HOW ARE WE SAVED?

The Catholic View of Salvation

Steve Hemler & Teresa O'Brien



Dr. Peter Kreeft and Fr. Ronald Tacelli:

"Salvation is the ultimate reason for our existence: our end, goal, point, purpose, hope, and meaning. The difference between success and failure in life is not the difference between riches and poverty, fame and obscurity, health and sickness, etc., but rather it is the difference between salvation and damnation."

"For as Jesus said, 'What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul.' Nobody ever asked a more practical question than this. In other words, don't get all A's but flunk life."

Video: Fr. Larry Richards is everyone saved?





Msgr. Charles Pope:

"Another illusion we entertain today is that salvation is a cinch, a done deal. The heresy of our time is a belief in almost-universal salvation, which denies the consistently repeated biblical teaching that declares, 'Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.' (Matthew 7:13-14)"

"In parable after parable, warning after warning, Jesus speaks with sober admonition about the reality of hell and the finality of judgment. No one loves you more than Jesus does, and no one warned you more about hell and judgment than he did."



Presentation Outline

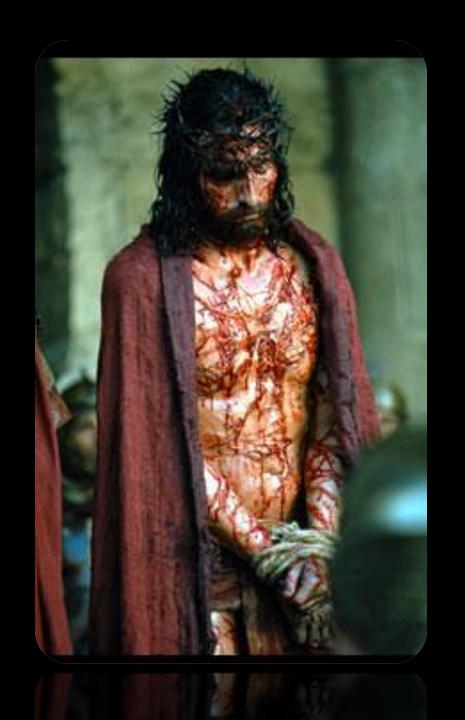
- Why Were Christ's Passion and Death Needed for Our Salvation?
 - God's Loving Justice
- How Can We Accept God's Gift of Salvation?
 - Three-fold Response
- "Are you saved?"

What Do These Quotes Say That We Need For Our Salvation?

- "God proves his love for us: while we were still sinners,
 Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
- "All have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God. But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24)

Christ Died for Our Sins

- We are all sinners.
 - Seven deadly sins: pride (vanity), envy, lust, anger, gluttony, greed, sloth (laziness).
- But why was Christ's horrific passion and death on the cross necessary for our salvation?
 - Why couldn't God just be merciful and simply forgive our sins?
- Seen The Passion of the Christ movie?





God's Justice

- Jesus' brutal passion and death on the cross highlight enormity of sin.
 - God must really hate sin if this was needed to "set things right."
- God is perfectly loving, but God is also perfectly just.
- God's justice demands that our sins be punished.
 - Not to punish would be unjust.
 - Court let contrite murderer go free?

