

ABOUT LEAFLETS **FACING THE FACTS**

About God, Ourselves, Jesus, & The Future.



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FACING THE FACTS: ABOUT GOD

Is there a God? Few today would deny it outright -- and they grow fewer. But the most unreasonable attitude is not to care. If God exists, He is the biggest fact in our lives, and merely to go on living without ever thinking about Him is to be blind and deaf and foolish. If we do not face the facts manfully, the time comes when they catch up on us, and that is truest of all of the fact of God.

From the stars above us to the flowers at our feet, all nature proclaims a creative power -- but is this God and has He left us to grope in the dark, or can we indeed learn to know Him?

We believe that the answer is to be found in the Bible which reveals God and His purpose with a breadth of vision and a grandeur of language which lead to a deep conviction of its truth.

As we read these pages God becomes a reality to us. We learn to know Him and understand His ways, and through this new knowledge we find a faith to live by equal to all the perils and doubts of our troubled times.

A faith for today has to be based on facts; on this the Bible leaves us in no doubt. A few of the truths it teaches are that:

GOD HAS SPOKEN TO MEN:

“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken ...” (Isa. 1:2)

HE SEEKS MEN TO KNOW HIM:

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.” (John 4:23)

HE HAS SPOKEN THROUGH HIS SON:

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” (Heb. 1:1-2)

HE GAVE HIS SON SO THAT DYING MEN MIGHT LIVE:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16).

MEN CAN HAVE A FUTURE LIFE ONLY THROUGH GOD’S GIFT:

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23)

HE HAS A PURPOSE WITH MEN AND THE EARTH:

“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.” (Isa. 45:18, 23)

THERE IS A GLORIOUS FUTURE NOT ONLY FOR MEN BUT FOR THE EARTH:

“And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word: But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.” (Num. 14:20-21)

FACING THE FACTS: ABOUT OURSELVES

The simplest facts about ourselves are those we least like to face. To see life whole and see it clearly is given to very few. We find it so much more pleasant to ignore unpalatable truths; yet when facts catch up with us and a time of testing comes, it is the people who know themselves who can face the future with most confidence.

Two great facts of human nature govern the lives of us all: we die, and we are sinners.

All nature speaks with one voice: the question is not IF but WHEN death will come, and man is no exception. There is not one shred of evidence in nature, or one text in the Bible, to prove that men can survive death any more than sheep. If we are to live again, it can only be by an act of God raising the dead, and changing dying bodies to undying.

In one way men differ from animals: in plain old fashioned language, animals cannot sin; men can. Men are able to judge their acts. And men DO sin. We all know in our hearts that deep down in human nature there is a flaw that warps our best intentions and continually prevents us living up to our ideals. The history of the twentieth century has borne terrible witness to the fact of sin in human nature.

Men cannot release themselves either from death or from sin. The change from sin to goodness and from death to life can only come through God's action and men's response.

The Bible teaches that:

GOD MADE HUMAN BEINGS AS LIVING CREATURES:

"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7 RSV)

HE SENTENCED THEM TO RETURN TO THE DUST FROM WHENCE THEY CAME:

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." (Gen. 3:19, KJV)

HE PROVIDES A WAY OF DELIVERANCE FROM SIN AND DEATH:

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." (Romans 7:24-25, KJV)

THIS COMES THROUGH THE DEATH OF HIS SON:

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8, KJV)

CHRIST, WHO ROSE FROM THE DEAD, WILL GIVE LIFE TO THOSE WHO COME TO GOD THROUGH HIM:

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." (John 10:28, KJV)

THIS HE WILL DO BY RAISING THEM FROM DEATH:

"... I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:54, KJV)

FACING THE FACTS: ABOUT JESUS

The greatest fact in history is Jesus of Nazareth. He commands attention by the beauty of His teaching and the moral power of His life. But what was He? When we ask for His own answer we are confronted by a challenge. He claimed:

TO BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (JOHN 8:12)

TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MEN (MATT. 20:28)

TO RETURN FROM DEATH (MARK 8:31)

