

Alan Godson in his own words.

A collection of some
his most well known
writing, conversations,
thoughts and phrases.

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**I HAVE SHARED HIS
LOVING PLAN FOR
LIVING WHEREVER I'VE
BEEN SINCE THE DAY
OF MY ACCEPTANCE BY
MY WELL-LOVED LORD
JESUS. I CAN'T HELP
LOVING, BECAUSE HE
LOVES ME SO MUCH.**

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IF JESUS THOUGHT YOU WERE WORTH DYING FOR, SURELY HE MUST BE WORTH LIVING FOR?

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Like any relationship, our relationship with God must develop. Otherwise it begins to fade away. Love begets love, and so we grow together, and life becomes richer. But life is a challenge, and it is often in the hard times that our characters are best formed. Relationships have to do with will, and loving somebody is doing what needs to be done.

It is not a question of how we feel at the time. It is an attitude of mind, made constant by practice. We can all make mistakes. We can all ask for forgiveness. Just as our first forgiveness, when we recognised God's generosity to us in accepting us as we were, was a gift of grace, so our subsequent failures are forgiven when asked for, because He does not change His mind about us. He helps us to change our mind, and our lives. He is the great encourager.

When Jesus asked His disciples if they were going to forsake Him, as other men were, their reply was loud and clear: 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.' Having found life, don't lose it. Keep it – and give it away.



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'I LIKE YOUR DINKY TOY' I SAID TO THE OWNER OF AN 'E' TYPE JAGUAR.

HE QUICKLY PUT HIS HEAD OUT OF THE WINDOW.

'I BEG YOUR PARDON?'

'I LIKE YOUR DINKY TOY...BUT I THINK YOUR NUMBER PLATE'S GREAT!'

'TELL ME WHY'.

'D.V. STANDS FOR DEO VOLENTE - GOD WILLING; G1 MEANS GOD FIRST'.

'AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED I'M GOD' HE REPLIED. HE MEANT 'I'M IN CHARGE'.

'YES' I SAID 'YOU'RE PLAYING GOD, BUT YOU'RE NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR THE PART'

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Conversation with a car owner whose licence plate was DVG1

Last Saturday I was caught in a downpour and was literally soaked to the skin. Afterwards I thought how tremendous it would be if all believers in God could be so drenched in the Spirit that this country might be brought back to life from its dreadful surrender to the 'me' mentality.

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**BE UNASHAMED TO
BE A DISCIPLE. DARE
TO BE DIFFERENT, THE
DIFFERENCE THAT THE
SPIRIT OF JESUS CAN
MAKE IN YOUR LIFE -
TO BE YOUR TRUE SELF.**

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For me the big question we all have to ask about the Christian message is never asked - Is it really true? If it is, we are fools not to follow Christ.

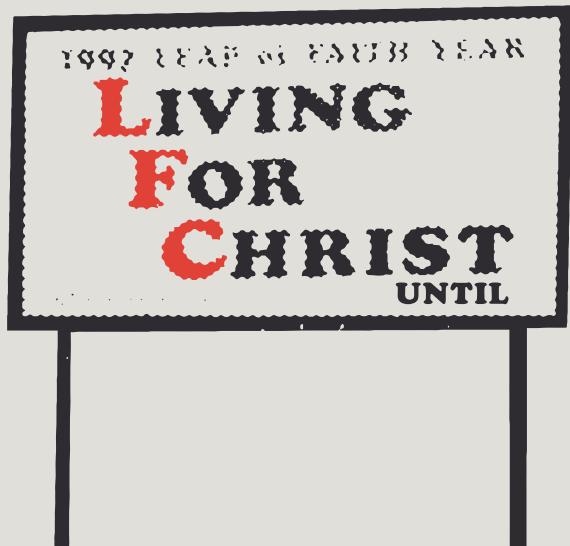
Once, after speaking in a university, I was taken away by a group of Iranians to a special room and, after entering, the door was locked behind me. I had no need to fear: they just did not want to be interrupted. For the first time in their lives, they said, they had heard someone speak who seemed to believe that Jesus Christ was still alive, and they wanted to find out. You see, maybe morally and ethically there isn't too much difference between Islam and Christianity, but they absolutely differ on the question: 'Who is Jesus Christ?' Islam denies that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died on the cross and rose from the dead. The Christian points to the cross on which Jesus died for our sins, and to His glorious resurrection. Both can't be right. If the Christian claim is false, then our faith would be worthless.

