

Better Explanations 2 by Ben Huot

Better Explanations 2

4th Generation Writings

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My Philosophy and My Faith

You may have heard that many Christians believe that they should make a clear distinction between what they say and what the Bible says. I definitely support this objective as well. The difference is my method and my understanding of reality.

I very much believe that no person can truly be objective and only God can do so. I believe it important for us to admit that we as Christians are weak and flawed and we don't speak for God. The difference between what is written and the Bible specifically as translated vs. what I say is that the one is actual thoughts of God while mine is a mixture of both my understanding of God's thoughts intertwined with my experiences, culture, preferences, hopes, fears, and the like.

I see things from my point of view even though the only thing I believe in is God and His thoughts as presented in the Bible. So if you want to know the exact thoughts of God read the Bible, follow your conscience and seek God with all your heart. If you are honestly trying, you will find Him. I don't think God's desires for us are mysterious or hard to understand.

Our culture is very far from seeing things from God's point of view, but if you try to see things from His point of view, I believe you can despite whatever limitations you have. I believe that a cultural and philosophical perspective on the Bible is a must to truly incorporate God's ideas into your life.

We have to admit we are emotional and spiritual as much as we are physical and rational beings. God wants us to love Him with

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all our hearts, minds, and souls. In order to do so, we need to bring God's thoughts into our culture and decide what things clearly contradict the Bible and discard them but embrace the rest. Every culture that has received the Gospel has had to make such decisions.

Currently the dominant culture in America and the world is changing as our cultural center in Hollywood is making a fundamentally different reality than it has previously. This will be the dominant culture in the world until Christians decide to engage the world and this country in production of culturally relevant creative works. We have to have a culture of our own as Christians in America and if we refuse to lead in this area we will be left with cheap ripoffs of everything which we just label with the word Christian.

So what I have done differently than other Christians is that I have told Christianity from my point of view and tried to find a more relevant philosophy to pair it with than what has been used previously in America. This is my own point of view and does not necessarily represent other people's views or even the Bible as it is. I do not claim to offer anything more to the Gospel than any other Christian, but I do claim to offer a different philosophy.

So this pairing together of my philosophy with Christianity is meant to replace the old dominant cultural assumptions in Christian America today. I do not intend to say anything different theologically speaking than you have heard from other Christians. But when it comes to cultural issues like politics, ethics, science, psychology, economics, art, history, and almost every subject other than theology, I have an entirely different perspective.

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Technically speaking this involves a fundamental change in philosophical perspective. My thinking naturally aligns quite closely to philosophical Taoism and Christian Existentialism. I know this makes me quite at odds with most American Christians as they think anything that is not culturally European is new age and communist.

All I can say is the world is bigger than the American Russian Cold War and fighting for keeping that mindset is not good for anyone other than a increasingly narrow section of the rural white population in America. It is the number one reason why so many young people feel the Church is irrelevant or even dangerous today. Ignorance does not look good on anyone including Christians.

So I realize that I will convince very few Christians but I feel no need to do so as they already have the Bible and the Holy Spirit to guide them. I am interested more in working with non-Christians as they are less inclined to write me off before they hear what it is I have to say. I am interested in evangelism and some of them are interested in a different point of view from a Christian.

Some Christians believe there is one true worldview that is from the Bible and they know it and everyone else is wrong. I believe there is one true worldview that is from the Bible but I believe that no one knows it and everyone is wrong about it. I think that as far as people writing books about the Bible or interpreting Scripture I am not any farther off than they are.

If everyone else will truly stick to the Bible and stop writing and preaching things other than just reading from Scripture and destroy all their theology books, I will stop writing as well. Until then, even though I know I cannot perfectly communicate or even

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understand every thought of God in the Bible I will continue to do my best to present it accurately to the world. And in doing so I will tell it from the only point of view I can understand which is my own. Whether that sounds heathen to other Christians is not my responsibility and I am ok with that.

The big difference between me and most Christian writers is that I have studied widely in both eastern and western philosophy, major world religions, and Asian and European history and so I believe I have a more nuanced and expanded view of both history and human thought. This has lead me to different conclusions. I also have had unusual experiences like serving as an enlisted soldier in the US Army for a little over a year and later being mentally ill for 25 years now.

I was a Christian before, during, and afterwards. Before people thought I was creative and many now think I am a heretic. Maybe some people think creativity means heresy or maybe they just don't know what they are talking about. I try not to talk about things I don't know about so I guess I learned something from the experience.