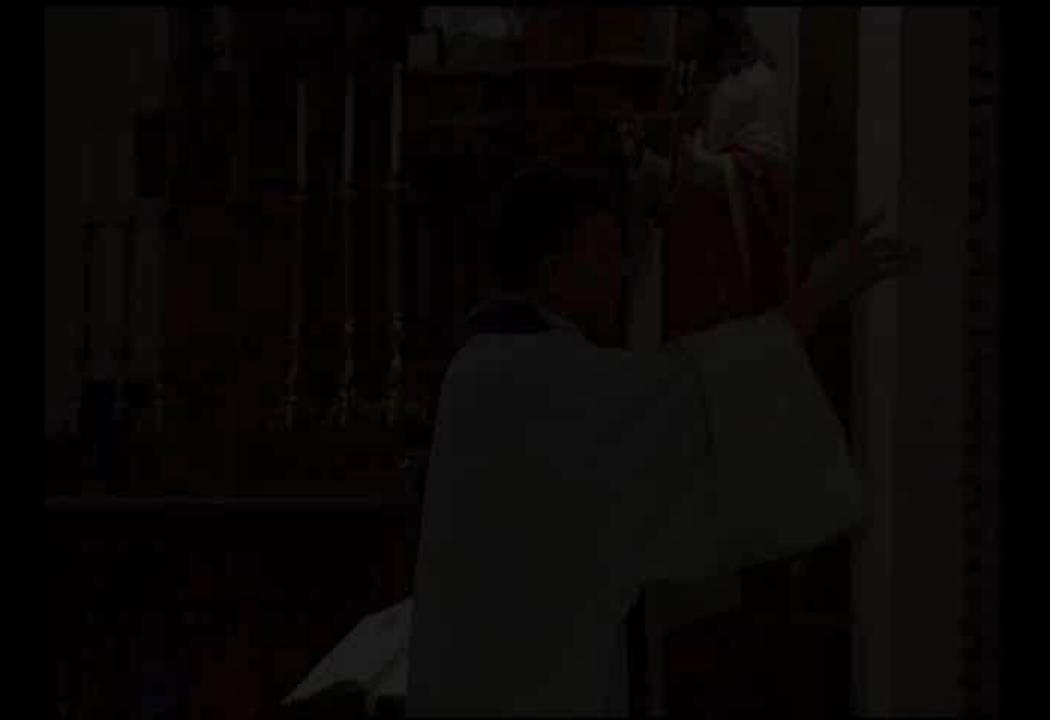


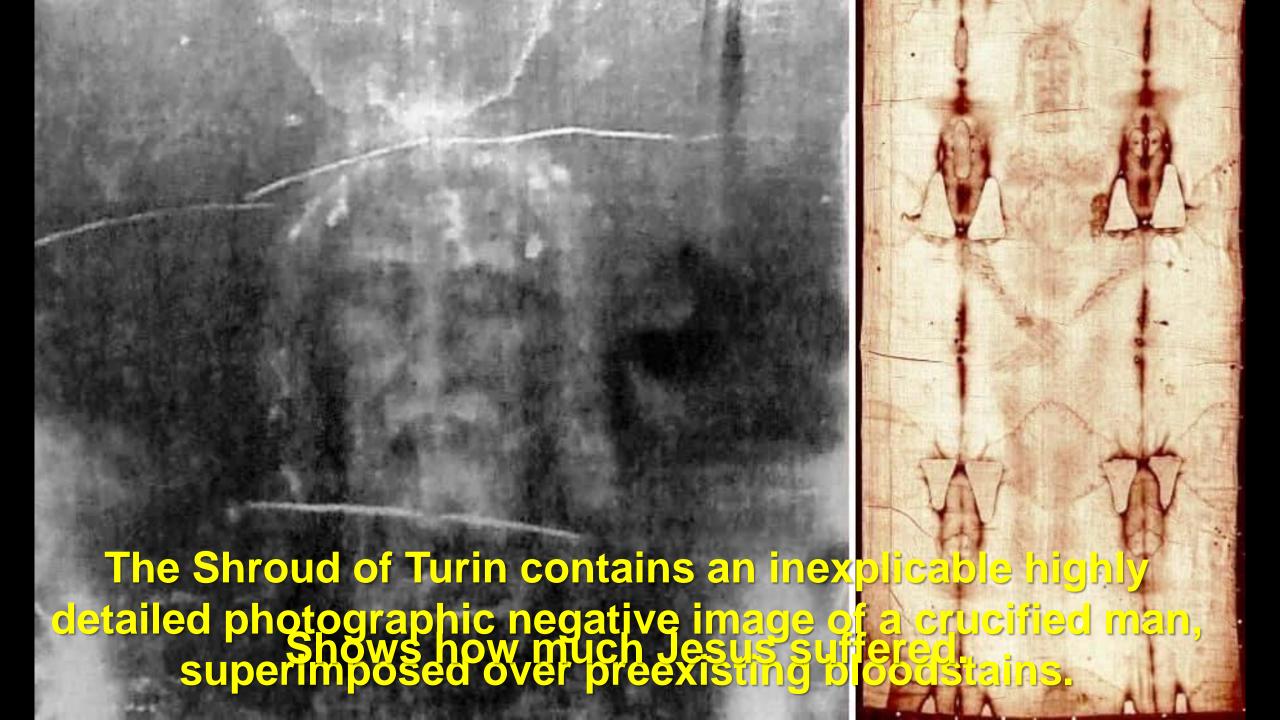
- We all deserve divine punishment.
 - None of us deserve, on our own, the rewards of heaven.
- However, for our sake God did the impossible and took upon Himself punishment we are due.
 - Son of God became human and out of love for us he took the role as the representative of sinners and voluntarily embraced consequences of every sin there ever was or will be.

