

**DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE...**



# **Surviving The End**

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## **The Trouble with X...** **Excerpt from C. S. Lewis**

I suppose I may assume that seven out of ten of those who read these lines are in some kind of difficulty about some other human being. Either at work or at home, either the people who employ you or those whom you employ, either those who share your house or those whose house you share, either your in-laws or parents or children, your wife or your husband, are making life harder for you than it need be even in these days. It is hoped that we do not often mention these difficulties (especially the domestic ones) to outsiders. But sometimes we do. An outside friend asks us why we are looking so glum, and the truth comes out.

On such occasions the outside friend usually says, "But why don't you tell them? Why don't you go to your wife (or husband, or father, or daughter, or boss, or landlady, or lodger) and have it all out? People are usually reasonable. All you've got to do is to make them see things in the right light. Explain it to them in a reasonable, quiet, friendly way." And we, whatever we say outwardly, think sadly to ourselves, "He doesn't know X." We do. We know how utterly hopeless it is to make X see reason. Either we've tried it over and over again--tried till we are sick of trying it--or else we've never tried because we saw from the beginning how useless it would be. We know that if we attempt to "have it all out with X" there will be a "scene", or else X will stare at us in blank amazement and say "I don't know what on earth you're talking about"; or else (which is perhaps worst of all) X will quite agree with us and promise to turn over a new leaf and put everything on a new footing--and then, twenty-four hours later, will be exactly the same as X has always been.

You know, in fact, that any attempt to talk things over with X will shipwreck on the old, fatal flaw in X's character. And you see, looking back, how all the plans you have ever made always have shipwrecked on that fatal flaw--on X's incurable jealousy, or laziness, or touchiness, or muddle-headedness, or bossiness, or ill temper, or changeableness. Up to a certain age you have perhaps had the illusion that some external stroke of good fortune--an improvement in health, a rise of salary, the end of the war--would solve your difficulty. But you know better now. The war is over, and you realize that even if the other things happened, X would still be X, and you would still be up against the same old problem. Even if you became a millionaire, your husband would still be a bully, or your wife would still nag, or your son would still drink, or you'd still have to have your mother-in-law live with you.

It is a great step forward to realize that this is so; to face up to the fact that even if all external things went right, real happiness would still depend on the character of the people you have to live with--and that you can't alter their characters. And now comes the point. When you have seen this you have, for the first time, had a glimpse of what it must be like for God. For of course, this is (in one way) just what God Himself is up against. He has provided a rich, beautiful world for people to live in. He has given them intelligence to show them how it ought to be used. He has contrived that the things they need for their biological life (food, drink, rest, sleep, exercise) should be positively delightful to them. And, having done all this, He then sees all His plans spoiled--just as our little plans are spoiled--by the crookedness of the people themselves. All the things He has given them to be happy with they turn into occasions for quarreling and jealousy, and excess and hoarding, and tomfoolery...

But... there are two respects in which God's view must be very different from ours. In the first place, He sees (like you) how all the people in your home or your job are in various degrees awkward or difficult; but when He looks into that home or factory or office He sees one more person of the same kind--the one you never do see. I mean, of course, yourself. That is the next great step in wisdom--to realize that you also are just that sort of person. You also have a fatal flaw in your character. All the hopes and plans of others have again and again shipwrecked on your character just as your hopes and plans have shipwrecked on theirs.

It is no good passing this over with some vague, general admission such as "Of course, I know I have my faults." It is important to realize that there is some really fatal flaw in you: something which gives others the same feeling of despair which their flaws give you. And it is almost certainly something you don't know about--like what the advertisements call "halitosis", which everyone notices except the person who has it. But why, you ask, don't the others tell me? Believe me, they have tried to tell you over and over and over again. And you just couldn't "take it". Perhaps a good deal of what you call their "nagging" or "bad temper"... are just their attempts to make you see the truth. And even the faults you do know you don't know fully. You say, "I admit I lost my temper last night"; but the others know that you always doing it, that you are a bad-tempered person. You say, "I admit I drank too much last Saturday"; but every one else know that you are a habitual drunkard.

This is one way in which God's view must differ from mine. He sees all the characters: I see all except my own. But the second difference is this. He loves the people in spite of their faults. He goes on loving. He does not let go. Don't say, "It's all very well for Him. He hasn't got to live with them." He has. He is inside them as well as outside them. He is with them far more intimately and closely and incessantly that we can ever be. Every vile thought within their minds (and ours), every moment of spite, envy, arrogance, greed, and self-conceit comes right up against His patient and longing love, and grieves His Spirit more than it grieves ours.