Balanced Study

If you only study math and science, how do you decide what ethics to have? How do you answer the question of why or should we? If you change your views based on the latest scientific data, how often should you change it? How do you measure whether the same ideas will be considered foolish in another generation?

There are a lot of assumptions to everyone's views and this is not just true of scientists. But people who base their entire world view on science often reject the human and supernatural aspects of thinking. These entail things like physical responses, emotions and spiritual truths.

Emotions are just as valuable, dependable, and relevant as facts, depending on the topic. Spiritual truths are the only objective ideas, because they come from who God is. God is the only one who can truly be objective. There are also the primal physical responses in situations where you need to run or fight. These faster thinking methods can be useful in other topics and other situations.

Computers have taken over the world now and so everyone wants to reduce everything to math as that is how a computer thinks. Many equally important areas of study like the arts and world belief systems cannot be reduced to math and logic. This makes a society that only values science only be able to progress in limited ways.

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Many people use their brains but in very different ways than just math or science that provide essential services to society. Maintenance is its own area of speciality and is at least as important and complex as engineering. Much of that is based on experience and mechanical knowledge.

Military science makes use of the brain as well but people function as an ant colony where the officers are the brains and the enlisted are the hands and feet. Psychology is an important area that cannot fully be understood through science. Those who do not value it are going to have a hard time dealing with other people. Effective leadership of every kind involves understanding ethical truths and appreciating the emotional needs of those being led.

To be people, as distinguished from non-sentient things, we need to branch out beyond just logic to answer important questions that a civilization is built on. We are experts in implementations of things in ways that are as economically easy as possible. But this leads much to chance and corruption.

Instead of us constantly fighting wars that lead to other wars, maybe we should consider not pursuing aggressive foreign policy. If we need to do bad things to maintain an empire, maybe the technology is not worth the cost. The understanding of cultures we come into conflict with requires we start to value spiritual and emotional thinking.

The truth is our leaders don't want to expand our minds or to challenge the direction the country is going in. The reason why things are hard to change in politics is that someone else wants things the way they are. You are not just introducing something

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new and rarely is it truly new but you are taking apart what someone else has built to build your own project.

We are all like the military in that the arts are irrelevant and our leaders not not want our ideas. The only ideas they want are better ways of doing what they want to do. We think we have a free society, but that is only possible when we challenge the reasons why people do things and consider not doing them if they are not worth the cost.

We are literally being distracted by bright and shiny new things so that phones have become the opiate of the masses. We are so focused on building our own brands that we forget that we have souls. We are reduced to an image rather than a fully 3 dimensional person. We are only shells of people that look like people but fail to think at all.

Many people in technology think the reason why so many people cannot get along is that they are unwilling to change their views as fast as the technology changes. But this is not wise to do so. There are good reasons why a person should hold onto views they learned in childhood, life experiences, and through spiritual traditions.

If we change our ideas so rapidly, we do not have time to test the validity of these ideas through experimentation. You can think of your life as a science project where you have limited time and limited resources to work with. What do you prioritize and what do you ignore?

Sometimes there are so many ideas that change so often that they are not worth considering. And if you change your beliefs according to them, you end up constantly changing your whole

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direction in life. You then fail to learn from your own life experiences.

Furthermore you are limiting yourself to the influence of the few people who have time to do this kind of research. You're just shifting your faith from principles to people. If you study a curriculum that changes every ten years then you should question the validity of their assumptions.

Societies that have stood the test of time all had a common belief system that their society was based on. It is true that not everyone believed the same but it is also true almost everyone did believe in the supernatural. In fact a lot of the science fiction we watch in movies that often times inspire people to make advances in science is very similar to the supernatural.

Many people now not only accept science and math as the way forward, but at the same time, do not understand it well enough to follow it like it was designed to work. Most people trust science in the way religious people trust God. And they do not have any better justification for doing so.

We have to accept the fact that not everyone want to be or even should be a scientist. Life is about balance and so should a stable society be balanced as well. When we decide to put so much money into our toys, we end up underfunding religion and the arts. This leaves us with little culture to build a society on.

Even after several hundreds years, our country still has little quality culture and most of that is entirely created by businesses to sell things. Most major world powers have their own literature, philosophy, and artwork that is based on more than I like this color. We cannot appreciate other cultures that are fundamentally

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different than ours because we are unwilling to explore other ways of doing things.

