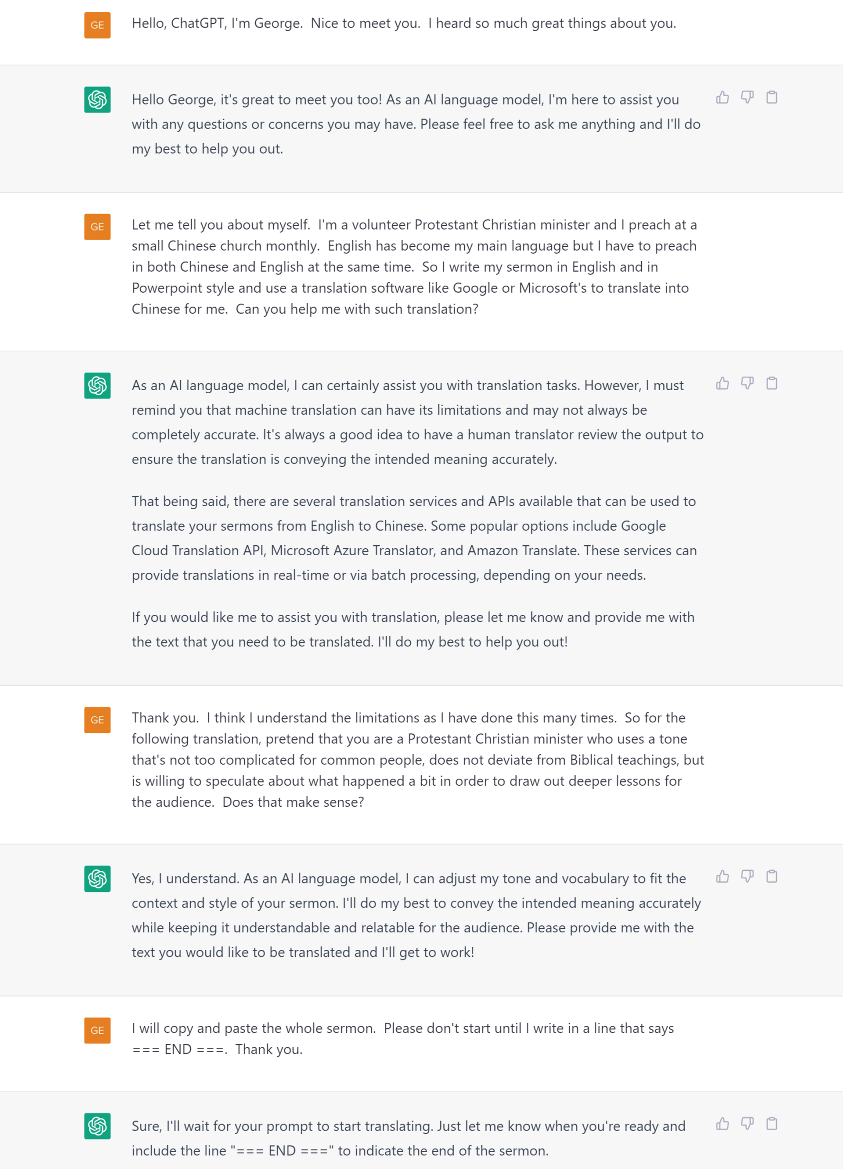


Hello, ChatGPT, I'm George. Nice to meet you. I heard so much great things about you.

Hello George, it's great to meet you too! As an AI language model, I'm here to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. Please feel free to ask me anything and I'll do my best to help you out.

Let me tell you about myself. I'm a volunteer Protestant Christian minister and I preach at a small Chinese church monthly. English has become my main language but I have to preach in both Chinese and English at the same time. So I write my sermon in English and in Powerpoint style and use a translation software like Google or Microsoft's to translate into Chinese for me. Can you help me with such translation?

As an AI language model, I can certainly assist you with translation tasks. However, I must remind you that machine translation can have its limitations and may not always be completely accurate. It's always a good idea to have a human translator review the output to ensure the translation is conveying the intended meaning accurately.

That being said, there are several translation services and APIs available that can be used to translate your sermons from English to Chinese. Some popular options include Google Cloud Translation API, Microsoft Azure Translator, and Amazon Translate. These services can provide translations in real-time or via batch processing, depending on your needs.

