

DIFFICULT
QUESTIONS about
CHRISTIANITY



EXAMINING SOME OF THE MOST
CHALLENGING QUESTIONS
CHRISTIANS ARE FACED WITH

Luke 16:19-31 ¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

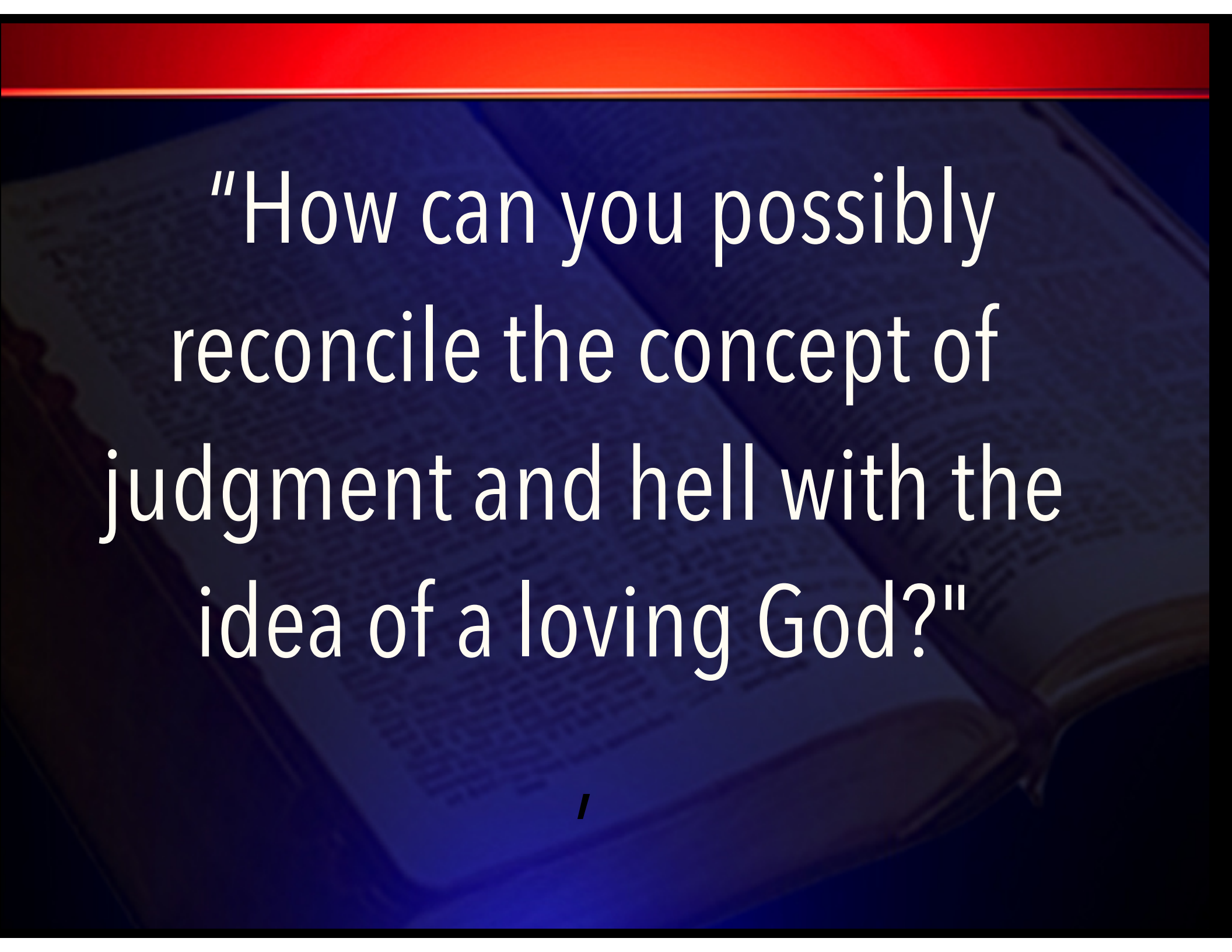
²³ In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

²⁵ But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

²⁷ He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

³⁰ 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

The background of the slide features a dark blue, slightly blurred image of an open book. The pages are visible, and the book is positioned diagonally. At the top of the slide, there is a solid red horizontal bar. The text is centered and written in a white, sans-serif font.

