

Gospel Tract

by Pastor Ray Crocker

Whether we like to think about it or not, all of us will one day face the reality of death. Because death is an absolute certainty, the wise man or woman will prepare for it.

There are many who say that it is just not possible to have assurance that when we die, we will go to Heaven. However, that is NOT what the Bible teaches. The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 5:13, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life ..."

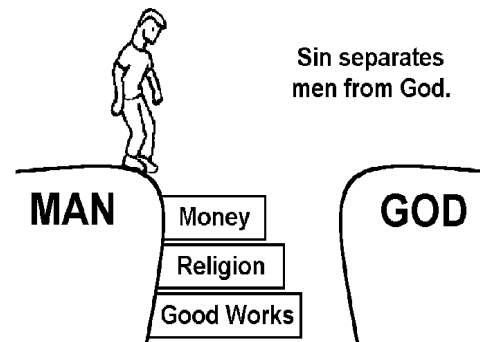
Therefore, as we look into the Holy Bible, the written Word of God, we find four great truths, which it is vitally important for every person to understand.

I. All have sinned.

The Bible declares in Romans 3:10, "As it is written, There is none righteous [*i.e.*, right before God], no, not one". Then, in Romans 3:12, the Bible clearly states, "... there is none that doeth good [*i.e.*, there are none who measure up to God's standard of goodness], no, not one."

The reason for all of this is clearly stated in Romans 3:23 – the Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." You see, the fact is, all men are sinners by nature and by choice. Some have sinned more and some have sinned less – but the fact remains painfully clear -- ALL have sinned!

It is because of our sinfulness before God that all men are separated from God – and even though we may try many things in our quest to draw near to God, they all come short of His holy requirements.



II. The penalty of sin is death.

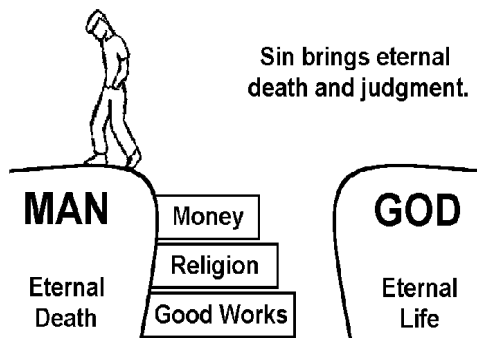
In the days of the Old Testament, the prophet Ezekiel made things very clear when he wrote, "... the soul that sinneth, it shall die." (*cf.* Ezekiel 18:4) And in this New Testament age, things have NOT changed. That is why the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death ..."

Sin must be paid for – and the Bible declares that the penalty for sin is death. And the Bible very clearly teaches that there are two deaths.

First, there is physical death. The Bible speaks very clearly of this in Hebrews 9:27 – the Scriptures say, “... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

Then, secondly, the Bible clearly teaches that there is spiritual death. This is clearly stated in ...

Revelation 20:12-14 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”



Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and, the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

You see, just as our physical death is our separation from all earthly ties, for a man to die spiritual means that he is eternally separated from God in hell – a place which the Bible describes as being eternal fire and suffering and torment.

III. Our sin debt has been paid!

The Bible declares, in 2 Peter 3:9, that even though men have willfully rebelled and sinned against God, and are therefore totally deserving of eternal damnation in hell, “The Lord is ... longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Please read carefully two wonderful passages of Scripture:

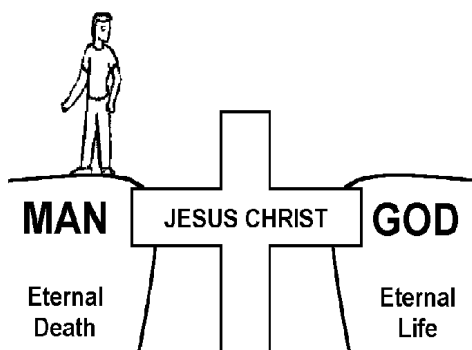
Romans 5:7-8 “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 John 2:2 “And he (*i.e.*, Jesus Christ) is the propitiation (*i.e.*, full payment) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

You see, some 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ came to this earth and died on the cross of

Calvary. The reason was simply that He might pay the sin debt for every man who has ever lived; or, who ever will live. And that includes YOU! That is why the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:21, “For he (*i.e.*, God the Father) hath made him (*i.e.*, God the Son, Jesus Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

You see, because He has paid the penalty for our sins, there is nothing we must do to earn God’s wonderful salvation. That is why the Bible says in Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

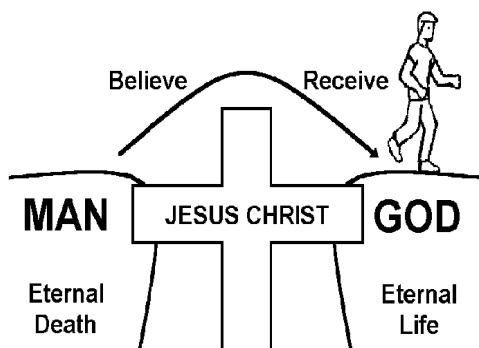


And again, in Ephesians 2:8-9, the Bible very clearly declares, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

IV. You can be forgiven now.

The simple statement of Scripture is found in Romans 10:13 – the Word of God says, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Just as a drowning man calls for help and is happy to receive the lifebuoy that offered him, all those who will recognize their sinful condition and cry to the Lord for His salvation, will be eternally saved from the terrible penalty of their sins.



Would you ask Him now to save you by sincerely praying from your heart the following prayer?

“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. But I truly believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sin, and that He arose again on the third day. Right now, I ask Him to come into my heart – to take away my sin and give me the gift of salvation. I ask this in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 6:2, “... behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” If you have not already trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior, may God help you to make that most important decision today! If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us by email at office@heritagebaptist.org.