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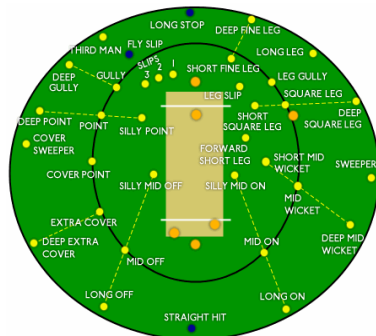


## The Unplayable Ball



There are many terms in the cricketing vocabulary which are mystifying to outsiders.

Names for fielding positions are the most baffling-Short Leg, Square Leg and Fine Leg, do not refer to the shape of the fielders shanks. A fielder in the Gully is not standing in a deep depression with only his head showing.



If you have ever fielded at Silly Mid On or Silly Mid Off, you will know why it is called silly. Maybe it should be called Stupid or Crazy, as you are liable to lose your head.

Swing bowlers, are not accompanied by a certain type of music, and if anyone bowls a 'Dolly' you will not refrain from slugging it to the boundary. Really good bowlers often bowl a 'Maiden Over'. No they do not need to be handsome, charming and smooth to achieve this.

How quick is a fast bowler? Usually 80-90mph, but deliveries of 100mph

have been recorded by such men as Bret Lee and Jeff Thompson.

Some of our older citizens may remember the man who defied the North West's best bowlers for long periods. i.e. Johnny Ward, who could stay at the wicket for most of the innings, by using a straight bat and defensive stroke-play. This was before limited overs matches.

Recently Dunamanagh's oldest citizen passed on in his 98<sup>th</sup> year; a long innings. In cricket nowadays there are many more centuries scored than 30-40 years ago. In life also, higher scores are being posted as more people reach 100.



However, sooner or later, as in cricket so in life, we receive the 'Unplayable Ball'. It may be a googly, which completely fools us, turning in an unexpected direction. Or perhaps it is a late in swinger, which 'takes the light from



# The Unplayable Ball



our eyes' at 90mph. Then there is the trip to the pavilion; the 'Walk'. Sooner or later 'you've got to walk', as we say. Life is not forever; we cannot predict the next delivery or the length of our innings.



Is there a master batsman? Did anyone ever really carry the bat undefeated in life?

The great fact is that Jesus Christ indeed

defeated 'the last enemy, death (the unplayable ball) when He rose again.

We admire the person who has batted-off illness, financial problems, accidents and betrayals for perhaps 90 years; but in the end he is caught, stumped, run out or clean-bowled.

The one who umpires all things says to you and me, 'Come to me all you who labour and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest.' 'I am the way the truth and the life no one comes to the Father (God) except through me.

He can say this because, 'He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good news'.

The Good News is that you can 'carry your bat' for all eternity, if Christ is your captain and your substitute; the one who played the unplayable ball on your behalf.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**Sunday Morning Worship.  
( Lord's Supper )**

**11:00 a.m.-12:00.  
12:00-12:30 p.m.**

**Sunday Evening Service.**

**6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting.**

**8:00-9:30 p.m.**

**Saturday Youth Fellowship.( see website)**

**7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**1st Thursday of the month, Men's Bible study.**

**8:00-9:30 p.m.**

**3rd Thursday of the month, Ladies' Bible study.**

**8:00-9:30 p.m.**

**For further information on the Church please visit our website:**

**[www.dunamanaghbaptist.org](http://www.dunamanaghbaptist.org)**

# THE SOMME

## 1st Battle of the Somme.

1st July-November 1916.

### The Statistics.

- 20,000: British and French troops dead on the 1st day.
- 60%: The percentage of officers killed on the first day.
- 88,000: The number of casualties for each mile of enemy ground gained.
- 5,104: Number of casualties from the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division on the first day.
- 2,069: Number of Ulster division dead on the first day.
- 1,733,000: Number of shells fired at German lines before the battle.
- 1,000,000: Total casualties on the Somme.



### Newspaper reports on 3rd day of battle.

#### The Daily Chronicle:

'As far as can be ascertained our casualties have not been heavy.'

#### The Daily Express:

'We had not long to wait for news and it was wholly satisfactory and encouraging.'