"How can you possibly reconcile the concept of judgment and hell with the idea of a loving God?"

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G.K. Chesterton
Author/Theologian

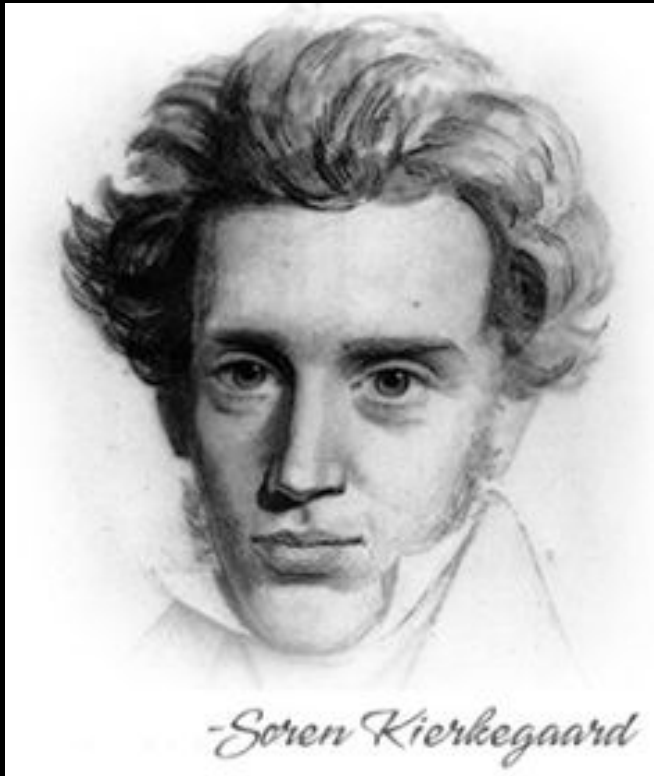
"Hell is God's great compliment to the reality of human freedom and the dignity of human choice."



J.P. Moreland
Professor/Author

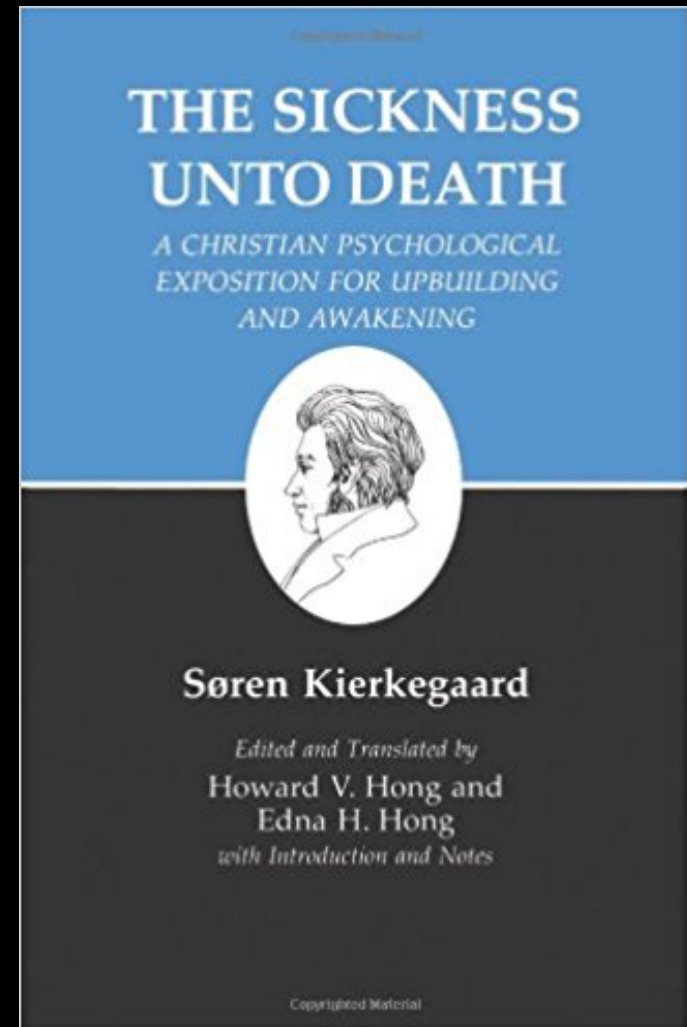
"If we fail to live for the purpose for which we are made; to relate lovingly to Him and to others, then God will have absolutely no choice but to give us what we've asked for all along in our lives, which is separation from Him."

