

## God's Love and Plan for our lives

God created us in His own image to be His friend and to experience a full life assured of His love, abundant and eternal. He did not make us robots to automatically love and obey Him. He gave us a will and the freedom of choice.

- *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)*
- *You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. (Revelation 4:11)*
- *Jesus said, "...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10b)*



## Our Problem: Sin and Separation from God

Through the disobedience of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, sin entered the world, distancing us from God. As a result, we all fall short of God's glory.



For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. *(Romans 3:23)*  
What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous? *(Job 15:14)*  
There is no one righteous, not even one. *(Romans 3:10)*  
Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. *(Ecclesiastes 7:20)*

How then can man be in the right before God? How can he who is born of woman be pure? Behold, even the moon is not bright, and the stars are not pure in his eyes; how much less man, who is a maggot, and the son of man, who is a worm! *(Job 25:4-6)*

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. *(Isaiah 64:6)*

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? *(Jeremiah 17:9)*

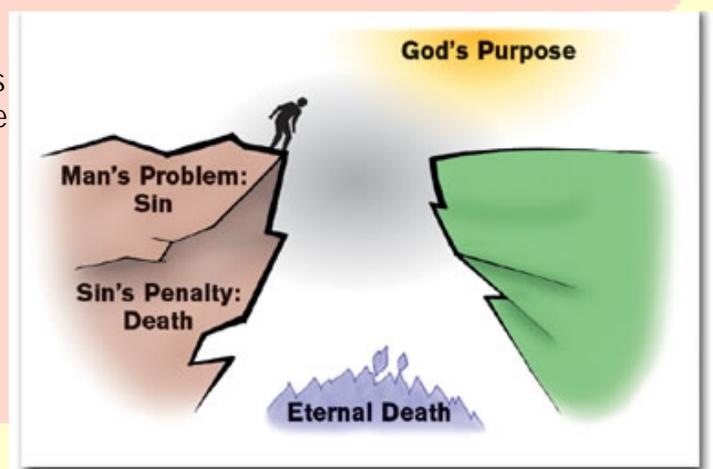
## What does it mean to sin against God?

Sin is breaking God's law *(1 John 3:4)*. We sin by doing what God has commanded us not to do or by not doing what God has told us to do. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. *(Romans 3:11-12)*

When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, the result was death. The wages of sin is death *(Romans 6:23a)*. Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. *(Romans 5:12)*

The basic meaning of death is separation. "...your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear." *(Isaiah 59:2)*. The Bible teaches that there are three types of death, or separation, that results from sin:

- Spiritual death separates a person from the life of God *(Ephesians 2:1)*.
- Physical death separates a person's soul from his or her body *(Hebrews 9:27)*.

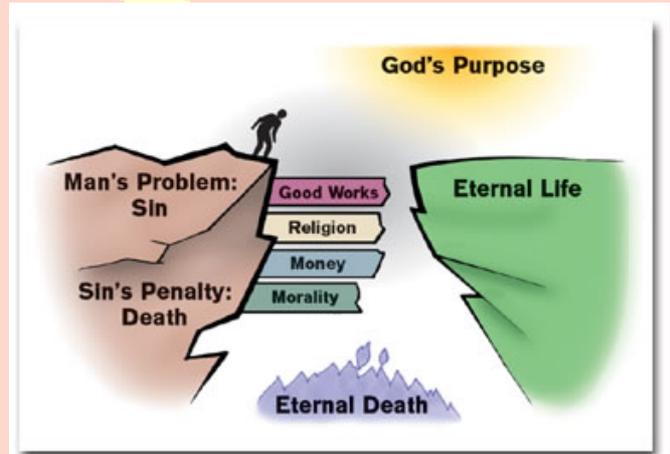


- Eternal death separates a person, both soul and body, from God forever in Hell (*Revelation 20:5*).

We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God.

