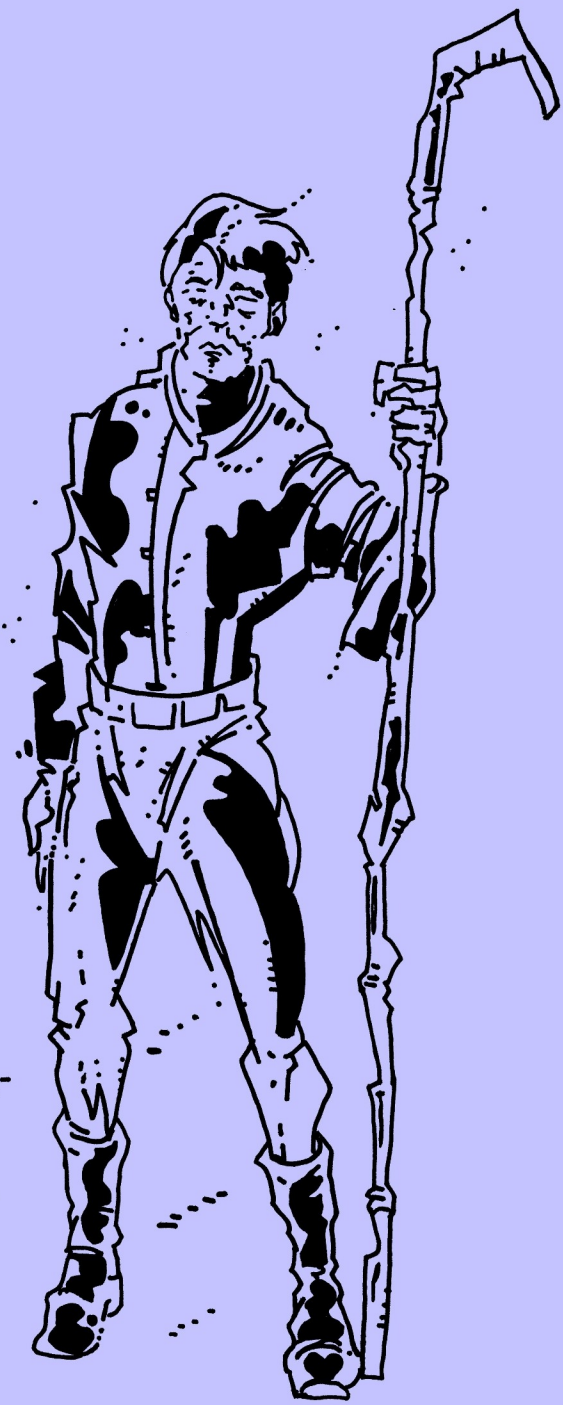




THE LIVE C SCROLLS

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# FINDING THE NARROW PATH



## **CHILDHOOD: AN EARLY INTEREST IN GOD**

Although even in childhood I had a deep interest in GOD and JESUS I did not clearly understand the way to true forgiveness and eternal life.

As a child I received no spiritual instruction in the home. There was no Bible present in our house nor did we ever pray together as a family, not even before meals.

This is not to say we were an anti-Christian or anti-religious family. We were simply like most in our society who if questioned regarding their “religion” would likely answer “Christian” yet who in their daily lives place no importance on actually pursuing GOD.

My mother did though teach me to say the prayer commonly known as “the Lord’s prayer” (a misnomer actually as it is more correctly the disciples’ prayer taught them by our Lord). But this made a great impression on my mind, so much so that though this brief conversation took place when I was yet a small child it remains very clear in my recollection. This shows how profoundly children can be influenced in a spiritual direction if only their parents would make the effort.

## **CATECHISM AND THE APOCALYPSE**

While my mother did not attend a place of worship, my father regularly took us to “Mass” and catechism as administered by the Roman Catholic religion. I found myself extremely receptive and hungry for the things of GOD and excelled in my catechetical training though there seemed to be something lacking in the substance of what I was being taught.

I somehow found myself at an early age, in my pre-teens, obsessed by what I might call an “apocalyptic awareness”. The realization of our nearness to the end of all things greatly impressed itself upon my mind and soul. As a boy I would take long walks with the neighborhood kids telling them that the end of our world was quickly approaching and that we must devote ourselves unto GOD. Some of the kids would ask me to teach them more regarding spiritual things. Others turned away, complaining that such revelations frightened and disturbed them.

## **"JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES"?**

In school I encountered a young girl who was associated with the “Jehovah’s Witnesses” religion. I was immediately impressed by the fact that, like me, she seemed to take GOD

very seriously and had a dedication to seeking spiritual truth. She passed along to me a large amount of their literature which I read but which struck me as being somehow strange or "artificial". I did however enjoy her company a lot because I had finally found someone who shared my deep interest in GOD.

