

LE6: Interview an irreligious person.

Date interview: 2/26/23 Sunday, 9:30 am, at Panera coffee shop, with Andrew Chee.

This morning I invited my daughter and son-in-law (Andrew Chee), my wife with me to have breakfast at Panera coffee shop to conduct this interview. Andrew married my daughter last year and currently he is an irreligious person. I asked Andrew, “if I were to speak to you about God, how would you like me to represent Him?” Andrew did not express any preference. Then I told Andrew I would share with him a way to connect to God which is called ‘a Romans road to God,’ written in the Bible. Andrew willingly listens to me talk.

There are seven stops in the Romans road to God. First I asked Andrew ‘Who is good?’ I handed an English Bible to Andrew and helped him find Romans 3:10 and asked Andrew to read “As it is written: there is no one righteous, not even one.” I explained that everyone has fallen short of God’s glory, all human beings are sinners. The second stop is ‘Who has sinned?’ Andrew read Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” The third stop is ‘Where sin came from.’ Andrew read Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.” The next stop is ‘God’s price for sin.’ Andrew read Romans 6:23 “The wage of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The next stop is ‘Who paid the price?’ Andrew read Romans 5:8 “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” The sixth stop is ‘The only way out.’ Andrew read Romans 10:9-11 “that if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with your heart, you believe and are justified, and with your mouth you confess and are saved. It is just as the Scripture says: ‘Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame.’” Then the last stop is ‘Take God at His word and

claim His promise for your salvation.’ Andrew read Romans 10:13 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” I commented briefly on each stop, and Andrew listened carefully to each point. I stopped talking and asked Andrew to share his thoughts and feedback.

Andrew shared his feedback. First, he said he is not sure whether there is God or not. There are spiritual powers, he said, but he cannot know God exists. I responded that our church has a course ‘From doubt to believe,’ that may help him to know there is a God. Andrew’s second question was ‘why am I or why are human beings special to God?’ I responded to him that in creation, man was the most important in God’s eyes. We were created in God’s image. God wants to have an intimate relationship with us. Thirdly, Andrew asked why does God use this special saving way to redeem human beings? I responded that because God is just and love, therefore, Jesus, God’s son, had to die for human beings’ sin – to pay the price of sin, so that God could restore His relationship with human beings. However, although his grace is free, only the one who believes the Lord savior can be saved from sin. At this moment, my wife also responded by drawing a picture on a napkin paper, a triangle with each of the three points representing God, Human beings, and Jesus. The line between God and Jesus represents the relationship of propitiation. Jesus’ atonement death appeases God’s anger. Lastly, Andrew expressed that he still thinks life is worth exploring by himself, to pursue his goals and to be successful.

Finally, I appreciated Andrew’s acceptance of my interview and his honest feedback. I invited him and my daughter to come to church, to know more about God. I welcomed them to come visit us and we could talk more about God and His salvation. I prayed for them to believe the Lord Jesus Christ, to restore their relationship with God, and improve their husband and wife’s relationship deeper.