

GOSPEL 'shorts'

Error In Thinking/Action



The following are in no particular order.

ERROR IN THINKING/ACTION (*e.g. delay*)

1. Today is the day of salvation: The caged bird needs no encouragement to fly from its newly opened cage.

Fly out into salvation from your captivity, Christ is the door.

2. Trying to get to heaven by trying to be a 'good' person or by doing some religious things is like washing yourself in dirty water. To be heaven bound is to be freely forgiven. It can never be earned.

A person is never saved by the 'good' things they do, however, they prove they are saved by the good things they do.

3. The conscience is our rudder, fail to use it and you make shipwreck of your life. It is the sixth sense, a moral sense. As the eye senses light and darkness so the conscience senses right and wrong.

4. The world seems to promise much. Our eyes and heart behold impressive things, but when we delve into them they are empty. It is like a great gift in a large box with bright wrapping and ribbon such as you have never seen.

The gift tag is from that great enemy of souls himself (Satan), but he uses another name, and the message lies about the greatness of the contents. However do not accept this gift friend, for inside is emptiness leading to a bottomless pit, and you will pay dearly for it.

5. One of the few things that look right inside out is beauty. It must come from the inside to truly show on the outside.

6. This world is so unsatisfying for a creature with a soul. To allow it to satisfy you is to fool yourself you have just enjoyed a great meal when you have only eaten mouldy bread! Without God we are starving, this world offers no nutrition for our souls; what we need is the 'bread of life', manna from heaven. He is not far from each one of us.

7. Before the days of large sewer systems under London's streets everybody believed the disease of cholera was airborne and contained within a foul stench called 'miasma'. However a man called John Snow thought otherwise and contended that there was ample evidence that cholera was a water

born disease. He was laughed at and derided by the majority of the scientific community at that time.

However, after his death he was proved correct and a large sewer system was built under London, and the sewage safely channelled out of the river Thames, and cholera was eradicated.

This goes to show that the major scientific view is not always right and that when good evidence is pushed aside in favour of accepted 'wisdom' we can find ourselves in error. Today the theory of evolution is an accepted view by the majority, however there are many good men of science holding up and sounding out good evidence and solid reasons why evolution cannot be true and that the creation spoken of in the Bible is how we can explain all we see around us. Ultimately the foundation of what we know about the natural world comes from that Book of God and all other things for that matter. If we want to understand the mysteries of the universe we do not need to travel to distant galaxies but rather just open that most ancient of books, the great oracles of God, His very word.

8. In our modern world, every spare moment when we are not working, the natural desire of man seems either to be entertained or to chase after some leisure pursuit or self seeking exercise or to simply take our ease and rest. It certainly does not come naturally to spend what we consider our spare time on Godly pursuits, or in His service. This begs the question; Is what is natural to us necessarily what is right and good, or are our natures flawed and in need of transformation from a God who desires our obedience to Him?

9. Have you never truly been worried and concerned about your soul and your standing before the holy God over all creation? If not then I fear for you my dear friend and for your future. For it is the concerned that find God, it is the needy, it is those that realise they are in danger of a righteous judgement from a holy God; for all have sinned and fall short of His standard. To receive pardon you must want it, and you must want it badly.

10. The praise of men: To live upon the praises of others is to feed on the air; for what is praise but the breath of men's nostrils? To set traps for claps is a childish thing.

11. Speaking words without knowledge: They say a brain is worth little without a tongue to speak its thoughts; but what is a tongue worth without a brain! We sin often with this flame of fire, it must be reined, but without conversion it cannot be done.

12. Good works: Putting your good works, your nice personality, or even trust in being falsely religious, up against God's purity and justice is like wrapping yourself up in paper to protect yourself from fire. The solution has to be as strong as the problem, a cover as strong as the flame. This is why only God could come as a man and deal with our sins. Only God can bare divine justice for us. We must fall on our knees and trust only in Him and not our feeble 'good works'.

13. Divine revelation: The Bible, and that which is revealed in the light of nature, is nothing else but beams of the infinite wisdom of God for the guiding of mankind into happiness and glory. The light of nature helps somewhat, though it does not reach far enough. The light of nature is made up of several beams of God's wisdom, but the light of the Word (the Bible) is made up of beams of wisdom a great deal more than the beams of nature. Now any sinner that forsakes the ways of God rejects these beams of wisdom as if they were dark.

14. Trying to find fulfilment in this life without God is like trying to enjoy the pleasures of a swimming pool without the water!

15. Dangerous assumptions:- I'm basically good; To die is an unconscious state; God, if he exists, will overlook my sins regardless, after all, he loves everyone; I can live as I like and it will work out if I'm clever and hard working, regardless of belief in Christ; Sin isn't that bad; Jesus of Nazareth was just a good man; There is no Devil; I can always repent later.

16. The Atheist: Deep inside him there's a hole he doesn't want to see, like a deep wound, and he's trying to cover it up with the inadequate plaster of philosophy.

17. We are walking heaps of dust, held together by God's mercy. If we think we deserve or are owed another minute in this life we are greatly mistaken

18. We can never have our years again. One shot is all we have at this life. The age we are now will never come back to us. Don't waste it on selfish pursuits that bring misery later, but remember your creator and seek His salvation; for this is to live life to the full and find true satisfaction in this life and the next.

19. Mr Average: Do you consider yourself to be normal? Let me rephrase that. Are you average in terms of your beliefs within the society and time in which you live? Well, if you consider truth to be of importance in relation to your beliefs and you consider yourself average then I would suggest that you exercise a little concern. For throughout history, what has turned out to be true has rarely been what the majority have believed. Also, what was average 200yrs ago is not what is average now, which removes somewhat, the security of the majority position. There is not always safety in numbers. I would urge you to think outside of your society or time's norms, and seek what is right to believe, rather than what is just normal.