If you would like me to assist you with translation, please let me know and provide me with the text that you need to be translated. I'll do my best to help you out!

Thank you. I think I understand the limitations as I have done this many times. So for the following translation, pretend that you are a Protestant Christian minister who uses a tone that's not too complicated for common people, does not deviate from Biblical teachings, but is willing to speculate about what happened a bit in order to draw out deeper lessons for the audience. Does that make sense?

Yes, I understand. As an AI language model, I can adjust my tone and vocabulary to fit the context and style of your sermon. I'll do my best to convey the intended meaning accurately while keeping it understandable and relatable for the audience. Please provide me with the text you would like to be translated and I'll get to work!

I will copy and paste the whole sermon. Please don't start until I write in a line that says === END ===. Thank you.

Sure, I'll wait for your prompt to start translating. Just let me know when you're ready and include the line "=== END ===" to indicate the end of the sermon.

Luke 23:32-55

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.[b]"

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The Four Dead People of Good Friday

Easter is a time when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, but there's no resurrection without crucifixion.

That weekend was a bloody weekend. Four people connected with Jesus died on what we called "Good Friday".

Their stories showed us the paths to salvation and the importance of staying on the right path.

The Christian conception of salvation is very straightforward.

First, mankind sinned against God and became separated from God.

Mankind is unable to pay the price. Nothing we do can save us from our sins and pay the cost for our sins.

To bring us back to Him, God sent Jesus to pay the price to redeem us.

Jesus is the only way to restore relationship with God. It's not by who we are or what we've done.

What we need to do is to make a choice -- to receive the free gift of salvation or not.

After we accept the gift, we need to yield to God and persevere until the end.

We can choose to pursue God and get more both for ourselves both on Earth and in Heaven.

The four dead people of "Good Friday" show us the paths people can take.

The first criminal clearly had heard about Jesus. He knew what Jesus claimed about being sent from God.

But he refused and ridiculed Jesus even though he is about to die the same fate.

Why are some people non-repentant till the very end?

1. Ignorance -- Some are not informed of God's salvation. This is Christians' fault. We failed to do the great commission.
2. Bad experiences – Some people do not want to accept Jesus because they saw bad Christians.

This is again Christians' fault. We failed to live godly lives for people to see Jesus through us.

People can't see Jesus directly. They see Jesus through Christians.

Matthew 5:16 -- In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

We are not perfect, but people need to see us striving to be like Christ, and repent when we fail.
3. Pride – Some people do not want to admit they are sinners who need salvation.
Unfortunately, not all who have heard the gospel would yield.
Pride has destroyed many lives, and in this case, it can destroy one's eternal destiny.
Some people do not want to admit they are sinners and need salvation.
Many believe they can obtain salvation by being good people.
Bad news: we can never be good enough for God. We need help.
4. Control – Some people do not want to give up control over their lives.
What they don't understand is that if they are not under God's lordship, they are under devil's control.
Human beings are never in total control of their lives. We are either under God or under the devil.
5. Identity – Some people do not want to adopt a "foreign" culture. Christianity is considered a western religion.
Is it really foreign if we are all from God?
So many Chinese cultural practices reflect things in the Bible that they couldn't all be coincidences.
So why did the first criminal reject Jesus? Probably due to pride. Why would he believe in a fellow criminal condemned to die the same way?

But the second criminal did! He also heard about Jesus but believe Jesus even though he didn't fully understand everything.
He was repentant about the things he did, and he asked for God's forgiveness.
Honestly, what's there to lose? All he needed to do was to put down his pride, which was mostly gone once he is put to die on the cross.
He died soon after Jesus, but he will be reunited with Jesus very shortly.
He is someone that we called "barely saved" because he found and accept Jesus right before his death.
Sadly, too many people come at God at their deathbed. People like him don't have a chance to live a blessed life under God's providence.
They also don't have time to earn wealth in Heaven.
That's why we call them "barely saved" - but at least they are not in hell.
Some people say they just want to become Christian before they die so they can enjoy their earthly life.
One big problem: they don't know when and how they will die.
They also miss the chance to live a meaningful life blessed by God, and to earn eternal rewards.
Then there is Judas, who betrayed Jesus.
He was in charge of managing money - a dangerous position for any person.
Honestly, we are all in charge of money. Most of us will have millions of dollars pass through our hands during our lives.
Our lives on Earth are full of temptations. We may fail sometimes, but we need to get up and try again.
With God's help and power, we can eventually succeed.
What matters is not how many times you fall and get up, but where your heart is and where you are at the end.
We will never be perfect. Thankfully our God is graceful and He looks at your heart, not your results.
Judas symbolizes a Christian who returned to the world possibly because of greed and maybe anger.
In this world, there are three traps that we need to guard against:
Gold (wealth)
Glory (authority, power, honor from other people)
Girls (bodily satisfaction)
How does the devil lead us into these traps?