Crumby Packaging

It is good to be unique
To be different from others
But it does not make you better
And it only makes life harder

Individuality is important
Because we are all individually responsible
For all our decisions
God sees us and works with us as individuals

He suffered and defeated death as an individual Person
And applies this to all of us individually

He stands beside us as we live
Through the same sorrows and joy
He did when He lived as one of us

So individuality is important
Because God decided it is important
Freedom is equally important to God
God cares so much about our free will
That He would rather we totally reject Him
Than follow Him out of obligation

Despite what you may have experienced from
Or heard about other Christians
God is the real thing

Often Christians are criticized as being as evil as non-Christians

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First of all nowhere in the Bible does it say we are any better than non-Christians

Most of us as individual Christians don't believe so either

The parable of the prodigal son

Applies to the lives of all Christians

The difference is that we have hope

This is why we want to share it with others

God is perfect but Christians are all a work in progress

We all should be improving and much better than we currently are

But frankly Christianity tends to draw from the broken and dysfunctional people

Because Christ rejects no one

Most people think they are too good to serve God

I think it is not so much that non-Christians think Christians are full of themselves

They think God Himself is

This is an individualism and equality out of control

When even emperors and empresses knelt before God

There is no shame or weakness in it

In fact God already controls everything

We are ultimately doing His will

Whether we like it or not

As does the devil as well

People want others to suffer for bad things they do

So that they can feel better than other people

We have used scapegoats to unite people for a long time

This is because we are unwilling to use God to unite people

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Everything that united divides
And everything that divides unites
Because you have to have a reason to unite or divide
Which is for or against something

I know forgiveness as a way of dealing with evil
Is hard for non-Christians and many Christians to understand
We think what we have done
Is not as bad as what others have done

Critical thinkers might wonder why having evil thoughts
Is as bad as hurting someone directly and outwardly
Our criminal justice system makes a huge distinction between
Violent and non-violent crimes
And between monetary and physical crimes

To God there is no fundamental difference
This is because the world works spiritually primarily and
physically as a secondary process
We cannot see this directly and so must accept it with faith
Like many of us do with other things we don't fully understand
like math
Or another area we have little knowledge in

But in our lives alone can we not see the negative impact of sins
like
Gluttony, gossip, revenge, and lust
Which grow up to be much worse sins
And create suffering for all of us?

Most major world religions agree that evil start in our minds

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Most rational people would agree there is a connection between
cause and effect

What causes a person to do evil?

The person chooses to do so of course

There are obviously other factors

Just don't try to argue that in any court

As a means of avoiding any penalty

Christ understands us because He created us

And He lived as one of us

Sin has destroyed the world He created

If anyone was going to suffer for it

He would be the judge not the accused

But for whatever reason He chose to pay the penalty for it

That part is hard to understand and takes faith

But one you get to understand more about God

You will understand His decision better

Christ is not a leader who just orders others around

He dives in and does the dishes for His royal court without being
prompted

He does not look down on us at all

Even though He has every right to

He lives within Christians who stink with evil

He works directly in this world rather than living it easy in
Heaven

If Christ didn't care would he have inspired so many people to
spread His message for so many generations?

So when a Christian presents the Gospel to you

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Regardless of their intentions
Realize the gift is from God to you
It has nothing to do with the messenger

Don't reject a better future for yourself
Just because you don't like the wrapper on the package

Different Ethics

To be fully transparent to Non-Christians, we have a different idea of what right and wrong means than they do both specifically and in theory. We also have different ways of dealing with offenses.

First of all, almost every Christian I have ever met believes we should follow the law unless it directly contradicts Scripture. The other circumstance that allows for violation of human laws is if our ability to worship God as directed in Scripture is disallowed. This means unless we personally are called to break a direct commandment of God that is clearly explained in Scripture we are to follow all laws. This is true no matter how much we disagree with them.

Christ said that in His summary of the Law that we are supposed to love each other as God loves us and to love others as ourselves. There is a fundamental difference between how God sees things and people see things. Love is one of them.

Love today in our culture is often associated with power over others and desire for material things. People in our society love those who can return the favor. Just as we give money expecting something in return, so we do with our love of each other. One of the really essential concepts of love in the Bible is the one of unconditional love.

Everyone loves other people that they like - this does not require sacrifice or effort. It requires someone to change the way they think in order to love those who cannot return the love. In this

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way of thinking we do not exchange one thing for another, as we do when we buy things. We give away and in return get nothing or even negativity.

The world thinks that humility and sacrifice are signs of weakness. This has always been true to a degree but our society has been especially influenced by Hollywood. This is because Hollywood likes to take the easy route to being creative. Instead of making more interesting or meaningful storylines, characters, or themes; they use sex and violence to add cheap filler.