20. Are you an independent thinker? We all think we make independent choices about what we believe. However man, in reality, conforms, more often than not, to cultural and environmental norms. This is dangerous for the man searching for truth, as the truth may not fall within these norms. Therefore ultimate truth must not come from the minds of men but has to be revealed from something 'other'; and the man who quests this truth must be aware of his own bias.

21. Are you a confident person? When we are young, generally speaking, it is common to have much confidence. But what do you have confidence in is the question? Is it the fading things of youth? When you are older these things will fail you. We must have confidence we can really trust in. In lasting and firm things. Remember your Creator in the days of your youth before the days of trouble come. Trust Christ, and have confidence in Him.

22. To live in this life without the true knowledge of God and a real relationship with Him is a poor thing. Instead of trusting and relying and being spiritually fed by God, through the prayer of faith, the lost person relies on other things to keep him/herself happy. Entertainment, relationships, money, possessions, attaining high position in this vain world we live in etc, and placing them on the throne of their heart which is rightfully God's. However, these are not good things to keep a soul happy with. After 2, 5, 10yrs of them they'll be as much use to you, and as much to your satisfaction, as a worn out video cassette, or an out of date coin, or a cruel friendship. You'll be most empty and you'll try to find pleasure in what gave pleasure before, but just like eating too much of a favourite desert, in the end you'll feel sick, sick of life. Or just like the transient pleasure of chewing gum which has no use for bodily nourishment but serves only to gratify an appetite that it promises much but delivers nothing.

The stomach waits for the tasty morsel to arrive but it never does and after it has lost its flavour a person must spew it out of his/her mouth: This is like the pleasures of Godlessness, they promise satisfaction but soon they lose their flavour and must be spewed out, however a habit may have been formed and the hopeless sinner is snared into it again and again.

23. The Godless life is a fruitless labour, like a certain man digging a pit. He works and works and works for his own selfish ends but in the end he falls into his own pit and cannot get out; a miserable business.

24. Have you ever said to yourself "Ah, nothing seems to go right for me, I've such bad luck", as if you realise that outside forces have a control over ordering your affairs ultimately. Well, what you call bad luck is God's hand of providence upon your life; but if you've rejected Him and His ways why is it you expect Him to bless your ways? For God to allow you to think that your wrong course in life is inconsequential by rewarding it would be most cruel. A parent, who loves their child, disciplines, guides and corrects them. One who lets a child think their actions are ok when they are not shows no love.

- 25.** The audience of worldly entertainments are like children being thrown poisonous sweets. Whereas the congregation of God's house are like children being spoon-fed good medicine.
- 26.** A modern assumption is that "In the old days people believed in religions because they didn't understand the physical world and how it works, about outer space etc. We now know how storms are made, how earthquakes and volcano's come about, how parts of the brain work, therefore we know there isn't a God." Ah, but wait my friend, do not be so quick to proudly dismiss the old beliefs of men's souls. Just because we can understand partly how the physical world works it does not therefore follow that there is no overruling cause ordering those laws of nature, moving them according to His will. And just because you do not understand that will it also does not follow that it is not ordering things mysteriously. Christians have never denied the mechanisms of the physical world (being some of the greatest pioneering scientists), knowing that most of the time God is pleased to work out His eternal purposes and providences within these physical laws which He Himself created. Although they are subordinate to Him and even on occasion a miraculous overriding of them occurs.
- 27.** You, fellow man or woman, may think that if you are not acceptable to God as you are then if a little effort is given acceptance will be attainable. Continue no more with this foolish reasoning as if God were no more pure than a polite old man. Sin is poison my friend, one drop is sufficient. It is the venom of a snake and we were all bitten long ago. Just because it lingers and works slowly, this does not mean we will overcome it without the antidote. It will take us in the end; the more we sin the more we drink it voluntarily. The blood of Christ is our antidote; trust only in His good work.
- 28.** Maybe a person can find some satisfaction running after and serving the 'small' things of this world. Maybe fun and friends will be enough to fulfil the human need, and a person can block out that nagging voice that keeps saying, "Is this what your life means? Aren't we meant for so much more?" Maybe that empty feeling can be drowned out by turning up the volume on your TV or filling your spare time with movies, parties, night clubs and bars, or numb your senses with alcohol and the like. Maybe it'll go away for a few years. But I fancy it'll be back, and all the more loudly. Maybe it'll speak to you in your disappointments or troubles, maybe it'll shout at you in illness or heartbreak; but one day, for sure, you will have to answer God and if you won't have Him as your King, remember, He'll be your Judge.
- 29.** 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.
- 30.** Are you not a Christian? Are you hopeful about how your life will turn out without God? The word of God tells us all such hope is vain. In this state, I'm sorry to say, your life is like an accident waiting to happen, or maybe it already has.
- 31.** If you miss the purpose of God's word (the Bible), you'll never understand it. Why was it written? John tells us in his gospel, "these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ (promised Messiah of old), the Son of God; and that, believing, ye might have life through his name." John 20.31
- 32.** The reading of secular 'wisdom' or sceptical books: - "The practice of reading sceptical works is a very dangerous one; we have enough tendency to sickness in our own constitutions without going to fever hospitals to test the atmosphere!" C.H. Spurgeon
- 33.** What will you do? Convert or Avert. There are only two ways conversion or aversion. Don't avoid your own eternal safety That's like not swerving away from oncoming traffic when the steering wheel is right before you in the car! The longer you leave it the greater the turn.
- 34.** Does this point of view seem sensible or rational to you? Can you see the motive behind it? – "Don't ever think too much or dwell upon those ultimate questions about life; who are we? Why are we here? What is the point of life? For these are unanswerable and you'd be foolish to waste time

on them, you'd be better off concentrating on living for the here and now, eat drink and be merry. Why trouble yourself and make yourself unhappy?" Yes, you'll often hear this point of view in the secular world, and you'll be laughed, or at the least though naïve, for taking another. But if you scratch the surface of these words, or read between the lines, can you not hear the very enemy of souls whispering them, with forked tongue, into your hearts. Satan himself pulling the blindfold over your eyes!

