

## *Our Problem ~ His Solution*

### **God's Provision: Peace & Life**

One of the amazing things in life is that God loves sinners and provides many things for them. All who are saved by His grace are given the gift of peace and life -- abundant and eternal.

#### **The Bible says ...**

"We have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1 NIV)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have **everlasting life**." (John 3:16 NIV)

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more **abundantly**." (John 10:10 NIV)

Nevertheless we find ourselves asking: "Why don't most people have this peace and the abundant life that God provides?"



**Man does not realize or enjoy the purpose for which he was created.**

### **Our Problem: Separation From God**

In the Garden of Eden mankind was cut off from God.

God created Adam and Eve in His own image and placed them in a perfect world to enjoy abundant life. God also gave them a command to obey with explicit consequences. They chose to disobey God and therefore brought sin upon themselves and into the world. The result was spiritual death and separation from God. All of Adam's descendants are born into this world in bondage to sin, and they love darkness rather than light.

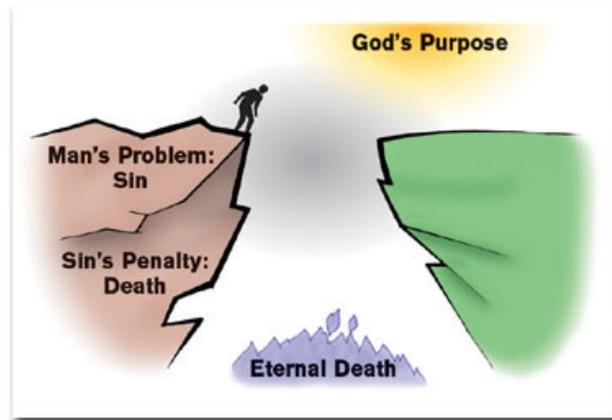
Today man continues to choose to disobey God and to pursue his own wilful way. This contributes to our ongoing separation from God.

#### **The Bible says ...**

"For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23 NIV)

"For **the wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23 NIV)

"But **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 NIV)



**Sin results in separation from God.**

### **Human Solutions That Do Not Work**

Man's attempts to reach God are futile.

People have tried many ways to bridge the gap between themselves and God. Man needs to learn that no effort or accomplishments on his part can remove the separation that sin has produced and bridge the gap between him and God. All human attempts to make things right with God will fail. He must turn from his self-effort and depend on God alone for salvation.

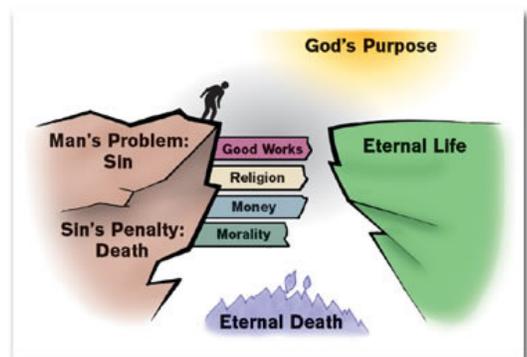
#### **The Bible says ...**

"There is **a way that seems right** to a man, but in the end it leads to death." (Proverbs 14:12 NIV)

"All of us have become like one who is unclean, **and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags**; ..." (Isaiah 64:6 NIV)

"He saved us, **not because of righteous things we had done**, but because of His mercy." (Titus 3:5 NIV)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and that not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - **not by works** so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)



**Our very best effort of good works, morality, etc. is nothing but failure.  
They can never bridge the gap between sinful man and the holy God.**

## **God's Solution: Access Through the Cross**

Jesus Christ is our only hope.

Man's sin created his dilemma – spiritual separation from God. It would take an act by God to solve this problem. God's solution is stated in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for the sin of His people and bridged the gap between God and the sinner. The death of Jesus on the Cross is the only way anyone can have access to God and enjoy fellowship with Him.

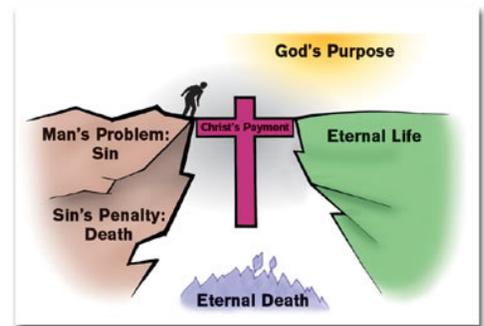
### **The Bible says ...**

"For there is one God and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." (1 Timothy 2:5 NIV)

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

"**Salvation is found in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 NIV)

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NIV)



**Christ died to bring fallen sinners back into fellowship with God.**

## **The Necessary Response**

There is something you must do.

The Bible declares that sinners must do two things in order to be restored to fellowship with God. (1) We must repent of our sins. (2) We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

### **The Bible says ...**

"**Repent** and be baptized everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38 NIV)

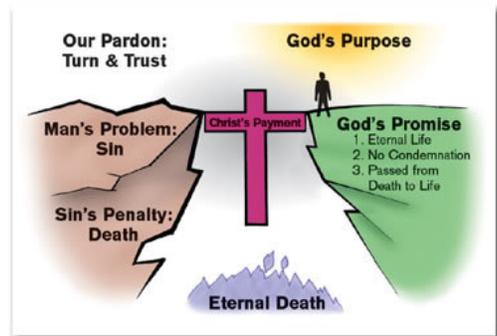
“(God) commands all people everywhere to **repent.**” (Acts 17:30)

"Yet to all who **received** Him, to those who **believed** in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12 NIV)

"That 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." (Romans 10:9 NIV)

“**Believe** on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved ...”  
(Acts 16:31 NIV)

**Have you done this?**



“**God loves all the world, but God will save none in the world who refuse to believe in His only begotten Son.**” (Anglican Bishop J. C. Ryle)

### **An Invitation**

We invite you to respond to the open offer of the Gospel as it is presented in the Bible. Here is what God commands you to do:

1. **Admit** that you are a sinner and need to be saved (Recognize and acknowledge your sin).
2. **Turn** from your sins (Repent).
3. **Believe** that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave. (Rely on Jesus - faith).
4. Through prayer, **ask Jesus Christ to save you** and to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit (Receive Him as Lord and Savior).

#### **How to Pray:**

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. By the aid of the Holy Spirit 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 Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name. Amen.”

## **God's Assurance from His Word**

All who know the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit and repent of their sins and believe in the Lord Jesus alone for salvation can have the assurance of being saved.

### **The Bible says ...**

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord **will be saved.**" (Romans 10:13 NIV)

"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 NIV)

"And this is the testimony: **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life;** he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:11-12 NIV)

Do you sincerely repent of your sins and trust only in the merits of Jesus Christ for your salvation? Then like the thief on the cross you can be assured that you will be with God in paradise when you die. The door of salvation swings open on the double hinges of Repentance and Faith.

## **What to do Next**

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

1. Read your Bible every day to know Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Tell others about Christ.
4. Be baptized by immersion and join a local Church where you can regularly observe the Lord's Supper.
5. Worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is taught.
6. As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your Christian faith by a godly life and by your love and concern for others.

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***We have a problem, it is called sin.  
God has the solution, it is called Salvation through Christ.  
We invite you to take His solution and say,***

***"Upon a life I did not live  
Upon a death I did not die  
Another's life, another's death  
I rest my whole eternity."***

