

IF

What IF It's True?

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You hear all the time now that the end of the world is near.

Time is running out. God is going to judge the world. If you don't admit your sins and ask God for forgiveness, He will pour out His anger on you in fiery judgment. There's no time to waste.

The end is coming... really?

I mean... really? C'mon man. That's just whacky religious nutcase stuff. Nobody seriously believes that can be true. Give me a break.

If you are a little bit of a deeper thinker though, and actually wonder about some of the more important questions in life, it certainly can make you pause for moment. If you care about more than Netflix, beer, sex and money, it does force you to consider if there is more to this life, what comes next, and is there really a "GOD" you must answer to.

What IF, and that's a BIG IF, any of this "the end of near" stuff is true?

IF...

IF you take a few minutes to read this short book, it might change your life, maybe your eternity.

You know when all those weird “Jesus types” that bother you with their God stuff? I bet you’ve thought some of the same things others have:

- I’ve heard it all before; I don’t think it matters.
- I don’t care about religion; it’s all a waste of time.
- Life is good, money is good. Sex is good. No thanks, I’m good.
- I’m an atheist; I don’t believe in God or any religion.

- I love Jesus. I don't need Church or religion.
- I'm a [pick a religion]. I was raised that way.
- God is a fairy tale for weak people.
- I'm a good person; if there is a God or Heaven, I'll be there.
- Heard it already, I disagree. Don't bother me.
- I have my own beliefs and I think people have the right to believe what they want.

There's a lot of religious and spiritual confusion today, a lot of people out there claiming to have the truth.

What if there was a way to know the truth about things that really matter?

What if there really was simple truth that could be trusted?

What if that truth really did have eternal consequences?

It would be worth considering, right?

It would certainly be worth a few minutes of your time.

Maybe it won't matter to you today, but maybe, just maybe, some time down the road in your life you might remember it just when you need it.

Something to consider: nobody is promised another day. People die unexpectedly every day. Maybe today is the day to think about this stuff.

You can read this little booklet in about 5 minutes. It might change your life. It might change your eternity.

The worse thing that can happen is you've taken a few minutes to think about what really matters in life.

We all need to do that more.

Entertainment and social media get enough of our time.

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Brent". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending to the left of the letter "B".

IF...

IF all the Bible stuff is ridiculous lies then it should just be ignored, even laughed at. I mean c'mon... hell, angels, judgment seats, wrath of God, raptures, a thousand years. That's the stuff of cults and religious whackos, right? A 2000 year old book written by a bunch of nobodies?

No wonder science scoffs at the Bible. No wonder all the smart people with lots letters after their names are skeptics. No wonder almost everybody in the world ignores the Bible and often mocks it.

Everyone knows the Bible is a bunch of fairy tales and myths. Everyone knows that science has proven the Bible is unreliable. Everyone knows that the Bible cannot be trusted. Right?

But what if... IF... the Bible is true?

IF...

IF the **Bible is true** then it is a book that cannot be ignored. The Bible claims to be the actual words of God delivered by Him, through human writers, and is exactly what He wants us to know.

The Bible claims God created us. The Bible claims that every person He created is accountable to Him. The Bible claims that every person will be judged by God and give account for His life.

The Bible claims that those who reject God will be separated from Him for all eternity while those that humbly accept God's terms will go to Heaven.

IF the Bible might be true, aren't those things that you should seriously consider and find out if they are true?

After all, your eternity depends on it.

IF...

IF Jesus Christ is coming back to the earth as He said, then we certainly should take His arrival seriously. Jesus said He is coming to “repay every person for what they have done”.

If He really came to earth 2000 years ago, died on a cross then rose from the dead three days later, that's not someone you want to ignore. If He really rose from the dead, it means He has power over death, and it proves He really is God.

If Jesus' claim that He is the **ONLY** way you can be made right with God and go to Heaven, then that should cause you to very seriously consider if it is true or not, or you might end up somewhere eternally less pleasant.

If Jesus really is coming back, it should change how we think, how we talk, how we live, what we love and what is important to us.

IF...

IF “the **Rapture**” is true (you know that event the Christians talk about where Jesus comes back and gets them) wouldn't you want to know?

What if Jesus really is coming back to take ONLY those who have placed their faith in Him and leaves everyone else to face a terrible time of judgment?

What if one day millions of people just suddenly disappear but not you? Does that mean those Christians were right? Does that mean God is about to bring terrible judgment on the Earth?

If that happens, is it true that you can still respond to God and place your trust in Jesus to save you?

If true, then certainly every person would want to be part of it and not hang around for the terrible events that are coming for those left behind.

IF...

IF the **Tribulation** is real, it is of even more concern than that Rapture thing.

If the Bible is telling the truth about “The Tribulation” it says that after the Rapture, those who remain are going to experience the full wrath of an Almighty God. Why? Because everyone who is left has rejected His Son Jesus Christ, who He sent to die to pay for their sins. So God is mad, really mad, and its time to pay up.