## 1st World War 1914-1918

It was called, 'The war to end all wars'

BUT

23 years later World War II commenced.

50-80million died in World War II (3% of the world's population of which 50-55 million were civilians).

## August 2015

UN estimates 250,000 have died in Civil War in Syria...and still it goes on.

### What on Earth is Wrong?

Respected Bible teacher and pastor, Adrian Rogers, has noted: "The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart."

Moses commenting 3,500 years ago said, 'The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.'

Jeremiah in 600BC said, 'The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?'

Jesus Christ 30AD: '...out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.'

### Is there any hope?

Jesus says, 'I am come that you might have life...' and again, 'I am the light of the world.'

The apostle Paul says, 'God was in Christ reconciling [or making peace with] the world unto himself, not counting their sins against them' and elsewhere, 'The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Are you still at war with your Maker? If so, consider Paul's plea to the ordinary Corinthian men and women of his day: 'We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.'

**Are you reconciled to God?**

# JESUS LOVES ME

A very eminent scholar was once asked what the most profound thing he had ever learned was. His reply astounded many people. He emphatically stated, *"Jesus loves me."* He found that his intellect was staggered by the remarkable fact that Christ Jesus, the Lord of glory, the second person of the Trinity not only knew him by name but loved him personally.

It is indeed astonishing to contemplate that our Creator, the eternal Son of God, maker of Heaven and earth, who is all in all, and fills all things, has from eternity tender affection for His people. Yet it is so. Christ has bound Himself to each one of His people, even to the weakest, the youngest and the smallest, with a fondness and love beyond human comprehension.

Jesus came into the world, assuming human flesh and human personality so that He could truly take the pain and punishment due to us. He bore the wrath of God that we ought to have borne, concentrated into six dreadful, incomprehensible hours. And, as He paid the price to secure our eternal salvation, He saw us in His mind's eye, knowing for whose sins He suffered, and yet endured it all out of personal love for us.



So great and pure and glorious was His love that He did not begrudge one pang of agony. We sometimes sing, *'O, the deep, deep love of Jesus,'* recognising that His love goes back beyond time into eternity. Before our parents conceived us, we were in His heart. Long, long ago He saw our future plight and condition in sin, and determined to be our

sin-bearer and to prove Himself the lover of our souls. Scripture tells us, **"even as He choose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will."** Eph. 1:4 -5

We cannot see or even imagine the origin of His love, yet we know it will reach forward into the eternal future, because none of those upon whom He set His love and for whom He suffered and died and rose from the dead, will ever perish. He will take them home gloriously and securely forever. Jesus told us this Himself through the record that John bore of Him, **"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."** John 10:28.

Those who already know Christ as Saviour remember how patiently He called and brought us to Himself, and how He has repeatedly pardoned all our defections, failings and sinfulness. His forbearance is so great, it has always brought us to repentance, setting our feet once again upon the rock of salvation, restoring our joy and hearing our prayers.

**"Who,"** asks the apostle Paul, **'shall separate us from the love of Christ?'** Rom 8:35. What force or power could wrench us from His watching over us, from His standing near us to hear our every cry? Paul goes on to say, **"If God is for us, who can be against us?"**

**'Shall tribulation,'** asks Paul. In truth Jesus never deserts us. When we call upon His name He intervenes, sometimes taking away the problem, other times strengthening us to bear it and at the same time consoling us. Often our troubles are used by Him as a witness to other people so that they not only hear our words about Christ but they see how we draw help from Him in trouble. It is at such moments that the words of the famous



# JESUS LOVES ME

28<sup>th</sup> verse of Romans 8 springs to mind, **“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”**

Indeed, even when Christ places some setback in our lives to bring us to our senses, because we are straying and not repenting, He measures and monitors His correction so that it is never too much, nor ever unkind, but just right, according to His perfect wisdom. Our very first cry of genuine repentance restores joy and peace and we prove that His love is constant and undying. **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** 1 John 1:9.

The apostle also named ‘persecution’ as a force threatening to obscure the love of Christ. Paul knew much persecution for the sake of the Truth. Our Lord tells us in His sermon on the Mount that in such circumstances His eye is upon His people to bless. **“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** Matt. 5:10.

