

Chapter 1 : Nemo's Library – classics digests, reflections and reviews

The Paradox of Christian Sacrifice: The Loss of Self, the Gift of Self [Erin Lothes Biviano] on calendrierdelascience.com
**FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Women often hear about the call to sacrifice for the sake of country, for family, or for men.*

Single Ana the Ist said: I tended to attribute this to the idea that they use god as an emotional answer That goes for most anyone. Ignorance and the ensuing vulnerability are, at the very least, uncomfortable. I added the paragraph in parentheses after the fact just to try to give some shape to my "Who knows? It was just meant to point to the fact that there is more to the issue than meets the eye. That leaves folks like myself unable to rely upon any authority for interpreting biblical text. It leaves me with more reason to disbelieve in revelation than reason to believe in it. With this in mind Nor does it really require an argument from authority although even Euclidean geometry requires an argument from authority for those unwilling to do their homework. Honestly, no one has even given an actual objection to my argument. That seems strange to me, but I daresay it is because it is so obvious. No one believes in a metaphysically needy, non-abundant God. Do people disagree that romantic love or highly enjoyable experiences often give rise to a state of abundance which in turn leads one to act liberally? I highly doubt it. Do people think that there are some possibilities available to humans but not to God? The only irrational things I see are the possible objections which no one has even tried to make. I do apologize for rushing ahead towards the end of this conversation. What happened to your edge? The one I remember from past years? I used to be able to end conversations on coy jokes and dismissals; now it seems like I have to actually engage you.

Chapter 2 : Christian Service: Sacrifice

The Paradox of Christian Sacrifice has 2 ratings and 1 review. Women often hear about the call to sacrifice for the sake of country, for family, or for m.

What makes sense in our minds does not equate to truth in scriptures. It is not logical for a man to spit in the face of a blind man, and make him see. It is not logical for a man to walk on water, or for a man to raise a dead man from the grave. Every thing that man says is impossible is possible with God!!! Even in our believing we might hear things that are not possible, and sound crazy to us but in reality they are true. Memorizing scripture gives it no power to perform anything, but what does is the Word of God in the heart of man. Getting the Word of God in ones heart causes that same Word to come out directly from the heart, and completely bypass the brain. How much more the Word of God should we speak it to get it into our hearts? Scientists tell us the physical brain operates on about 8 watts of power, but the heart of man is where the Glory of God dwells which is unlimited in power. This is why scripture tells us It makes no logical sense for a man to be living inside a physical body on this earth, and at the exact same time that same person is sitting on the right hand of God in Christ!!! It makes no logical sense for Jesus Christ to be sitting on his throne on Mount Zion in Heaven, and yet at the exact same time he is living inside every believer!!! No, we do not have a carbon copy of Jesus, or a facsimile of him, but the real mc coy. This boggles the human brain, but it is easy to understand with mans re birthed heart. It makes no logical sense in our brain for the Bible to tell us Why would we not believe this? I can tell exactly why, because it makes no logical sense!!! Where exactly do we think God translated to when we were first saved? What the Lord God has given unto us is way beyond anything we can ever imagine in our brain. We can not even ask God for things beyond his power to give. Why are we logical analytically studying the Bible when we know it is incapable of discovering its truth, and when we hear the truth we discount it as false? We are to take control over what we believe in our head, and never ever listen to what it is trying to tell us.

