

## 20250512 Lecturer Report

### No do-overs

There is a joke that asks, "What do you get if you play a country song backwards?"  
You get your dog back, your truck back, and your girlfriend back.

As a child, we played games and could ask for a "do-over" when we didn't like the result(s) of our playground prowess.

As the years continued to grow, the opportunity for "do-overs" or second chances, as adults call them, was seldom available and had more significant consequences.  
Sounds daunting and depressing...only if you look at them from the human perspective.

The only judge and jury that matters is that of God.

John 15:10, If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

God does not believe in pop quizzes, nor does he practice them. Everything has been laid out and even planned for us. So, take your hands off the wheel and your foot off the gas and turn on your auto-driver.

The world has now been introduced to WAYMO, the first commercially used self-driving vehicle.

The world has always known GOD, the only vehicle of truth.

In reality, if we make a wrong turn, the voice-activated map apps quickly point out that the system is "redirecting" due to our errors. If we make a wrong turn and have an accident, we call the insurance, but we face long-lasting repercussions that affect our wallet, and hopefully not any devastation or loss of life.

When God is our insurance, we pray and ask for forgiveness, and it is given. God has a short memory as he forgives and forgets our sins, and Jesus's death has paid the price.

Proverbs 8:17, "I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me."

But God does not stop there. He loves all of his creations and is hurt because of those who are lost or have used their free will not to search for him. He is always available and does not play hide-and-seek.

"Seek and you shall find me."

The heart guides us to him and will rejoice when he is received.

Psalms 89:15-16, "How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Your countenance. In Your name they rejoice all the day, and by Your righteousness they are exalted."

A country song can linger in your heart and on your lips when it touches your ears. The effect of God causes an explosion in your senses when we welcome him into our hearts.

But music is a gift from God, and he wants us to enjoy it. Like any art form, music touches us deeply, and we interpret the message based on how and why it affects each of us.

The word of God is written in many versions. Some have taken liberties and loosely translated the meaning to fit their agenda.

God writes the word, and the word is the truth. The truth became flesh.

If you seek him, the true meaning will come to you.

Jesus sat among the tax collectors and the prostitutes. His intentions were not to approve of their behavior. He sat with them to change their behavior and allow them to change and save their eternity.

So, sing the words of lost love, lost trucks, and lost dogs to pass the time.

But rejoice in the hymns which bring everlasting joy, where nothing is lost and eternity is gained.

Vivat Jesu