Just like in a recipe you can make it with high quality ingredients or you can substitute it with more fat and sugar or fillers. Even though people like it ok, you spend less money. The thing is you don't really need the fillers or sugar or fat, but it requires more time and skill to cook without it. We do this a lot in life.

Look at the Internet, for example - 90% of it is junk. Do we really need to look through the millions of hits we get when we search for something or do we really need those hundreds of comments on every social media video? We no longer trust other people's reviews or who is calling us on the phone because it is so filled with fraud and low quality stuff.

So what is the motivation for someone to be a higher quality person? We need to be motivated by something other than money. One of the best ways to become a higher quality person is to surround yourself with higher quality people. We see higher quality people when they do not think they are anonymous, meaning we meet them outside the Internet.

We need to form relationships with people in real life, so that we can start acting more civil with each other. Another thing is that

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we are defined by our consumption of creative efforts not our production of creative things. There is a more lasting benefit in creating something rather than just absorbing it.

We need to return to dealing with people directly and creating things for others, in order to lift us out of this society level depression and social anxiety. We can get along, but we first need to take a step outside first. In anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorders, the worst thing you can do is stay inside. We need to expand our comfort zone or else we will continue to spiral downwards.

This is one of the big reasons why Christians are so intent on keeping the Church together and not just watch sermons online. Even televangelists will often tell you to find a local church. Being Christian is not about how effective you are in converting other people or how much you can get for God. Worship of God is spending time with God.

The Christian God truly is a person. This is who we call Jesus Christ. For all the problems it has caused in our society, being an individual is not a bad thing. The problem becomes when people focus on this aspect of themselves as an end in and of itself. We are created, judged, and loved by God individually. The expression of this love though is to not be just about accumulating things, even if done for God.

We sacrifice for others because we want to change the way we think, so that we can change who we are. It is an outward expression of our love of our Creator. Obviously God could do a better job of everything the Church does or Christians do, but God wants to involve us because He values us. As Christians, we

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have a history of creating big problem for ourselves. Instead of following God, we think we have better ideas.

God wants us to be His hands and feet, not the leadership. This does not mean we should lack community. It means that the decisions at the top need to be God driven rather than people driven.

God has showed us this by allowing the church to splinter. Churches can build themselves up as high as they can, but their cathedrals will weather away over time. Christian denominations are a blessing because they force us to work with people we do not fully agree with and on equal terms. This situation forces us to let God do the real coordination of His work in this world. Even though we are very organized as institutions, we are forced to act as a network, with only God as our real leader.

But just like the homeless have a different story for every person, what keeps us from God is different for every person. The Church needs to spend less time trying to recruit huge numbers of people. Instead we need to focus on one person at a time and form relationships instead of large gatherings. Perhaps we will eventually be forced into working in even smaller groups and maybe this will actually make us even more effective.

The real thing that keeps people wary of the Church is our insistence on forgiving others who have done wrong to us. We live in a society that has become more violent and cruel over time. And our response has been to bring down the hammer and increase the penalties for immorality and crimes, both within and without the Church.

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But this is not the way of Christ. Regardless of how our society decides to deal with crime, Christ has chosen to forgive and pay the penalty Himself, for our eternity. We as Christians need to take this idea more seriously.

No one is saying we shouldn't punish criminals but maybe we should focus on rehabilitation rather than just making the penalties more painful. We as Christians cannot see crime as an us vs. them thing. We are all in the same boat, spiritually. This is what makes Christianity Christian.

Enough Grace

In the middle of hell
I lost all hope
Would the pain ever stop?
Would I ever leave?

Sometimes time just stops
And you can do nothing
Sometimes God is silent
At the worst possible time

Sometimes Christians must experience hell
This is not what I signed up for
But there is no going back
To my back an iron door
And before me a monster

But if you go through hell
And God is nowhere to be seen or heard
Or the pain blocks your eyes and ears
What is a Christian to do?

Sometimes you get knocked down so hard
You cannot get up
No matter how much you want to
Sometimes you can get stuck in an earthly hell

You will later realize that Christ
Was standing along with you in the furnace
And He felt all you did

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But this later recollection is of little comfort
During that ungodly episode

As Christians we believe we will never experience hell
But this is not true
You can also experience hell for a long time
Some create their own personal hells
Others just get in line
Not realizing what they were told were all lies

What draws someone to volunteer
For something no one should be asked to do?