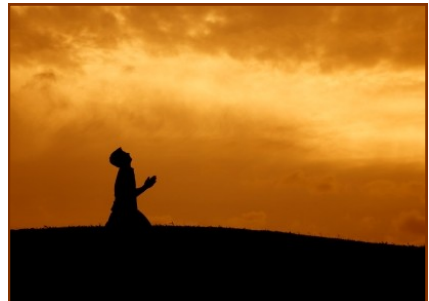
Paul also mentions many forms of deprivation that may hurt considerably and test us sorely, but Christ will place divine arms around us and use our trials in remarkable ways. Whether it is famine, nakedness, danger or sword none of these things can possibly terminate the love of Christ. We are always His, His mind is ever on us, His heart is constantly for us, and He is ours.

This is why Paul can conclude in Romans 8:37 **“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”** Christ not only loves, but He loves with a tenacity that will bring us triumphantly through to final victory.

It is with this understanding that we are told without fear of contradiction that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Paul means that he is wholly convinced that even death, the king of terrors, has been defeated by Christ on Calvary. So, God’s children can be certain that they will land on the Heavenly shore, **“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** Rom. 8:38-39.

We cannot speak with absolute precision about Heaven nor describe its grandeur but we can be clear that there will be wonders there beyond our present powers of comprehension. We will be welcomed there by people, including those to whom we spoke the word of life. There will be loved ones who have preceded us to Heaven. The blind will see, the deaf hear, the dumb speak, as praise and glory fill the place. Supremely, there will be the Lord Himself, with His mighty angels. Such is His loving provision for us.

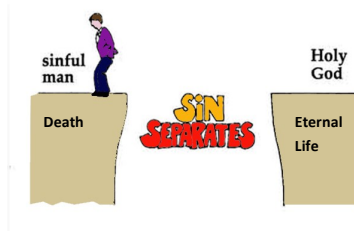
Is it any wonder that even the greatest of human intellects can only be staggered by the love of Christ? Have you experienced that love poured upon your life and soul? Jesus said, **“...whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”** John 6:37



# ← The Way →

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God  
He created him; male and female he created them.  
And God saw everything that he had made, and behold,  
it was very good. Genesis 1: 27,31

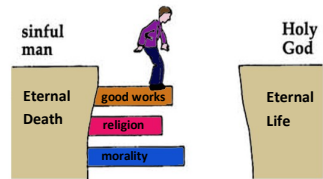
① Because God is holy,  
Sin separates us from God.



*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God  
Romans 3:23*

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God;  
your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will  
not hear. Isaiah 59:2*

② Because God is just,  
Sin required a payment of death.

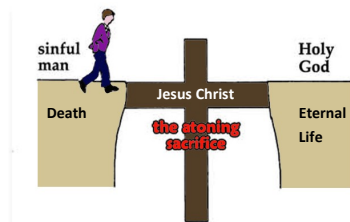


*'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is  
eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'*

*Romans 6:23*

*And no amount of good works, or religion,  
or morality can ever pay for our sins.*

③ Because God is love,  
He sent Jesus Christ to pay for our sins.

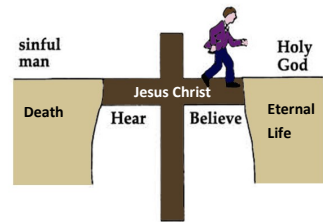


*'But God demonstrates His own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us'*

*Romans 5:8*

*'He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for  
our sins'  
1John 4:10*

④ Because God is full of grace,  
He forgives and gives life to all who believe...



*'I tell you the truth: Whoever hears my Word and  
believes Him who sent me has eternal life and  
will not be condemned.*

*He has crossed over from death to life'  
John 5:24*

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye  
will see him, even those who pierced him. Rev. 1:7



# My Legacy



Alfred Nobel was a Swedish inventor known today for two main things, the first was the invention of dynamite. It was one of his many inventions. In fact he owned 355 patents, mostly centred around his business, which manufactured weapons and munitions, but dynamite has become the main invention for which he is remembered.



