

"I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me." John 14:6 NIV

# Where To Go... By John Esau as told to Ken Penner and How to Get There

I often visit in old age homes as part of the ministry I have with people in the Lower Mainland-Greater Vancouver Area of British Columbia. This particular day I was visiting the elderly at an Old Age home in Abbotsford B.C.. I asked the women in charge if there was anyone in particular who might need a visit. They said there were two men who were atheists, but they would only tell me "Where to go and how to get there." I was used to having some very different responses from people that I ministered to, so this did not bother me in the least. I said I would like to see them.

One of the fellows was Herbie, who was 92 years old when I met him. He had led a rough life and as a result was separated from the rest of his family. He was really a lonely man. I befriended him and got to know him over the next year and a half. During this time I tried to show him the love of God through both word and deed. We became good friends. As I shared the hope we have through the good news of Jesus Christ, he informed me his mother had told him the same things that I was telling him. She too had

been a Christian but he didn't believe there was a God. He had been through the war and seen and done some terrible things, possibly this had caused him to question the reality of God. He had run away from home when he was 16 years old and believed he had been too great of a sinner for God, if there was one, to be able to forgive him. I shared with him the Scripture from 1 John 1:9 which says "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and will purify us from all unrighteousness." NIV

One day he told me that he wanted to apologize to me. I asked him what he wanted to apologize to me about. He said he was sorry for treating me so meanly when I had spoken to him about God. I indicated to him that I would forgive him, but I had not noticed that he had done this to me. I asked him what made him suddenly think of this. He said that he now believed in God, he believed in Jesus and he believed what Jesus had done for him. I

told him that there was still something missing, that he should thank the Lord for the faith he had given him. He said "Don't push me." There was a marked change in his outlook after this, he began to pray that he would find some members of his family and he also prayed for my wife and for me. Herbie was a shining light and a great witness for Jesus Christ after his conversion.

At one point his foot became infected and the Doctor told him that it needed to be amputated. He was quite upset when he told me about this. I anointed him with oil according to the Bible as recorded in James 5:14, 15 and prayed a prayer similar to this; "Lord, Herbie is a new Christian, he is only learning to walk and grow as a Christian. He needs his foot to be able to walk both spiritually as well as physically, so please Lord spare his foot and let him walk for you. Amen."

His operation was scheduled in the next couple days and he went for his surgery. The hospital phoned the

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staff at the Old age home and told them that Herbie's operation was successful. I assumed that the doctors had removed his foot. As I went to visit him in his room, I asked him how he was doing, he said he was well. I looked and saw both of his feet sticking out of the blanket, they had not removed his foot but had operated on a vein in his foot instead. God had answered our prayer.

Two of Herbie's daughters showed up one day, they had been looking for him and found him through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The atmosphere was tense at first because the girls felt that he had abandoned them. As the conversation progressed, one of the daughters asked if he was a Christian. He indicated that he was, and she replied that she too was a Christian. Herbie apologized for not caring for them as he should have and for leaving them alone all those years. They had great fellowship together after that.

As I entered Herbie's room one day, the workers told me that I should talk to him about death, as they thought he was dying. He was lying on his bed with his face to the wall. As I called out his name, he turned towards me and it was

obvious he was quite depressed, as he told me he had no reason to live anymore. He said he was of no earthly good anymore and just wanted to die. I asked him if he still prayed for me and he said he did, every day. I told him I still needed his prayers and would pray that he would feel better. After I prayed for him, his face brightened and he again had purpose to live.

Some time later, when I visited him, he said he felt it was soon his time to go to be with the Lord. As I left, he told me if he didn't see me again here on earth, he would see me in heaven.

The next time I went to visit him, the workers told me that I had just missed him, he had died just before I had arrived that morning.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." NIV What a privilege it was to know Herbie, no longer an atheist but a saint. I know he is now enjoying eternal life in heaven with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and I will join him there one day.

## IF / ...THEN WHAT?

By  
David  
Ducklow



Society today tells you that there are many reasons why it cannot love you just the way you are. It tells you that if you don't look more beautiful, if you don't wear the popular clothes, if you are not more cool, then people will not accept you. This is what it takes to be accepted by the standards of our society.

As I studied English in high school, I learned about something called an if / then clause. It is a rule that if you use the word 'if' in a sentence, you must also use the word 'then' soon after it. It is there to indicate a cause/ effect relationship.