It is easy to lose your faith
When asked to do something your faith
Is supposed to save you from
None of use can truly understand what hell is
Just as no one can understand the military until they join

Schizophrenia feels like you are constantly in imminent danger
And you never feel safe
You are always worried about bad things happening
And when they do it hurts so much more

In the military I learned how to wait
With no book and without talking
But to be silent and disciplined
While in constant pain
This is more than you can expect of a person

People often ask what discipline means in the Army
It means doing whatever you are told
Immediately and without complaint

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There are never any excuses for non compliance
This alone takes a toll on a person

You are literally a tool of the government
We see the mistakes of the government
As comical or ridiculous
But they can and do cause real pain

When a leader screws something up
You have no control in the military
Over anything including your own body
And in some way over your mind as well
Much more of that later on

Many see military service as a sacrifice
Of several years of your life
But the scars can last for your entire lifetime

The military wants you weak and afraid
Because you are more likely to be a follower
You are not encouraged to think independently
One group is given complete power over you
And you are reminded of this constantly

This is what it means to have no power
It means you have no hope
Sin can also lead you down the same road

But God is there even when we are unaware of Him
And some things we just need to accept with faith

Pain really makes faith hard sometimes
It breaks down our ability

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For our rational mind
To tell us this is just a short time

But even if the time is short
To us it can be an eternity
Perception and fact may be different
But with pain perception is the only relevant thing

Maybe those with control over their thoughts
Things may be different
Hopefully they will never experience certain types of pain

Anticipation can enhance an experience
But it can also make pain more intense

One thing similar between being a veteran
And having Schizophrenia
Is that it becomes your story and your identity

A person does not just struggle with Schizophrenia
Or just work in the military
They are a soldier
And they are a person with Schizophrenia

The things that happen in your mind
May only be fully real in your dreams
But for a person with Schizophrenia
It does not matter what is real by evidence or proof

The proof is that they feel the pain
The evidence is this is what their brain says
You cannot over rule your emotions
If the rational part of your brain doesn't work

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Although in some situations this can be beneficial
Provided you have the control to turn this on and off
Much as adrenaline or fear itself
Are both useful if they only appear at a useful time

But adrenaline makes you very tired
If it never stops pumping
Fear can be useful too if the warnings are timely
But constant fear is like a dog barking
That has no sense of what a legitimate threat is

Having Schizophrenia makes our brains
Closer to those of animals
As animals have poor self control in some areas

But just as animals
People with Schizophrenia
Can experience God
Just as well as people of sound minds

Racing Mind - Racing World

How can I trust the future?
I cannot even trust myself
My mind is not quiet
And my heart burns from within

My country destroyed my brain
And democracy is a lie
There will be no way to redeem
The country I live within

There will be no resolution
To the conflict we have
From within ourselves
And from within our cities

When darkness begins to settle in
The light struggles to emit
If there is but one shred of hope
It would only make it more painful

Can we just fade into obscurity
Why do we need one last fight?
Sorrow is nothing but a dream
But that dream is our lives

When will we see face to face again?
When will things feel normal?
I will never be normal again
And our country will not be happy

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Until it is willing to change its mind

The richest and most powerful country
This world has ever known
We get excited about conflict
And only the blood of our children
Will make us happy

I stand with no one but the Lord

No one else will stand with me
There is but one left
Who will stand before all
And outlast time itself

There is but one purpose and one allegiance
That transcends our limited imagination

There is only one way forward
The road splinters into many pieces
But not far ahead it dead ends

The roads look like mazes
There is but one road beyond this
But how do we get there?

There is a time and place for everything
But the evil in our hearts
How much longer must we wait
For a revelation from God?

When you cannot find your way
When life eludes you

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And your mind only wanders
Is there a method for the mad?

When we feel like giving up
When does our second wind come?
I feel like the wind is knocked out of me
I feel like all I want to do is sleep

Each day only brings us closer
To the deeper truth
That there is no love left
There is no reason to fight the future

We must just embrace the chaos
And roll with the punches

It will be a long wait for the King's return
And in this century of winter
Many spirits will die
And many hearts will be reborn

There are always multiple mirrors
That we can see diverse reflections within

There will still be time for laughter
And meaning in memories and family
But as a whole
Our people no longer care

About what makes our society stable
Or the good parts of our past traditions

We merely shout and wave hands

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We would be more vocal
But it is hard to hear through masks
We would wrestle our opponents to the ground
But we would have to get less than 6 feet apart

We have changed our speech so much
That I no longer understand
What our leaders say
And they no longer care what I feel

How do we read the room
When we cannot trust the information?
At this point nothing is certain
And anything can happen