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As you commence to recall the previous lives your Soul has lived -- you will begin to recall when you dwelt in the Kingdom before you received your inheritance from your Heavenly Father, and squandered it away on "riotous" living -- thereby becoming lost without any memory of your existence prior to this present sojourn in this world. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" John 8: With the key requirement in the words: Which provokes the question: What about those who embrace the opinions of the various Christian group -- and are therefore faithful to the man-made dogma of various sects and Churches? Will these man-made doctrines "make them free"? Or provide the salvation they seek? At the end of the Book of Luke This act of opening the minds of the disciples could only be accomplished after years of companionship with Jesus -- walking and talking with him daily -- wherein Jesus taught his disciples and exploring with them the Mysteries of the Kingdom of God. The statement with respect to Jesus "opening their minds so they could understand the Scriptures", could not be made at the beginning of the Gospel of Luke, because the minds of the disciples had yet to be properly prepared to receive and comprehend the higher knowledge of the Soul and the Kingdom of God. And unless your mind has been opened to understand how the scriptures must be used as the Key of Knowledge , and the inner spiritual meaning of the scriptures are learned through the necessary developmental process of mental expansion and deepening of consciousness beyond the organic human levels, then you will remain blind to not only your own higher Soul and Spiritual Reality, but also your Heavenly Father as personified in the parable of the prodigal son. What was and is absolutely necessary to open the minds of his followers and disciples to understand the spiritual meaning of the scriptures and all of life, is to build upon a foundational paradigm of thinking and lifestyle that could be evolved into a condition of mental-advancement and spiritual maturity. Without either the proper foundational mindset or lifestyle, the necessary higher development cannot be brought about. If, therefore, you build upon a flawed foundational paradigm, then it will be impossible for you to attain the same results as envisioned in the Original Gospel teachings of Jesus. The sacred teachings and concepts upon which the disciples thinking and mindset was erected upon, enabled them to comprehend the higher reality of the Soul and what is called the Sacred Knowledge of the Kingdom of God. The fact that the disciples are personified as living daily with Jesus, is crucial to their living a lifestyle that enables the mind to evolve to a condition of maturity. These Higher Teachings could not be taught or revealed to those whose mind and life were not conducive to receiving the Higher Knowledge or Divine Manna of the Kingdom -- "And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples" Mark 4: Which confirms the fact that the original disciples and core followers had access to important teachings and concepts that were not made -- or could not be made -- available to the people outside the immediate body of seekers. When Jesus was questioned as to why the Sacred Knowledge could not be revealed to the multitude of people who came to hear him speak, he replied: In both the Gospels and the earliest of Christian writings those who were portrayed as being able to receive the Divine Manna or Sacred Knowledge of the Kingdom, were portrayed as being In The House -- i. Wherefore also he explained to his disciples, privately, the mysteries of the kingdoms of the heavens. When asked when the Kingdom will come upon the earth in the manner that carnal believers look for it to come, Jesus taught that the Kingdom will never come upon the earth -- because it is within you Luke Therefore, the Kingdom is not something to be believed in -- but rather, to be entered into while one is still physically alive in this world. One cannot be taught about the Kingdom -- we can only be taught how to enter into the Kingdom. Clement, the first century disciple of Peter writes of these mysteries: This higher knowledge that was entrusted only to the soul portrayed as his brother and the direct disciples of Jesus, is what Christians today are in search of, and what was thrown away by the Church of the Roman Empire. In these words Origen is here revealing an important reality of the Gospel that modern faith-based believers are not at all prepared to contemplate -- i.

