiery furnace, came forward and said: "O inhabitants of Mansoul, you have lived long enough in rebellion against King Shaddai. We have not come with our own message or to take revenge for ourselves. It is the King, my master, who has sent us to enforce your obedience to him. If you refuse in a peaceful way to yield, we have been commissioned to compel you to submit. Do not allow the tyrant Diabolus to persuade you to think that our King is not able to bring you down and lay you under his feet. He is the Maker of all things, and if he touches the mountains, they smoke. But the door of the King's clemency will not always stand open, for the day of judgment is coming and will not be hindered.

"O Mansoul! Is it a small thing in your eyes that our King offers you mercy after all your provocations? Yes, he still holds out his golden sceptre to you and will not allow his door to be shut against you. Will you provoke him to do it? If you say you will not submit, then judgment will come. Therefore, trust in him. Because of his wrath, beware lest he remove you with a stroke of his hand. Then not even a great ransom could deliver you. Will he value your riches? No, not your gold or all your forces of strength. He has prepared his throne for judgement, for he will come with his chariots like a whirlwind to render his anger with fury and his rebuke with flames of fire. Therefore, O Mansoul, take heed lest his justice and judgment should take hold of you."

19. ***"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting"*** Galatians 6:7-8

20. Men and women are like beasts of a field trapped as the harvest is gathered in. The combine harvester progresses around the edges of the field getting ever closer to the centre. There is no escape until the crop is completely cut and the poor creatures are cut down or bolt for freedom only to be shot by the farmer. This desperate position is man's and just as hopeless, and our times are spent like a scurrying animal trusting in its own abilities for escape or unaware that the situation is so bad. But unlike the beasts, the soul of man has hope, for there is a Saviour, His name is Christ the Lord and like the landowner we must run straight to Him and presume upon His mercy for our souls rather than running away. If we come sincerely and humbly the Almighty finger of God will be loosened from the trigger of the shotgun of His wrath and Justice.

21. Being lured into sin by the tempter and enemy of men and women's souls is as a fly caught in a spider's web. The more the wretched creature struggles the more stuck it becomes. We are such creatures in our sin and our lives are such without the freedom that Christ brings as our Saviour. Our growth in sin makes our bonds ever stronger and there is no way we can free ourselves. Outside help is our only hope, and there is only One who is equal to the task. His name is the Lord Jesus Christ and if you are to be free you will seek His rescue.

22. I hear the response to my attempted persuasions and it says-'But not many think as you do, it is as if the whole world goes against you!', my response is thus, 'It has always been this way, and ***the Book*** says so, the question is, is it better to go to heaven with a few than to hell in a crowd!'

23. The snare of pleasure seeking: To be engaging in legitimate leisure in moderation is not the

subject of my warning, but to engage in wanton lasciviousness is giving yourself up to, and allowing yourself to be controlled by, base desires which are greed driven. "Please yourself" is a term of semi-derision, and it's not hard to see why. This is a selfish pursuit, whipping up sensuality, feelings, emotions, and lusts by the means of all sorts of 'vehicles' used for the purpose. The misuse of things like music, dancing, sexual relations, substances like drugs or even simply food or drink and not forgetting the covetous accumulation of money possessions and power etc. Pleasure seekers are ruled by their feelings, and rely on these 'vehicles' to regulate their mood, and then depending on them, finding themselves unable to do without, held to ransom by what they ran after, locked into the vehicle which will no longer take them where they want to go. These things are poor medicine and will get weaker the more they are over indulged. This amounts to an over emphasis on imagination and the fleshly affections of the heart, giving an unbalanced thought life and leading to a 'see-saw' of feelings and swinging moods from extremes of high and low. By bombarding the senses with worldliness, you are misusing them and re-setting them. The world will seem dull, as if you had just shone a bright light into you eyes and then the natural colours of things had bleached out for a while. The person who does this is seeking his/her satisfaction and happiness in all the low things of this physical world and it cannot ultimately satisfy the soul. Pleasure seeking is dangerously deceitful. It seems to promise much happiness but it doesn't achieve its aim, only short-term pleasure, long-term pain. Purpose to be a pleasure seeker, and you have opened the door to temptation and sin, and are inflaming the desires that rule you. It is a fire, and hedonism feeds and fans it into a blaze you will find impossible to control.

Proverbs 6.27 'Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?' 2

Timothy 3.1 'This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.'

24. Often, medically speaking, a person may be in such a deadly situation, because of accident or illness, that if they were to fall asleep or slip into unconsciousness, they would most probably die. The medic must work hard to keep his/her patient awake.