Maybe we are the first generation
To truly feel this way
But this will be common in the future

I grew up in a time of peace
When many bad schemes
Were first plotted and hatched up
I look at my childhood
As a simpler and more hopeful time

Today to even grasp the scale of change
And the damage we do to keep things going
It would take a lifetime of travel
To the most secret locations on this planet

Nothing awaits for us but a singularity
The future is unpredictable now
Even 5 years from now may as well be a century

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The pace of time continues to accelerate

As the light flashes before our eyes
Each button transports us to a new reality
Behind each picture there is a sad story
With each destructive move
More big pieces of our culture are erased

Blink once if you understand
And twice if they are listening
Turn your head around
And see other laughing at you
From the other side of the world

Sometimes it seems we dream during our work
And wake up at night to rest
Without a consistent measuring device
Even precise machines start to malfunction

When I can no longer hear the pulsing of my mind
Or the negative thoughts in my head
There lies before me possibilities
Too complex to describe
Too subtle to accept

People now fear this is the end
But what if this is only the start?

Shadow of the Mountain

A great mountain has risen overnight
And we now live in its shadow
Some battles are only won through attrition
Some fights end with only one standing

Sometimes the gear becomes so heavy
And the time goes by so slowly
You start to re-evaluate the necessity of the journey

Why does everyone hate God today?
Do people realize that God is not the same as His followers?
Do they not realize that they have just as much shame?
Or that life is just as hard for Christians?

They have just chosen not to believe
Because they feel they are too good for God
Or that they have no need for Him

They cannot accept that He has different moral standards
We will never be equal to God
We will never be able to solve our problems without Him

It is not weakness to trust God
Not that we are strong enough to begin with

Are we now at a point where only one group will survive?
Will one cultural side of America exterminate the other?
When 2 groups cannot co-exist

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When they cannot even agree on what words to describe themselves

When they can only agree there is no compromise possible

For a nation without the stamina for prolonged conflicts

How does this get resolved?

Should we just break into 2 regions?

How has that ever worked before?

It is not like everyone from one culture lives in the same place

I for one cannot identify with either group

I can appreciate some aspects of both cultures

But I am not comfortable within either

I am still waiting for my second wind

I am waiting for the wisdom to navigate this brave new world

The pit of despair and immovable obstacles combine

To make forward travel unthinkable

Maybe it is only possible to hold our ground

Most religions agree this is the most evil time in history

The fights today are beyond ridiculous

Some are so afraid to die they cannot leave their homes

While others are unwilling to get a shot

These are not people with emotional problems or small percentage of the population

We realize these are just metaphors for deeper divisions in society

And some of us are just caught in the middle

Diseases aside little makes sense anymore

I could take or leave most of the legislation both sides advocate

Or at least the thought behind it

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But can't we agree to at least be kind to one another regardless?

It seems that many on both sides
Just sit and stew all day long
They are trying to pick a fight
For over a decade it has just gotten worse

All of us suffer and all of us are in the same boat
We have done some very bad things in the past
And we continue to do so
So many people have been hurt
But the solutions proposed just hurt others

Christianity offers another solution
This is to forgive and forget
Both parties feel wronged
Both believe the others demands are unreasonable

At this point we can't even get reliable information
This much we can agree on
We need fact checkers and use terms like censorship
Could it be that all of us are wrong?

Could what we are arguing about be the least important thing?
Maybe the debate over the forum is a side issue
Maybe we need to just agree to disagree
And that some justice may be unachievable

We may need to accept that the only solution will be rolled out by
our Creator
There is a lot of bad in the world now and will be until He returns
But this kind of stubborn anger
Is going to cause us a lot of health problems

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And the criminals are all cleaning up
They are the only ones doing well

And those who hate us all equally
Like certain hostile countries
That we empowered and rely upon
For the basic functioning of our society

That we both agreed upon
And our only choice
Will be to give up modern technology
Or descend into chaos

And at the end the idea of America
And computers and the Internet
Will sound like a fairy tale

Both sides think they have an easy solution
But neither are based in reality or on facts
Ironically mine is plausible
Even though I admit my ideas
Are conspiracy theories

Getting Home

Home it not here
Home is with someone you love
Home is in the past
Home is in the future

I need not fear my future
Because it is with the Lord

Looking back from here
Gives me something to gauge the future with
One things that is consistent
Is nothing is written in stone

True the future is uncertain
But the flip side of this means
We still have freedom
As individuals as well as a species

We know we still have hope
Because we know God has not abandoned us
I stand with God because of this

I cannot even dream of being ashamed of the Gospel
If God is willing to work with me
Why on earth would I reject Him?

