

SUDDEN DISASTER!

Echoes of Grace



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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Donald Rule



SUDDEN DISASTER!

It was a calm, clear and beautiful evening in Mexico City on November 4, 2008. In the heart of the city's financial district, the streets were clogged with rush-hour traffic. Everything seemed normal as people made their way home from a busy day of work. No one could have foreseen the fiery disaster that was soon to overtake them.

At about 6:45 p.m., a Learjet 45 was coming in for a landing at the nearby airport when it suddenly flipped over and plummeted from the sky, crashing to the ground among cars, pedestrians and buildings in a blaze of fire. Witnesses stated that the flames rose above the tops of the skyscrapers in the inferno and carnage that followed. All eight people aboard the Learjet were killed, along with six people on the ground. Forty bystanders were seriously injured, 1,200 residents had to be evacuated, and 30 cars were destroyed. It was a dreadful disaster!

The nation and world were shocked to learn that the Learjet had been carrying the Secretary of the Interior (with similar duties to the Vice President of the U.S.) along with five other high-level officials, who had been



involved in Mexico's battle against powerful drug cartel lords. Was the plane sabotaged? Was there a bomb on board? The pressure was intense to quickly find the cause of this catastrophe.

They ended up hitting the ground at over 300 miles per hour.

Surprising Discovery

After a careful and thorough investigation, it was determined that the Learjet was following too close behind a Mexicana Boeing 767, which was a much heavier plane. Because the weather was so calm, there was no wind to dissipate the wake turbulence from the Mexicana plane, causing it to linger in the air much longer than usual, creating a

"wall" for the smaller plane to fly into. The crew of the Learjet had neither the experience nor the altitude to recover their plane—they barely had time to realize that they were going to die! They ended up hitting the ground at over 300 miles per hour.

But why were the pilots not more cautious, especially considering the high-level officials they were responsible for? After further investigation, including listening to the cockpit voice recorder, several factors were revealed:

- The pilots didn't successfully control their speed or their altitude.
- The pilots didn't seem to know how to operate the plane's controls.

- They flew faster than the speed given by the air-traffic controller, causing them to come too close to the Mexicana plane.

- Several times proper information was not entered into the cockpit instruments.

- They did not follow a proper flight plan, and they had navigational difficulties.

- Most shockingly of all, the *real* reason for the confusion in the cockpit was that *neither* pilot had the proper certification; therefore they were not qualified to fly the plane! Certification forms were missing or unsigned by their flight school. The commanding pilot claimed to have taken training flights he hadn't taken; he claimed to be a Learjet instructor when he wasn't and part of a Learjet training team when he wasn't. *He was a fraud!*

It was the pilots' own fraud and deception that led to a fatal outcome. The prospect of a special government charter job might have seemed like a good enough reason to fake their competence, but it led them into a situation which they couldn't handle—with dire consequences. Not only did they lose their lives, but their deceitfulness also caused the deaths of other innocent people.

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What About You?

What about you? Are you deceiving yourself about your eternal well-being? If you are, you will suffer the consequences in a lost eternity, forever. God has clearly told us the way of salvation; none of us will be able to deceive the Lord or fake our salvation when we stand before Him. **"The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord**

looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). No doubt the crew of the

Learjet convinced themselves that deception and fraud was the right thing to do considering the circumstances, but

they found out that they were wrong ... too late, too late! "There is a

way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

The Lord Jesus told a parable (a simple story to illustrate a moral or spiritual truth) about a man who was a fraud. But he was found out. Here is the story that Jesus told: **"When the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: and he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless"** (Matthew 22:11-12). You, like this man, will have no excuse for rejecting God's offer of

salvation. Jesus, who is faithful to warn us, tells us what happened to this man. **“Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”** (Matthew 22:13). What a horrible and terrifying end for this man to come to!