This can be the same spiritually for the sinner who has been made aware of their condition and been somewhat awakened to it. However, man in his natural fallen state is prone to sleep spiritually. If that person drifts again into a state of spiritual lethargy or sleep then it may be the death of them in terms of their soul.

25. The heart should be viewed with great care. It has depths like a deep pool and settled at the bottom are base sins, vile affections, lusts and all the dark desires which, if stirred, will muddy the waters and rise upwards. From the overflow of his heart the thoughts, speech and actions of a man come, so stir not these deep waters with worldly amusements, or dull your reason with drink and inflame these passions, that start out as folly and end in wicked madness. Let Christ be a well in you that will spring up into eternal life.

26. Be wise, the pleasures of sin only last for a season. Over time, it's ability to satisfy gets *weaker* while the grip it has on you gets *stronger*. As humans we've all been trapped, but we can have freedom if we would only cry out in prayer to God pleading the merits of Christ the Saviour who has power and authority to forgive and make us new creations. The cry must be from the heart; sincere, humble and true or else it will never be heeded by Him who is your only hope.

27. It seems that we live in a time when almost every week the media report a new link between physical actions, like eating and drinking a certain food or drink or the omission of doing so, to a certain danger bodily.

However the same concern seems glaringly absent when we look for care of the moral life of the soul. The real danger and cause of so many of our miseries in this life are our moral actions and

choices and their consequences in relation to God. Our spiritual state is what affects our lives, even our physical condition. The truth according to the Bible is that lack of care and concern when it comes to the soul is so much worse than any physical 'cause and effect'. The sad thing is most people do not recognise this and can be obsessive about physical health but neglectful of their spiritual jeopardy.

28. When in darkness it's easy to lose our way or stumble because we cannot see the road, the landscape or even the terrain beneath our feet. Things scare and terrify, the unknown sound sets our nerves on edge, something may touch you or trip you up. So the tendency is to go with the crowd for security. This is what the unwitting person does who blocks out the truth of scripture. Unsteadily following the majority down the wide road of spiritual ignorance. Insecurely following the world's fads, fashions and false belief systems like puppets controlled by some twisted puppeteer.

Philippians 3.17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

If a person was to wash and dress themselves in the dark they'd look a complete mess. That person wouldn't be able to see how they'd appear. They'd, in effect, be blind to their state. Likewise men and women are blind to their sinfulness, selfishness, unkindness, deceitfulness, pride and unclean thought life in a world that is quick to excuse such things for comfort of conscience. But I wonder, if we all individually had a TV monitor above our heads showing everyone our thoughts all the time, wouldn't we all be ashamed at what would be on display? Surely we know that God sees our thoughts without obstruction, they are plain to His view and He finds them as abhorrent as you would expect. We are storing up for ourselves wrath that's for sure, a consuming fire which will not be quenched by good works or moral effort which is just driven by pride and self righteousness and just adds fuel to the flame. It will not be blocked out or smothered by the blanket of self imposed ignorance which is wilful delusion. Only a free forgiveness from God Himself through the atoning work completed at Calvary must a needy man/woman pin all his hope's on if they are to be saved from this righteous wrath.

29. The hardening of the heart is a weakening thing and is progressive without a change from God. It is like the hardening of the arteries which weaken the physical frame and in the end lead to death.

30. If you have had appeal after appeal from friends and preachers but still refuse to bow the knee and give your life to God through true repentance and faith (even becoming hostile to the appeals). Then this verse is for you that it may bring you to your senses, as it should make anyone with a fear of God tremble at being cut off.

Acts 18

Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.6 But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

31. Anyone who uses computers knows the importance of saving things. One false click and all your work may be lost. How many times have we pressed that little button, hundreds, thousands, how important it is today. Do we ever consider a greater loss? Does that simple word 'save' ever cause us to think of the eternal soul and how it may be lost. The problem with our situation is that we cannot save ourselves, we cannot, as it were, press the button. This can only be done by that 'Great Operator' Jesus Christ. Ask Him, if you value your soul, ask Him like you want Him to do it, ask Him like nothing else matters, ask Him until your throat is sore, your mouth is dry, your mind is

exhausted, but never stop asking, pleading, crying until He says 'yes', and the button will have been pressed. Then every time you click that button again, think of your soul, and be thankful for it's eternal safety.