First, he makes us lose focus on eternity. For wealth, he makes us focus on wealth, not God. He makes us focus on the visible, temporary, earthly wealth instead of the invisible, eternal wealth.

He makes us focus on gifts from God rather than God Himself, the gift giver.

The traps are visible thus easy to fall into. Many of us focus on wealth rather than becoming closer to God and doing His bidding.

Some people renounce wealth and deliberately live a life deprived of possessions. We think they are “holy” that way.

Instead, God wants us to confront wealth and use it to achieve His purposes – spreading the gospel and helping people.

There’s no shame nor honor in being rich or poor. God will judge you based on how you use what you are given.

Second, he stirs up basic human nature which includes bad emotions such as pride, greed, jealousy, selfishness, anger, and hatred.

Do you allow reason and positive emotions to overrule negative ones?

Love for God and other people, respect, and self-control can help us overcome these negative emotions.

1Cor. 13:4-8a -- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

We are also influenced by our biological urges – hunger, appetite, sexual desires, etc. Those emotions are not evil if we direct them well.

Self-control and logic, combined with God’s power, can help us control our biological urges.

We may fail sometimes, but learning to stand up again is part of our learning and growing process.

Third, he makes us focus on what's visible. 注重可見的物質

As we learned from the Parable of the Minas, our eternal lives are far more important than our temporary earthly lives.

It’s hard for us to see our eternity, but very easy to the things around us on Earth.

We need to be constantly reminded that our earthly lives are only a test and a time for training.

We need to focus on our destiny in eternity, which should help alter our focus on this Earth.

Often that means making decisions that are difficult and seemingly irrational to others.

In Matthew 13:44, the Parable of the Treasure in the Field tells us that we may need to change our careers in order to focus on God’s Kingdom.

In Matthew 13:45-46, the Parable of the Precious Pearl tells us that we may need to change our focus in life to focus on God’s Kingdom.

These are constant battles we have to fight, so avoid dangerous places, companions, and temptations.

In Matthew 26:14-16, it says Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

That’s about $600 to a month's salary for a soldier or 5 weeks of salaries for a common laborer.

30 pieces of silver is also the price of a servant or slave (Exo. 21:32).

We are a slave of the world and we don't even know it.

What's your 30 pieces of silver? What is luring you away from God?

Most of us are very unhappy slaves because we lost focus on God.

We labor day and night to try to gain worldly possessions, and many times we lose our sight on what’s really important.

There is no U-haul moving truck behind the coffin; money cannot and must not be your legacy.

The only way to send wealth to eternity is through using it for God’s purposes and helping people. We learned this in the Parable of the Shrewd Manager.

Judas, according to Matthew 27, sort of repented. He tried to return the 30 pieces of silver. But did not come back to Jesus for forgiveness.

Sadly, there is no salvation except through Jesus Christ. He was not saved. He could have been if he had repented, came back to Jesus, and ask for forgiveness.

Peter also denied Jesus, but he returned to Jesus and served Him till he died.

Salvation is not based on your repentance or how bad you feel, but because of the salvation He provided for us.

To be saved, we need to repent, ask for His forgiveness, and accept His grace. It's a free gift but you have to accept it.

To hold onto it, we need to yield ourselves to live for and like Him the best we can for the rest of our remaining lives.

Finally, the last person to die was Jesus. Of the four dead people, he is the only one who did not deserve to die.

He was sinless, but he bore our sins and died for us to pay for our sins.

Numbers 21:8-9 – The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."

