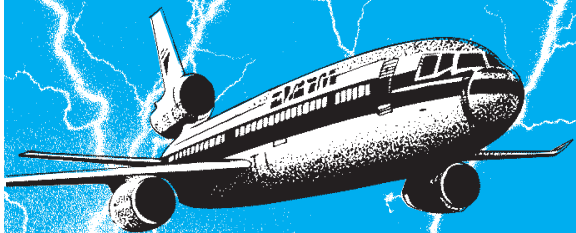


WHY RUN



THE RISK?

"I'm scared to death to get on an airplane again, but I've got to get home!"

As the people in the air terminal of a large international airport surveyed the scene of a fiery airline crash in which 130 passengers were killed, this remark was made, according to reporters, by someone who was soon to board another plane. Someone else commented, "I'm just glad I wasn't on that flight! I was already worried about getting on an airplane and the rain only made me more scared."

I wonder how many people will ask, "Why run the risk?" and never board another airplane for fear of being in a fatal crash.

Nothing Is Safe

Did you ever stop to think that you are running a risk every time you get into a car and go shopping? The newspapers tell us that one of the persons killed in that plane crash was driving his car on a highway near the airport. Would you stop driving because of this?

People have met early deaths by riding bicycles, crossing busy streets, eating the wrong kinds of foods, receiving bee stings, using harmful chemicals, etc. Even smoking and drinking claim the lives of many every year. Another killer is pollution, which we cannot begin to fully describe.

With the exception of two people mentioned in the Bible, the death toll from all causes remains at 100%. To eliminate the risks from the above causes you would have to stay home and remain in bed. Recently my brother-in-law died in bed (and he wasn't so old, either!) – so there is no escaping death.

A Better Way

This sounds very pessimistic, I know, but I'm happy there is a better way. It is found in the Bible, known by many to be the Word of God.

The Bible says, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). This means that since father Adam and mother Eve made that first fatal choice to disobey God, all of us are subject not only to physical death, but also to eternal death (punishment for our sins). "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

"So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many (this could include you). To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation" (Hebrews 9:28). This means that our Lord Jesus Christ (God's Son) came to die on the cross to bear our sins and to give us a complete right to go to heaven. So the phrase "in Christ," by whom all

shall be made alive, can apply to you if you will realize that you are a sinner, subject to physical death and eternal punishment, and turn to Christ to be truly and totally saved.

Why Run The Risk?

Whether you die from one of the abovementioned disasters or die at a ripe old age, why would you risk spending eternity in that place reserved for the devil and his angels, when you can spend eternity with God in the joys of heaven by simply trusting and receiving Christ and His death on the cross?

The Bible says: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Why Run The Risk? ?

– *C. Darling*

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