32. The modern cities built by men's hands are a fitting illustration for us of spiritual truths (being understood from the Bible). They, by nature, are grey, hard and cold places, made from concrete, metal, glass and stone. The natural colour of the countryside is covered over by tarmac, save for the odd park or tree browned by the pollution of men. The colour of the city comes from artificial neon signs and giant screen advertising hoardings, car headlights and office buildings, or our own flats and houses. In nature the light and colours are delicate or vibrant; flowers, coral, shells, grass, trees, sky, sun sets, stars, water. The sounds are not the shouts, car horns and roaring traffic of the city but flowing water, bird song, waves of the sea, or wind in the trees. The beauty in nature is unmatched by the artificial painted surfaces of the city whose glory is slowly peeled away and unmasked by time and decay. The natural world is ever renewed in the cycle of the seasons, but the city runs down and the sweat of men's brow must continue to build it up. Man's attempts are briefly enticing, men and women are drawn to the bright lights of the city, where the buildings obscure the view of any landscape and the lights obscure our view of the sky by day and the moon and stars by night, as if we try to block out the natural revelation that comes from the created world that testifies to Gods presence in His universe.

Our houses are like our souls, set in the city of this fallen world. One of the greatest cities ever built was Rome, but Rome was burnt and finally the empire fell, this world is the same. All it's allurements and pleasures are like the voice of the sirens in Homers famous 'Odyssey'. Odysseus nearly driven mad by their enticing call to their perilous land where the unsuspecting seamen's vessel would flounder. The world's cities are full of danger, crime and vice.

Because of this, we should let the Lord God build our 'houses' in a city not made with hands (2 Cor 5.1) (Heb 3.4), full of jewels, flowing water, emerald, crystal, diamond, gold, sapphire, pearls and the like, whose glory is the Lord's. That heavenly Jerusalem (Rev 23) should be our sure hope and not the vain glory of this world and its false hopes and failing foundations. Build your house on the rock that is Christ the Lord and His great Gospel of salvation dear reader, and you will not know the disappointment that comes from a lonely city full of bright lights and impressive facades, but empty of real life and lasting satisfaction. A city full of enticement into ten thousand sins. Lusts of the eyes which kill the soul, and fill a man's burden to overflowing until he can carry it no more and must collapse under its weight, and he/she is found by God on that great day of reckoning under a load of sin which had never been taken away by the one who calls *you now* to relieve you of the load. The one who bears all burdens away. He is the Christ of God and he is able and worthy and you are not. Give your life to him my friend, if you see the truth of my illustration, and live in peace and safety, as it were, to dwell in a new country, then your home is in heaven.

33. Quicksand is a fitting illustration for the hopeless state of man in this world and his separation from God. As life goes on he sinks ever more deeply in his life of sin. No matter how hard he struggles he just seems to make things worse for himself. There is One who can pull you free, why do you resist crying out to Him humbly, He rejects none who truly call out to Him.

34. To hold down the voice of conscience is to grasp a snake by the tail. The same is true of embracing sin, it will not go well with you in the end. Sin will always take you further than you want to go. The poor wretches of this world, those unhappy souls bound by their desires and fears, did they start out like this? No, they started with small steps in the wrong direction, but the road of sin is downhill and the momentum will soon have you running till your legs can no longer keep up and you fall headlong into the state in which we find the habitual sinner. Watch your steps friend for it is true to say until we find the Lord our hearts lead us astray.

35. It is God that justifieth. "Now, poor soul! will you come into this lifeboat, just as you are? Here is safety from the wreck! Accept the sure deliverance. "I have nothing with me," say you. You are not asked to bring anything with you. Men who escape for their lives will leave even their clothes

behind. Leap for it, just as you are. I will tell you this thing about myself to encourage you. My sole hope for heaven lies in the full atonement made upon Calvary's cross for the ungodly. On that I firmly rely. I have not the shadow of a hope anywhere else. You are in the same condition as I am; for we neither of us have anything of our own worth as a ground of trust. Let us join hands and stand together at the foot of the cross, and trust our souls once for all to Him who shed His blood for the guilty. We will be saved by one and the same Saviour. If you perish trusting Him, I must perish too. What can I do more to prove my own confidence in the gospel which I set before you?

C.H. Spurgeon

36. What is really going on when someone proclaims the Gospel message? It is as if the unconverted hearers are all trapped in an air pocket within an upturned and rapidly sinking ship bound for the depths of the sea bed. Only a short time is left before either the air runs out or the ship descends to the bottom, however the people are largely unaware of this. The minister who brings the message of salvation is like the rescue team that has come to show the way out, but will the people listen to him in their confusion, mistrust, unbelief and false sense of security if they remain?

37. Four men start out dancing and singing along the road of life, but along the way they meet others who stop their revelry. The four men are named Talented, Health, Youth and Happiness. Talented meets Unfulfilled. Health meets Sickness. Youth meets Old Age and Happiness meets Sorrow. The group then walk together to a great funeral that lies at the end of life's road.