The more we can imitate God in both these respects, the more progress we shall make. We must love X more; and we must learn to see ourselves as a person of exactly the same kind. Some people say it is morbid to always be thinking of one's own faults. That would be all very well if most of us could stop thinking of our own

without soon beginning to think about those of other people. For unfortunately we enjoy thinking about other people's faults: and in the proper sense of the word "morbid", that is the most morbid pleasure in the world.

We don't like rationing which is imposed upon us, but I suggest one form of rationing which we ought to impose on ourselves. Abstain from all thinking about other people's faults, unless your duties as a teacher or parent make it necessary to think about them. Whenever the thoughts come unnecessarily into one's mind, why not simply shove them away? And think of one's own faults instead? For there, with God's help, one can do something. Of all the awkward people in your house or job there is only one whom you can improve very much. That is the practical end at which to begin. And really, we'd better. The job has got to be tackled some day; and every day we put it off will make it harder to begin.

What, after all, is the alternative? You see clearly enough that nothing... can make X really happy as long as X remains envious, self-centered, and spiteful. Be sure that there is something inside you which, unless it is altered, will put it out of God's power to prevent your being eternally miserable. While that something remains, there can be no Heaven for you, just as there can be no sweet smells for a man with a cold in the nose, and no music for a man who is deaf. It's not a question of God "sending" us to Hell. In each of us there is something growing up which will of itself be Hell unless it is nipped in the bud. The matter is serious: let us put ourselves in His hands at once--this very day, this hour.

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## *ThINKers'* *Thoughts!*

### Hey, Don...

We thank you for your latest book and the 2 DVD's(1&2) that arrived today...As usual, my husband & I will be reading the book at least twice...also our daughter has been wanting for us to get through so she can read it...she feels like she knows you personally...and reads your books and watches the DVD's also. They make a great impression on our children, friends and the few friends that take the books or DVD's home to read...Thanks again for sending them to us...You & TRI are always in our prayers. ~ *ThINKer from TX*

# # #

My son listens to your program every day. Looking like I'm going to be doing the same thing. Your show voices the questions in my heart and answers much that I've been too stubborn to hear, although they have been there to hear. Confusing. My life is a hot mess. I've always known God is real and I learned about the Sabbath 37- 38 years ago. I've also wondered why I get an underlying message when I read scripture that most don't get or understand when I talk about it. But even so, I am a hardheaded you-know-what! And I haven't DONE the work in my life. I've known that is the reason for a long time. I've studied and prayed and there have been periods in my life when I could feel God with me. But those times are few and fleeting and your program addresses the causes for my disconnect from that Spirit and the truly awful times I've gone through as a result of my disobedience. I feel like I've given up and merely hear without hearing. Going through the motions. But it's not enough and I really want a copy of The Questions Of Jesus, if you'll send me one.

I feel a desperation I can't overcome. Why can't I put the tobacco down? Why do my wife and I, who were so strong and filled with love for one another, having such hard times, after almost 30 years? We can barely tolerate one another because both our minds are on ourselves and we have to smoke pot to dwell together?!? I've come to realize my understanding, which I once thought so clear, is muddled and obscured to the point where I just can't look into scripture for very long without feeling like I have to get away from it. Sometimes I seriously consider abandoning the pursuit altogether.

I'm learning humility now. I used to think myself a very humble man but I'm a self-centered butthead! I gladly invite you to email me back though I know you're a very busy guy. I want to follow Christ and don't find Him very often in church and I'm frustrated. Thank you for your excellent show. ~ *ThINKer from Internet*

###

I listen to RLE on my land line nearly every day, sometimes at 7 or 8 in the a.m. Pacific Time, and also in the evening 8 or 9 p.m. You create so many thoughts in my mind to contemplate and so often seem to give me a new slant to consider . . . And I so much appreciate it. You often say you want to know who is listening - so here I am - (ThINKer name omitted) - to tell you, "I'm listening and enjoying your programs immensely." Thank you for all your time, effort, and dedication to doing what you're doing. I am sure you are always striving to "do the right thing." That is certainly an admirable goal. I'll keep in touch - well I do via my phone connection to TRI. As you always have said in the past - fond and friendly - Stay well and healthy. ~ *ThINKer from WA*

###

I have a comment on one of your radio intervals, breaks, whatever y'all in radio call it. "Did you know that Jesus has a sister?" About halfway thru that, I felt accomplished when I answered "Wisdom and Knowledge". So far, Proverbs is the only place where I've read about a woman who was not directly named. I don't read every day, in fact its been a while. But I love Proverbs. I don't know if I'm what you refer to as a People of the Book. I doubt it really. (maybe I'm wrong) I've even told people that reading a bible, and knowing it front to back, top to bottom, is NOT A REQUIREMENT for eternal life and salvation. I've met people who do not read/study the Word of God, but that are more.....Christ like, (I'm hesitant to say righteous) than myself, my dad or anyone else I know. If God wants you, He will get you. I believe that if you let Him, Christ can reside in your heart regardless of what book you have read. Yes, reading the Bible definitely helps. Knowledge and wisdom can be found there, but only if the reader can expand their mind to think about what it is they are reading. ...~ *ThINKer from TRI Radio App*

