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MY THOUGHTS AS A CHRISTIAN by

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Synopsis

In this ever demanding world, with ever increasing pressures, little time is given to consider one's own reason for being and as we make our way through life the time we have to stop and think is often ignored. We all need those moments of contemplation, that spiritual guidance and to reflect on the thoughts we all too often overlook.

Peter Bodek has done just that, his thoughts are most probably yours too. His poems inspire and his prayers give comfort and solace. So read his book, not because you have to, but because you want to and hopefully you too will see things more clearly.

Chapter One

A Lost Christian

A lost Christian, some might laugh at this but in fact the way things are going at this time there are a lot more than one may care to really mention. To be a lost member of the family of Our Lord Jesus Christ does not mean that you've stopped going to church, although it's possible to be part of it.

Here are some other ways that you may be lost, by feeling betrayed or let down by someone. Anger is another along with hatred, illness and even death are others that can and usually tend to make one feel like a lost Christian, I expect you have your own thoughts along the same line.

What can be done to help?

There are several things that can be done to help but the most important one is not to force anyone back to the church. One must tread gently and have plenty of patience, which to day seems to be lacking in every way to which people are asking why?

Today if someone wants to help and encourage a lost sheep back into the fold care is taken and time does not matter be it five minutes or five hours as something else starts to show like the LOVE that is waiting and the warmth and a feeling of belonging.

This is just like it should be to bring back a lost Christian back into the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ, it takes two or three usually only you have to be prepared to be shouted and cursed at. You have to just be there at listen offering a gentle encouragement if need other wise keep quiet and calm.

If you do this then the love you offer is that of Our Lord's so tread gently and be guided by Jesus, and you will be saving a lost Christian and think at a later time in life it could be you. Who is being saved and brought back from being lost.

WHAT WAS ONCE LOST HAS NOW BEEN FOUND

A Marked Man

A marked man, well I ask you, would you be a marked man?

Mind you the reply would be something like this, NO but I know a man who was and I believe still is by some people.

Has anyone of you thought about this?

You see this man has been a marked man ever since God sent his Son to live on this earth, he has already been put to death and yes he is still a marked man why?

Yes why indeed you may well ask, it was due to the fact that God sent his Son to be this earth's Saviour.

With it came hatred, anger, and others far worse to mention. You see God knew that when he sent his Son he was sending him to his death, but not death as we thought, as out of God's Son's death, came life and that life was to make Jesus a marked man.

Which it did and till this day he is still a marked man as some people of this world have blamed him for just about everything that has gone wrong with the world.

God knew that by sending his son he was saying to the world, "this is your last chance in order to gain a place in Heaven you must learn by what my son has done for you and carry on his work.

Which by today standards we have slipped up in a few places in this world why?

Well you only have to look at certain areas of this world and watch a brother kill another member of his own family just to prove a point, yet God did not sent his son to prove this point. He sent his son to show by example and that example was by LOVE and TRUTH and joining together as a united caring family, mind you as it stands in this world its going to take another miracle to get us to do this.

If one's faith is strong and one has a strong back, then our Lord Jesus may have you down as a marked man, which may mean he is asking you to stand up and be counted as a Christian to show that you are not afraid.

Can you do this or more to the point will you do it, and become a marked man for Jesus.

Another way of looking at it is this way, while driving down the motorway if things are true to form there are road works. If you look at the men working all have on marked jackets, it's the same in a lot of jobs these days as they are worn to make a statement.

Mind you being a marked man for Jesus you will get an advantage, and that is you do not have to wear the uniform.

All that you have to do is lead by example and speak when spoken to about the Lord Jesus so are you prepared to join the Lord's crew. As well as many millions around the world, and be

A MARKED MAN FOR JESUS.

A Song for Salisbury 1996

*Heavenly Father at my side,
Just in case I slip and slide,
Help me Father, when I pray,
Help me through my trials today*

*Chorus = Yes Jesus loves me,
Yes Jesus loves me,
Yes Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.*

*Through the good and through the bad,
More than ever when I'm sad,
Help me Father, when I pray,
Help me through my trials today.*

Chorus = Yes Jesus loves me

*When I'm tempted back to sin,
Jesus does not just give in,
Help me Father, when I pray,
Help me through my trials today.*

Chorus = Yes Jesus loves me

*Help me focus on the cross,
Then I'll know all is not lost,
Thank-you, Father, this I pray,
For the love you gave today.*

Chorus = Yes Jesus loves me

To the tune Jesus loves me this I know by Buckland.

Angry at God

Angry at God. This is something that I am not proud of but it is something, which we all shall go through at one stage in our life.

I felt anger at God for several things, things like illness, the loss of a loved one, and the loss of employment.

When you have these sorts of things happen to you, you begin to have doubts about your faith. You feel like you have been kicked in the teeth and it hurts. Things then start to get you down and you begin to get a bit niggled and you start to get angry. You start to ask

questions? but you don't get a reply or so you think. It's at this point of time you're at a crossroads in your life.