The "friendship" didn't last long though. Once she saw that I was not willing to join her "church" or religion she dismissed me with unkind spiritual condemnations. It hurt me very deeply yet I've found over the course of my lifelong spiritual sojourn that many professed "believers" will quickly ostracize you from their company if you are not willing to embrace their particular "brand" or "flavor" of religion (or anti-religion for that matter!).

### **TEMPORARY FORGIVENESS**

While I continued to attend the Roman Catholic services and instruction and sincerely believed in GOD and JESUS I did not clearly understand how we could receive forgiveness for our sins. This is partly because the "spiritual leadership" I was under at that time were themselves in the dark concerning this.

I was told that if I went to confession, told the priest as many of my sins as I could bring to mind, did a good "act of contrition" (in other words, showed GOD I was really sorry) and said the prayers the priest gave me as "penance" (perhaps five "Our Fathers" and ten "Hail Marys") then I would be "forgiven"...at least temporarily.

It may sound amusing to some Christians who know better, but remember, millions of people actually believe this man-invented nonsense that is taught nowhere in GOD's Word. It's truly sad and tragic.

I remember saying to my Dad once as we left Mass and after I'd had my "confession"- "I hope I'll die now so I can go to Heaven". He kind of gave me a strange look.

### **WAS JESUS A MARTYR?**

I often sat in our "church" staring at the huge statue they had of JESUS on the cross which hung at the front of the sanctuary. I would reflect on all that He suffered as the innocent Son of GOD but I felt that His death was like that of a noble martyr. I felt so sad for Him, that people simply couldn't understand how beautiful He was. I did not know at the time, nor had the "church" taught me, that actually CHRIST's death on the cross was the focal-point of His earthly mission. It wasn't a sad tragedy...He died by Divine

Intention.

## **CLARITY**

In my early teens I discovered Billy Graham who at that time held television “crusades”. I had never seen or heard anyone like him before. In my Roman Catholic upbringing the priest seemed to deliver his “sermon” in an uninspiring, lifeless manner. My catechism teachers often spent our hour together simply telling funny stories and jokes. As a result, my soul was starving for real spiritual truth.

Brother Graham spoke with an assurance and authority which came from GOD’s Word. Astonishingly, in my previous “church” experience, The Holy Bible was rarely if ever mentioned or quoted from.

Brother Graham explained simply and clearly GOD’s plan for our forgiveness and salvation. And it centered on the Cross.

Through the teaching of the Scriptures I came to realize that, yes indeed I am a sinner, guilty before GOD. But I could not “earn” forgiveness through a system of works I could perform or man-made rituals. Forgiveness was, is, incredibly a FREE GIFT. This is the astonishing message of true Christianity, the “Gospel” or Good News, and it is a stumbling block to those many who, like Cain, prefer to invent their OWN way to GOD and then expect Him to endorse their self-originated ideas.

I learned that CHRIST had come to die. The true prophets had for many centuries predicted that GOD would become man and offer Himself as the perfect, sinless SACRIFICE for our innumerable sins. This was the whole point and meaning of the cross. This was the manner in which CHRIST “atoned” for our moral crimes against GOD. In offering Himself, a sinless, innocent, morally perfect Man, He could satisfy GOD’s JUSTICE for we the imperfect, the fallen, the sinful. GOD openly declared His acceptance of this atoning sacrifice by then raising His Son from the dead.

There was then nothing we could do to “earn” this free gift. We had simply to realize how profoundly we NEED this gift (a deep realization of our own moral guiltiness before our Creator) and to truly BELIEVE what GOD has declared; BELIEVE, TRUST solely in His Son for complete forgiveness of ALL sin to receive eternal life through Him.

## **ONLY TWO ROADS**

I recall brother Graham speaking about the two possible “roads” in life- the broad, wide road, which most people are on, which leads to eternal damnation; and the narrow road, which sadly only FEW find, which leads to eternal life. Believing this message, believing in CHRIST, I knelt down right there and then, asking Him to take me OFF the road that leads to Hell and to place me ON the road that leads to Life. And He did just that.

This short booklet is not written to offend anyone or to knock their particular “religion”. It is written to address a need I found in my own experience and know from listening to the many people around me that most share. That need is spiritual ignorance of GOD’s way to truly know Him and to have life through Him. When it comes to this, the vast majority, even of those who really do believe in GOD, are tragically OBLIVIOUS.

I sincerely share this true story from my own life’s quest in hopes that it will bring that wonderful Light of the Good News into your life as well.

