

What I have written above is a description of the 'essence' of Christianity. You are going to want to know more and more about Jesus Christ. Make your way to the nearest church that believes the Bible. Be careful about this. We are living in an age in which many churches have forgotten what Christianity is. But do not worry. The same God who has led you to these lines will lead you to a church that is right for you.

By the way, if you and I don't meet here on earth, I will meet you at the Last Judgment and, hopefully, in heaven forever and ever.

Dr. R. T. Kendall



Dr R.T. Kendall



RT Kendall was the pastor of Westminster Chapel in London, England, for twenty-five years. Born in Ashland, Kentucky he was educated at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Oxford University. He is well known internationally as a speaker and teacher. Dr. Kendall is the author of more than sixty books, including Total Forgiveness, More of God and For an Audience of One.



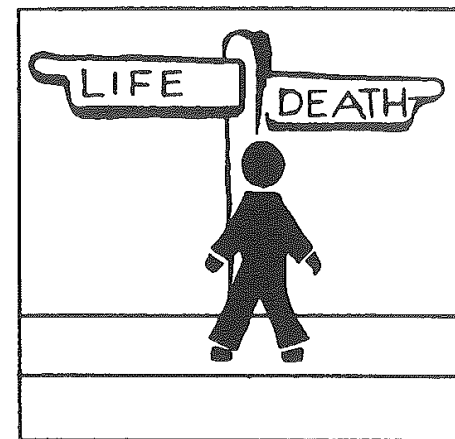
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WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

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You should know

You should know what Christianity is, because a Christian himself ought to have told you by now. But if he hasn't told you, you should know because this answers the most important Question you will ever face in life or in death.



WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

LIFE OR DEATH QUESTION

Why? Because you are not ready to live until you are ready to die. Christianity is essentially concerned about your death, because 'the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ' (Romans 6:23). You are going to die-for one reason: because you are a sinner. Your sin is your unbelief, your pride and your rebellion against God your Creator.

EXTRAORDINARY

Approximately 1950 years ago, several yards outside the walled city of Jerusalem, Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead. It is difficult to say which was the more extraordinary - His death on the cross or His resurrection. Since the cause of death is sin, Jesus ought not to have died; because He never sinned. The reason that Jesus died, however, is that our sins were laid on Him - who took them as though they were His very own. God charged Jesus with our sins instead and therefore punished Him. This is why He died. But on the third day after His death He was raised without any decay. His resurrection became known as the 'first fruits' of all who are dead (1 Corinthians 15:20). As Jesus Himself put it, 'Because I live, you will live also' (John 14:19).

SUMMONS

And yet you should know that after your own death you will be summoned before the bar of God. This is called the Last Judgment. 'Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people, and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him' (Hebrews 9:27-28). Therefore all the dead, 'great and small', will stand before God to give an account of the way they lived in the world (Revelation 20:12).

OF ULTIMATE IMPORTANCE

You are one of those who will stand before God. So am I. It is a most terrible and sobering thought. It is the only thought in the world that ultimately matters. Everything else that is on your mind at this moment cannot possibly be as important as this question: am I ready to die?

SPEAKING PERSONALLY...

I fear that you are not ready to die. And there is one more thing I must tell you. As the Last Judgment follows death, so an everlasting Hell follows the Last Judgment. Hell is a place of never-ending torment, where there will be 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' (Matthew 13:50). And yet I am so very happy that I can tell you that you need not go to Hell. I certainly do not want to go there. But I deserve to go there. For I too am a sinner like you. But I am not going there, I am happy to say, and I know this so definitely that I write these words for your benefit. You need not go there because God has made a way for your escape - your own salvation and deliverance. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16).

ESCAPE

You may escape Hell only by believing in Jesus Christ now - in advance of the Judgment. It will be too late to believe in Jesus then, for seeing is not believing. You will see Him then; you may believe Him now. To believe Him now means to honor Jesus Christ for what He did 1950 years ago.

HOW - WHERE - WHEN?

You may ask: how do I honor Jesus Christ? Answer: admit that your sins were laid on Jesus. Tell God this. Acknowledge your unbelief, pride and rebellion to God, and thank Him for sending His only Son. Pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you and I am truly sorry for my sins. Wash away all my sins by Jesus' blood. I acknowledge that He is your one and only Son. I now invite Jesus to live in my heart as my Lord and Savior. I welcome your Holy Spirit. As best as I know, how I give you my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When you believe truly in Jesus you will be given an assurance of pardon - it is a peace within that your sins are forgiven.

Do not be surprised if your ways change - that is, your usual habits, your attitude and your way of thinking. There is a reason for this. You are now governed by a different 'master' for when Jesus becomes your Savior He also becomes your Lord. Your sovereign. Your only guide.

ONE FINAL THING

Tell this not only to God but also to others. Jesus said: 'whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven' (Matthew 10:32-33). Tell at least one other person.