Dynamite

In 1888, when he was 55 years old, his brother Ludvig Nobel died, and through a communications error several newspapers mixed up the two brothers, publishing premature obituaries for Alfred Nobel instead. Whilst reading his own obituaries he was horrified to find that the newspapers were very scathing and critical of him, described him as the 'Merchant of Death' who 'became rich by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before'.

Alfred realised that this was how the world was going to remember him; this would be his legacy. So he worked to set up a trust fund using the most of his wealth, and created the second thing that people remember Alfred Nobel for—The Nobel Prizes. These became some of the most prestigious prizes on earth that celebrate outstanding contributions for humanity in chemistry, literature, peace, physics, physiology and medicine, and are very well respected and coveted all across the world. For most of us, our legacies won't be as known or as celebrated as the invention of dynamite and the Nobel Prizes, but the idea of leaving our mark on the world is one that reaches across cultures and generations, and sparks the interest of everyone.



Alexander Fleming's Nobel medal which he was awarded for the discovery of Penicillin.

The trouble with legacies is that, given enough time, everyone's legacy will end. Perhaps it is time we considered what our legacy might be? With this in mind the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:20, 21 ring true, 'But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

If we spend our entire lives thinking and focusing only on this immediate physical world, then we neglect and ignore the eternal world at our own peril, and in time everything in this world will come to an end, as is made clear in II Peter 3:10, 'But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear, with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.' When that time comes, our personal legacies will count for nothing, and everything physical that we have strained to build will truly come to an end. At that time we will stand before God, and have to give an account of our lives, and all of the times we have disobeyed God will be laid bare, but there is only one thing that can save us, and it is not the legacy of our good deeds. Isaiah the prophet admits that everything good we've ever done may as well be filthy rags before God for all the power it will have to save us. There is only one place we can find the means for salvation, and that is why we read in the gospel of John 14:6, 'Jesus answered, I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' Jesus Christ died on the cross to secure for us a way to rid us of the punishment for our sins. That was the legacy that He left to the entire world when He rose from the grave three days later, and ascended back to Heaven. On the day of Judgement, when everyone else's legacies have ended, Christ's legacy of salvation will be the only one that matters.

Will you accept the sacrifice He has made on your behalf?

# Bought Back

Do you know what the word redeemed means? It means to buy back. Let me explain it by telling you a story.

Many years ago Charlie and his dad built a lovely boat. They painted the body red, attached a blue sail and tied a long piece of string to it so that they could pull it back to shore when they sailed it.

Charlie was so very excited as he walked to the lake with his dad. He jumped and skipped and hoped his boat wouldn't sink. It didn't sink and he and his dad often took it down to the lake. One Saturday, things went badly wrong, and a big gust of wind blew the boat away and the string broke. Charlie watched broken hearted as it drifted farther and farther away. He would never see it again he thought.



A year later he felt really bored as he was spending the morning shopping with his mum. As she looked into the window of a jewellery shop, he peeped at the one next door.

His eyes nearly popped out of his head with amazement as he saw his own precious boat sitting there in the middle of lots of toys. He shouted so loud that his mum jumped.

When she had calmed him down they went in to talk to the shop keeper. Charlie explained about the boat and even showed the man the place where he had put his initials.

The man said he had paid a lot of money for it and needed to get that back if he was to sell the boat to Charlie. Charlie realised that he would have to work awfully hard to ever get that amount of money, and he feared that by then the boat would be sold.



He did little jobs for all his relatives and neighbours and put every coin earned into a little brown jar. One day he had enough money and he and his dad took the bus to town. He jumped off at the bus-stop and dashed to the shop window. Ten minutes later a very happy, proud Charlie came out of the shop clutching his own red boat. He gave it a big hug and said, 'I made you, I lost you, I bought you back and you are mine.'

Do you know that this is what the Lord Jesus Christ did for you? He made you, because He is God. He lost you, because our sin separates us all from Him. He bought you back by taking your punishment as He died on the cross. He will be able to say, 'You are mine,' when you realise that you are a sinner and that He died for you; when you confess your sin to Him and ask Him to take over your life. You will then be part of God's family and will be in Heaven one day.

This is what being redeemed means.