

Nate asked us to make this Christian short story and allegory available for everyone to enjoy.

A note from Author David Telbat:

Dear Friends, sometimes we complicate the promises and assurance of salvation as God defines His offer in the Bible. We need not be confused at the simple faith in God's gracious free gift that presents freedom from all things (Acts 13:38-39). Rather, we should humbly "sign on" and get busy living for Jesus Christ. Here's an allegorical approach to the assurance, the payment, and the forgiveness that Emanuel (God with us) offers through what He did at Golgotha (Calvary). I hope His story means something to you in a liberating way!

Golgotha Insurance

by D.I. Telbat

Ian Fawlin was devastated. He had recently signed on with Golgotha Car Insurance, then wrecked his car one day later! He had no money to fix the car and no money to even pay the first month's bill—whenever it arrived. He hadn't read the company's fine print on the policy yet, but he knew the premiums were going to skyrocket.

The wreck had done more than worry his pocketbook. His car had been his whole method of transportation to and from work, taking the kids to and from school, and even going to the park on weekends. Ian's wreck seemed to have ruined his life.

He caught a ride with a neighbor to the city and walked into the towering building owned by Golgotha Insurance. The executive assistant at the lobby desk heard his request to meet with an insurance agent to explain his case.

"You understand, sir, that Golgotha Insurance is the largest insurance company in the universe." The woman handed him a badge with Golgotha's company seal glowing on the front. "But we also take our clients' needs very seriously. Go straight to the top floor and approach the chief executive."

"The chief executive?" Ian gasped. "No, no, you don't understand. I've destroyed my car and my life is in turmoil. Just guide me to a lower-level agent, please."

"We really have no one else to mediate your situation except the chief executive, sir." The woman smiled. "The chief executive is available now. Take the express elevator and speak to him yourself. He's the most understanding executive in the universe. His name is Emmanuel Wright."

Ian clipped the Golgotha badge onto his blazer and walked to the express elevator. He pushed the button, it chimed, and he stepped inside. As the car rose, he studied a plaque on the wall that read, "Have confidence in the assurance we give you! Have a great day."

On the top floor, a long carpeted hallway stretched before Ian when he stepped from the elevator. The walls were glass and the ceiling was crystal and gold.

"Why would this guy want to meet me?" Ian mumbled to himself as he walked up the hallway. "I've wrecked my life!"

An elevated desk with two chairs were positioned at the far end of the hallway. A man sat in each chair at the desk. However, the appearance of the men was identical. When one looked up, they both looked up in perfect unison, as if one mirrored the other perfectly.

"Excuse me, sirs, I was told to approach you." Ian touched his neck, surprised at how nervous he was. Maybe he should've worn a tie! "Are you Emmanuel Wright?"

"I am," both men at the desk said, but Ian heard only one voice.

The man on the left—seated to the right of the other—stood from his chair and stepped down from the desk to Ian's level. His face was pleasant and bright, and his handshake was firm and friendly.

"Ian Fawlin, it's great to see you. I've been expecting you."

"You have?"

"You recently entrusted Golgotha to secure you, correct?" The man gestured to a shelf of open books. "My records, from eternity, are flawless."

"Well, yes, just yesterday I signed on. But I've already suffered a wreck. I just want to explain, maybe to avoid you raising my premiums right away."

"Oh, it's not like that here at Golgotha. When you trust me to insure you, there are no conditions. Let

me ask you something, Ian. If someone were to show you grace and mercy, would you want to continue to offend and burden that person?"

"Well, no! Of course not!"

"Wonderful, because here at Golgotha, I express grace and mercy. That's the truth. I do not, however, intend that you drive recklessly or carelessly any longer."

"Okay, but what about the bill?"

"I have your policy right here." The other man, now a shimmer of light in the immaculate room, leaned over the desk and gave Emmanuel a single-page document. "Nope. You signed on to my P-P-F Plan. Actually, that's the only policy I offer here."

"The P-P-F Plan?"

"Past, present, future. Your bill has been paid. I paid it long ago, even though you've only recently joined the family."

"So, all is forgiven? Completely?"

"Once and for all. I don't know what else to tell you, Ian. I love to express grace. You could say it's who I am."

"But maybe if I saved up my money, I could send you a payment anyway?"

"Hmmm." Emmanuel set his hand on Ian's shoulder. "I understand your feeling to want to pay me back, but let's face it, Ian. All your wrecks of the past and your wrecks in the future—could you ever really pay me back?"

"Uh, I guess I see your point."

"Honestly, Ian, I'd prefer if you showed your appreciation simply by driving more mindfully. And as for the other drivers on the road out there . . ."

"Yeah?"

"Tell them about me here at Golgotha by the way you drive around them."

"But I no longer have a car, sir."

"Your new car is down on the street. The fuel cell has been charged with limitless energy, and the operator's guidance system manual in the glovebox will interface with my counterpart on my behalf. That's how much I care for you, Ian."

"I don't know what to say!" Ian glanced down at the badge on his chest. "All I did was approach you in faith, and you've responded with so much!"

"Trusting me with your debts got you in the door, Ian." Emmanuel walked him down the hall to the elevator. "Following my guidance system is up to you."

"I will. I'll follow you!"

Together, they stopped at the elevator. The door opened.

"You're part of the Golgotha family now, Ian. Nothing can change what Golgotha has already done for you. As long as I'm alive, this policy stands between me and you."

"I'm so thankful. I will tell others. I will!"

"Drive safely, now, and any wrecks you do suffer, my office is always open. Have faith and a little courage to approach me any time you need a reminder of what Golgotha has promised you. This is the assurance I can give you. Oh, and Ian?"

"Yeah?" Ian stepped onto the elevator and looked back.

"Keep the badge. Consider it a symbol of my permanent seal and eternal pledge to you about our agreement."

"But, this whole agreement seems to rely on you, sir! Shouldn't there be more conditions placed upon me?"

"Placed upon someone prone to wrecks?" Emmanuel chuckled. "Why don't we leave the agreement to me, Ian, and you just focus on driving faithfully."

The End.