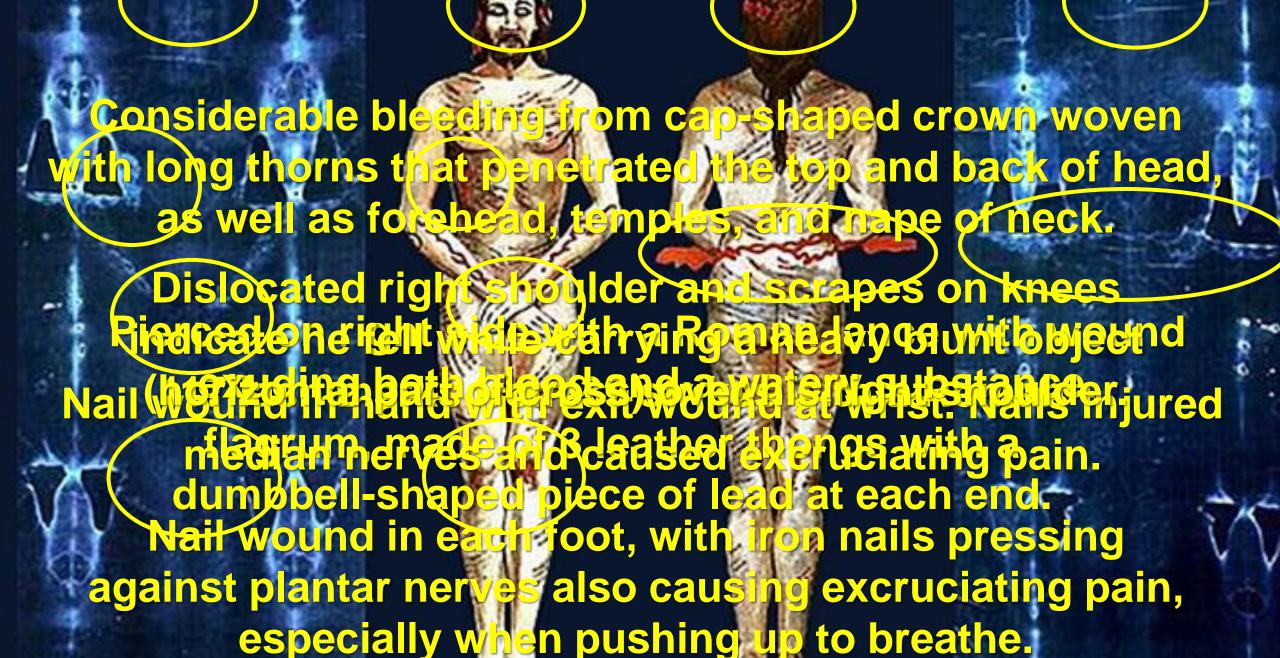


- St. Augustine: "Christ loved us so much that, sinless himself, he suffered for us sinners the punishment we deserved for our sins."
- Pope Francis: "His love for us led him to sacrifice himself and to take upon himself our sins. This astonishes us: God saved us by taking upon himself all the punishment of our sins."
- Video: Fr. Larry Richards on how much Jesus suffered for us on Calvary









"God willed that His only-begotten Son should become man to suffer and die for the salvation of men. This divine decision manifests both the justice and the mercy of God. It manifests His justice, because it shows that God has actually demanded satisfaction for the sins of men against Him. It manifests His mercy, because no one but a God-man could have offered a suitable satisfaction for the sins of men. Because he was God, Christ could offer God an infinite satisfaction for the infinite malice of sin. Because he was man, Christ could offer a man's satisfaction for man's sins."