35. The unconverted souls of men and women misdirect their attentions constantly away from what should have it to what shouldn't, making idols of each other. Therefore they buy clothes, furniture, carpets, kitchens, cars and houses in order to impress others. They also allow themselves to be impressed when people do this to them. So one of the major things people worship is others and their possessions, all the time firmly taking their eye off the one true God who is really worthy of, and rightfully due this worship.

36. Mistaking fiction for the real world: - Sometimes life imitates art, as well as art imitating life, because people copy what they are influenced by. The problem with a work of fiction is that it plays out the lives of people in a make believe world run, not by God, but by the writer or directors own imagination. It may pretend to be real life, but never mistake the random events in stories as ones that occur in real life. In the real world God works out His providences in accordance with His will, not us. If life to us is like a book we read or a film we saw or a soap opera we dedicate ourselves to and live by, then we turn our lives into an unreal dream that we will sharply be awakened from at death. Be careful what you love, for we become what we feed ourselves with.

37. "It seemed like a good idea at the time." Many reject Christianity because it didn't seem like the right thing; they had an idea that another path would be better for them. But what seems like a good idea may not always be one. After all no one knows the future, all we can look at is the testimonies of others and the lessons of History, but this is like a group trying to find it's way through a dark forest with only hearsay to guide them, calling to each other in the dark. Instead we should look to a certain authority on the matter, someone who does know and has revealed this way to us. The Bible is the guidebook from God; the Spirit of God is our guide. If we, as sheep, follow the Good Shepherd we shall never be lost.

38. The Pride of Life: - I've heard it said, "If you're tired of London then you're tired of life!" Well my friend, if you are not tired of this present life, and this sin sick world, you will never truly live. If you cling onto foolish optimism in human achievement and the pride of it then you cling onto a sinking ship, calling to your friends, "Make the best of it, things aren't so bad", while all around you people drown in their sins, and yours have blinded you to the truth that the situation is dire and a rescue is what is needed from a certain disaster.

39. To try and find satisfaction with the vain entertainments of this world is to attempt to live on nothing but sweets. This would make a person sick to death. This is what happens spiritually to the soul. The nutrition for the soul is found through faith in Christ, the Bread of life. The Bible being a store of every choice morsel.

40. Hearing and doing: - A wise man does first what a fool does last, or even never.

41. If you feed yourself with the world's wisdom, you feed yourself with an empty spoon.

42. Do not delay! - Some say "It's not the right time or situation, I'll come when I'm ready." I ask, is now the right time to continue in your sins, is it the right time to do wrong, to continue offending your Creator? Today is the day of salvation. To delay the remedy for our souls is like burying medicine for use later when we need it now. If we try to come back to it years later it will be spoiled. Our hearts are spoiled by years of sinning our lives away, they become naturally harder and harder until finally, turned to stone, they beat no more. If we wait until we're better, we will never come at all.

43. The non-believer hides behind his/her excuses as if they protect from harm. However, the

opposite is true, they only shield from mercy and build a barrier between them and their own salvation! This is like clinging onto your own chains as if they were your armour against what you think is a sword but is actually a key for the padlock that holds you in bondage.

44. One of the most useful deceptions the Devil employs is convincing people that he doesn't exist.

45. We see our sins as but a drop, but really they spread forth before us like a vast ocean. An ocean in which we are very likely to drown.

46. "I am a Christian, oh yes." Said the stranger. "Ah, I'm pleased to hear it. So what church do you regularly attend?" said the Christian. "Oh, I don't go to church," said the stranger. "Oh, ok, so when did you become a Christian? Tell me the story of your conversion from old life to new," said the Christian. "Conversion? Old life and new?" the stranger stumbled, "You don't understand, I've always been a Christian," he continued. "I understand now," replied the Christian sadly. Then the stranger changed the subject, for it was one he never felt too comfortable discussing.

47. The Lord calls the unsaved, like a man calling to one who walks down a road. This may be you. You may hear His call, and glance over your shoulder. He calls again, and you see and hear He is beckoning to you to turn and follow Him. If you value your soul, and you seek to know the truth and obey the one true God, then do not ignore the call or treat the Gospel message lightly.

48. If you think, "This Christianity is just not for me, I'm not suited to it, and my life is not geared to it." Then I would say, do not be surprised that your life is not suited or you yourself to the great old way. The very fact that Christ calls you to become His disciple and follow Him is precisely because you are not and do not at the moment. He calls us to repent and change, not to continue a life that has been designed not to include Him, and a weekly routine that has left God firmly out of the picture.