When a Christian is accused of being arrogant about his belief, it is only because we are saying what Jesus has said. We must make our stand on what He has said, not on our own definitions. If He is God, He must be the only answer. We can't adjust the truth for the convenience of anyone, for this truth has been revealed. It is not our invention. God stepped into history in Jesus Christ.

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**REMEMBER,
A CHRISTIAN
IS SOMEONE
WHO RISKS
THEIR LIVES
IN GOD'S
HANDS.**

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Signs outside St Mary's Edgehill:
Alan's famous reinterpretation of L.F.C and E.F.C.



Highlighted Scripture: 1 Timothy 2 v 4
'God our Saviour desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.'

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**YOU ARE THE ONLY YOU
THAT JESUS HAS AND
IT IS YOU HE WANTS TO
BE HIS MESSAGE. YOU
ALONE WILL DO HIS
WILL IN PARTICULAR
CIRCUMSTANCES**

**- IF YOU DON'T,
NO ONE ELSE WILL.**

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What about all the people who have never heard the Gospel? What happens to them?

First of all, the Gospel is God's Good News; that He really does care for everyone and His outreach is everywhere. Essentially, He is a God who is just, someone in whose character we can completely trust. What He does, therefore, with those who have never heard of Jesus Christ will be utterly fair. We don't have the whole story as to how God deals with people such as these. 'There are secrets that the Lord God has not revealed to us' (Deut. 29:29). We must concentrate on what He has shown us. No-one who has not heard of Jesus Christ will be condemned for rejecting Him, only for rejecting his own moral standard, high or low. In other words, we each have our own understanding of how we should act and what we should be. Paul, in Romans 2, is very clear that everyone is aware of doing wrong: 'He will punish the heathen when they sin, even though they never had God's written laws, for down in their hearts they know right from wrong.'

But, really, these questions are only side-tracks for the one who doesn't want to find the truth.



**THE GOOD NEWS SHARERS
TODAY ARE OF TWO SORTS.
THEY ARE EITHER FOR IT -
'I SURE MEAN IT' - OR THEY
KEEP IT TO THEMSELVES -
'I'M SURE MEAN'! YES THE
STING OF THE EVANGEL IS
IN THE TALE! IT'S THE ISM
WHICH COUNTS. WHAT
SORT IS YOURS?**



You can't prove that Jesus exists. Why should I pin my faith on somebody who could turn out to be a myth?

We were born to ask questions. Maybe the biggest question we will ever ask is: What am I living for? I would say that only God, speaking through Jesus Christ, his down to earth man, has given us an adequate answer. If we cannot trust the word of Jesus, whose word can we trust?

It is only when we do what God asks of us that we will know that He is there, and He can become more real to us than even our nearest and dearest. Myths have a way of being out of date. Jesus is always our contemporary. If you are to be a modern man, you need to step out in faith with Him. He makes all the difference. He puts a flavour into life that can bring satisfaction, whatever our situation.

After all, truth doesn't change with circumstances. No one else can take away from you the joy of finding out that God loves you. Make sure that no one, and nothing, robs you of making this discovery. Choose life! And live it to the full.

Some of the biggest hypocrites I know call themselves Christians. How do you answer that?