###

I know you have more experience dealing with these religious denominations and there goofy belief systems. I envy your efforts because they question you to snare you but they don't want to know the truth. That can be exhausting when you're dealing with a group of them which your wasting your time, However; it's for the guy on the sidelines that is observing that seems to want to know what you got that wants to hear for himself. Now, comes the hard part, at least for me it was in my own experience, Confidence, no conjured up illusions, Just when I think I have it figured out, I am shown something I am completely unaware of until it's over. . . .

Perhaps a blessing isn't a good thing, I have yet to find out what ditches I will fall into that the Messiah will have to pick me out of. I have no doubt he is talking but I have doubt I am listening at times, of course it runs through my mind but I procrastinate it seems which isn't good. However, I hear, "See, I showed you, but you were not paying attention." That may have you chuckling for a moment and I am sure you have

had the same experience as well. . . .

I know you have to be tired but I have always said, "If Don Harris doesn't make it, none of us have a chance" I know you keep the commandments but I know you have the testimony also being called, chosen, and more importantly faithful to the father. This still isn't easy and this yoke the scriptures talk about taking on. I don't quite understand because I am still looking for that rest by knowing when the father wants my attention.

~ *ThINKer from WV*

# # #

JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO. BEEN LISTENING FOR A WHILE NOW, YOU SENT MANY OF YOUR CD'S TO THE HOUSE SOMETIME AGO. I'M A BUSY HOUSEWIFE THAT NEEDS MORE SIT DOWN TIME THEN I'VE HAD TO IN THE PAST, STILL DIDN'T HEAR THEM ALL. HEARD THE ONE ON PRAYER FROM YOUR SITE, HAVE TO WONDER WHY MORE PEOPLE DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY. WE DO TRY TO KEEP THE SABBATH, STILL DON'T HAVE ALL THE PASSOVER AND FEASTS STRAIGHT, WASN'T TAUGHT THAT. THERE ARE TWO CD'S ON TABERNACLES THAT I WATCHED IMPRESSIVE. ~ *ThINKer from TX*

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## *Conversations with Don . . .*

Someone has put your Manna book up on the ebay auction for sale (\$19.99). What bothered me was they are using your exact words in the description, just FYI. ~ *ThINKer from TN*

**REPLY FROM DON:** I'd be mad if they modified my words. I hope someone buys it who will listen and obey. Don't you?

Wow. Here I am mad that some one is trying to profit off you, and you are only concerned that they are listening and obey. Guess I forgot the bigger picture. Thanks for the reminder. ~ *ThINKer from TN*

**TRI RADIO APP FEATURED PODCAST:** This is so cool!!! Now I'm gonna have to buy a new stereo for my work truck so that I can connect my phone to it via Bluetooth and listen while I'm at work. I hope all is well with everyone there. My dad says you'd had a stroke pretty recently, I do pray for your recovery.

I do want to comment on something specific. I've listened to a number of past shows, and you bash these other preachers a lot. Obviously we don't want to condone or promote their ill fated teachings, but ought we not pass judgement on them and love all on earth? Just a thought, time for me to get ready for work. God bless! ~ *ThINKer from the TRI RADIO APP*

**REPLY FROM DON:** I'm glad you like the app and I appreciate you taking time to share your thoughts. It may seem harsh, but scrutiny or judgment of the actions of Preachers is not condemning them personally. The idea that we can love the sinner and hate the sin is an unscriptural concept. How can we separate the actions of a man from the man? This is an outgrowth of the mis-defined concept of grace.

Often pastors get professional courtesy or reverence. I know no better way to remove the undue reverence of the revered other than to show them that I am not afraid of them. When Jesus called Herod a fox and the Pharisees vipers, hypocrites, etc, His words removed the undue reverence that God's people had for the leaders of their day.

Following Jesus' example of removing respect, while loving is my goal as well. I feel a duty to show that I do not fear modern religious leaders, neither should anyone else. The message of THINK RED INK is God sent His Word to earth, so we might be reconciled to God absent Church or Religion.

Jesus says, "Think, do right, forgive, be honest, obey the commandments" (paraphrase). The Apostle Paul warned the people of the church, "They will make merchandise of you." It is important that people learn to think for themselves and as long as they have undue reverence for men they deem to be smarter than they, they will never learn to do so. Listen closer - you'll hear me love them.

That makes a little more sense I suppose. I just got thru listening to the Brother Loves CD. That was an eye opener. I suppose I'm a work in progress. It's been one of them weeks that a couple plain and simple msg have been shoved in front of me whether I wanted to see them or not.