49. It is better to suffer than to sin, soon the suffering will cease; but if we choose sin we will suffer in the end.

50. There can only be one truth about God. There can only be one way to God, not many ways, because there can only ever be one truth. This is only logical. The truth is, you are a certain person with a certain mother and father and born in a certain place. There is only one truth about that, and even if you really believe that some other thing is true, it is irrelevant to the fact that only one truth can be right. So, therefore, it is illogical to believe that all religions lead to God, or that all of them have some truth, because they all say contradictory things. If one is fully true, then all others must be false. Only one can be fully true and this is what a person should quest. Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man comes to the Father but by me." John 14.6

51. Some say, "I don't think just because I don't go to church on a Sunday, and treat it as my day, that I'm not 'ok' with God. I do believe in God after all." But the truth about your standing with God is not based on your personal opinions, what does man know about God? The Bible shows the truth, and in this case, that you are a lawbreaker. The fact that a person doesn't go to church is a result of a personal standpoint and the way you have organised God out of your life, which is the real problem. For example, a person cannot claim to love the game of golf but never watch, play or read about it! The reason he/she never does this betrays the fact that it doesn't mean that much to them. When God means so little to you that you wouldn't even seek to worship Him on His day even once a week, then this is the sin behind the lack of action. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, however, all real Christians make it their business to get to church, to worship and be taught about their Lord. Jesus Christ said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." John 14.21. Also "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all you soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." Matt 22.37, 38.

52. "Good people go to heaven, bad people go to hell; right?" If this is true, then what is the cut off

point? How bad do you have to be to be considered bad? The truth is, the cut off point is what you'd expect from a perfect God, it is perfection. So I'm afraid, as no one is capable of this, we're all in the bad camp. Our 'righteousness' will not get us to heaven, only Christ's righteousness will for those that love him.

53. "I'm alright, I believe in God." Sorry, this alone is not enough. The Bible says, "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that- and shudder." James 2. 19. If a vague belief is all you have and not a personal Saviour then you should shudder too my friend.

54. A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions and in human attainment, but in who he is as a person. In a life a man can collect, attain and covet so much, but in the end it means so little.

55. "Why do you bother with Christianity?" "Simple, I won't live my life like a small animal grubbing around on the surface of this earth, as if my life consists of nothing more than earning money, making and breaking relationships, gathering possessions, spiced up with experience and entertainment, and be satisfied with that. No, my life means much more than that with the spiritual life that Christ gives. It brings depth, peace with God and true joy. If you live for anything else I think you have lost hold of your reason."

56. Some say, "You needn't be so serious about life." But, everyday tragedy plays itself out on the world's stage. We may put blinkers on and laugh and joke at life, filling it with frivolous conversation, imagining our lives like a romantic comedy, when really every day, rape, war, genocide, earthquakes, floods, famine, murder, corruption etc, goes on and on. There must be something very wrong about this world and the people that live in it. Why does God allow it? Oh, there are judgements everyday, and there will be a final one- will we escape? Well, everyone is judged. Mercy is only found in the fact that God continues to hold this present age open, mercy is only found in Christ Jesus and His work on Calvary.

57. If a fly gets into some ointment how can the ointment be cleaned? Or if the creature falls into some soup can the soup be made edible once more? Of course these are simple examples from life and the answer is equally as simple, the contamination is such that the substance must be completely changed in order to be clean again. So it is with our souls, to try and clean them with good works or religious ceremony or moral reform is as futile as trying to clean contaminated ointment, the corruption of original sin is such. A complete change must be sought and this is not of ourselves but comes from Jesus Christ changing us. Seek this change from Him, cry out for it, and He will not be slow in the action.

58. Please yourself: To live in a hedonistic way is to be like a baby that responds to it's senses and base desires at whim, constantly having to be cared for lest these actions lead to harm. But we are grown and there is now no one to curb the action of the self-serving pleasure seeker and the harm he brings himself to. What comes naturally to a creature whose nature is flawed is not a good course to take.

59. Our lives are like a bubble, as soon as you grasp it, it is gone. Those who love their lives will loose them.

60. Do you think this old Gospel of sin and salvation, hell and heaven, corruption and Christ, is an extreme interpretation of Christianity? I tell you it is Christianity. Any plain reading of the Bible will tell a child so. Any attempt to make it another gospel is an attempt to wriggle out of the chains we find ourselves in rather than except our condition. An attempt to see a world only through distorted glasses. For the world we find ourselves in is completely consistent with the Bible, even the way the unbeliever acts proves the Bible.

God leaves Himself just out of sight so that by faith we believe and see, for that is what He requires. The existence of God is obvious, you have to work hard to suppress that truth, it is not a natural thing to do. Why then do it? I cannot prove categorically that God exists, but why should I

need to? The burden of proof is on the unbeliever to prove their isn't, and unless he/she knows all things then this is an impossible position. What I can do is tell you that from all things it is highly probable that He is there as much as it is highly probable that if I drop a cup it will fall to the floor. There is a 'smoking gun'. However it is in mankind's hand from when we were foolish enough to think we could kill the one and only God from whom all life flows!

Do you find the Christian teaching of substitutionary atonement unpalatable? Distasteful? Well I suppose we have to ask whether we can trust our tastes. Is it really unpalatable to call men and women sinners? I can tell you the weight of historical evidence is stacked in the Christian's favour. The legacy of mankind is a horrific one. To be honest I find the daily newspapers unpalatable, and I will no longer shut my eyes to the Bible truth about mankind which squares with every aspect of what we can plainly see around us.

