

The Gift of Life

DID you know that there are thousands of people whose life is fleeting for want of an organ transplant? They wait, and wait, and wait, wondering if the **gift of life** they so desperately need will ever come, and will it come in time? One person may be suffering from kidney failure, while another needs a liver or other transplant. Someone dies in one state and his organs are donated - the recipient of this **gift of life** may live in the same state, or another state. With great urgency the desperately needed organ is transported to the recipient! The majority of the time the two people involved have never met, and yet through the death of one person, another gets a new lease on life. How grateful that person must be, but how does one thank the deceased donor? Even with a new lease on life the recipient will, however, eventually die as all humans must.

ARE you aware that there are millions of people with a *terminal* condition, a condition that, with the proper treatment, can be cured? Without the cure, death is certain! In fact, **everyone** has this *terminal* condition! There is a cure, though; but only one. The *terminal* condition that everyone has is what God's Word, the Bible, calls the sin nature. Everyone has it; we were born with it (Ro. 5:12), and it is out of, or because of, this sin nature that we all commit the act(s) of sin(s). One person's sin(s) may be small, while another person's sin(s) may be big. One sin may be a "white" lie, while another is murder, but they are all sin and equally wrong. The Bible tells us that the result of being a sinner by birth and deed (the two cannot be separated) is death - physical death and eternal damnation for eternity in the place the Bible calls hell (Ro. 6:23; Rev. 20:15; 21:8). But, it doesn't have to be that way, for there is a cure available for everyone - and it's free and there is no waiting period! This free cure is made available in the person of Jesus Christ. You see, just as it was necessary for the death of the organ donor before the organs could be removed and given to the recipient, so, too, it was necessary that Jesus Christ should die that we might live (1 Co. 15:21-22). As sinful people, it is not possible for any of us to save ourselves - we needed someone who was sinless to pay our sin debt, and this we have in Jesus Christ. Jesus left heaven's glory and took on Himself a body like ours for one reason, to die on the Cross of Calvary on our behalf (Luke 19:10). He who was not a sinner, took upon Himself our sin debt, nailing it to the Cross (Col. 2:15), and redeemed us from the bondage of sin with His shed blood (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; 1 Pe. 1:19). Jesus Christ made the supreme sacrifice by the giving of Himself that we, so undeserving, should be set free. What motivated Him to do this? It was His love for us (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:9-10). Yes, Christ died for us, but He didn't remain in the grave. Three days after His death on the Cross, Jesus Christ was bodily raised (1 Co. 15:20) by the power of God, and today He is in Heaven interceding on our behalf (Heb. 7:25). Those who repent of their sins and by faith alone in the Cross work and shed blood of Jesus Christ, receive Him as personal Saviour have the forgiveness of sin and eternal life. For the sinner who has been saved through grace, death has no sting and the grave has no victory (1 Co. 15:55), for that precious soul has new life in Christ (2 Co. 5:17), and is saved for all eternity (1 Jn. 5:11).

FRIEND, what will you do with the **gift of life** that God now offers you? Will you accept it, or will you reject it? To reject it means there is nothing more that can be done for your sinful condition, and you will bear this burden for all eternity in hell (He. 12:25). To accept this **gift of life** means to be saved for all eternity, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" 1 Jn. 5:13). The decision is yours; the great Physician awaits your answer. Will you receive Him as your personal Saviour today, while there is yet time? It's my prayer that you will.

-Richard A. Ciarrocca