TO HAVE POWER TO RAISE OTHERS AT THE LAST DAY (JOHN 6:40)

TO BE THE CHRIST THE SON OF GOD (MATT. 16:16-17)

WHO WILL JUDGE AND REWARD MEN (MATT. 16:27)

WHEN HE COMES IN HIS GLORY AS KING (MATT. 16:28)

These are not the words of a mere moralist, or simply a social reformer, or a gifted healer. The alternatives must be stated bluntly: either His claims are true, or He suffered from pitiable delusions. Yet what deluded fanatic could offer teaching or present a character which all men revere? What madman could raise the dead?

The supreme witness to Jesus is the fact of His own resurrection, and for that fact the evidence of the New Testament has withstood the assaults of sceptics and the scrutiny of the keenest minds through 1900 years.

HIS APOSTLES' WORDS STAND FIRM:

“This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses” (Acts 2:32)

Their conviction that He was the Messiah came from their personal knowledge of Him in His ministry; their certainty that He had risen rested also on personal experience. That certainty was the foundation of their preaching, and they faced death rather than deny it.

WONDERFUL AS IS THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, IT GIVES A RATIONAL PICTURE OF ONE WHO AS SON IS SUBJECT TO HIS FATHER:

“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” (1 Cor. 8:6, KJV)

IT SHOWS HIM FULFILLING HIS FATHER'S COMMANDS EVEN TO DEATH:

“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” (John 10:17-18, KJV)

IT SHOWS HIM RETURNING BODILY FROM DEATH:

“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” (Luke 24:39, KJV)

TO COMPLETE THE FATHER'S PURPOSE THE SON MUST COME AGAIN IN POWER:

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:” (Matt. 25:31, KJV)

HE WILL REIGN AS KING:

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” (Luke 1:32-33, KJV).

THOSE WHO FOLLOW HIM NOW WILL SHARE THAT KINGDOM WITH HIM THEN:

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:” (Matt. 25:34, KJV)

FACING THE FACTS: ABOUT THE FUTURE

The future begins now. What we shall be tomorrow depends on what we are today.

What a man sows, that will he reap. If he lives -- and goes on living -- a life of self-indulgence, he can look forward only to the empty old age of the burned out sensualist. If he is content to be one of the crowd -- “no worse than anybody else,” as he might say -- he will rob himself of power to grow, and sink into worthless mediocrity.

And what comes after? The Bible says that “he that sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption,” -- and it means what it says. With the decay of the body comes nothingness, for that is what death is.

The man who aims high has the satisfaction of having done his best, of possessing the love of his family and the respect of his friends, but the bitterness of death still mocks his endeavours and makes a waste of all his labours.

But for the man who learns to know God, and to rest on His promises and to follow His ways, there is a very different prospect. It is said that “he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.” Those who follow that course are received by God as His sons and daughters. They will belong to the age that is coming when God will reign as King, one Lord over all the earth.

If that is to be our future, something must happen now. In the words of Jesus, we must be “born again.” We had no choice when we were born naturally with our human instincts and desires, but we can choose to enter on a new kind of life with God’s help through baptism. Then we can look forward to the full unfading life of His Kingdom on earth.

JESUS PREACHED THE “GOOD “ OF THIS KINGDOM; HE SAID:

“Many ... shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob ... in the kingdom of God.”
(Luke 13:28-29)

TO SET UP THAT KINGDOM THE LORD JESUS, WHO IS NOW IN HEAVEN, WILL COME AGAIN:

“..this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go ...” (Acts 1:11)

“The Lord shall send Jesus Christ ... (in) the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets...” (Acts 3:20-21)

OF THOSE WHO BELONG TO HIM IN THAT AGE, JESUS SAYS:

“Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.” (Luke 20:36)

CHRIST'S KINGDOM WILL BE UNIVERSAL:

“And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:14).

AT LAST GOD HIMSELF WILL REIGN SUPREME:

“For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.... And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.” (1 Cor. 15:25-28).



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