

THE ONE OFF EVENT

D.B. KNOX

'THE CHRISTIAN FAITH'

We sometimes find it hard to believe in the occurrence of things, which are unique which only happen once and never again, one off, as it were. And some people nowadays find it hard to believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God in a unique sense, that in Jesus, God our almighty creator has taken our nature and become man while remaining God. The event is certainly unique and a one off event, wonderfully extraordinary, but this is no reason for not believing it. After all creation itself is unique. There is no life anywhere else throughout the universe so far as we have been able to discover, and yet life is a very real thing, we are certainly alive, and the uniqueness of Jesus is also very real. When you think of what happened to Jesus you get a good insight into our human condition because He was put to death while still a young man, He had hardly begun His ministry as it were, yet he was killed by those in authority through a fake trial and the manipulation of the law courts. If you read the story in the gospels you will see how human selfishness and sinfulness combined together to do Him to death; yet it was all part of the purpose of God to allow Himself to suffer as a man at the hands of ordinary people like ourselves in order that by bearing suffering perfectly, He might provide the way by which the penalty which we have earned for our sinfulness could be averted from us, so that we might be restored to His fellowship and friendship. God hates selfishness and untruthfulness and He will judge it wherever it occurs in His creation but it is so firmly rooted in the heart of each of us

that we are all under the condemnation and judgement of God and of His anger. It is not a pleasant thought but those are the facts that we are under condemnation and the anger of God rests on us, the Bible says so clearly. But in Jesus God has provided a way by which we can be rescued from these consequences of our selfishness and of our Godlessness. When God became man in Jesus, He underwent those consequences Himself, to save them falling on us, and He bore them successfully and rose again from death. A unique event indeed, but very true just the same, and we should thoroughly believe it, for it is the ground of all our hope for the future.

For it is by putting our faith in Jesus who is Lord, that we may be forgiven and restored to fellowship with God. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and those who accept Jesus as their Lord find that it is true, that there is forgiveness in Jesus, and there is power through God's spirit to overcome selfishness and Godlessness and untruthfulness and all the other things which will inevitably draw God's judgement down on us on the day of judgement. God has fixed that judgement day but at the same time He has Himself become our saviour so that whoever calls on His name will be saved both now and then.

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