character of Jesus were unexcelled, but the purpose of His life was something else. Jesus came to this earth not merely to show us the character of God, important as that is. He came not merely to make it easier for us to ~~understand~~ know that we have a God who can understand our sufferings and our difficulties, because He has entered into all the problems of human life. The supreme reason is stated in Mark 10:45: "....The Son of man came......to give His life a ransom for many."

Why should a ransom be needed? Because of the sin of mankind. What do we mean by sin? It is the attitude of looking out for number one and being unwilling to give proper attention to the needs of others. God, the righteous Judge, has established conditions under which all may live in peace and harmony together in the universe, but man has disregarded these conditions and turned aside and broken God's law.

It does not take a great deal of study of world conditions to see that the underlying cause of the trouble and difficulty in the world is man's greed and selfishness. Capital and labor would have no difficulty in solving their problems if it were not for the fact that each of them suspects the other of seeking to get more than its share of the profits, and this suspicion is often well founded. Nations would have no difficulty in getting along together if each did not often suspect the other of trying to get more than its share of the good things of the world. Each tends to blame others for all the trouble in his life. The thing which is to blame is human sin. We do not have to examine our own hearts very long to find that there is just as much sin in our own hearts as in those of any one else.

Many a person says, "If I do the best I can, surely I will be all right. I injure no one. I always try to treat people decently. I've lived a good life; certainly God will deal well with me." However, examination of the heart and the life of anyone of us will speedily convince Him that this is not true; that no one of us can earn his own eternal salvation. As Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." "There is none righteous; no not one." Even