While you now have time and life, make the choice to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, for God **“will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”** (1 Timothy 2:4). Because God does not want to see anyone perish, He **“now commandeth all men everywhere to repent”** (Acts 17:30). **“The wages of sin is death [hell]; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (Romans 6:23). Like the man in the parable, we cannot enter into God’s presence with our sins unforgiven; we all need a garment of salvation. Here is a promise from God: **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”** (1 John 1:9). Your choice WILL have eternal consequences—accept God’s gracious offer of salvation today, while you are able!

Our time is limited, but God’s resources to pay our debt of sin are not. Find out the details in *Bankruptcy*. ◀

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Bankruptcy



The word bankruptcy comes from the Italian words *banca rotta*, meaning “broken bench.” Back in Medieval times, merchants used to set up benches, or counters, for business in market places. If they went bankrupt through the mismanagement of funds, their bench would be broken, signifying that they had made bad deals and were out of business. Over time the word “bankrupt” has come to refer to those who are unable to pay their bills.

Bankruptcy — the condition of not being able to pay off debt — has been around for a long time.

In ancient Greece, if a person wasn't able to meet their financial obligations, they were forced into debt slavery. All their assets would be confiscated, and then the unfortunate debtor along with his wife, children and servants would be made into slaves for a period of five years. The city of Athens had lost so many of its citizens to debt slavery that a ruler by the name

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of Solon passed a law forbidding the practice.

Genghis Khan, the Ruler, who conquered China and most of Asia, decreed that a person who went into bankruptcy for the third time in their lifetime should suffer the death penalty.

Many countries in Western Europe maintained debtors' prisons. Back in the Age of Victoria, a man who owed as little as 40 shillings could be sent to prison until his family could afford to pay off his debt. Prison houses had deplorable living conditions. Charles Dickens, the famous English novelist, experienced seeing his own father spend time in a debtors' prison.



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Unable to Pay

Financial bankruptcy causes pain and hardship. But there is another type of bankruptcy in the spiritual realm even more devastating.

This other type of bankruptcy affects 100% of the human population and includes everyone, from the rich down to the poor. Sometimes the rich might think that this bankruptcy doesn't apply to them. This is false, because all the silver and gold in the world can't redeem a soul from death.

Each individual has been given one

The best advice you will ever receive is to get out of spiritual bankruptcy **NOW** by believing on the name of the Lord Jesus.

is to come to the right person who has limitless resources to help.

lifetime to resolve this bankruptcy.

This bankruptcy is due to the debt of sin. It is a debt we have all incurred.

"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). If the debt is not paid off in time, those who owe it will be forced to stand before a great Judge who has the power to send them away into everlasting punishment. **"These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal"** (Matthew 25:46). The prison house of hell has completely deplorable conditions. Those sent to the place will know the depths of misery and sorrow for all eternity.

The only way to be delivered from this state of spiritual bankruptcy






Full Payment

There is good news for bankrupt sinners. **“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”** (1 Timothy 1:15). Through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, God has made a way that the debt of sin might be paid for all those who believe. **“Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification”** (Romans 4:25). Will you come by faith to the Lord Jesus Christ who is willing to share the riches of His grace with all who trust Him? **“Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich”** (2 Corinthians 8:9).

The best advice you will ever receive is to get out of spiritual bankruptcy NOW by believing on the name of the Lord Jesus, and then use the rest of your life to love and serve Him. Be wise and take this advice while there is time. If you linger, you may end up forever too late.

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Not only does God provide full payment for sins, but He also gives far beyond that. Read about that provision in *The Safe Zone*. 



The Safe Zone

Do you want a safe zone in your life? A place where hurt and harm can never come? A place of joy and happiness? A place where all heartbreak and tears are absent? A place of complete security and safety? A place full of people, and not one of them will ever accuse you, find fault with you or try to use you, but everyone will treat you with the purest love and greatest respect?

Does such a place exist? Such a place definitely exists! Heaven is the one and only "Safe Zone," and according to the Bible, we all have the opportunity to get there through the Lord Jesus Christ who said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life"** (John 14:6).