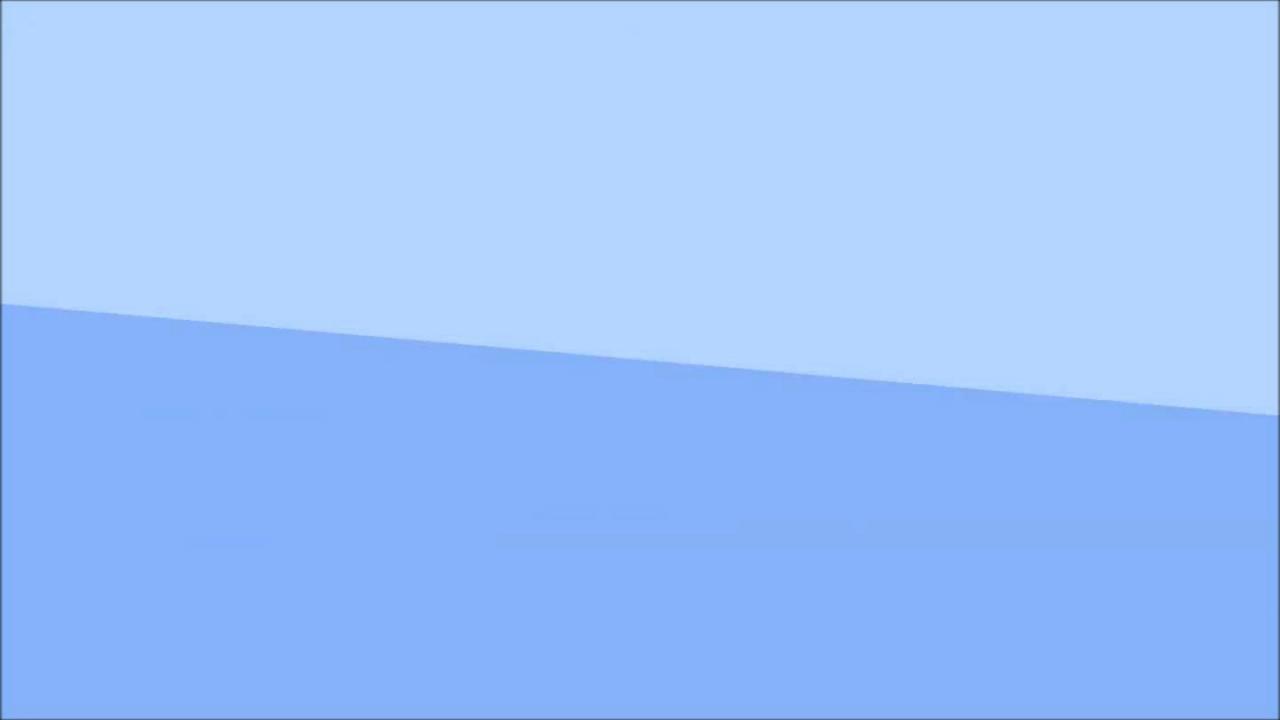
— My Way of Life: The Summa Simplified for Everyone

- If God was not just, there would be no need for His Son to suffer and die.
- If God was not loving, there would be no willingness for His Son to suffer and die.
- But God is both just and loving. Therefore, God's love is willing to satisfy the needs of His justice.



Christ's Gracious Gift

- Christ paid the highest price possible to give us the greatest gift possible.
 - Christ's love has rescued us and made possible eternal life in heaven.
- Did we do anything to deserve this?
 - Grace is an unearned blessing to unworthy sinners.
- How does this realization make us feel?
 - Gratitude, which motivates our response.
- Video: God's Gracious Gift



Christ's Gracious Gift

- God is now offering Christ's payment for our sins to us as a pure gift.
 - One that we are totally free to accept or reject.
- We are saved by God's grace, but we need to actively cooperate with that grace by living as a follower of Jesus Christ.
 - If religious faith has no bearing on our daily lives, salvation is not certain.
- · We're not trying to work our way into heaven or earn our salvation.
 - We allow God to work within & through us by cooperating with Holy Spirit.
- "God created us without us: but God did not will to save us without us."