61. Do you think you can find your own lasting happiness in this life independent of God? This is a foolish thought, 'a chasing after the wind'. God is the one who gives happiness and deep joys, satisfaction and contentedness to those who please Him, but not to those who ignore Him, only for those who come to Him in obedience (Ecc 2.26). The worldling steals pleasures from this world, mistrusting God, thinking he/she is cleverly avoiding God's rule and is free, however he/she is bound by the soul's own temptations and desires, a heavy burden to bear. In the end to be self serving will prove vacuous, the body makes a good servant but a bad master! These pleasures taste sweet only for a short season, but like sickly sweets in the end will make us ill and poison us. The lack of satisfaction makes a man/woman inclined to do 'the thing' to excess but can never quite reach the goal he/she increasingly desires, a miserable business. Those who seek their happiness other than from the LORD will not find it in the end, for they have gone to the wrong place, for only God hands out these things. Men and women, boys and girls run past the shop of salvation where all is free because the great price is paid already, and instead flock to where the world sets up it's counterfeit stall and there they buy it's dainties, but these people pay dearly for that which is not what it seems.

62. I venture to say some are counting on a late repentance. You do not know what you are doing. Believe me, you will find it no easy matter to turn to God just when you please. The way of sin is down hill, a man cannot stop whenever he wishes. Habits formed while young are hard to break when old. A boy may bend an oak when it is a sapling, a hundred men cannot root it up when it is a fully grown tree. Satan wants to keep you his own. He will tell you at the beginning of your lives, it is too soon to serve God, he will tell you at the end, it is too late. Oh, be not deceived! J.C.Ryle

63. The thoughts of the unwise may sometimes run along these lines; "Life's not like a fairytale, tears and kisses don't wake the dead, there's no goblins, fairies, Father Christmas or God!". In reply I would respond by urging my presumptuous friend not to be so quick in his/her doubt of God. Equating the God of the Bible with fairytales is folly considering that even in the eyes of the most sceptical hater of the Bible it must be accepted that it's history is grounded in truth, and that truth is wrapped up with the person of Christ who is not so easily brushed aside with disingenuous associations. To dismiss God's existence as mere fairytale is treating the subject unfairly and with contempt and you do your own reason a disservice not to consider these things properly.

64. The Devil has convinced many people that bad is strong and good is weak. However, he, as their father, is constrained by God and his strength is as an ice block before the sun. If you are not a follower of Christ, your 'king' is a weak impostor who has fooled the foolish and unless you accept the Saviour you will share your monstrous monarch's fate.

65. Are you self righteous? If any of us have never sinned, we are qualified to condemn others in our thoughts. But are we really worthy to throw stones of condemnation at the sinners we see around us? Or do they not need forgiveness just like us? There are only two categories of person; 1) Unforgiven sinners, 2) Forgiven sinners (freely and undeserved), *but sinners both*. If Christ is not our Redeemer through faith then we are not converted, we are not Christians, we are not His disciples and we are in the first category with the murderers, thieves, proud, envying etc. What

point then, in pointing to others sins while ours remain unforgiven also?

When we are about to point the finger of judgemental condemnation at our fellow human beings we should never forget that there are three other fingers on the same hand pointing back at us, and they represent *pride*, *self-righteousness* and *vain glory*. We should therefore refrain and strive for greater humility.

66. Those who try to do something in order to purge themselves of sin realize that they fall short of God's standard but think that by some action of theirs they may re-address the scales of justice, but their remedy is where they are in error, because they are trusting in themselves, not in God to save them. The law of God is not there to save us, but it is there to show us our sin and run to the Saviour. The law says do something- we should realize that, even though we should do it, we cannot- we then should realize we need a Saviour to do it on our behalf. To try to be saved through religious rituals, ceremonies or laws is as impossible as walking on water, calming a storm or raising a man dead for days! Spiritual rebirth only comes through the single person who ever did these things.

67. Resisting the Holy Spirit: Some think they are not saved because of something they *are not* doing. Closer to the truth is that it is something they *are* doing and need to stop that is preventing them from coming into the kingdom, holding down the truth in unrighteousness. The Bible says if you are not a Christian then you are resisting God, like the people of a walled city, taken hostage by a cruel tyrant, and those people resisting the liberating army which comes to free them! I ask any in this position, what is the point of your resistance? For you to be saved you must stop doing what has failed you, instead of trying harder in self reliance you must give yourself up to free grace and plead a pardon from the King of Kings. After all, the saying is true, no one has ever fought God and won.

68. A question for the Atheist

Q: We as humans know (even as a child) instinctively that peace is better than war, that truth is better than falsehood, and that kindness is better than cruelty. WHY? Why are we aware of it & Why does it matter to us?

It is as if we sense the existence of a grand overriding Law that governs everything, or is it just an inconvenience we cannot adequately explain away?

69. It's funny you know (funny strange), that in those lists you sometimes find in magazines, of things to do before you die or reach a certain age, there always seems to me to be a screaming omission. It's always things like see the Grand Canyon at sunset or swim with dolphins or spend a hedonistic weekend in Rio, in fact some are like the great sin lists in the Bible. However they never seem to include get right with our Creator, or find forgiveness for your soul, but only external experiential pleasure seeking, which many testify to being ultimately empty. When they do try to be deeper it just ends up being a self-righteous gesture of 'good works' or 'self improvement'. I say funny, but it's more like tragic, for if you crammed your life full of all the conceivable suggestions on these lists, it would count for nothing in the end if you didn't care for this one goal.

I suppose it all depends on how you measure a successful life.

70. False religions are man trying to work out and find God.

Christianity (true religion) is God reaching out and finding man.

71. False religion is man creating gods.

Christianity (true religion) is God creating men.

