



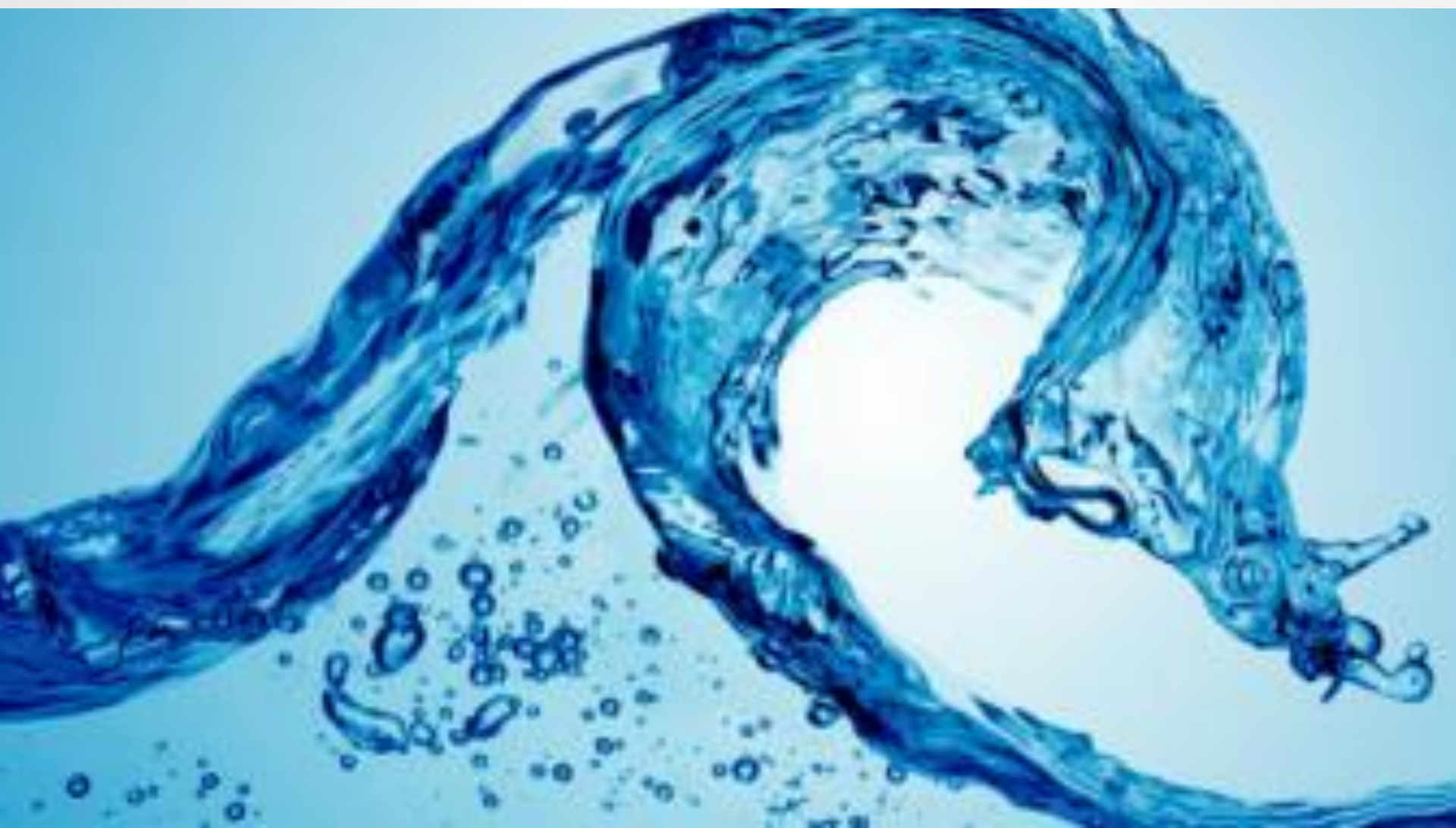
LIQUID

A Cruciform Life

WHAT
IS THE
SHAPE?



WHAT
IS THE
SHAPE ...
OF LIQUID?



FILL IN THE BLANK

By nature we yearn and hunger for _____, and once we have glimpsed ... some part of its radiance, there is nothing we are not prepared to bear and suffer in order to secure it.



ACTS 16

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹ When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

THE ROMAN WORLD

PHILIPPIANS 3

By nature we yearn and hunger for
honor, and once we have glimpsed...
some part of its radiance, there is nothing we
are not prepared to bear and suffer in order to
secure it.

- Cicero



ROMAN SOCIETY

Elites (1 million)	Non-Elites (49 million)
Senators	Freeborn <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Citizens- Non-Citizens
Equestrians	Freedmen <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Citizens- Non-Citizens
Decurions	Slaves

TOMBSTONE OF C. LUCCIUS SABINUS

“C. Luccius . . . Sabinus, Decurion of Beneventum, while still living made [this tomb] for himself, his wife Ofillia Parata, and his brother Luccius Verecundus, and his posterity. He served in the First Urban Cohort at the side of the tribunes, was an seutor and optio of the hospital, orderly of the prison, singularis, beneficiarius, put in charge of the examination of witnesses by annius verus, prefect of the City; he was also office in charge of the watchword, orderly, standard-bearer, clerk of the treasury, orderly in charge of records, senrio clerk of a tribune, clerk of Valerius Asiaticus, Prefect of the City. He was discharged by the emperor Hadrian when Servianus . . . And Vibius Verus were consuls.”



GARRET FAGAN – *THE LURE OF THE ARENA*

“Romans lionized strength over weakness, victory over defeat, dominion over obedience.”

ROMANS 6

Or don't you know that all of us who were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.**

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, **we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.**

PHILIPPIANS 2

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

ROMANS 12

²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

PHILIPPIANS 2

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something
to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a [slave],
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

CICERO

“To put a Roman citizen in chains is wrong. To flog him is a crime. To execute him is almost parricide [killing of a parent]. And what shall I call crucifixion? So abominable a deed can find no word adequate enough to describe it.”

PHILIPPIANS 2

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every
name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should
bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus
Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

2 CORINTHIANS 8

Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: **They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.**

ACTS 16

³⁵ When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” ³⁶ The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.”


³⁷ But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

³⁸ The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. ³⁹ They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city.

JESUS AND THE KINGDOM?

Acts 16 – Paul and Silas	Philippians 2 – Jesus
Refused to exploit Roman citizenship	Refused to exploit equality with God
Willingly suffered	Willingly suffered
Vindicated by a sudden status reversal	Vindicated by a sudden status reversal

WHAT WOULD YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE?

A large white billboard is mounted on a tall metal pole against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The billboard contains text in a black, sans-serif font. The text reads: "By nature we yearn and hunger for God's will, and once we have glimpsed ... some part of its radiance, there is nothing we are not prepared to bear and suffer in order to secure it." The words "God's" and "will" are underlined. The billboard is positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the sky and clouds filling the rest of the image.

By nature we yearn and hunger for God's will, and once we have glimpsed ... some part of its radiance, there is nothing we are not prepared to bear and suffer in order to secure it.

1 PETER 4

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. ² As a result, **they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.**³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵ But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

1. Pay the Cross forward intentionally
2. Be Liquid

THE IMAGE OF GOD

- Genesis 1:27 – Made in God's image
- Genesis 5:3 – The image is distorted
- Colossians 1:15 – Jesus is the image of God
- Colossians 3:10 – In Christ we are being renewed in God's image