May GOD give you a real understanding and genuine belief in His Truth.

#### **HOLY SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE) REFERENCES:**

“There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understands, there is none that seeks after GOD. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable, there is none that does good, no, not one.”

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of GOD; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in CHRIST JESUS.”

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with GOD through our Lord JESUS CHRIST.”

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of GOD is eternal life through JESUS CHRIST our Lord.”

“For GOD so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For GOD did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believes on Him is not condemned: but he that does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of GOD.”



“Enter you in at the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in thereat: because small is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there are that find it.”

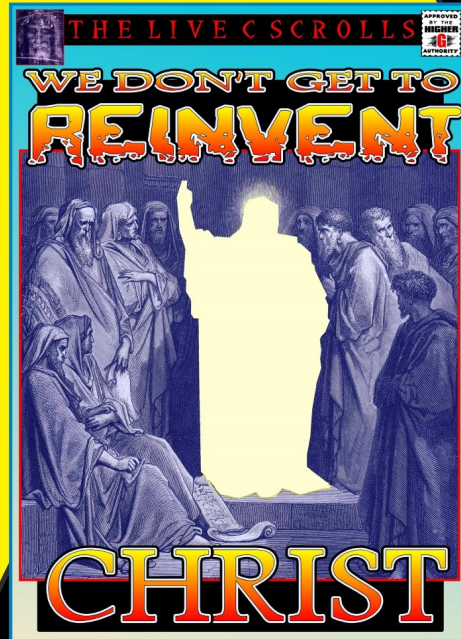
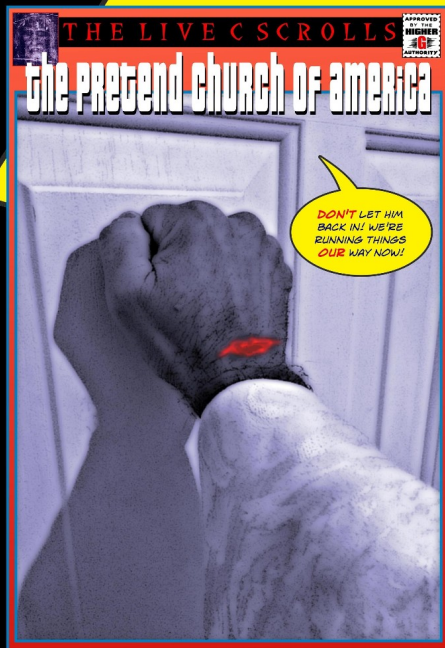
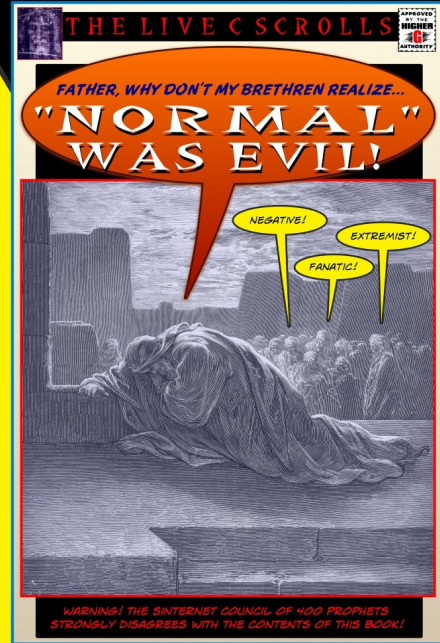
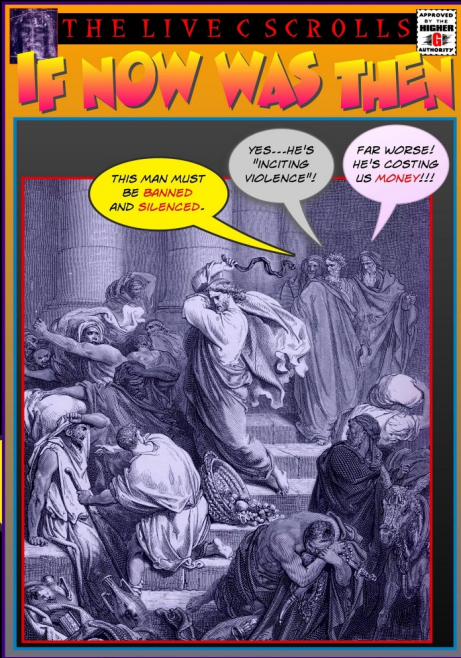
*(Romans 3.10-12, 3.23, 5.1, 6.23; John 3.16-18; Matthew 7.13-14)*



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