I am not like those in the Bible
Save maybe Lazarus
And he was already dead

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But even he was used by God
That I find greatly encouraging

How can we fear the future
If we don't even know what it is?
How can we underestimate God
When we cannot even measure His power?

Why is patience so hard?
Why do we give up so easily?
Even the greatest Christians
Gave up easily at first

If literal enemies worked together
To build the early Church
And someone was made leader
Who had no prior interest in following God
We really do underestimate God

When we see the evil within our own hearts
This can scare the bravest of us
Sometimes I feel I have as much control over my life
As a stuffed toy or a decorative pillow

As the sun rises each day
I am reminded of how beauty and joy
Can persist even at the darkest of times

I remember in the military
Feeling I had no power and no protection
But God came in out of nowhere
And ordered me back home

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Sometimes I wonder if I write
Purely for my own encouragement
I sometimes worry about what future
There will be for my life's work

But God could create greater writings
Off the top of His head
And they would be more relevant
Than the best I could imagine

God not only has better writing skills
But He even understands our point of view
Better than we do ourselves
As He know things about us that we do not

None of us have any insights God does not have
Nor ability nor useful circumstances
It makes me wonder what the missing ingredient is
What do we need to bring the world to God?

Better yet what do we need
To reform our own thoughts and actions?

Maybe I am too ambitious
I know I am not very patient
There are so many things we miss
And so many things we do
That we know we should not

If there is anything that needs to happen
God will make sure it does
Often He uses other people for this as well

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In many ways we are like enlisted soldiers
We have detailed instruction and supervision
At every step of the assignment
In the form of the Holy Spirit

Sometimes it is difficult with no script to follow
As the Bible gives so few specific directions
When you read the Bible much is comforting
But God never promises we will not suffer
This is not comforting

The Bible goes on to say we will likely suffer in this life
And even more so than unbelievers
Heaven is worth this and Christ even more
But how can we endure when the fear holds us back?

I proceed with caution
As I know too well of the consequences
Of volunteering for dangerous duty
No one else steps forward for good reason

I need to learn from my past mistakes
God saved me in the pit of my despair
But just because God saves you once
Does not mean you can expect it
The second time around

I have the faith to believe if it is God's will
And if it is God's will for it to happen now
It is happening period

But how do we know something will happen
If it does not say so in the Bible clearly?

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Sometimes that leaves little to go on

I just wish God would place a limit
On how much pain a person can experience
Before they die

The world the Bible describes
And further eludes to
Is a bigger and wilder world
Which rightfully scares anyone
With sufficient imagination

The truly scary things is when the pain
Is worse than you imagined
For many 70 years is not long enough
For me it is too long

One Thing

One thing we can do
In light of the suffering
That we must endure
And have little control over

Is to reduce the pain
Of others and ourselves
We may have to suffer for God
But we must try not to suffer for other reasons

Christians need not suffer
For other ideologies
For their own foolishness
If they can learn to be wise

But Christians can also
Make it their mission
To reduce the suffering
That others have to endure

Animals are a heavy weight
Upon my heart, mind, and soul
We need to think of ways
To treat everyone with more kindness

There is no excuse
For animals having to suffer
We are rightfully responsible
And Biblical commanded

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To fight for their welfare

We need to consider the needs of others
In everything we do
In the things we buy
And in all the decisions we make
In every aspect of our lives

When we think of revolutionary
We often think of civil disobedience
But there are more effective
And less dangerous ways
To spread kindness
Throughout our homes and communities

Consider spending money to financially support an animal
To take better care of the animals you already have
Be careful how much you commit to animals in the future
And think of how animals may be affected by your purchases

Sometimes you may have to choose
To spend more money for soap
Or spend more time praying for animal welfare
Sometimes it is more important
What we refrain from doing than what we do

Often animals are ignored in the Church
Because it has been well known
That pagans support animal rights
But this is an opportunity for dialogue
Certainly God cares about who He created

We think of the needs of the unborn

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Throughout much of the Church today
Why not consider the feelings of a fully formed creature
You might not find someone to vote for
Who is an advocate of both the unborn and animal rights

But you can see the connection
Between 2 creatures God created
Who both feel pain and are worthy
Of special consideration
Because neither can defend themselves
They also do not take part in human conflicts
Although they are often used in those

Throughout prophecy God constantly talks
And repeats throughout Scripture
That Christians are to take care of the widows and orphans