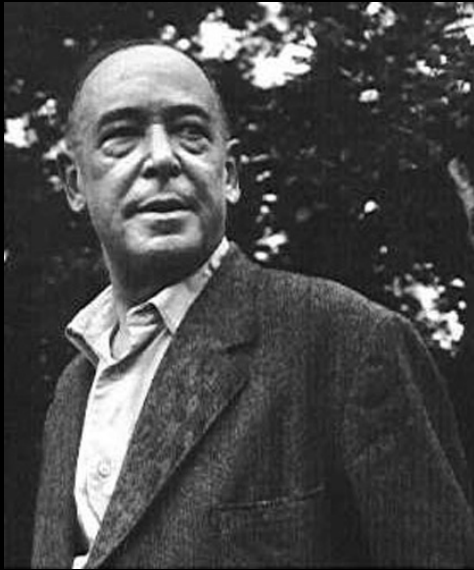
²⁵ But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.'



Søren Kierkegaard

Danish Philosopher

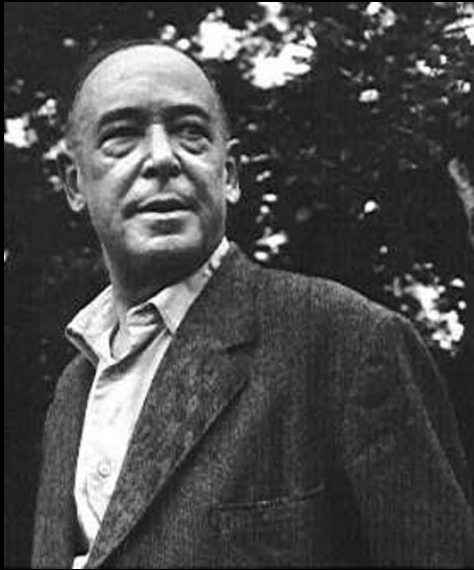




C.S. Lewis

Theologian/Author

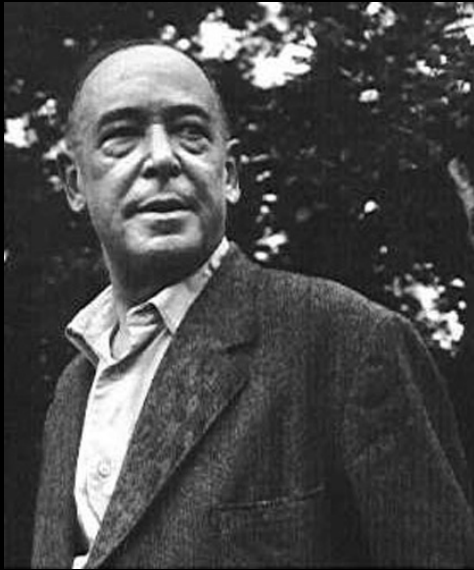
"Again, Christianity asserts that every individual human being is going to live forever, and this must be either true or false. Now there are a good many things which would not be worth bothering about if I were going to live only 70 years, but which I had better bother about very seriously if I am going to live forever.



C.S. Lewis

Theologian/Author

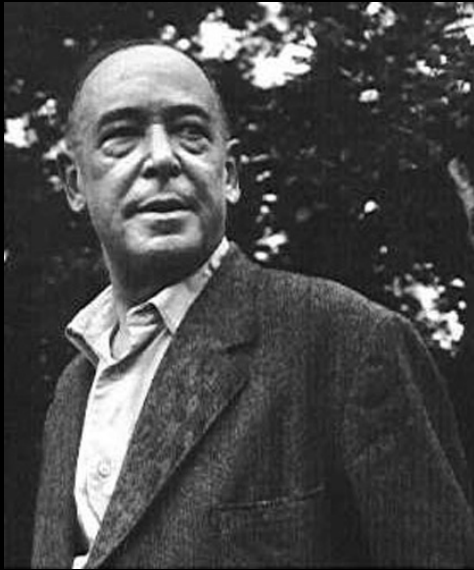
"It's not a question of God 'sending' us to hell. In each of us there is something growing up which will of itself be hell unless it is nipped in the bud."