72. To put the matter very simply, did you ever hear of Mr. Rowland Hill's illustration of the cat and the sow? I will give it in my own fashion, to illustrate our Saviour's expressive words, "Ye must be born again" (John 3;7). Do you see that cat? What a cleanly creature she is! How cleverly she washes herself with her tongue and her paws! It is quite a pretty sight! Did you ever see a sow do

that? No, you never did. It is contrary to its nature. It prefers to wallow in the mire. Go and teach a sow to wash itself, and see how little success you would gain. It would be a great sanitary improvement if swine would be clean. Teach them to wash and clean themselves as the cat has been doing! Useless task. You may by force wash that sow, but it hastens to the mire, and is soon as foul as ever. The only way in which you can get a sow to wash itself is to transform it into a cat; then it will wash and be clean, but not till then!

Suppose that transformation to be accomplished, and then what was difficult or impossible is easy enough; the swine will henceforth be fit for your parlour and your hearth-rug. So it is with an ungodly man; you cannot force him to do what a renewed man does most willingly; you may teach him, and set him a good example, but he cannot learn the art of holiness, for he has no mind to it; his nature leads him another way. When the Lord makes a new man of him, then all things wear a different aspect. So great is this change, that I once heard a convert say, "Either all the world is changed, or else I am." The new nature follows after right as naturally as the old nature wanders after wrong. What a blessing to receive such a nature! Only the Holy Ghost can give it.
C.H. Spurgeon.

73. I remember a saying of old Matthew Wilkes: "Saved by your works! you might as well try to go to America in a paper boat!" Saved by your works! It is impossible! Oh no; the poor legalist is like a blind horse going round and round the mill, or like the prisoner going up the treadmill, and finding himself no higher after all he has done; he has no solid confidence, no firm ground to rest upon. He has not done enough—"never enough." Conscience always says, "this is not perfection; it ought to have been better." Salvation for enemies must be by an ambassador-by an atonement-yea, by Christ.

74. They say, "Practice makes perfect", and it is certainly true that to practice self righteousness makes a perfect fool!

75. A certain man once walked around an art gallery full of portraits picturing a famous gentleman. However, out of all the skilful works, none impressed or moved him in the slightest, and he left. The Curator concluded that the visitor must be "an uncultured brute without the least ounce of taste." On inquiring who the visitor had been, he was told that he was the youngest son of the gentleman in the pictures, and was said to have remarked on leaving, "I know my father's face in the flesh, and it bears no comparison."

This is how it is with Christ. His children shall not put up with caricatures, impostors and pretenders to His throne. When we have seen His face with the eyes of faith and know him as one may know his own father, all the world chooses to replace the rejected Christ with, will fail to impress the true believer.

76. What gives eyes to a blind man, but the lack of it blinds a man who sees? Answer –FAITH

77. To truly understand God is to love Him. Understanding and love of God go together like light and warmth.

78. There are two types of 'wisdom'. The 'wisdom' of the *world*, and the 'wisdom' of the *Word*. Which one you pay heed to will determine whether you are wise.

79. This is a true story. Two men lived in a certain town. One man was rich and accumulated many possessions, living for and trusting in all the worldly trappings of this life, being an unbeliever. The other man was a Pastor of the local church and was relatively poor, but was rich towards God, being a believer.

It came to pass, on the same night, that the two men both suffered heart attacks and were rushed to the accident and emergency department of the local hospital. It was reported that the last words of both men were markedly different. The rich man is reported to have said sadly "I am leaving my home". The poor Pastor is reported to have said "I am going home".

This is the difference between the thinking of the Christian man and that of the lost.

80. Riches that last: If a man should labour to be rich after the old African fashion, and should accumulate a large store of shells and beads, when he came home to England he would be a beggar, even though he had a ship-load of such rubbish. So he who gives his heart and soul to the accumulation of gold and silver coin is a beggar when he comes into the spiritual realm, where such round medals are reckoned as mere forms of earth, non-current in heaven, and of less value than the least of spiritual blessings. C.H.Spurgeon

81. Self-salvation is false-religion and self-delusion.

82. The heart of a man in it's natural state is like poured concrete, the longer you leave it the harder and colder it gets. Strangely enough, every time the Gospel is heard and resisted is like a cold wind blowing across it's surface. Soon, even if you prod it with a stick, no impression will be made. Be careful to heed the message lest you heart become 'Gospel hardened' like this.

83. The lives we live are like a winding river system. Time is the current leading us on. But at any one time we can only see so far ahead of us. We can't tell what's around the next bend or which fork to take. This is the reason to put your trust in God who sees your life from on high, like seeing the whole river from above in one look, and can lead us safely along it's course.

84. At the 'Station of Life' two men stood on the train platform waiting for the last train home in a very dangerous land. Both men were a great distance from their desired destination and the hour was late. One of the men was most anxious to get home and, not being sure of the times, quickly checked the timetable on the wall and listened for any announcements. As he checked he realised, to his horror, that the service was cancelled and there were no more trains, ever! Then, to his great relief, he heard a message over the tannoy system saying that a single train had been laid on for any who heard and heeded the message. The name of the train was given; it was called 'Salvation'. The other man seemed very unconcerned about his situation, occupying himself only with the advertising hoardings, and satisfying his short-term appetite with the crisps and sweets from the vending machines inside the station. Also, because he had headphones on with loud music in his ears, he didn't hear the message as it was drowned out by what he was playing. In fact he was so preoccupied, that when the train arrived he missed it, even though the other man looked for him and attempted to warn him! The first man, being prepared, caught the train at the right time and journeyed home to his family, where a large meal was waiting for him. The man who had been left behind continued to wait and find small satisfaction with his surroundings, unaware of his hopeless situation, and that the night grew darker and colder. As it started to rain, dark figures gathered around him on the platform and lead him away where he did not want to go.