How about animals who have no one to take care of them
Animals who are too injured to take care of themselves
Or who have lost their homes or loved ones
Due to human expansion

If we are to grow spiritually
We need to take kindness seriously
We cannot just abandon the homeless because of fraud
Certainly we do not abandon the military or veterans
And there is much more fraud there

We cannot just pick our favorite charity
And then leave others to suffer
Who are less convenient to support
Or have less voices calling for their better treatment

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Consider those we have lost as prisoners of war
As those who live in captivity
Through no fault of their own
Many animals suffer greatly
Because we feel the need to
Test things harmful on them

Who are we to decide who is worthy of our respect
Or who we owe common decency
We treat terrorists better
Even the worst ones

We need to start raising our children
And educating everyone else too
About the importance of kindness
And understand how much of our society is based on cruelty

It is not just animals that suffer
The unborn suffer as does our military
And much of the Christians in the world
Suffer because of our lifestyle

We must re-evaluate how important
Modern plumbing and electricity are
At the cost of so much injustice required to support it
And the kind of evils it perpetuates

This same world that is based on suffering
Hurts people, animals, and the environment on all levels
Think of this when you take out the trash
That people and animals have to live in it

Not just here but on the other side of the world

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And the exact same trash

Silent Night

What does it mean to worship?
What does it mean to follow God?
Ten thousand knees bow to God
And 100 million ignore Him

When we think over the course of our lives
How many times do we surrender to God?
How often do our actions prove this?

The devil blasts his ideas non-stop
While our God just whispers our names
We think we can avoid service
To one leader or another

But ultimately the absence of choice is a choice
If you do not choose God
You are rejecting God

There are 2 categories in philosophy
Concerning belief and religion
Theism and Atheism
Everything else is a subset

If you do not follow God
You follow the alternative
In this case this is a bad option
In this case you are rebelling against God and not people

Being Christian mean being a rebel too

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It just means that we reject someone different

There are often direct parallels
Between our worship of God
And our worship of people

We think as Christians
That since we have never practiced another religion
That we have never served another god
But there are many more idols
Than just the gods of other religions

At least with paganism
The gods are mean and scary
This gives us hints to avoid them
Pagans are also easier to a convert historically
As knowledge of the spiritual world
Makes many things much more obvious

So if you think of holidays like Christmas
There are some clear examples of
Behavior that is godly
And behavior that is worldly

Why do you buy gifts for others?
It should be to celebrate God's gift of Himself

Or is it our of obligation?
Or that you are trying to compete?
Or you want more for yourself?

Do you parade this before others?
Do you totally reject giving gifts?

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Or do you just give cash?

It is understandable when unbelievers act this way
It is harder to understand why Christians would do this

The whole idea of Christmas as we know it today
Is a tradition that reflects
More about modern America than the Bible

The Christmas tree itself is a pagan symbol
Just like easter egg hunts
Maybe if we saw Christmas as more like Halloween
We would notice how society has co-opted Christmas

To many Christmas is a time of high stress
As many have broken or no family at all to celebrate Christmas
with
This is the biggest season for psychologists too

It is also a busy time for those who work in retail
Many businesses find the end of the year the key
To making money for the entire year

This is what Black Friday means
It is the day that business gets out of the red
And starts making money
Black is always good in accounting

Christmas has become bigger than most holidays combined
Because you buy more stuff for it
How much can they sell you for Easter or Thanksgiving?

It also has as many psychological and economic factors

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As it does social or family related

Christmas is full of many symbols and rituals
It seems many have gotten lost in those
And forgot that Christmas has a message and a reason

It is not a time to compete
Or get drunk or do drugs
It is not just a big party like New Years
It is when show our gratefulness for our Savior

Rituals are not all bad
And traditions have their place
But be careful not to fall into
The subtle trap of forgetting God

In all our hustle to make a perfect Christmas
Even done for great reasons
We have to remember the Gospel passage
About Mary and Martha

We need to focus on the worship of God
Not just doing things
Even for genuine reasons

What God wants from us
Is our attention and focus
God simple wants to spend time with us
This usually requires patience and isolation

This is easy to lose in any celebration
Think at Christmas how you can spend time with God
Singing is good but there should be silence as well

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Maybe Christians should consider the early monastics
And the prayers of the hours
Where our modern clocks come from

Islam actually got the idea of praying 5 times a day
From the early Christians
Which were mostly in the Middle East
For the first half of Christian history

In fact Iraq was the center
Of one of the biggest churches
In this time period

Remember Islam is 500 years younger than Christianity
And the Protestant Reformation was only 500 years ago