What Origen is confirming is that the Gospel of God has never been written in a document of any kind that you could read, as you do other religious writings. When Christians read their Bibles what they are reading is what Paul portrayed as the "milk" of the Gospel that was meant for "babes" in Christ -- a carnal condition of mind that Paul portrayed as being of an "animal-soul" level of consciousness see Animal-Soul that was incapable of comprehending the spiritual meaning of the Gospel. Which is exactly why Paul profoundly stated to the very people who he had personally taught the Gospel message: I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal" 1 Cor 3: This fact -- i. Why Is The Foregoing True: Jesus taught that our entrance into the Kingdom is within us -- i. Neither shall they say, See here! If the words of Jesus are true -- and the Kingdom will never come upon the earth as many men look for it -- but is within you, and it is therein that you must seek it -- then the question that Christians should be asking, is how must the Kingdom be entered? Unless the instruction or teaching that you are following is able to connect you with the Kingdom and the Inner Source of Knowledge -- enabling you therefore to enter "in the house" with the Lord where the higher reality of the Soul and the Mysteries of the Kingdom can be revealed to you -- then these teaching must be understood to be worthless from a Higher Spiritual Perspective. Therefore, the answer to the question is the proper application of what Jesus portrayed as the Key of Knowledge , by turning the scriptures within your own mind and being -- i. For you hide the key to knowledge from the people. Thus, in understanding these words spoken to the Pharisees, the questions must be asked: How did the Pharisees and Jewish authorities " Why did Jesus condemn the leaders of the Jews for failing to enter the Kingdom themselves? And how did the religious leaders of the Jews " You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to" Matt Which means that the Kingdom of God is not something that will come if we wait for it -- but rather, it is a reality which man must seek and find -- within himself. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie" Rev An example of the "lie" that Jesus is making reference to, is the modern Church doctrine that a person acquires salvation without regard to their actions -- as stated in the teaching of the Church that "You must believe in salvation by grace alone, and that salvation is immediate and eternal upon acceptance of Jesus as a one-time sacrifice for your sins, and not obtained through works, sacraments, traditions or merits of our own". Yet, without living in strict accord with the Original Gospel teachings -- and without using the scriptures as the Key of Knowledge -- it will remain impossible to be nourished by the Divine Manna of the Tree of Life [http:](http://) If any one withdraw from God the Father and Creator of all, receiving another teacher besides Christ, who alone is the faithful and True Prophet Which means that if a modern believer is not building upon the foundational paradigm that Jesus originally taught that was embraced by his original followers and disciples -- and has defiled this necessary foundational paradigm with man-made teachings and dogma that is Linear, Flat and carnal -- then those who call themselves Christians are factually portrayed as " Which in the parable of the prodigal son, is portrayed as the Far Country that constitutes what is personified as a state of "spiritual death": Which means that since the Kingdom is within you, the Journey in TheWay for the prodigal sons and daughters to return to the Edenic Kingdom of Origination from which they, themselves, abandoned, is an Inward Journey that requires the development of great depth of mind and being. Which depth of mind cannot be achieved by Linear teachings promoted by any teacher of this world -- whether they are a religious teacher, a non-religious teacher, or any other authority of this world. Which conveys the reality that if you do not refine your lower nature and appetites -- i. And if you have defiled the "wedding garment" by the sin of learning from and embracing the doctrines and dogma of men, then you have erected a great wall that inhibits you from acquiring the necessary depth of mind that enables you to begin to tap into the Inner Source of Light and Knowledge to even begin to receive the Divine Manna of the Kingdom -- i. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna" Rev 2: When rightly understood, it is our own self that we each must overcome and prevail over. Unless the foundational paradigm of your beliefs are conducive to permitting the crucial deepening and expanding of consciousness, then your beliefs will inhibit and obstruct your necessary development. From this perspective mysticism played a vital part in the early church. If the Original Gospels prior to being corrupted are true, and Jesus was a human man just like every other man or woman, then if each man or woman accomplishes what the