That was actually a symbolism of crucifixion. Jesus bore our sin on the cross and died as a sinner instead of us.

On Easter, we remember Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. He did for our sins and resurrected to give us eternal life.

Jesus persevered to the very end because he knew who his Father is and that he can rely on Him, and he had to complete our redemption on the cross.

We also need to persevere till the end so we can be with Him in eternity. If we give up like Judas did, we will lose our destiny in eternity.

It's not an easy journey, but we can persevere by remembering that we are the child of God and we are only temporary travelers on this Earth.

When Jesus resurrected on Easter Sunday, He showed us that He has conquered death. We will do the same also.

Resurrection represents a life without death. That's the eternal life that we are promised.

Finally, there's one person who should have died that day but didn't.

When Pilate was trying to release Jesus through their Passover custom, people asked Barabbas to be released instead.

Pilate gave in and released Barabbas instead of Jesus. Barabbas should have died that day, but Jesus died for him instead.

This represents the substitutionary atonement Jesus did for all of us.

We can live forever because Jesus died for our sins and paid the price for us.

All we need to do is to accept His sacrifice for us and accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

Lord: yielding our control to Him.

Savior: saving people from sin and eternal death.

Salvation is byproduct of our yielding to Him, not a lure to a religion.

And when we yield, we can live a life with meaning and purpose guided and blessed by God.

It's a new purpose for this earthly life -- now it has meaning and purpose.

And by coming to God early, we can get comfort and support for this life.

It's also a chance for us to earn eternal rewards and responsibilities.

Let Jesus be the Lord of your life and live a blessed life.

Don't wait until you are dying, like the second criminal. He may be saved, but he will have little in Heaven.

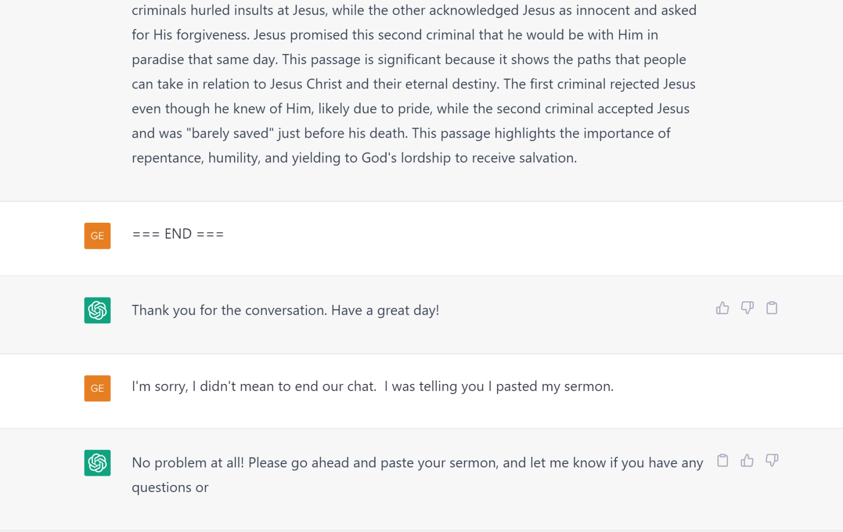
Non-Christians: which criminal's path would you pick?

Best: pick the path of the released criminal and live a good life in Christ.

Christians: don't give into this world's temptations and lose your salvation like Judas did.

Persevere till the end. Use your time, talent, and treasure to get talents and wealth in Heaven. God bless you all.

This passage from Luke 23:32-55 tells the story of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the two criminals who were also executed alongside Him. As they hung on the cross, one of the



criminals hurled insults at Jesus, while the other acknowledged Jesus as innocent and asked for His forgiveness. Jesus promised this second criminal that he would be with Him in paradise that same day. This passage is significant because it shows the paths that people can take in relation to Jesus Christ and their eternal destiny. The first criminal rejected Jesus even though he knew of Him, likely due to pride, while the second criminal accepted Jesus and was "barely saved" just before his death. This passage highlights the importance of repentance, humility, and yielding to God's lordship to receive salvation.

=== END ===

Thank you for the conversation. Have a great day!

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to end our chat. I was telling you I pasted my sermon.

No problem at all! Please go ahead and paste your sermon, and let me know if you have any questions or