## God's Solution

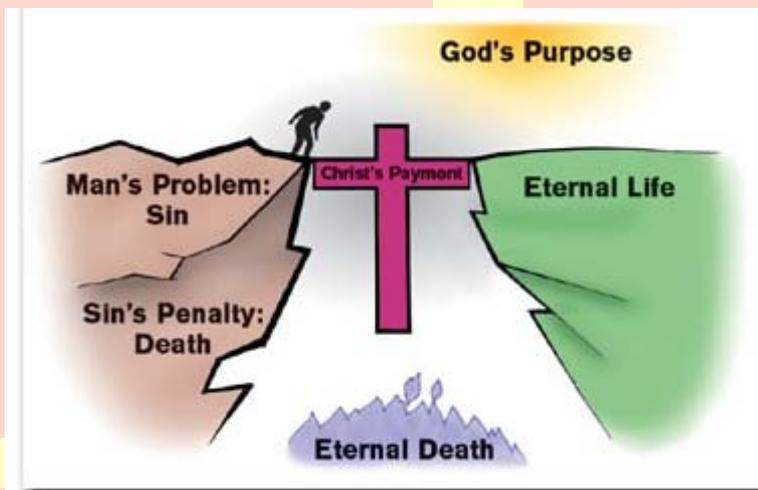
Throughout history people have tried many ways to gain or earn God's favour, forgiveness and have a relationship with Him. On our own, there's no way we can attain the perfection needed to bridge the gap to God. Through the ages, individuals have tried many ways without success. Good works won't do it...or religion...or money...or morality...or philosophy...or baptism...or going to church...or being part of a Christian family.



- For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (*Romans 8:7-8*)
- There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. (*Proverbs 14:12*)
- Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us. (*Titus 3:5a*)
- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

Jesus Christ, God's sinless Son is the only answer to this problem. He died on the cross and rose from the grave, paying the penalty for our sin and bridging the gap between God and people.

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. (*1 Peter 3:18*)



For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ. (*1 Timothy 2:5*)  
But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (*Romans 5:8*)

Through the sacrificial death and resurrection of one perfect man, we can reconnect with God. The Lord Jesus Christ was born to suffer and die for all the sins of mankind. His sacrifice was the payment for all our sins, and is the only way we can make it into Heaven. It is a free gift of Jesus Christ.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him [Jesus Christ], and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in

heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. (*Colossians 1:19-21*)

## Our Response

All we have to do is believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to be forgiven of all our wrongs and to spend eternity with God, we can choose not to. Believing means trust and commitment - acknowledging our sinfulness, trusting Christ's forgiveness and letting Him control our life. Eternal, abundant life is a gift for us to receive. Jesus offers the greatest gift anyone could ever ask for. All you need to do is humbly accept it.

- For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)

- Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. (*Acts 3:19*)
- If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (*Romans 10:9-10*)
- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved., you and your household" (*Acts 16:31*)

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." (*John 5:24*)

This verse has one promise with three parts.

The person who believes:

1. Has Eternal life
2. Does not come into judgment
3. Has passed from death into life.

*Is there any reason why you shouldn't cross over to God's side and be certain of eternal life? Will you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour today?*

#### How to receive Christ?

1. Admit that you have sinned against God and ask Him for forgiveness.
2. Believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God Who died for you on the cross, rose from the dead, and is Lord.
3. Through prayer, invite the Lord Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit (Receive Him as Lord and Saviour of your life).

#### What to pray?

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as the Lord and Saviour of my life. In Your name. Amen.*

#### God's assurance of eternal life

- If you've prayed this prayer and are trusting Christ, then the Bible says that you can be sure you have eternal life. "...for, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (*Romans 10:13*)
- "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (*1 John 5:12-13*)

Receiving Christ, we are born into God's family through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer...this is called regeneration or the "new birth."

#### What next?

This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Christ. To deepen this relationship you should:

1. Read your bible everyday to get to know the Lord Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Be baptised, worship, fellowship and serve with other Christians in a church where the Lord Jesus Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority.
4. As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your new life by your love and concern for others.