historical man Jesus did in his own life, then they will know what he knew, and be able to accomplish all that he accomplished. Therefore, if you believe that Jesus was God incarnate and different than his brothers and sisters -- and this was not the same teaching as Jesus taught to those who walked and talked with him daily over the course of a number of years -- then the whole train of your thinking will be an obstacle to the necessary process of deepening and expanding the mind see [The Ebionites](#) [http: If your beliefs have been corrupted and defiled by man-made doctrines, then you are not following the Original Gospel Teachings see The Essenes](#) [http: If you believe that Jesus was God, and he was not, then you cannot move any further in the journey of TheWay until you first begin to seek the validity of this core Church doctrine -- or, as portrayed by the Adam Clark Commentary this way: The answer is simple: With the result being that ONLY those who build upon the original foundational paradigm -- becoming the "good ground" as personified in the parable of the Sower And The Seed -- are the ones to whom it was said: One of the primary objectives of the Original Gospel Teachings was to prepare the believer and seeker to come to TheCall see \[http: And this is impossible for the modern Christian who adheres to the man-made dogma that Jesus was God-Incarnate, and not a man just like them, who became At-One with God. It is easily proven that 1 the Ebionite Nazirene Disciples of Jesus were vegetarian for an important reason; and that 2 what you eat greatly effects the development of mind from a deepening and expanding spiritual perspective see The Holographic Mind. He drank neither wine nor fermented liquors, and abstained from animal food. Augustine wrote that James, the brother of Jesus: Abstaining from eating dead flesh, or shaving his beard or cutting his hair? By choosing to be in harmony with the spiritually empty and void culture of this world, rather than living the necessary Consecrated Life of the Essene Ebionite Nazirene Disciples of Jesus, we are choosing a spiritually empty lifestyle that fails to support the necessary deepening and expansion of mind embraced by the original followers of Jesus. Jesus told the woman caught in adultery to "go and sin no more" John 8: He taught that when a man looks upon a woman with lust, he has already committed adultery in his heart Matt 5: And it is warned that "Know ye not that he who is joined to a harlot is one body? Yet, if we understood why the scriptures reject sexual immorality as presented at Why Is Sexual Immorality Condemned , we can begin to understand how those who engage in recreational sex become consciously grounded to the people that Paul portrays as being of an "animal-soul" level of consciousness see Animal-Soul. We attend academic schools that rob us of the ability to acquire true knowledge. The scriptures embody the principles of Anamnesis -- which enables us to tap into the Inner Source of Knowledge that is All-Knowing. With the removal of the teachings on the pre-existent Soul that evolves to Wholeness and Completion over the course of many lifetimes see Religion Of Roman Emperors , the religion of Christianity itself became spiritually flat-lined. It is easily proven that the Biblically Based Mindset is erected upon the teaching of the pre-existent soul see Biblical Mindset. They remain at what Paul portrays as an undeveloped "animal-soul" level of consciousness see Animal-Soul -- too immature to comprehend both the spiritual meaning of the scriptures, as well as the life they are presently living with any functionable depth of understanding. And when presented with the concept of reincarnation being the Key to fulfilling the Original Gospel Teachings, the vast majority of faith-based believers have been so disenfranchised from the core teachings as personified at the previous link, the only answer that must be arrived at is seen in the fact that they are not at all follows and believers in Jesus -- but rather, followers of the Roman Mithraic-Christ -- who was born on December 25th, and resurrected on Easter Ishtar. That the historical man Jesus was a pattern for all of mankind because of his success in overcoming and fulfilling the Laws within himself, is demonstrated in the words portraying the teachings of the original Ebionite Nazirene disciples that "He was the Christ of God, since not one of the rest of mankind had observed the Law completely. Had any one else fulfilled the commandments of the Law, he would have been the Christ And this confirms this statement with respect to the true potential of all of mankind that Jesus taught, as demonstrated in the words of Hippolytus when he wrote that this body of original core followers and disciple believed that when anyone " Which means that what Jesus accomplished, is in fact the eventual destiny of all of mankind who are portrayed as the lost prodigal sons and daughters of their Heavenly Father. And this is why Jesus taught that he was our brother -- i. If Jesus was himself God incarnate as believed by the later Romans, then these words portraying Jesus as a man approved by God through the works and wonders that God did through\]\(#\)](#)

him, never would have been presented in this manner The Mithraic Based Teachings Of Christianity: Thereby creating a pagan foundation to the Church that rendered Christianity spiritually impotent. Mithraism was a Mystery religion -- and as such, did not employ scriptures as a catalyst used in the process of Anamnesis - The Innate Knowledge Of Higher Truth to achieve an enlightened and spiritually mature condition of mind and being. As a Mystery Religion, Mithraism was reliant upon a body of Initiates who were taught the inner Mysteries of the religion. Without the system of teachers and initiates, a Mystery religion very quickly degenerates into worthless empty symbolism. With the corruption of the Gospels to make them support the tenets of Mithraism see BibleCorruption. With the removal and suppression of the original teaching on the pre-existent soul, the Gospel teachings were rendered spiritually castrated. Without the essential knowledge of the pre-existent soul, the person dwells in a state of abject-confusion. To their framework of thinking, all of life becomes defined as a series of accidents that have no prearranged form or higher purpose. The universe came into being with the big bang, where everything that exists was somehow formed from nothingness.

Chapter 4 : Christian Reincarnation and TheWay of the Nazirene Disciple

The Paradox of Christian Sacrifice The Loss of Self, the Gift of Self Biviano unveils a new vision of authentic sacrifice and shows it to be a means of self-giving that is an emulation of God's creativity, distinct from oppressive, societal tendencies.

