



**“And ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you
free.” John 8:32**

Yes, this is a tract about Christianity. It'll try to convince you that Christianity is true, that you're a sinner and can never be saved without Christ. You may roll your eyes and say it's primitive, but you must admit that many thinking people have found it true.

If you won't listen to a preacher, listen to one of your colleagues. It's Blaise Pascal - famous for his philosophy and discoveries; e.g. the theory of probabilities, the binomial theorem, the law of hydrostatics, and the invention of the first calculating machine - he was a thinker. As such, he found Christianity to be logical, consistent, verifiable, and above all, true. Listen to what he says:

“All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. *This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves.*

“But that there was once in man a true happiness of which there now remains to him only; the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from things absent the help he does not obtain in things present. But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable Object, that is to say, only by God Himself.”

Man strives daily to achieve those things which make him happy. What makes you happy? Wealth? “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” *Who doesn't?* How about health? Rectal cancer, heart disease, spinal tumors, etc... I'd be happy if I were cured of them and happier still if I never got them. Lifelong mate? Lifelong happiness versus lifelong loneliness or is it lifelong singleness versus lifelong unhappiness? You must admit that your life is spent in the pursuit of happiness. Even your studies. Your motivation to slog it out is either because it is a status thing, to get a good job, or to appease parental wrath. Whatever it is, studying brings more happiness than not studying.

Pascal is saying that in every human being, there is an emptiness and longing for happiness - something of lasting value. He recognized this yearning as a “God-shaped vacuum.” No matter how much we try to fill that vacuum, it'll never be filled. Rich men, famous men, rock stars, film stars, doctors, proctors - many of them so 'happy' that many find more happiness in a bottle or at the barrel of a gun.

But the vacuum is so deep that it can only be filled by God, and not just any god; but only through Jesus Christ, who is the True and Living God yet fully Man, is this deep inner hunger filled and this most profound thirst quenched.

We thirst and hunger because of our separation from God. And separation is because of sin - we're all sinners. But how sinful is Man? Consider the massacre of 6 million Jews, the race riots in Aceh, and September 11th! Problems from murder to adultery, backstabbing to gossiping, lying to politicking all speak of human sinfulness. Not convinced? Take a snapshot from your own life:

- 1) Your enemy hurts you - you hurt him back.
- 2) He plans revenge - you gossip about him.
- 3) He prospers - you envy him.
- 4) He has problems - you rejoice!
- 5) He matures from his problems - you hide your inadequacies so you don't look bad next to him.

Ultimately, sin is an affront to God - it is disobedience against His holy laws. The sin nature is in all of us - no matter how small a sinner we are. The urge to cheat is strong. A survey done by an American university in 1995 showed that 82% of students cheated in one way or another in their homework, quizzes, and exams. Schools take such strict precautions in examinations because they know students are bent on cheating if given the opportunity. There you have it - sinful human nature ∴ big cold exam hall.

Romans 3:23 tells us that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." It is because the standard of holiness that Man must reach is God's standard - "Be ye holy for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). And since no man can reach God's standard,

he sins. And sin doesn't go unpunished: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). And man will face judgment and ultimate separation from God (Hebrews 9:27)

God is holy and must punish sin. Can a convicted murderer be set free because the judge is a nice guy?? The fact that we're not immediately punished is due to God's *mercy*. God is *patient* and *longsuffering*, "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

And God reveals the way to repentance and salvation; "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Christ "was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...[because] the LORD laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:5,6). Christ died on behalf of Man and took the penalty of death upon Himself; and He conquered death by rising up from the dead, that if any believe on Him, they need not suffer the punishment of sin.

Salvation is by *faith* - "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31); it is not through good works. Indeed, all our sins far surpass our goodness - how can we ever hope to work for our salvation? It is only by faith in Christ - the only way to God (John 14:6). And when we repent and have faith in Christ, He will fill our vacuum. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart

out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26).

The God that Blaise Pascal spoke of can fill your vacuum today. But first, you must see your sinfulness. Many like Pascal confessed that they've tried many things, but nothing could fill their lives because only He saves them from the sin that causes that restless longing. Hence it can be said to you, "O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man that trusteth in him."

I ask you to believe in Christ, to let Him be the life and content of your being, filling your "God-shaped vacuum." If these words have spoken to your heart and to your true condition, open your heart and spirit now with a simple and honest prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I confess You are the most holy God and I admit I am a sinner and repent of my sins. Forgive me. I believe in You and need You to fill with Your life. O Lord Jesus, I give my life to You. Amen."

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