 St. Augustine (CCC #1847)
- How can we personally accept this gracious gift of God's love?
- Video: Bishop Robert Barron on what is required of us to be saved.



We are called to a threefold response to accept God's gracious gift.



What is First Thing ("leg") Needed For Our Salvation?



- "The Son of Man must be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." (John 3:14-15)
- "Whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life." (John 5:24)
- "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)

- Faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.
- Faith is more than intellectual belief or acceptance of Church doctrine.
 - Repent of our sins, reject selfish ways, and seek a trusting relationship with God.
 - Vatican II: "By faith, man freely commits his entire self to God, making the full submission of his intellect and will to God."

Quote from book Renewal of Faith

Written by 2 Catholic Priests

"Perhaps some of us thought that we could follow Jesus satisfactorily just by believing certain truths and by doing certain good acts."

"Following Jesus demands that, but it demands much more; it calls for a deep change, a radical turning about, a total commitment of our lives to Jesus."

Quote from Renewal of Faith (continued):

"But this is not easy; it implies a total surrender to God's will. We are not trying any longer to make God fit into our ideas; we are rather making ourselves fit into God's ideas."

"Conversion is a free, personal and radical offering of one's whole self to God. Have we ever done this? Have you ever done it? Or have you perhaps drifted along since your childhood doing Christian things? Have you ever given yourself completely to Jesus?"

- Faith includes initial conversion: commitment, surrender, trust.
- Conversion is a lifelong process.
 - Moving from self-centeredness toward obedience to God's will as expressed in the Bible and Church teachings.
 - The only conversions that count are those confirmed by a life of discipleship.
- Video: Fr. John Riccardo on conversion and discipleship.

What is Second Thing ("leg") Needed For Our Salvation?



- "Faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2:14,17-18)
- "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me... you will go to eternal life."

(Matthew 25:40,46)

 "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? You shall love ... your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:25,27)

SECOND LEG: Loving Service to God and Others

- Genuine faith requires an active response.
 - Prayer for others.
 - Committed service and acts of charity.
- God's love for us awakens our acts of love.
 - Good works are not done to earn God's love or our salvation.
- Loving service to God and others flows as fruit of our faith.
 - In gratitude, we seek to live kind of life that will bring joy to God.
 - "Faith working through love." (Galatians 5:6)

Feed the hungry.



Give drink to the thirsy.



Shelter the homeless.



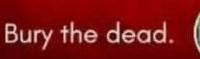
Clothe the naked.



Visit the sick.



Visit the imprisoned



CORPORAL SPIRITUAL



Instruct the ignorant.



Counsel the doubful.



Admonish sinners.



Forgive offenses.



Comfort the afflicted.



Bear wrongs patiently.



Pray for the living and the dead.

To share knowledge

To give advice to those who need it

To give correction to those who need it

To forgive those who hurt you

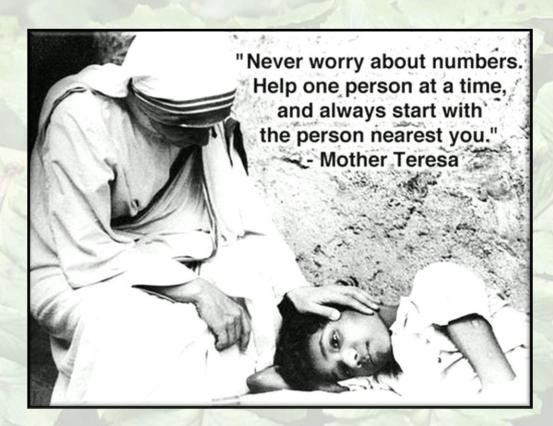
To comfort the suffering

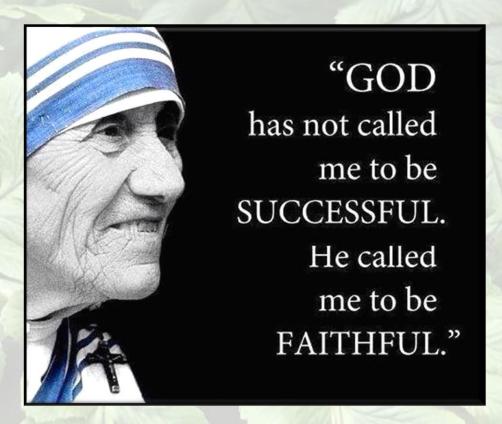
To be patient with others

To pray for the living and the dead

SECOND LEG: Loving Service to God and Others

While we can't do everything, we can do something.