Churches across a wide spectrum are moving rapidly toward a kind of religion that limits duty while broadening freedom to live as you please. Many caught up in the trend think that what they espouse is still Bible religion, but it is not. It is really something else. So, they have entered dangerous ground, because their religion has no adequate support. Any religion not based on the Word of God is pointless make-believe. But we who follow Christ can rejoice that the Bible is true, and when we interpret it according to reasonable, time-honored rules, we find that Bible religion is very demanding. We may even say that a religious career without sacrifice is not true Christian service. Because sacrifice is necessary to accomplish anything of eternal value. You cannot get something for nothing. If you read the lives of great Christians, you will discover that they paid a price to be great. Sacrificing Saints Since definitions are the bedrock of clear thinking, we will start by proposing a definition of sacrifice. Sacrifice is simply giving up something for God; in other words, giving to God something we see as valuable, or for His sake refusing something we see as valuable. To illustrate the concept, we will give three outstanding examples of saints who served Christ sacrificially. The apostle Paul Paul was a high-born Jew Phil. His teacher was Gamaliel, still regarded as one of the greatest rabbis who ever lived Acts Already as a young man, Paul held a important place in the governing councils of his nation, probably serving as a member of the Sanhedrin Acts 8: But when he became a Christian, he fell from these heights to the level of the despised and downtrodden. The litany of his sufferings in the cause of Christ is astonishing. I speak as a fool I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Yet he had no regrets that he exchanged a life of privilege for a life of hardship. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: Because the sacrifice gained him something betterâ€”the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. He graduated in after taking a first in college examinations and winning two math competitions. It was said that he was without a rival in mathematics. But instead of pursuing a career in England, he dedicated his life to foreign missions and in became a chaplain with the East India Company. In succeeding years he devoted most of his time to the work of translating the Bible into Hindustani and other tongues. The crowning achievement of his life was to translate the New Testament into Persian. He had always been sickly, however, and on the mission field he contracted tuberculosis. He was on his way to present his Persian New Testament to the Shah of Persia when he died at the age of What had he sacrificed? A brilliant career in math leading perhaps to fame, wealth, prestige, perhaps a peerageâ€”all the benefits that one of the most brilliant minds of his generation might expect to achieve. Was his a wasted life? He did not think so. A few days before he died, he wrote, "I thought with sweet comfort and peace of my God. Oh, when shall time give place to eternity! None of that wickedness which has made men worse than wild beasts shall be seen or heard of any more. William Borden Borden, born in , was the gifted son of a very wealthy family in Chicago. From an early age, through the influence of his godly mother, he had an interest in spiritual things. He attended Moody Church when the pastor was R. Torrey, and at the age of seventeen he surrendered to missionary service. He attended Yale University and quickly became one of the leading figures on campus. Among his achievements was to play all the major sports, including football, wrestling, baseball, and rowing, and to be elected president of Phi Beta Kappa. After graduation he went to Princeton Seminary. After completion of seminary training he became a director of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. But he was not satisfied to help others go the mission field. He wanted to go himself. Soon after deciding to dedicate his life to reaching the Muslims in China, he took passage on a ship and was on his way. But just a few months later, before he was able to travel further toward his goal, he died of cerebral meningitis. Here was a man who made sacrifices. During his college years, when he was giving thousands to Christian work, he denied himself a car, thinking it an unjustifiable luxury. Because he expected to go someday to a difficult mission field, he never married, saying that it would be cruel to take a