What happens next?

At this point you have to decide what to do? With all the anger inside of me it will be a very deep, and searching thing that I will have to do. Is there anyone to speak to I don't think so even deep down inside of me I have the funny feeling that there is someone. Anger also breeds hatefulness, mistrust and can also cause loneliness. I ask myself why? Could I have prevented things like this happening in my life? How many people say that they don't hang onto the little things that are said to each and every one of us? I know that I hold onto them and it causes a grudge, which is a small way, which leads to the start of getting angry.

At this point you start to question your faith, I know I did especially when it seemed that everything and everyone was against me.

Anger is a very real and heavy emotion and very dangerous, so it needs a really gentle and very careful owner, do I have these deep inside of me? It seems to me that God has placed all the things he can to make my life not worth living which causes the anger to reach boiling point.

Hang on a minute?

Wait, just wait a minute something's wrong but what? Whose anger is aimed at whom?

Have I taken time out to really look deep inside of myself? to find out things like I am also to blame for causing the anger, due to the fact of my selfish and not wanting to listen. I only have to lift my head and ask for help, swallow my pride and I know that God is there waiting to help me, and has already taken away my ANGER. He can also take away yours if you will only let him!

WILL YOU LET HIM?

Are we a 21st Century Christian Country?

This is a question that has caused a lot of debate and thought over and if the country is ready to meet the twenty-first century, let alone be it a Christian one.

These days one only has to pick up the local paper or watch the news and sure enough, somewhere is something about someone says, "They call themselves Christians".

You only have to look at the facts, and in the last ten years the church has been torn to pieces, but has the church changed for the good because of what's happened

NO.

During the early part of this twentieth century, this country could, and was able to hold its head up high on the side of Christianity, but now we've gone the other way.

People say that time marches on, and things change to keep up, true to a point, to which I will agree but certain basic standards should be improved not just thrown away.

Which I feel is what is happening with the church today, this I believe is down to just who is running the church, man or God?

As we say that the church belongs to God, we should and must remember that, but true to form we don't again I ask why?

This I believe has over the last twenty years caused a lot of breakaway units and upset and a huge amount of people to really search deep within themselves about their faith. With this result, they have now left the church, or have they?

Again only time will tell.

As we are now only just one year away from this new century I believe that the church will going for a real big push to catch up with what ever else is going on.

But has the church left it too late?

Again only time will tell

This I believe will be WRONG and for these reasons.

That pressure will be placed on people of which I believe the majority will be aimed at children.

Also that the church will use certain passages out of the Bible in order to frighten or pressure us.

There are two points what I believe will happen so we only have to wait

One of the points that I also believe is this that this country is not ready, and it will not be ready to become a true Christian country be it a new century or not.

This is that I believe God has something in store for us and we have to ride out the storm as it approaches us.

We also have to first become a united country before we can step out in faith to lead others home.

So the answer to the question asked is

NO

We are not a twenty first century Christian country we have to work at it so let's all try.

Well I wonder am I ready then?

Are We Afraid?

While you sit here and take the time to read this, just ask yourself this? Are you just a little bit of afraid what you might find, I know I was when put pen to paper, but then to be honest I know I had someone help me write this and yes it is our saviour Jesus Christ.

If one looks back at one's life, you will see it has its ups and down and if anything like mine more down than ups.

The things that have a down side to which you feel afraid are things like, leaving someone you love, losing someone you love or not getting a certain job. There are also small things that each and every one of us are afraid to even talk about due to what others might say.

Hang on a minute I hear you say! Doesn't the title say

Are we afraid? And my answer to that is yes.

Its for these reasons, first you have to overcome Fear. Second you have to learn to TRUST. Third you have to learn to REACH OUT. Forth you have to learn to BELIEVE. Last but not least you have to FAITH, let me explain a little more in detail for you.

FEAR has two meanings the first means to hide away due to what can happen next, the other means to stand firm and face the fear and while you stand upright and bold you will not be standing alone you will have someone by your side.

REACH OUT means to grab and hold on to what you have, NO reach out means to reach out with open arms and hands and give whatever you can.

BELIEVE means you do not ever have to be afraid ever again but at what cost I have often said to myself just like you are thinking while you read this, the answer will become clear as you read on.

TRUST well what more can one say? except we all have to trust someone at some stage during our life. The only one person who we can put our TRUST in is our Saviour Jesus Christ. He is there by our side waiting for us all to ask him for his help and love, and for this the charge for you and me is nothing as he has paid for this already.

FAITH this is one of the most important thought one must have to overcome the fear of being afraid, as without faith one is nothing, but with faith you can move mountains, or more important can face the future with a ray of hope and encouragement.

This faith we all have inside of us but we have a choice of how we use it, the choice I choose is that Jesus Christ is my Saviour, and more to the point yours as well. As in the bible faith says this (Romans 14v2)

One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man whose

Faith is weak, eats only vegetables. (Which means by today's standards just how strong one is in confidence and understanding.)



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