

Everyone seems to be getting at us these days. A knock at the door and it's a new religion; on the television it's a new product you can't afford to be without; in your mall, glossy catalogues offer books on cooking, health and how to keep fit! There's hardly anywhere where you can be free from people trying to persuade you to join them, buy from them, rely on them or subscribe to them.

Repeated television advertising may influence you, tempt you, persuade you or exasperate you but at least you are free to take it or leave it. Sadly other forms of intrusion into our lives are forced upon us: burglars, muggers, thieves and con-men come uninvited and take what they want, by force if necessary.

And into all this confusion and conflict comes the voice of God. Another intruder? Is He just one more sound competing for our attention in an already overcrowded world? Does He really have anything to say, and is He worth listening to? At least God doesn't have to buy time on television to tell us what He's like and He'll never force himself upon us if we say no.

The evidence of God is all around us. His message hangs on every tree and His calling card on every flower. The mountains speak of Him and the great oceans too. The Bible says: "O Lord, our

Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth" and declares that only a fool says, "There is no God". And yet people often say, "If God is so great — why doesn't He do something?" The fact is He has done something.

The Bible tells us, "In the past God spoke . . . at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son" and that brings us to the Lord Jesus. God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, with the express purpose that He should die on a cross and that He should there and then take away sin. God's answer to the problems of the world, and to your problem and mine as individuals, is found in the death of His perfect Son. For it is our sin which both brings out all the bad things that we do and will separate us forever from a holy God if nothing is done about it. You can laugh at Him, reject Him, smile at the whole idea; or you can seriously think about God's offer of forgiveness.

Why not pray to God right now? Tell Him you know you have sinned and that you are really sorry and want to be forgiven. Say "Thank you" to Him for the Lord Jesus who died and who rose from the dead so that you can live. If you do this, God promises to grant forgiveness and assures you of a place in heaven.

Bible quotations: Psalm 8.1; Psalm 14.1; Hebrews 1.1,2.