That is really scary. If there is ANY possibility it could be true, then you would have to be a fool not to really think it over. That’s like being told you are about to be run over by a speeding bus and instead of heeding the warning, you go back to your phone and check your InstaSnapGramBook.

If the Bible is true concerning the coming Great Tribulation, it should scare the Hell out of everyone.

IF...

IF Jesus rose from the dead then “wow!”, can you really ignore Him?

If Jesus rose from the dead that means He is who He said He was: GOD. It means He has power over death.

If Jesus rose from the dead, then what He says about death and eternity must be true right?

If Jesus rose from the dead that makes Him the only LIVING founder of the major religions of the world. Buddha is dead. Muhammed is dead. Joseph Smith is dead. If Jesus really did come back from the dead by His own power, that certainly would seem to make His claims true and all others hollow lies.

If Jesus really was God, came to earth in the form of a man to die to pay the debt you owe God for your wickedness, then Him rising from the dead certainly proves it's all true.

IF...

IF Jesus died for your sins then He must have had a reason.

The Bible says Jesus died for your evil actions and thoughts (and mine) because even though we may not love Him, He loves us.

Every wicked person is accountable to God whether you believe that or not. God is a perfect Judge who cannot ignore wrongdoing anymore than a good human judge can. Evil deeds and wickedness (the Bible calls it "sin") must be punished.

We cannot possibly be punished enough to pay the debt to God for our thousands upon thousands of sins. So Jesus came and took our punishment for us by dying in our place.

What if that is true? How much do we owe Him for that? Everything?

IF...

IF you **really are a sinner** then it must mean you are accountable to whoever decides what is right and wrong, right?

But, you're a good person, just like most everybody else. You've never lied, so you are not liar. You've never stolen anything, like say, time from your boss at work. You've never lusted, cheated, gossiped, gotten drunk, viewed pornography, cursed God or been unkind. Right?

Oops.

If we are even just a little bit honest, we must admit that we have sinned and done wrong. And we know deep down what is wrong.

An honest person knows they have sinned thousands upon thousands of times. If true, don't we owe some kind of penalty to someone for all that sin?

IF...

IF Hell is real... now that should get every person's attention. If the Bible is true, Hell is a one-stop destination where you can "check out any time you like but you can never leave" type of place.

If the "Hell" that Jesus warned about frequently (He talked about Hell twice as much as Heaven) is a real place, it is a place of torment and separation and agony and regret and hopelessness.

And, if Jesus is right, it doesn't matter if you don't believe in Hell, it's still real. It's like believing that speeding truck coming down the road isn't going to run you over simply because you choose not to acknowledge the bus or the danger is real.

If Hell is real, you don't want to go there. There are no second chances. If there is ANY chance Hell is real, wouldn't you want to know?

IF...

IF Heaven is real and is really what the Bible describes, then can you even imagine how incredible it will be?

No tears, no pain, no evil, no loneliness. Everyone will truly love each other, and we will spend eternity living in a home that Jesus himself built for us.

The Bible says Heaven is a new Earth, and new bodies, not little fat angels with wings playing harps in the clouds. Heaven is everything made completely new... your body, this earth.

Heaven is what God created the first time with Adam and Eve, but they messed it up by disobeying God.

God knew it would happen and has a plan to restore Heaven, but you can only live there if you do it on His terms. Do you know what they are?

“IF” ... Can You Know for Sure?

When it comes to the Bible and God's claims of Truth, there is only one way to know: read the Book that God claims He gave us (the Bible). Ask God to open your eyes to the Truth.

That's it.

Start with the **Book of John** in the Bible. It tells you about the life of Jesus and all the claims He makes about who He is. Jesus also teaches you about sin and forgiveness and Heaven and Hell and the future.

Did you know Jesus taught TWICE as much about HELL as He did Heaven? You know why? Because Hell is real and Jesus doesn't want you to end up there.

Let the facts of the Bible fill your mind, then ask God to let those facts flow down to your heart. He will, if you ask.

Bible

Here are the Bible verses that support the “IF” statements of the last few pages. Look them up for yourself.

IF the Bible is true

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- Genesis 1:26-27 “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.’ So God created mankind in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female”

- Romans 14:12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might
- Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

IF Jesus is coming back

- Revelation 22:12 Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done.
- Romans 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

IF the Rapture is true

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-52 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

IF the Tribulation is true

- Matthew 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.
- Revelation 3:10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on

the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

- Mark 13:24-27 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

IF Jesus rose from the dead

- Romans 10:9 Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Acts 17:31 Because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”
- Romans 14:9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.
- Romans 8:34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- 1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

IF Jesus died for your sins

- Romans 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

IF you really are a sinner

- Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- Romans 3:10 As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;
- Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
- Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
- Romans 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality,

impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

IF Hell is real

- Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
- Revelation 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- Revelation 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

IF Heaven is real

- Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
- 1 Corinthians 2:9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” —
- Revelation 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

IF...

