The Whole Story

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INTRODUCTION

- Simply saying that I went to Harvard wasn't the whole story.
- It's not enough just to have one line of information. You really need to have the whole story to get the true picture.
- Obviously the most important would be in regard to salvation. The all-important question, what must I do in order to be saved?

1 The Confrontation in the Garden

Mark 14:47; Matthew 26:51–53

- That story, the story of the confrontation in the garden, is actually one of the stories that's recorded in all four of the gospel accounts.
- If you just read Matthew's account, you wouldn't get the whole story.
- One of those who stood by, drew his sword, and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.
- But Jesus said to him, put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

2 We Had to Read the Whole Story

Luke 22:49–51; John 18:10

- The additional information that's provided by Luke is we find out which ear was cut off. It's the right ear.
- And we find out what happened afterward, that Jesus touched the ear and healed him.
- Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. That servant's name was Malchus.
- We had to read everything that God's word said on that subject in order to get the whole story.

3 Refrigerator Door Theology

1 Corinthians 15:1–4; Romans 10:17; John 3:16

- Sometimes in religion, people practice what we might call refrigerator door theology.
- One verse that means a lot to them or really strikes to the heart of them. And they'll cut that out and they'll put that on the refrigerator door.
- In the book of 1 Corinthians, chapter 15, any discussion of salvation must start here.
- Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. And then he was buried. And then he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.
- Is that the whole story? Is that everything that the Bible says on the subject?

4 Do We See the Fallacy?

Acts 17:30–31; Romans 10:9–10; Mark 16:15–16

- Now commands all men everywhere to repent.
- If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned.
- Do we see the fallacy of this kind of reasoning? Of pulling out one verse or a couple verses and saying, you see, that verse says this.
- What we really need to do is to get all of those refrigerators and put them side by side.

5 The Whole Counsel of God

Acts 20:27

- This speaks to the importance of diligent Bible reading and Bible study.
- I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

6 Read the Whole Story of the Book of Acts

Acts 2:37–38; Acts 11

- The book of Acts could be subtitled, the Book of conversions.
- We see people being baptized, immersed in water for the remission of their sins, and then we see the end result of that of them being saved from their sins.
- We don't isolate one part of the story to the neglect of the others.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If Christ were to return today, or if you were to die today, what would be your eternal destination? What will you do in order to be saved?**

MY NOTES