

**MIND AND REASON**  
**PARADOX AND CONTRADICTION**

© C. S Craig August 2005

***RECOLLECTION AND REASON***

The memories of impressions on our lives have been scattered by the winds that blow across our memory banks.

Some of these impressions were made by circumstances involving perhaps tragedy, shock, a pleasant surprise, or a fantastic adventure. Other memories were perhaps made from a book, a teacher, a parent, friend or pet. Memories are imprinted by emotional experiences such as happy love and sad love. It is these influences that greatly affect our thinking and who we become in life. Our personality becomes molded by events from the past and combined with the ever-present, affects how we adjust to life.

When I was young my Mother more than any other person shaped my emotional personality and the morals by which I would try to live. My Dad influenced my toughness, my courage and the humorous side of my personality along with Red Skelton. My brother and sister caused me both frustration and happiness. I learned because of them to be tolerant and sharing. The many arguments and frustrations we had prepared me for interacting with people. My relatives, childhood friends and girlfriends made quite an impression on me too. The military exposed me to reality in the world out side my family and friends.

My parents; my sister and brother; and my wife and children have left their footprints on my soul. They still walk with me across the sands of timeless memories. They helped form my passions and pleasures; talents and purpose – my personality.

However, Jesus Christ has affected my life more than anyone else. Jesus Christ is the most impressionable person who ever lived. His impact on history is incomparable and everlasting. More than any other, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior; the Holy Spirit and Bible Doctrine have been my awe-inspiring soul-mates. Christ is the ever patient one, full of lovingkindness and forgiveness. He disciplines me almost continuously but His discipline becomes blessing as I constantly adjust to His authority and forgiveness. Oh, if you only knew Him as he wants you to know Him. Go to the Cross of Christ, kneel at His feet, look up and see the nails that pierced Him. It is your cross - He is nailed to your cross in your place- He died for you in your place! He is ready and waiting right now for you to turn to Him. You cannot get to God except through Christ! He is *the way, the truth, and the life* (John 14:6).

If only I would have kept a daily or weekly diary highlighting the events that still whisper to me from somewhere in the stillness of the past. In contrast, the certainty of God's Word is that it is a highlighted diary of the past, present and future. It ever records God's patience and love for humanity. What a tragedy that people live their entire lives unaware

of the intimate power of Scripture. I must say that Scripture produces *in us* the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Then, when we close the Bible from study the enlightenment we receive from God's Word enables us to see not only the darkness of the world but, it guides us like a beacon as we go forth into the darkened world.

### PARADOX AND CONTRAST

Life is full of paradoxical experiences. Paradox is one of the paths to wisdom. It is the reality of thinking and the experience of reality. God has made faith a justifiable course of belief and action. Reason cannot stand alone without faith. Therefore, to me, both faith and reason point to God. The constructs of nature demands a constructor. The sun is still in its assigned orbit and things are just as they were since the beginning of the universe except changing.

In life, there is both pain and joy; war and peace, but which is paradoxical and which is contradictory. Could it be that peace and war are contradictory; pain and joy are opposites? What about viewpoint? What about emotion? When emotion responds, does it do so with appreciation or malice?

The incarnation brought God to man in physical form. That was two thousand years ago. Today, Jesus Christ can still be seen, felt and heard by the voice of faith and the Word of Truth. The Bible is the thinking of God – His Mind in print (I Corinthians 2:16). So, the incarnation united the physical and the spiritual in one person. The incarnation gave to the spirit a physical person; a visible presence that we could see, touch and hear audibly. Two different realities [God - the spirit; and man - the physical] became one forever in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is both true humanity and true God. He is the *hypostatic* union of man and God. Jesus Christ as God is exactly like God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, yet He is the only member of the Godhead that is true humanity.

Faith and reason can never be mutually exclusive. Faith requires reason and reason requires faith. They are a mutual necessity.

Evil and good are contradictory. Satan and Christ are in total contrast. Light and darkness are opposite, but light merges into darkness and darkness into light before becoming exclusive. Time and eternity co-exist, yet there is no time in eternity.