What is Third Thing ("leg") Needed For Our Salvation?



- "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." (Mark 16:16)
- "No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." (John 3:5)
- "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life." (John 6:54)

THIRD LEG: Sacraments

- Baptism, Confirmation, Confession, esp. Eucharist
 - At the Consecration during Mass, bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity of Jesus Christ.
 - "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." (John 6:53)
 - Jesus literally meant what he said in John, chapter 6.
 - Let many of his disciples walk away, did not say they misunderstood.
 - Gift of the Eucharist provides spiritual nourishment and strength to do first 2 "legs" (faith and loving service to God and others).
- Video: Bishop Barron on why Eucharist is so important for our salvation.

How Do We Merit Eternal Salvation? (In Summary)

By God's Grace thru Christ's Passion and Death

Our Three-fold Response:

- 1. Faith: Commitment, Surrender, Trust
- 2. Loving Service to God and Others
- 3. Sacraments, especially the Eucharist
 - Provide divine strength and grace needed to fully live the Christian life (first two "legs of tripod")

Conclusion

Catechism of the Catholic Church (#846):

"Christ himself explicitly asserted the necessity of faith and Baptism, and thereby affirmed at the same time the necessity of the Church. Hence they could not be saved who, knowing that the Catholic Church was founded as necessary by God through Christ, would refuse either to enter it or to remain in it."

CCC #1037: "God predestines no one to go to hell; for this, a *willful turning away from God is necessary*, and persistence in it until the end."

Are you saved?



- "I <u>hope</u> to be saved & <u>am</u> being saved."
- Salvation is more than one moment of a person's initial conversion to Christ or the reception of any single sacrament.
 - We are not the best judge of our own spiritual condition.
- We possess our salvation in confident hope.

As St. Paul says:

"I have hope that I myself will be raised from the dead. I do not claim that I have already succeeded or have already become perfect. I keep striving to win the prize for which Christ Jesus has already won me to himself. Of course, my friends, I really do not think that I have already won it; the one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above."

(Philippians 3:11-15)

Are you saved?



- "I hope to be saved & <u>am</u> being saved."
- God, through Jesus Christ, did his part.
- However, salvation is a two-way street.
 - We need to do our part & accept God's gift.
- We accept God's gift by living a life of:
 - (1) Faith: commitment, surrender, trust
 - (2) Loving service to God and others
 - (3) Sacraments: especially the Eucharist

Presentation Summary

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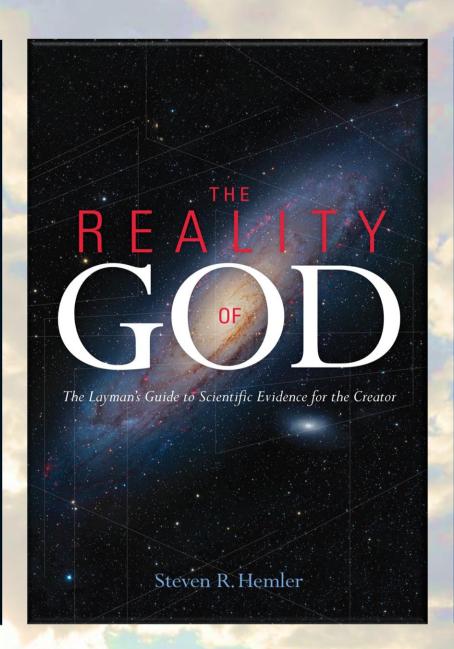


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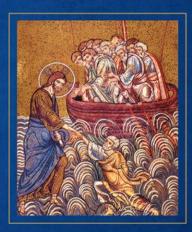
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AUTHORED AND COMPILED BY

Steven R. Hemler



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