

After Forever

Black Sabbath

VERSE 1

Have you ever thought about your soul - can it be saved?
Or perhaps you think that when you're dead you just stay in your grave
Is God just a thought within your head or is He a part of you?
Is Christ just a name that you read in a book when you were in school?

VERSE 2

When you think about death do you lose your breath or do you keep your cool?
Would you like to see the Pope on the end of a rope do you think he's a fool?
Well I have seen the truth, yes I've seen the light and I've changed my ways
And I'll be prepared when you're lonely and scared at the end of our days

VERSE 3

Could it be you're afraid of what your friends might say
If they knew you believe in God above?
They should realize before they criticize
That God is the only way to love

VERSE 4

Is your mind so small that you have to fall in with the pack wherever they run
Will you still sneer when death is near and say they may as well worship the sun?

VERSE 5

I think it was true it was people like you that crucified Christ
I think it is sad the opinion you had was the only one voiced
Will you be so sure when your day is near, say you don't believe?
You had the chance but you turned it down, now you can't retrieve

VERSE 6

Perhaps you'll think before you say that God is dead and gone
Open your eyes, just realize that He's the one
The only one who can save you now from all this sin and hate
Or will you still jeer at all you hear? Yes! I think it's too late.

Questions for discussion:

- 1) What is the truth that the writer of the song claims to have seen in verse 2?

- 2) Why will he be prepared at the end of his days? _____

- 3) Why does the writer of the song think that who he is singing to rejects the Truth?

- 4) How does the singer refer to peer pressure? _____

What is the singer’s opinion of such people? _____

- 5) What does the writer of the song mean when he says that the person listening to the song will not be able “to retrieve?” _____

- 6) The last verse of the song states that “it is too late.” When is it “too late?”

- 7) Why should we never stop praying for those who have not received Christ as their Lord & Savior? _____

- 8) Why can we say that this song focuses on Law? _____

EXCERPT FROM BLACK SABBATH BASS PLAYER GEEZER BUTLER INTERVIEW:

Question: “The Sabbath influence is prevalent not only in the music, but in the lyrics of many of today’s metal bands - after all, you were among the first to get into the occult and the darker side of life, and now there are bands in Scandinavia burning down churches and killing each other. How much of what you wrote back then was for real?”

Geezer Butler: “I used to read a lot about all that. But any lyrics that I or Ozzy wrote were actually warnings against Satanism, telling people that if you are going to dabble in that, just be careful... I had a very strict Catholic upbringing, so I read a lot about Satan. But we never, ever promoted Satanism or black magic, we only used it as a reference, and it wasn’t our only topic. We wrote a lot of science fiction lyrics, anti-Vietnam war songs, the occult was only dealt with in three or four songs. But people completely misinterpreted them, the way they always do... Sabbath even did a blatantly pro-God, Christian hymn type of song, ‘After Forever’, and people still took it the wrong way.

<http://www.black-sabbath.com/interviews/gzrint1.html>

9) Why is it ironic that Black Sabbath recorded and performed this song? _____

10) How did they respond to accusations that they were Satanists? _____

11) What extremely dangerous advice does Geezer Butler give regarding Satanism? _

Explain: _____

12) What did their bass player say re: After Forever? _____

13) Why is it confusing that Black Sabbath would write a Christian song? _____

14) Is there any indication that the members of Black Sabbath are Christians, other than the lyrics to “After Forever?” _____

15) What can we learn from this? _____