In Herbie's story, we read of a couple 'if/then' clauses in his life. If you believed that you had sinned too much for God to ever be able to forgive you, then you would feel hopeless about life. This is how Herbie felt. If you had "led a rough life" and had become separated from your family and friends, then you would become lonely. Just as Herbie was.

Often, society is cruel in its consequences for our actions. Perhaps you too have been through circumstances that have dealt you nothing but hopelessness, loneliness, and pain.

However, God offers us a chance to experience his blessing and loving kindness if we will only come to Him. In 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:7-9, the author tells us about three if / then clauses that lead to life! He says:

1. If we claim to be without sin, [then] we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
2. If we confess our sins [then] He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
3. If we walk in the light, [then] the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

What peace and joy came into Herbie's life when he submitted to God's truth and came to Jesus for cleansing and a new life. This hope is available to all, if they only come to God through the way he has opened, his Son Jesus Christ. Please consider this final if / then clause in Scripture. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son. [If we] believe in Him, [then] we shall not die, but have ever lasting life." (John 3:16 my paraphrase) If you truly catch the meaning of this, you will find eternal life...Just as Herbie did!

# Without Excuse

by Mike  
Cunningham

*"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:20 NIV*

If fingerprints prove identity.  
Then whose prints  
would these  
be?

You could fit 1,300,000 Earth's inside of  
the sun.

You'd need to explode 100,000,000,000 tons of dynamite every  
second to match the energy produced by the Sun.

The super hot center of the Sun blazes at 15,700,000°C (18,000,000°F) - more  
than 40,000 times as hot as boiling water.

If the Solar System, from the Sun all the way out to Pluto, were shrunk to the size of a  
quarter, the Milky Way would be the size of North America.

If you travelled the 5,913,000,000 km that it is to Pluto in a car at 100 km/h, the ride would last  
about 6,750 years. Of course you're still only at the edge of the quarter.

The nearest star to our Sun - Proxima Centauri - is more than 39,900,000,000,000 km away. It takes the  
light from this dim star more than four years to reach Earth.

Our Sun is one of about 70,000,000,000,000,000,000 (that's 70 sextillion) stars in the universe. Even though  
most are too faint to see, there are more stars out there in space than there are grains of sand on Earth.\*

*In his testimony, Herbie doubted God's existence.  
Perhaps you, too, think it almost unbelievable.  
But we live with the unbelievable every day! God  
has displayed his Almighty power in creation. Let  
us trust His Almighty ability to save us as well. The  
Bible says that we have all wandered away from  
God. Then in His love, God sent Jesus, the very  
Creator, to die to save us? Now that is unbeliev-  
able love! Will you place your life in His hands  
today? He desires to create new life in you!*

*"The heavens declare the glory  
of God; the skies proclaim the  
work of his hands...night after  
night they display knowledge."*

Psalm 19:1,2 NIV



# Atheist – Really?

I have often heard people tell me they are atheists. My dictionary tells me that an atheist is one who does not believe in the existence of God. Is there really such a person? My Bible tells me that everyone at one time or another in their life had a knowledge of God. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. **For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him ...**” Romans 1:20,21 NIV

When I was a small child my father was having trouble with our car and he took it in to the garage. As our whole family was waiting for the car to be fixed, the mechanic was having difficulty with the repair and was repeatedly using God’s name in vain. My father, considerably bothered by this, leaned over to where the mechanic was working and said “This Jesus that you are so often referring to, is he a friend of yours?” This was followed by a silence and a speedy repair of the vehicle.

But the question still remains, “This Jesus is he a friend of yours?” We can deny him, we can curse him, we can say he doesn’t exist but the fact remains he is waiting for each of us to acknowledge him and to receive him as Lord and Saviour.

Herbie was not really an atheist, though he, for a time, refused to acknowledge his God, his Maker and his Friend and this to his own peril. Thank God that he finally submitted before it was too late.

“He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9 NIV

This I Believe!



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## WHAT WE BELIEVE

### The Bible and Its Authority

a) We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and conduct.

### The Eternal Godhead

b) We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### Man and His Need

c) We believe that man was created in the image of God; that through sin man incurred both spiritual and physical death. Consequently, man is totally depraved, alienated from God, under his righteous anger, and in need of the new birth.

### Jesus Christ and His Work

d) We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.

e) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.

f) We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his ascension into heaven, his present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate and in his personal return.

### Salvation for Sinners

g) We believe that by the grace of God, all who in repentance and faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. Such are sealed unto the day of redemption. Nevertheless, the believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit, moment by moment.

### The Future

h) We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, in the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and in the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

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