This is how disastrous it is to be preoccupied with the temporary, shallow things of this world, it's allurements and entertainments, and to be wilfully heedless of the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To miss this is to miss the most important message to the soul of man, and invite a future that will not take us where we expect to go, only along ever darker paths of providential leadings, ending in the wrath of God's justice. Don't miss the Gospel train of salvation with its driver the Lord Jesus Christ.

85. This world loves to vaunt human pride in all its vain conceit. But I can testify to the wisdom of a different way. I've known many impressive people in my short life, and Christians all, and they were all alike in this sense; they had a very low view of themselves.

86. Will you be ready? A man applying for a job wrote in the application form inviting the prospective employer to visit his current place of work at any time, in order to see how he worked. The man got the job because of his integrity. Are you ready for the Lord's second coming or for death? It could come at any time. Do not sleep tonight still careless about such things.

87. You do not have a soul; you are a soul- you have a body.

88. 'Gospel truth' is a commonly used phrase, but what is the difference between truth and facts? It can be said that facts are the 'what', and truth is the 'why'. The truth is the explanation of the facts-

this is the Gospel.

89. “He who looks at the *rain* the sunrise and the sunset, and does not see the footprints of God must be inwardly more blind than a mole, and only fit to live underground. God seems to talk to me in every primrose and daisy, to smile upon me from every star, to whisper to me in every breath of morning air and call aloud to me in every storm.

It is strange that so many educated gentlemen see God nowhere, while the ploughman feels Him everywhere, and he has no wish to change places, for the sense of God’s presence is his comfort and joy. They call themselves philosophers, don’t they? Their proper name is fools, for the fool hath said in his heart “There is no God”. The sheep know when rain is coming, the swallows foresee the winter. How much worse than a brute must he be who lives where God is everywhere present and yet sees Him not!

So you see a man may be; a great hand at learning, and yet be ignorant.”

C.H.Spurgeon

90. If there is no taste for the truth in a man, there can be no relish of the scriptures.

100. You may be a person very shrewd in your business dealings.

You may have had much earthly success.

But I’m afraid if you are to succeed in spiritual things then you must acknowledge yourself a failure. Only then can you enter God’s kingdom. But don’t attempt to enter on your own terms; you’ll never barge down the door to God’s kingdom. Fancy trading eternity for a mere lifetime of foolish pride!

101. This life is like a one page preface to the vast volumes of eternity. But oh how critical that page is!

102. A Man is not saved by Race but by Grace.

103. There is none so blind as those that will not see.

104. This is about listening to the wisdom of the world over listening to the simple Gospel truth.

There was a man who walked along a road but realized he was lost. He met two people along his way. One was a professor who used many impressive long words to explain which way the man should go. However the professor was blind!

The other person was a child who simply pointed to a sign he could see and said ‘Trust the person who wrote this sign and follow.’ This way was very different from the professor’s way, but the boy could see clearly.

Which of these two would you follow? This is the difference between ‘knowing’ things with a bias proud mind, and ‘knowing’ things by simple faith in the heart- not blindly trusting in men but in God who is omniscient.

105. There was once a very eloquent Atheist who gave a long lecture against belief in God, putting himself forward as someone who knew all about it (as they do). At the end an old man, who, had himself once been an Atheist but long since been converted by God to Christianity, stood up and slowly walked to the front. He had an orange in his hand, which he was eating. He said, “Sir, what do you think of the flavour of the orange I’m eating?” The lecturer replied curtly, “How should I know, I’ve not tasted it!” “Exactly, that’s the problem with you and faith in God,” replied the old man.

106. Wouldn’t it be incredible if there were such a thing as an ultimate, infallible truth machine? If a person consulted it on the matters regarding mankind he would always receive a true answer. Wouldn’t that machine be highly valued? Wouldn’t it be the focus of humanity? Or is the truth sometimes a thing unwelcome to mankind?

Well there *is* such a thing. It is well known but neglected. It is the very Word of God. But the Bible lays neglected on many a person's bookshelf in these days, indeed, if it is on the shelf at all!

107. Trying to save yourself by 'good moral deeds' is like trying to offer someone a rotten apple covered in toffee. This would of course be a great offence, but so many men (whether independently or within some false religious system) attempt to offer their lives to God hoping the good will outweigh the bad. This is madness my friend, for one sin separated mankind from God and forever closed shut the door of return by good works. The only door of return that exists now is that of Grace. A free forgiveness through Jesus Christ and His righteousness. Trust in Him and not in yourself, and that door will open to you. If we return to our illustration, it is a new apple that is needed. That can only come from without and not within. It must be sought, asked for and given. Accept that great gift of salvation, and like a tree full of apples that will never rot it will nourish your soul to life

108. At the risk of over generalising; there are basically 2 dominant worldviews today.

One is 'Theism'.

The other, 'Atheism'.

The first asserts that God created everything out of nothing (even time and space)

The second asserts that 'nothing' created everything out of nothing (even time and space)

Which one seems more reasonable?

109. A favourite objection to Christianity is that of pointing out the sins of its followers.

But the Christian Gospel has always stated that Christians are *sinner*s saved by grace.

We are, as it were, to put our trust in the 'Tale' not the 'Teller'.

110. Sometimes the sound of the 'world', with all its media and entertainment industry, seems so loud in our ears. Well, remember this; empty vessels make the most noise!

