

He paid the penalty that it would take us eternity to pay. He died in our place.

The very fact that the eternal God should come from heaven to earth, to go to a cross and suffer for us, demonstrates how important eternity really is.

Jesus died and rose again from the dead so that we could be forgiven. The Bible says, 'All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all.' Jesus said, 'He who believes in Him [Jesus] is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already.'

A person may go to heaven –
without wealth, without beauty,
without learning, without fame,
without culture, without friends,
but no one can go to heaven
without Christ.

So, there is a sense in which no one goes to hell who does not choose to go there.

Professor C.S. Lewis wrote, 'I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the inside.'

Rodin's Thinker is completely absorbed in concentration. He is taut, his nostrils distended, and his toes tightly clenched. 'The Thinker' so revealed Rodin's concern that a copy of this statue was placed over his tomb. But where is Auguste Rodin now? And where will you be in 100 years or less? In fact, if you were to die today, where would you be tomorrow? What a person does with Jesus in this life matters for all eternity.

The best day to ask God to forgive you, and to trust the Lord Jesus as your own Saviour, is today! This very moment is the time to pray asking God to forgive your past and take over your life from now and into eternity. Don't just think about it but instead respond to God's offer of new life. God doesn't promise us tomorrow, but He does say, 'Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.'



To find out more about
Jesus Christ please visit:

tell-me-more.org

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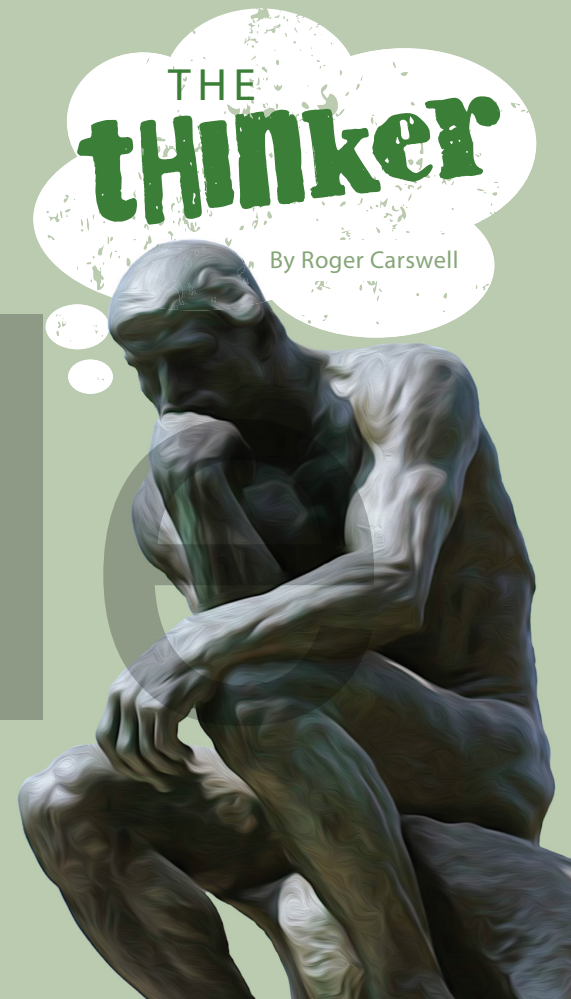
more@10ofthose.com

Written by Roger Carswell

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'The Thinker' is one of the world's most famous sculptures. It was presented in 1904 by the French sculptor Auguste Rodin. Fascinatingly, Rodin tells us what 'The Thinker' is thinking about.

It is not what we might imagine. It is not a philosopher deep in thought. Rodin says 'The Thinker' is pondering the plight of men and women who are in hell. It was originally conceived as part of a larger work, 'The Gates of Hell', which is on display in Paris.



Though Rodin was not a Christian, the thought of people in hell haunted his imagination. For Rodin, hell was not a swear word! He said he didn't believe in God, but he was afraid of going to hell after he died.

Life is great, but it is short! So, what happens when a person dies? Rodin knew that the

Bible teaches that 'it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment'. Jesus spoke often about heaven and hell. He is the only one who has died and come back to tell us what eternity is like.

Eternity is not just an expensive perfume! Our eternity does not last simply until the fragrance has faded, or even for a thousand years, but it is forever. The Bible teaches that, from the moment a person is conceived, each has an eternal existence. Nothing can reverse that. It can be the most wonderful thought... or the most terrifying!



So, what makes the difference? It depends whether we are ready to meet God, or if we have pushed Him to one side. The Bible is very clear as to who goes to be with God in heaven and who goes to hell. Our eternal destiny is not what the vicar says at the funeral, or what our friends or our enemies say about us. God is the judge.

If we stop and think about that, nothing is more important than being sure we

are ready to meet our Maker. Heaven is forever. Hell is as well. Either we will spend eternity in heaven with God, or be cut off from Him forever in hell.

The Bible gives us glimpses of heaven. We read that God 'will wipe every tear from [people's] eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

We are also given awful insights into hell. Jesus called it a place of 'everlasting punishment' saying, 'It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched – where "Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched."' But we also read that any individual can be certain of heaven. It is our wrong, our sin, that cuts us off from God. It would keep us out of heaven and condemn us to hell. We are all guilty of wrong. None of us are good enough for God and heaven. But Jesus said that He had 'not come to call the righteous, but sinners'. He said He had come 'to seek and to save that which was lost.' Every

sports enthusiast understands the concept of the substitute. One player is replaced by a stronger, fitter one. God, who is eternal, came into the world in the person of Jesus to be our substitute. He lived a spotless, pure life, but was crucified. Yet His crucifixion was the plan of God because, as Jesus suffered, He took on Himself the sin of the world. All that would condemn a person to hell was laid on Jesus on the cross.