This is how life can start and end- so remember your Creator in the days of your youth before the days of trouble come.

38. Hearing the Gospel message and then doing nothing about it is a dangerous practice. It is like going through a red light in a car, soon it will bring you to ruin.

39. Our lives have been hijacked by the prince of this world. That enemy of souls has taken control, as if taking control of a plane, and what is more, we are his accomplices. The rightful Captain has been ejected from the cockpit, and you and that flying fiend plot a disastrous course towards that great mountain of God's punishment. If only the control was handed back to the rightful Captain Christ when we are still young, then only a small correction of the controls would avert the collision miles ahead and lead us a great distance from it. However if we wait and continue on in our lives with our foolish course, then it will become increasingly hard to avert the danger, and finally, even if the control stick is strained at, our plane will not be able to pull up from running head long into a grave judgement day.

39. The suppression of the conscience is a very dangerous practice. It is as if a motorcyclist travels with blaring music in his ears, and wearing dark glasses, along busy streets. To dull our physical senses is foolish and, more often than not, dangerous, and likewise to dull our spiritual ones.

40. A child played on a slide he had been warned was dangerous, but he continued to do it because he found it so much fun and had grown to love doing it. When the child grew he also grew to regret his foolish action!

Just because a person finds great pleasure in a life away from God, it doesn't vindicate their policy and prove it correct. The truth is sometimes found later in bitter experience.

So if you love your life, but know it to be against God and his ways, think twice dear reader and look deeper for joys without measure but far from the policy of seeking pleasure upon pleasure.

41. Not wanting to come into the light of God lest your deeds be reproved is as foolish as a man not wanting to go to the doctor because he is gravely ill.

42. There is an old phrase, 'Can you sleep when the wind blows?' It means are you ready for any eventuality or trouble because you are prepared. Are you prepared spiritually because you have sought and found the Lord? If so, you can have peace in the storms that may come your way in life, and you may rest when the wind blows.

43. A transatlantic plane hit an air pocket; many people on board cried out to God in prayer to save them. In due course the plane recovered and soon the drinks trolley was rolled out and life in the cabin returned to normal. The prayers were forgotten. They had treated God like a lucky charm; just a user-friendly God of mere superstition. Beware of such folly.

44. Often in a helpless situation a person may exclaim, 'You haven't got a prayer!' But you've always got a prayer while you live.

45. Death;

The arrow that shall lay me low,

Was shot from death's unerring bow,

The instant of my breath,

And every moment that I proceed,

It tracks me with unceasing speed.

I turn, it meets me,

Death has given such an instinct to that dart.

It points forever at my heart

46. In ancient times kings had 'death tasters' (food tasters) who were slaves of the kingdom. I'll tell you a greater story; there is a King of kings who has become a 'death taster' and a 'death taker' for slaves.

47. When does 2 birthdays = 1 death

And 1 birthday = 2 deaths?

If a person doesn't have 2 birthdays by the time they die, then they will have 2 deaths instead (the separation of body and soul at physical death, then the casting of both into hell)

But if a person does have 2 birthdays, then he'll only have one death, and then the resurrection and new life.

"What authority have you to say such things!" you may well say. I answer "The highest of all dear friend- God's word"

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power

48. Disregarding the Bible's warning:- Don't be like the man who lived on Long Island, NY, who bought a barometer. He took it out of the box and the dial read 'Hurricanes and Tornadoes'. He thought to himself "That can't be right, it's blue skies!" So he sent it back, thinking it was faulty. Within 48hrs a hurricane hit Long Island and the man was killed.

49. Some years ago I read in a newspaper that on average some 60 dead bodies a year are removed from London's river- more than one a week. Who are these people? We hear only about the lurid cases- the headless corpses or the voodoo murder victims. But month after month the Thames delivers up its ghoulish cargo. Most are suicides, but there are lots of accidents. As the tide ebbs, the Thames reveals its beaches and singles banks. They tempt people out onto them (mainly drunk people it has to be said) and they get stuck in the mud- and the tide comes in again. This is a fitting illustration of a godless life. Without the transformation which comes through faith in Christ a person is tempted and lured willingly into ever deeper sins which will have an increasing grip and

will pull the person down, causing them to be stuck fast in habitual transgressions. Being unable to get free from corrupted appetites and passions they do as they are tempted. They will be unable to pull away from a life, which, if no salvation is sought, will end in the person being drowned by the inevitable consequences of their own actions.