The other was about marriage, how that agreement is not a contract, but instead it is a covenant. Then I learned the vast difference between the 2. (Contract benefits me the most. Covenant benefits the other person the most) so I've had to admit too myself that I've been a complete, selfish jackass in my marriage. Next thing is to try and do something about it.

I remember enjoying your broadcast this morning, but unfortunately do not remember exactly what was said, I was eating breakfast and my son woke up. It was at that point that all peace and quiet vacated my house.

I look forward to tomorrow's broadcast as well, who knows, Maybe I'll even write in. Thanks again. ~ *ThINKeR from the TRI RADIO APP*

###

Please help me! I know you said we should/need to do this for ourselves, but I just can't. I have asked my husband to help, but he just messes it up too, and makes me more confused. Would you please make the new calendar available for everyone, or at least for myself? I would greatly appreciate your help. ~ *ThINKeR from MI*

**REPLY FROM DON:** You are stating my most frequent unspoken request "Please help me!" I simply do not have the manpower to develop/maintain the calendar accurately. The calculations, graphics and moon phase projections to forecast the new months and holy days requires proofing and double-checking that I am unable to do in my present physical condition. If I could do this for you, I would do this for everyone. Here's my advice for you . . . *watch above the setting sun, seeing the crescent, the month's begun. If you don't see it, don't sorrow, the month begins tomorrow. And whenever you see the crescent thin, count 29 days and watch again.* The issue I have with my sight is not the only concern, it is the many other responsibilities that I must accomplish everyday to keep the ministry going.

Hello again... Still listening almost every day. The quiet time before the Lord is uncomfortable at best. I find that I'm only able to handle it in small doses. I'm still trying and I will not give up. I agree with almost everything you say ... I sincerely hope you continue on for a long season. I'm so glad and thankful your voice is going out over various media. Sometimes I turn it on early in the day and you're not on... I freak just a little bit, but then the feed comes through and I'll listen for 8 -10 hours. Someone told me they heard chatter in the chat room about you and your wife splitting up. I sincerely hope this is not so but offer my heartfelt condolences if it is true.

I'm taking my time with the Questions and my wife likes the Daily Manna, which I've not looked at yet but I'm very pleased with what I've read so far and we both love your show. We love your take, perspective and delivery. Keep going!!! This world NEEDS this program in every home on earth. In every ear. Go kick some lazy butt Don!

###

Hi Don, hope this finds you well and in good spirits. My son said he talked to you or went on chat and learned it was true about your marriage. As much as I can't stand some of the problems we go through, I'd be a wreck if my wife left me. It makes me angry and sad at once. I'm sorry.

I've tried on several occasions to sit in silence before the Lord and it's uncomfortable at best. I cannot go before Him as I am. I feel like He does not care for me. ... Where does this feeling that God hates me come from? It's about to drive me wild and I find myself becoming very angry. But I'm afraid to tell God how I feel- He knows well enough how I feel because I also find myself lashing out at Him. I'm so depressed and angry I want to cry, Don. I don't think I have a snowball's chance in you-know-where!

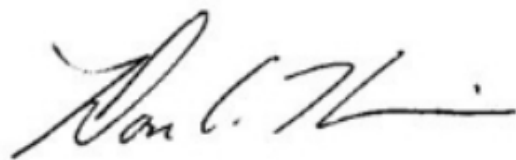
... I've gone all my life doing whatever I wanted to do. I guess I don't know how to do differently. I've carried the guilt over things I did ... though repented of fully and agonized over and prayed about many times... what am I missing? Anytime I am quiet before Him I get the distinct feeling He has no use for me ... Thank you for being there and doing what you do, even through your own personal woes. I marvel at how you seem in so chipper of a mood. I'm scared and angry and frustrated and have a feeling of hopelessness. I'm stumped. ~ **ThINKer from MO**

**REPLY FROM DON:** You are pursuing a worthy and difficult goal. Many grow weary at this point and seek rest from diversion, a conference, a "new study or prediction of coming events", a new discipline, a new church, or a new pastor. My advice would be not to work so hard and just sit at his feet a little longer. Remember, Martha was tired, but you have chosen the good part which will not be taken from you.

###

It is my hope that you enjoy these questions and answers from my desk, many people have similar questions, but not all ask. Personal identifying information has been removed from the correspondence for your privacy. Thanks for keeping in touch! Maybe one day your question will be printed in the eZine! It's great to hear from you.

Your Friend,



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**Featured Material this month:**

***Surviving The End (DVD)***

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# Let's get social . . .



Follow **Think Red Ink Ministries Facebook** and **Twitter** to get notification of spontaneous "BROTHER LOVE" shows and live interviews! Sometimes Don only has minutes of notice for live radio and television interviews! Don't miss out!

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