C.S. Lewis
Theologian/Author

"The doors of hell are locked from the inside"

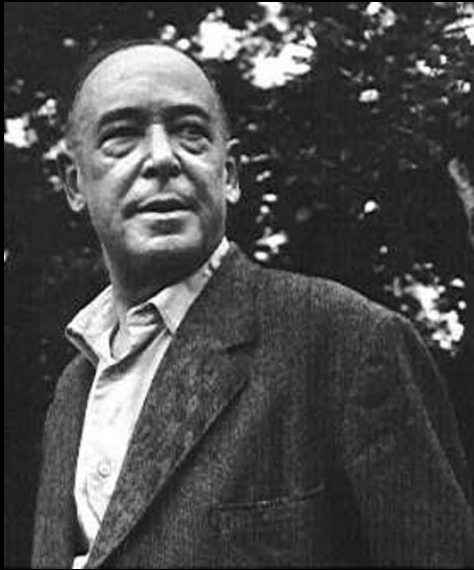
24 ... send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'



C.S. Lewis

Theologian/Author

"In the long run the answer to all those who object to the doctrine of hell, is itself a question: 'What are you asking God to do?' To wipe out their past sins and, at all costs, to give them a fresh start? But he has done so, on Calvary. To forgive them? They will not be forgiven."



C.S. Lewis

Theologian/Author

"To leave them alone? Alas, I am afraid that is what he does. There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, '*Thy will be done.*' All that are in hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no hell."



Wendy Kaminer
Author Interviewed
Pastor Rick Warren

"His faith is inherently divisive. Because at the end of the day ... non-Christians, however devout, go to hell ..."



Wendy Kaminer
Author

“What are the prospects of equal citizenship for those of us damned by our refusal to be born again in Christ?”

25 But Abraham replied, 'Son...



Miroslav Volf
Croatian Protestant
Theologian/Author



Miroslav Volf
Croatian Protestant
Theologian/Author

"The cycle of retaliation is not fueled by a belief in a God of judgment, but it's fueled by a lack of belief in a God of judgment."



Miroslav Volf
Croatian Protestant
Theologian/Author

"If God were not angry at injustice, that God would not be worthy of worship."



Miroslav Volf
Croatian Protestant
Theologian/Author

“If you’ve talked to some people who have seen their homes burned and seen their family members killed and raped, how are you going to keep them from picking up the sword and being sucked into the cycle of violence and retaliation?”



Miroslav Volf
Croatian Protestant
Theologian/Author

"Not only will such moralizing not touch their hearts,
but it shows no concern for justice.



Miroslav Volf
Croatian Protestant
Theologian/Author

"The only resource he knows powerful enough to both pacify the human heart's desire for justice and at the same time keep us from getting sucked into that cycle of blood and vengeance is to say,....



Miroslav Volf
Croatian Protestant
Theologian/Author

"There is a God, and he will put everything right."
Everything right! If you don't believe there is
somebody who is going to make everything right, you
will pick up the sword, and you will get sucked in.



Miroslav Volf
Croatian Protestant
Theologian/Author

" Belief in a God of judgment is crucial, he says.
"It's about the only resource strong enough to
help me, live in peace on earth."

27 ...'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

³⁰ 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

29 Abraham replied, 'They have
Moses and the Prophets; let
them listen to them.'

It was the Lord's will to crush him and
cause him to suffer.



Chapter 53

He poured out his life unto death, and
was numbered with the transgressors. For
he bore the sin of many, and made
intercession for the transgressors.



Chapter 53

David Martyn-Lloyd Jones
Protestant Preacher
Theologian/Author



"Imagine a friend of mine comes to see me and says,
'Hey, I was at your house the other day, and a bill came
due. You weren't there, so I paid it.' "

David Martyn-Lloyd Jones
Protestant Preacher
Theologian/Author



"Well, how should I respond? And the answer is I have no idea how to respond until I know how big that bill was. Was it just .20 cents postage? If so you would say, 'Thanks.' "

David Martyn-Lloyd Jones
Protestant Preacher
Theologian/Author



"But what if the IRS finally found you? What if it was those 10 years of back taxes? What if it was an enormous debt? "Until I know how much he paid, I don't know whether to shake his hand or fall down on the ground and kiss his feet."