50. A top New York heart surgeon who was doing a mercy-mission operation on an 8-year-old boy in El Salvador had to scrub out in the middle of the procedure so he could donate his own rare-type blood to the patient.

In the May 11 operation, which had begun 12 hours earlier at Bloom Hospital in San Salvador, the boy's failing aortic valve was replaced with his pulmonary valve and the pulmonary valve was replaced with an artificial valve. "The surgery had been going well, everything was working great, but he was bleeding a lot and they didn't have a lot of the medicines we would use to stop the bleeding," Weinstein said. "After a while they said they couldn't give him blood because they were running out and he had a rare type." "We realized he might bleed to death, so I asked what blood type he was and they said he was B-negative and I said, "You know, I'm B-negative." Dr. Robert Michler, founder of the group, was standing next to him and said, "I support you."

Spokeswomen at the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons both said they knew of no similar case and no statistics were kept on doctor-patient blood donations.

This is a good illustration of what happened on the cross of Calvary, but in a much greater way. Jesus, the Christ, the Good Physician, gave himself for those he would save by a vicarious act. His 'blood', as it were, was given for those who would otherwise have lost their lives eternally because God in his justice will hold men and women to account for their open rejection of Him and a punishment must be meted out. The doctor in our illustration gave his blood freely, and this is true of Christ. It had to be so, for there is clearly nothing we can do to earn such a great pardon and forgiveness from the one true and holy God, for we are unworthy sinners, and it is impossible for us to redeem ourselves in nature or action, we are irredeemable apart from Jesus Christ. The doctor's blood type was rare and he was the only one who could save the boy. Likewise, Christ was the only 'spotless' perfect sacrifice for sin, none other was good enough. None other is there who was able to bare away the weight of such a great transgression of the men and women, from all nations and times, for all eternity. In the space of a few hours he had done it, and the perfect wrath of God had been satisfied. He was raised on the third day, proving the complete success of the atonement. This is the good news for those who seek a reconciliation with their God.

Additional illustration (A man refuses to have a Good surgeon carry out a life saving operation on him because the man resented and hated the surgeon mistakenly. However, this surgeon was the only one who could successfully carry it out. This man was a fool and lost his life because of it and his prejudice. Be wise, yield to Christ and stop resisting the Spirit.)

51. In A.D. 79 a large volcanic eruption destroyed the city of Pompeii. Large clouds of searingly hot ash, called piroclastic flows, hit the streets and houses killing the inhabitants of the city instantly. The remains of those people's bodies have since been found, preserved as carbon 'statues', clutching gold and precious objects as if these things could save them. Or maybe they were completely unable to let them go and irrationally thought they could survive and have all that they loved and lived for. In any case it graphically shows how people can cling to the things of this present and passing world, which ultimately serve no purpose, and lose their lives. Were they much different from the ancient Egyptians who believed that they could take their material possessions into the afterlife to help them? Man is greedy for material gain and yet foolish and unprepared for the great judgements that can, and will, come upon them.

52. This is a story from 'D' Day, 2nd World War. A man in a French hospital tried to prevent it from being bombed in a great raid. So he laid out some bloody sheets into the form of a cross in the courtyard, which was visible from above, in order to show the pilots it was a hospital. In the subsequent bombing raid, only this building and the cathedral were left standing. This is like Christ's death on the cross, and it's protection for all those to which 'the blow was

due'.

It is also akin to the Jewish Passover which itself pointed forward to the protection of Christ's work.

53. In America in the days of slavery a lady bought a slave with the intention of freeing him. However, she found this impossible because the law prevented her from doing so. So she secretly tried to take him to England. The police tried to stop her as she and the slave walked up the gangway onto the ship. However, the captain of the ship prevented this as he declared that the ship was British territory. This illustrates the security of salvation, being freed from the slavery and bondage to sin in this life and entering the kingdom.

54. Joyfully marching along the wide road to destruction is like those fish who are said to swim merrily down the river Jordan only to fall into the Dead Sea.

55. Today outside my window I saw a sycamore seed caught fast in a spider's web. It looked old as if it had been there for many days. This is like the Gospel message preached but caught in the cobwebs of our hearts never to reach the ground and spring into life. What must happen with such a seed? Christ must come and sweep the heart clean so that Gospel seed will fall and reach the deepest part of the heart and bring new life to a dead spirit.

56. 'He who paints the miseries of hell as though they were trifling is seeking to murder mens' souls under the pretext of friendship.' CH Spurgeon

57. The devil plays ring master in the world's unholy circus. Without Christ we perform to the Devil's whip like caged animals in a worldly big top.