woman with him. Why would it be cruel? A life of every possible comfort and pleasure, because he was rich—a life of worldly achievement and influence, because he was a born leader with an exceptional mind. Shortly before going to the field, Borden willed most of his fortune to the work of God, so that at his death almost a million dollars equivalent to about 25 million today was pumped into missionary enterprises around the world. Moreover, this man was so highly respected that his death sent shock waves throughout the churches of America. The number of young people stirred by his sacrifice to dedicate their own lives to God was beyond count. Problem The problem today is that we no longer have top scholars at Cambridge and Yale surrendering to missionary service. America has fallen into such apostasy that far from giving our brightest young people to God, we are giving Him hardly any young people at all. They think that the purpose of life is to have a good time. Remedy The natural human reaction to any problem is to hide from it, hoping that it will go away. My son Wes has told me that some years ago, after visiting his brother in Savannah, he drove out of town and entered the expressway, intending to start the journey back to his home in West Virginia. About an hour later he and his wife noticed a large sign by the side of the road, "Welcome to the State of Florida. He neglected to watch the road signs and the landmarks that would have warned him that he was going south, not north. Likewise, in the rearing and education of our children we are going in the wrong direction. The warning sign is that so few of them want to serve Christ. Five measures will help us turn around. Teach duty first, pleasure last. Everything good and necessary should take precedence to pleasing self. We do need times of rest and recreation, but as a rule, we should structure our lives according to duty. I used to tell my sons, "Work first. They should do their chores before texting their friends. But duty not only requires work before pleasure. Also, it gives priority to serving God. We must teach children that you go to church rather than go fishing. You take part in soulwinning instead of staying home to watch videos. You have your devotions instead of sleeping in. Training children to make these right choices should be one of the main objectives of a Christian upbringing. Do not spoil your children by giving them too much. We are heaping possessions and entertainment on our children to a degree unprecedented in history. If you are a parent, compare what your children get for Christmas with what you obtained, and then with what your parents obtained. Compare the time your children spend watching TV and videos with the time you spent on similar entertainment, and then with the time your parents spent. We are heaping possessions and entertainment on our children because we think we are being good to them. But it is not good if we are teaching them a false concept of happiness—that happiness depends on having things and filling your life with fun and games. It is not good if we are teaching them that the purpose of life is not sacrifice and service, but pleasing yourself. It is not good. Unfortunately, our Christian colleges have become much more luxurious and entertainment-centered over the years. As a result, they are failing to prepare their graduates for lives of sacrificial service. I know the difference between schools sixty years ago and schools today from first-hand observation. I was very familiar with Moody because my father worked there. Moody in those days was squeezed into a single city block, and surrounding it were rat-infested slums at some stage of demolition. On the campus itself there were no trees or grass, as I remember, only a hodgepodge of buildings and sidewalks. The school in Canada was built by poor farmers who wanted a place to prepare young people for the mission field. The school, situated in the middle of the cold northern prairie, was a collection of drab wooden buildings put up at minimal expense. Dorm rooms were small and rudely furnished. My bed was a tick mattress laid on the floor. The auditorium was a plain wooden structure with hard benches for seats. There were no recreational facilities, no sports teams—hardly an inviting place to spend your college years. Yet my sister has said, "I never sensed that students were bothered by the Spartan conditions of life there. Many came from rural areas that lacked modern conveniences.

Chapter 5 : The Paradox of Sacrifice

The Paradox of Christian Sacrifice The Loss of Self, the Gift of Self.

But I also agree with Dr. It is emphatically no sacrifice. I think we are once again looking at a paradox at its best. For the world it might look like a huge sacrifice giving up some pleasures and the life style they love. How is this possible? Self-preservation is the way of the world. Self-sacrifice is the way of God powered by the Holy Spirit. Catherine Booth equips us this way: It comes once again to trusting God and his promises. Packer encourages us to be radical for Christ: Hold back no longer. Your God is faithful to you, and adequate for you. This is your appropriate priestly service. God does not plan bad things for us. It is indeed a honor and a privilege to serve God. Yet we are not doing it alone. We are powered by the Holy Spirit. Hence we can be bold like David Livingstone and say: Show us how you change them to boldness. Show us how you change our sacrifices into blessings. Give us courage to follow you no matter where you lead. Show us how to life faithfully and fearlessly. May thy will be done! God is with you wherever you go! Have you experienced the paradox of sacrifice? This post was refurbished from last year.

Chapter 6 : Sacrifice Archives - Worthy Christian Devotional - Daily Devotions

Until we take the leap of faith to follow God's calling we don't know the blessings that are attached to the sacrifice. That's the paradox of sacrifice. Mari-Anna StÄ¶lnacke writes about Christian faith to encourage, uplift and inspire readers to live in the fullness of God.

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