Christ is the way, because it is only through faith in Him that our sins can be forgiven. **"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins"** (Acts 13:38). By His life, He also showed us the most excellent way to live. His life was perfect in every virtue, and He always pleased God. Twice during His earthly ministry, a voice came down from heaven saying, **"This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"** (Matthew 3:17). God wants us to turn away from sin and to strive to please Him in all we do, act, think and say. From the moment we are saved to the moment we enter the safe zone of heaven, God wants us to act more and more like

His beloved Son. **“Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able”** (Luke 13:24).

The Lord Jesus is the truth, because He fully revealed God the Father. He told one of His followers, **“He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father”** (John 14:9). The truth He proclaimed had no mixture of falsehood in it. Therefore everything He taught can be trusted. Coming to know Jesus Christ, who is the truth, is like coming out of darkness into a light where we can see things clearly, as they really are. One thing the Lord Jesus taught was that those who love and trust Him will be with Him in heaven. **“In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you”** (John 14:2). The place He went to prepare for those who love Him will exceed every expectation.

Jesus Christ is the life also. He is the life because He arose victorious over the grave, and He promises that all those who believe in Him will share in His resurrection life. Moreover, He is

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God and co-eternal with the Father. He is uncreated life and calls men to share in this life by faith and love. Down here we are called to live by faith, but in heaven faith will give way to wonderful sight. With our eyes, we will see Him who is the life, and the sight will fill our hearts with wonderful joy that will never grow old.

God wants you to come to repentance and faith in Christ so that you might have a home in heaven. This heaven will be the best of all places, a veritable safe zone. Don't miss out on it, because if you miss out on heaven, you'll not be allowed to miss out on hell. By choosing to reject the Lord Jesus Christ, people choose hell for themselves.

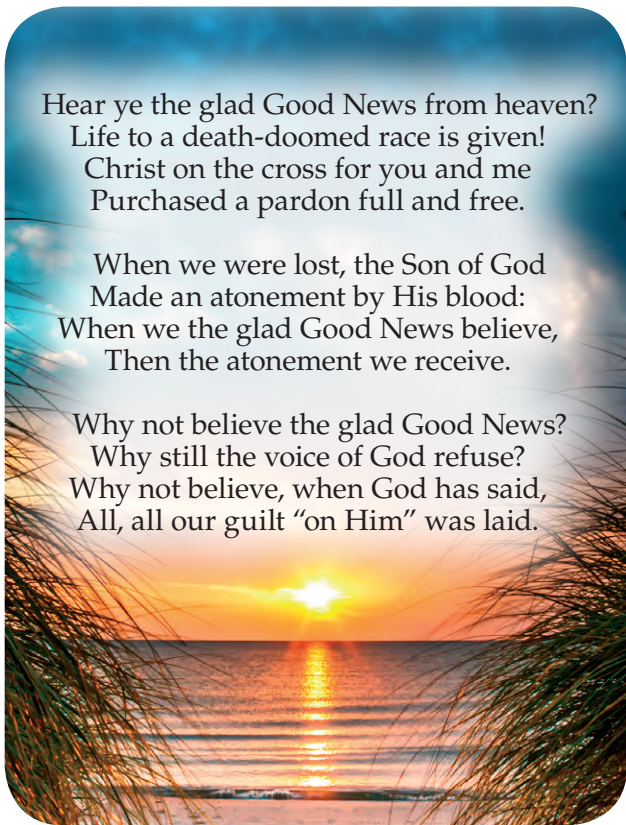
Jesus Christ is **“the way, the truth, and the life.”** Won't you come to know Him so that one day you can enter the safe zone of heaven? ◀

He That Believeth

Hear ye the glad Good News from heaven?
Life to a death-doomed race is given!
Christ on the cross for you and me
Purchased a pardon full and free.

When we were lost, the Son of God
Made an atonement by His blood:
When we the glad Good News believe,
Then the atonement we receive.

Why not believe the glad Good News?
Why still the voice of God refuse?
Why not believe, when God has said,
All, all our guilt "on Him" was laid.



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*"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man
that trusteth in Him" (Psalm 34:8).*

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