111. Trying to save yourself and earn your salvation by your own effort until the day you die, and remaining heedless to the message of the Gospel, is like a woman who worked in a textile mill. There was a sign on the wall where she worked and it read, 'If your thread gets tangled, call the manager straight away'. Well, her thread did indeed get tangled, but in her own conceit and self-determination she believed that she could untangle it herself, paying little regard to the sign. The more she tried, the worse the tangle got, until at the end of the day she called the manager. He asked her what her trouble was. She replied that her thread had gotten tangled and so she had done what the sign said and called him. He looked at the mess of her thread and replied, "You have not trusted to do what the sign told you, and further more you have spoken dishonestly." And she lost her job.

Losing your job in this life of time is one thing, but losing your soul for all eternity is quite another. Heed the Gospel message dear reader.

112. A curious man walked down a street carrying a sign. On the front it read, 'I am God's fool'. As the people saw it they laughed him to scorn. But, as he walked by, they saw on the back it read, 'Whose fool are you?' and they no longer laughed.

113. The waters of Abana and Pharpar are preferred by proud human nature, but the waters of Jordan alone can take away the leprosy (see 2 Kings 5:1-14). Our repentings, our doings, our resolutions, these are simply broken cisterns; but the only life-draught is to be found in the fountain of living water opened up by our Immanuel's death. *Spurgeon*

114. Before the days of large sewer systems under London's streets everybody believed the disease of cholera was airborne and contained within a foul stench called 'miasma'. However a man called John Snow thought otherwise and contended that there was ample evidence that cholera was a water-born disease. He noticed that the outbreaks were particularly bad around a street water pump

that was found to have a rotting eel trapped within it. The concentration of illness in the localized area caused him to suspect a link. He was laughed at and derided by the majority of the scientific community at that time.

However, after his death he was proved correct and a large sewer system was built under London, and the sewage safely channelled out of the river Thames, and cholera was eradicated.

Many laugh off the message of the Gospel in favour of the accepted 'wisdom' of the age when it comes to the problems of man's nature. However, just because a majority believe something it doesn't mean it's true. Our sinful nature makes our hearts a fount of corruption and sin just like the sewage and polluted water pump. It pollutes and spreads the disease throughout our souls causing our lives to be mortally diseased and stained with guilt before a holy God. In the end, if we will not accept the 'message of life' we will experience that second death. Just as there were many who perished from the cholera in London, so there are many more who perish because of wilful ignorance and prejudice. Why stubbornly cling to views and ideologies that will fail in time just like the belief in the cause of cholera.

115. Docked in California is the old Queen Mary which is now converted into a museum. On trying to remove its three funnels they collapsed in on themselves. The years of successive paint layers was holding them together while the metal had completely rusted away. This is a fitting illustration of the self righteousness of the Pharisees who the Lord described as white washed tombs.

116. Spurgeon on money: money is the servant of the wise but the master of fools.

117. A man caught a fish and took it home to his fish tank. Despite offering it many types of fish food the fish would only look forlornly at him. Eventually the fish starved to death. Later the man discovered that that type of fish only eats live food from the riverbank. Our souls too will starve to death without living food for the soul. This can only be found in Christ Jesus.

118. A man walked through an art gallery in a self important way and cast a proud gaze upon the pictures. On leaving he said to the curator, 'I don't think much of these pictures.' The curator replied, 'Sir, it is not the paintings that are on trial but your appreciation of them.' Friend, God is not on trial, you are.

119. In January 2009 a 77 year old shopaholic was found dead underneath a 'mountain' of consumer goods which had fallen on top of her, crushing her to death in her own home. Many of them were still untouched and in their packaging. Her materialism had literally killed her. Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and dust doth corrupt.

120. The Gospel is the great broom that sweeps all social vices from a society. Anything else is just to blow the dust around with a feeble breath.

121. It is funny how seriously modern comedians take themselves in an age when the shallow nature of our culture gives intelligent critique to the crass court fool, indeed this is the only thing that is laughable.

122. Are we Christians poor simple, unintelligent people who find comfort for our weak selves in this God myth? I think not. Some of the giants of science and the greatest minds of history have been believers. Also the great pioneering men of Christian history have been and still are, men of great strength and courage who would gladly die for the truth they have experienced in their lives. The arrogant atheist is a coward, on the run from the truth that he holds down, so that he can believe a more convenient 'truth' that he has made true for himself.

123. A certain young man stood before two entrances. One was the way into world and the other was the way into the kingdom. He was one in heart with the world; he saw how splendid the vast impressive and alluring marble gates into the world were. The old gate to the kingdom was small and plain and so he chose the world's entrance. Doing what was right in his own eyes, he entered in. At first the sights that greeted him were pleasing to the eye, but as he walked on through ever smaller and less impressive gates, he was shown onto a pen where he was told to feed the pigs! The

gate into the kingdom however, opened out into a vast beautiful land flowing with milk and honey. Do not make the wrong choice my friend.

124. Spurgeon on the Roman Catholic church,' Let us keep strictly to the letter and spirit of God's word in everything; for, if one adds a little, another will add more, and if one alters one point, and another alters another point, there is no telling how far we shall get from the Truth.'

125. 'Moral compass' is a phrase often heard but the problem with mankind is that the magnet is now faulty and the guidance left is poor from a corrupted conscience. The only way to plot a true course is to look to the Truth who is Jesus Christ, a lamp for the feet and a light for the path of life. Though conversion man will have a new nature, able to see clearly the way.

126. Men today may laugh at our faith and revere their science. Future men will laugh at their science and reverence our faith.

127. Do you think you are happy without God? You neither know Christ nor what you are saying. A poor child who has always sat in poverty eating scraps of rotting food may have small pleasures and feel a measure of security in his dark room. If he is urged to leave and live in a good family house he may refuse, preferring the scraps because he has never known any better. You have never known Christ, this is why you say you are happy as you are but you must pay dearly for those empty pleasures.