IF Truth can really be known, and there is not much hope in this life if it cannot, I want to leave you with the most important Truth you'll ever need to consider:

- There is a God. He created you. This reality is written deep in the human heart by God. This is why every culture in history has some version of "god." It is also the reason why atheists and skeptics have to work so hard to suppress a belief in God and convince people He doesn't really exist.
- You are accountable to God.
- Thinking you are "good" and God will accept you because you are good... is a lie. We all do bad things,

think bad things (lie, lust, steal, curse, cheat, manipulate, gossip, etc). Thousands and thousands of times. You just have to be honest enough to admit it.

- God loves you but He is also “just” (a perfect Judge); we have broken His law (“sin”) and owe a penalty for those violations.
- That penalty is eternal separation and punishment from our Creator.
- If it sounds like we are in an awful dilemma, it’s because we are.

However, God He loves us and sent His only Son Jesus to pay our penalty so that we no longer owe God a debt.

All that is required of us is to accept the gift from Jesus on His terms.

We have a problem and God has an answer. Your response determines your eternity.

IF...

If you are not saved and assured that Heaven will be your eternal destination, what must you do?

The Good News from Jesus Christ

Every person needs to have a right relationship with the God who created us. (Do not believe the lie that you came from a monkey or goo. God created you, loves you, and is now trying to get your attention.)

Perhaps in your own heart you have tried to explain away spiritual things, convincing yourself it is all superstition or fairy tales, but the questions just will not go away. Do you know why they will not go away? Because God created in every person

the need and desire to know the answers... this need is evidence that God exists, and is reaching out to you.

You are a sinner. Me too.

The nutshell is this: **you are a sinner**. The God who created you does not tolerate sin. Like a righteous human judge doing his duty, pronouncing punishment and penalty on wrongdoing, the Judge of the Universe – God – must pronounce eternal judgment on all those who have violated His perfect Law. That is the bad news. The good news is that God also has provided a way for us to be forgiven for those violations (sin).

God mercifully provided a way for us to be saved. You cannot earn it; you cannot be good enough to merit it. You cannot demand it or obligate God to give it. It is a free gift manifested in God's love, mercy, and sovereignty. Our salvation is unattainable except that God chose in eternity past to provide it for us because He loves us.

Here are several truths to help you find true Christian faith for yourself, based upon what God says in His Word – the Bible:

- **God Loves You:** ...God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- **You Are in Trouble:** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” — “You [God] are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with You the wicked cannot dwell.
- **Sin Brings Disaster:** The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **God Has Provided the Answer – a Savior:** God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Repent of Your Sin and Believe in Jesus Christ:** Turn to God in repentance and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. To all who receive Him, to those who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of

God. To repent means to “turn away from.” It means to be sorry for your sin and truly not want to do it anymore.

- **Believe in Jesus and place your Faith* in Him:** This is what the Bible says – God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son, Jesus. It is by grace (an undeserved gift) through faith that we are saved. He who has the Son has eternal life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have eternal life — If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, place your faith in Him, you will be saved.
- **Now Is the Time to Receive Him and Respond in Obedience:** Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart. Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Obedience is the evidence of **true** repentance, faith, and belief. We must respond to God’s gift of salvation **ON HIS TERMS** by obeying what He commands, recognizing Him as Lord (master) of your life.

- Confess that you are a sinner publicly to other Christians. Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the ONLY way to salvation. Place your faith in Him. Be baptized (immersed in water) which symbolizes your old life of sin and defiance being put to death in a grave of water, and a new Godly person being born to a new life of righteousness and good.
- Find a group of Believers with whom you can serve, pray, and worship the God of the Universe. Read your Bible. Love others.

Obey God.

Obedience is the EVIDENCE of GENUINE salvation.

Look up the truths I have stated here in the Bible. Don't take my word for it:

John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Psalm 5:4, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Acts 20:21, John 1:12, I John 5:11-12, Hebrews 3:7-8, Romans 10:9; Acts 2.38.

* Faith is Like a Parachute

- Faith is a combination of Belief & Trust & Response.
- **Belief:** the parachute exists, it is real.
- **Belief & Trust:** The Parachute exists and it is functional and high quality – your life depends on it!
- **Belief & Trust & Response:** The Parachute exists and it is able to do what it claims it will do, and I am going to pick up the parachute and put it on. Your belief and trust is useless otherwise!
- **The appropriate Response:** The Parachute exists and it is able to do what it claims it will do, and I am going to pick up the parachute and put it on... **and jump.**

If you don't need to jump, intend to jump, or ultimately take the "leap of faith" (jump), then b"elief and trust and response" have not reached the level of "faith."

- To jump with faith means to trust and believe that the only way you can stand before God and be accepted is because of Jesus Christ.

Again, what must I do to be saved?

- Believe and have faith in Jesus Christ, who was God's Son that lived a perfect life as a true man, was put to death as a punishment for OUR sins, and rose from the dead after three days to show that he has power over death.
- Admit your sin, confess it, and turn away from it!
- Respond in trust and obedient faith by "putting Him on" and jumping out of the fires of eternal condemnation (Hell... the plane is going down!) into Eternity with Him (Heaven).

How does belief and faith happen?

- In the Bible, Romans 10:17 - Then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- Good news! You've done that today! You've heard the Word of God and can now respond in faith.

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