A hypocrite is someone who pretends to be what he is not – and maybe man's greatest enemy in keeping others away from God. 'By their fruits you shall know them,' says the Scripture. They would be a lot fewer if, more often, they were challenged to put their actions where their mouth is. Perhaps, sadly, the reason for their existence is that we treat too lightly the honour of being called 'Christians' – both those who believe and those who do not.

It is sad for me to find anyone who is a friend of mine not yet being a friend of God's. It is a constant pain to me that this should ever be so. But one of the things that helped me to come to a true relationship with God was my understanding of the way He honoured me in recognising Him. Alan Godson could have turned down God's offer of His life and friendship, and, recognising this, it showed me where the dignity of any man is truly to be found. God does not insist on His rightful place in our life. He leaves us to say Yes or No to His invitation. 'Come to me.'

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PAUL SAYS

'I GRASP HOLD OF CHRIST, BECAUSE HE FIRST GRASPED HOLD OF ME'.

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**THUS I MAY HAVE
EXPERIENCED MY FIRST
CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN.
THE AFFIRMATION OF
THE PROSPECT WAS
MARVELLOUS, BUT THERE
WAS SOME ADVENTUROUS
LIVING STILL TO BE DONE
BY HIS GRACE.**

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Perhaps we should all write a little pamphlet called 'Heaven Here I Come' depicting our growth from new birth through our babyhood and adolescence into adult Christian living. Then we may echo the words of St. Paul 'For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain'.

Heaven Awaits

The Christian challenge is essentially positive: 'Do this and you will live.' 'Come to me,' says Jesus, 'and I will strengthen you.' He does not insist that we come, and He loves us enough to let us go. Not many people, when I ask them would they like to go heaven, say No. Sadly, not so many people say Yes to Jesus now. It's a mystery I have not yet solved!

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**YES, HEAVEN FOR
CHRISTMAS WOULD HAVE
BEEN GREAT, BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING STILL TO DO.
MAY WE ALL BOW MORE
CLOSELY TO HIS WILL.**

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Signs outside St Mary's Edgehill:



During the run up to the 1985 F.A. cup final

In a needy world man has not learned to help himself by helping each other. Being good is dependent entirely on man doing his best, only with God's help is that possible. If Jesus hasn't shown us what God is like then there has been no true revelation and no awesome hope to follow.

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**GREEDY
FOR GOD
NEEDY FOR
NOTHING** //

Personal Bible Study

Find a suitable time and place each day to be with God. You may find it helpful to use the same place each time.

Settle yourself down. However busy your life, this one part of the day when you won't hurry, for nothing you have to do is more important than setting aside time to be with God.

Expect to meet God. Quite deliberately and in spite of all the things clamouring for your attention, set your mind on Him. If you are anxious or preoccupied, tell Him.

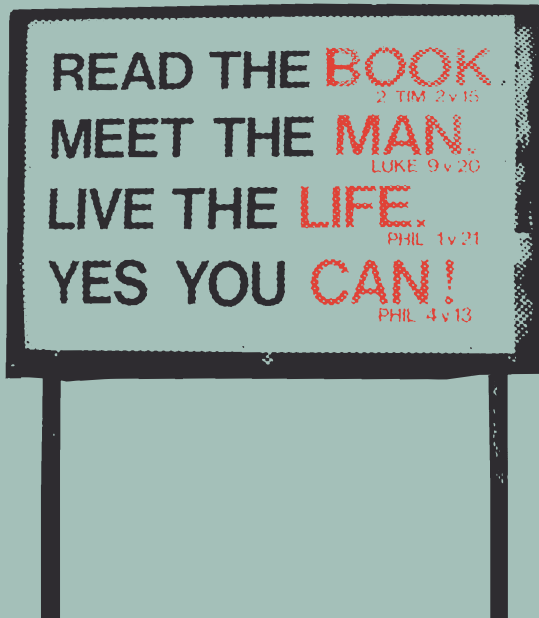
Take time to be quiet and listen for what God may want to say – perhaps a special promise, a warning, a challenge; or there may be something he wants you to do, some person who specially needs your prayers.