God preordained history by His foreknowledge while at the same time allowing volition. The perfect righteousness of God preordained imperfect history. The perfect justice of God allowed the injustices of history.

Life is an ego trip without humility. Life is a guilt trip that requires forgiveness. Life is contradictory and paradoxical. Life is faith and reason. Life is beautiful and tragic. Life is pain and suffering; peace and joy; love and hate. Life is full of memories, good and bad. Life is making memories everyday. Life is living that is ever learning life.

You cannot separate the heart and the mind - the two are one. You cannot separate man from God, but God can separate Himself from man. The soul and spirit are separate entities, but the soul is lost without the spirit because the spirit is how we worship God.

We live in a paradoxical world - paradox is a fact of life. Change is inevitable, except with God, He is immutable. While God is immutable everything else in existence is changing.

Man's soul is designed by God to respond to God and be filled with the spirit. The void in people is caused by their own rejection of God. Rejecting God is rejecting the life link (Jesus Christ). Many people yearn for God in their souls but fill the void with worldliness rather than God.

Life consists of countless decisions and results of decisions make the stories of life. These stories were written before the foundations of the world, yet we live them based on our own free will decisions. We live in the now one moment at a time in timeless moments. The end of our life has been known from a beginning that was not a beginning from eternity past. Are we servants or slaves to the decisions we make. We can serve God or serve self. When we are self-serving we are God of self rather than God.

When we learn to stop wanting; when we learn to be thankful; when we learn to love and forgive, then we can learn the true meaning of peace and joy. When we understand the necessity of "the Cross" we understand that Christ paid for our sins and He earned for us our forgiveness. When we realize that God accepted His sacrifice for our sins then we too must accept His sacrifice and drop to our knees. Believe on the lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved once – forever (Acts 16:31a).

Life without Christ has eternal consequences. Life in Christ has eternal repercussions of the Glorious kind.

When crisis comes it is an opportunity to see God more clearly. What faith asks – God will reveal. What faith believes is important. If we do not know God as we should then we cannot trust Him as we should.

God is not indifferent to us or our thoughts and needs. He is different in thinking, action and deeds. We must/needs to experience His forgiveness; His Love; His mercy; His strength. We learn to trust Him in time of need and crisis. We have the opportunity to watch the Lord fight our battles and make us victorious in life. These learning experiences are imperative to maturity in our Christian life and to an intimate relationship with God. He is personable and caring – very caring and He proved His love on the Cross. He proves His Love with every crisis, every happiness in life. Christ is our God who suffered for us and He walks with the believer through every trial and suffering. Christ also holds your crowns of reward in Heaven. He will give them to you on that blessed day at "The Judgment Seat of Christ." God does all the work for salvation and the

Christian life, yet God gives us the rewards for allowing him to do so. That is a paradox. God is perfectly awesome. Man is contradictory to God because man's philosophy is all about man. God's philosophy is all about the restoration of man.

The Bible is a piece of Heaven - a gift from God the Father just as Jesus Christ His Son is the greatest gift ever given. We, the body of believers are God's gift to Christ because he died for us and we are His reward. This is why believers are called the "Bride of Christ" a "Royal Priesthood" forever. The Bible is a piece of heaven wrapped in paper and written on the heart of man.

This study like all the others is God's production – I am not worthy or capable on my own. It is also a fact of reality which I love and appreciate. I am nothing without Christ – He is everything without me!

I have never really left the road that leads through the enchanted forest of childhood, but I have followed the path of childhood imagination to the beauty of thought that leads to the mountains of wisdom. I have found there in the mountains the dwelling place of the giver/keeper – my Father God.

I would describe humanity as para-genetic because we affect each others development – good or bad.

In closing, I would like to define a paradox:

*"A paradox is a statement or argument that derives self-contradictory conclusions based on valid evidence and deductions by acceptable premises from norms and standards that do not allow for such paradoxical conclusions except in extreme circumstances where there is no other explanation." C. S. Craig.*

Whad he say? I don't know, therefore he must be, right or wrong.

There is such a thing as moral unity among men. There is also immoral unity among men. There is moral disunity and immoral disunity. True unity is the merger of God and man.

**Happy Studying!**