Keep a notebook to jot down things to remember – a verse, a query, a situation that needs prayer. Be flexible. Some days you may finish quickly. Other days you may find that you are unable to finish in the time you have available. There's no need to feel guilty. Look back over the reading and ask what particular thing you can take with you for the rest of the day. Use it to help you respond to God.

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OUR MESSAGE IS URGENT. EVERYONE SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE A CHANCE OF SAYING 'NO'. SO LET'S GET TO IT, AND THE BEST WAY TO BEGIN IS TO BEGIN EVERY DAY DOING IT HIS WAY.

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If God is a loving God, why does he allow suffering?

If deep down some instinct did not tell you that there is a loving God, you would not even raise this question. And we must confess a partial ignorance here. The origin of evil is not fully revealed. We are told, however, that planet Earth was created perfect, but man was free to obey or disobey God. Evil came through man's disobedience. Man's actions are never limited to himself but always affect others.

Because God's law was broken, evil permeates the planet Earth. God, of course, is much bigger than this: He made the whole universe. 'Why doesn't God get rid of evil?' goes up the cry! Why doesn't God get rid of you and me! If midnight was the hour at which God decreed the defeat of evil, would any of us be around to celebrate? What we can say, however, is that God has done more than enough to combat the problem of evil. He not only entered history in Jesus, but died to solve the problem. Everyone who willingly receives His gift of loving forgiveness is accepted in Him. C.S. Lewis, who was a professor of English as well as Christ when I was in Cambridge, suggested 'it was idle to speculate about the origin of evil. The problem we all face is the fact of evil' There is only one solution that God has given us: Jesus Christ. At the heart of all suffering is the innocent Son of God. If we cry out, He is in total agony, until He overcomes.

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**HIS WORD MUST
BE RICHLY IN US:
OTHERWISE WE
QUICKLY FADE
AWAY.**

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I recall a late night phone call when a woman asked me what had I done to her husband? "What have I done to your husband?" I asked. "Well," she said, "he loves me now more than he has ever done." I enquired: "is that a complaint?"

1 John chapter 4, verse 19, says the following: 'we love because God first loved us.' If you love God, you will not love others less but even more, because your commitment does not depend upon your feelings anymore. For love is not sentimental: it really has bite. It is not a commodity bought and sold: it is God's gift to men. Treasure it. Fight for it. Be eternally grateful!

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**SADLY FOOT AND MOUTH
[DISEASE] IS STILL WITH US,
- AT LEAST IN THE CHURCH!
WE DON'T GO WHERE WE
SHOULD AND WE DON'T
SAY WHAT WE COULD.**”

Pentecost

When God makes manifest His Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7) the Holy Spirit makes clear and visible the invisible God.

I can't hear God easily – but His Word makes me hear His voice better

I can't see God easily – but when I see my brothers and sisters loving one another I see Him more clearly.

Attempting to be a genuine human being is quite a challenge. Our challenge is to add life to our years, to take time to love and to be loved. There's all the time God gives us.

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**WHY DO YOU
SPEND ALL YOUR
LIFE RUNNING
ROUND IN CIRCLES?**

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Alan's introduction of himself to Olympic 400m runner, Martin Winbolt-Lewis, before helping him on the path to Christ

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I DON'T THINK IN TERMS OF THEM AND US. I'M NOT ONE OF 'THEM', I'M ME. I MEET EVERYBODY AS A REAL PERSON, VALUE THEM AS HUMAN BEINGS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, AND I THINK THEY ACCEPT ME THAT WAY.

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In response to a question about what a Cambridge educated rugby player thought he should be doing in Liverpool. 1969

Lovingly collated by the Godson family

We're sure if you knew Alan, you have your own great stories. We'd love to hear them. Please email them to:

goodnews@alangodson.com