

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME PERSONALLY?

Regardless of how great or how bad our sin is, God's forgiveness and love are greater! If Jesus Christ is Lord of all and has victory over death, can He not also give my life new meaning, purpose, and hope? Can He not also forgive all my sins and help me to begin a new life?

Anyone that seeks God will find Him as He has promised. *"And you will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart..." (Jeremiah 29:13).*

Anyone that desires forgiveness of sin may have it by asking! *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).*

It is our sin that separates us from God and also from His peace! **Anyone** that confesses his sin to God will receive the gift of peace: real peace, wonderful peace, lasting peace – not psychological self-deception

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

OUR SOUL WILL LIVE FOREVER!

However, the only people who will be in heaven are those who freely chose Jesus in this lifetime. Heaven is a place where there is no sin, sickness, tears, or death. *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).*

How could God let everyone, as they are, into Heaven?

Would it not soon be just as bad there as it is now on the earth? God is holy; He cannot tolerate any sin! Many people try to change their lives themselves. Through good intentions and resolutions, with self-restraint they struggle and yet are no better. Alone by accepting Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour can we really be changed. It is a completely new beginning. Through it we receive forgiveness of sin and become a new person who hates sin. One becomes a child of God and inherits a home in heaven. If we do not accept redemption of our sins through Jesus Christ, we will be separated from God forever in eternity. We will be in a place of torment that the Bible calls Hell.

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever" (Revelation 14:11).

Jesus Christ can and wants to become your Saviour now. He knows you better than you do yourself! You can come to Him in prayer by speaking to Him honestly in your own words. You can pray something like this:

"Lord Jesus today I have learned that I am separated from you through sin. My good works and all my efforts and religious activities do not bring relief from my sin or give me peace with you. Thank you for loving me and dying for me on the cross, taking my sin upon you and paying the price I owed. Please forgive me all my sin and guilt. I take you now as my Lord and Saviour. Thank you for coming into my life and saving me and that I can be your child and one day have a home in Heaven with you."

HOW SHALL I NOW LIVE?

- Thank God for your salvation and for eternal life. Nothing can now separate you from God! *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 8:1).*

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28).

- Read the Bible; it is God's book of instruction to us. Through it you can learn about God and about how you should live: *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..." (2 Timothy 3:16).*
- Seek fellowship with other Christians, who live according to the Bible. Ask God to help you find the Christian church that is right for you.
- You may tell God everything in your prayers. He wants to have a fellowship and a living relationship with you. *"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7).*

This is exactly what my experience has been. I am not a member of any false cult or sect, but I show you according to the Bible, how you can get peace with God and have eternal life in heaven! Read the Bible for yourself and you will find it to be true for you as well.

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HOW CAN I FIND PEACE WITH GOD?

What is the problem on planet earth?

Hate, war, murder, adultery, dishonesty, corruption, despair, etc. are the order of the day. We don't even think about it anymore – that is how normal this has become for us.

An explanation for this situation is found in God's instruction book - the Bible.

Is the Bible really true? The unique thing about the Bible is that it records numerous events that occurred much later than they were written about – at a time in the future. Many of these prophesied events have accurately come to pass in world history; for example the return of the Jews to the land of Israel, the establishing of the State of Israel in 1948, as well as the growing hate of the nations against them. The course of the history of major world powers up until the present time was announced in detail in the Bible more than 2500 years ago.

Is it possible that all of this just "happened by chance"? If not, then we must conclude that the Bible is true. Then we also have a reliable source that will also answer our questions about suffering and death in this world and can give us answers about the meaning of our life.

IN THE BEGINNING...

The Bible tells us that God originally created everything very good; heaven, earth, plants, animals, and people. Man lived in personal fellowship with God under perfect living conditions. God gave the first couple, Adam and Eve, all freedom, but also one command: **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat for on the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17).**

They disobeyed this command and that is how sin came into the world and with it, death. The descendants of Adam and Eve, that is all people, automatically inherit their sin – they are born with sinful natures. This has a devastating consequence on the fellowship between God and man. God is holy. He can have no fellowship with sin. Thus all people are by nature separated from God and doomed to death.

WHAT IS SIN REALLY?

Many people consider themselves to be helpful and honest people, and when they think of the word “sin” they think of a murderer or some other kind of criminal. However God has other standards. He sees our heart.

Sin is anything that does not come up to God’s standard of perfection. **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).**

Sin is anything we do, knowing that it is not right. **“All unrighteousness is sin” (1 John 5:17).**

Sin is omitting to do what we know we should do. **“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin” (James 4:17).**

We see that God looks behind the mask of our self-righteousness. Not only are our thoughts, words, and actions sinful, but our whole inward man is steeped in sin. That is why we have no power to free ourselves from these things.

HOW ABOUT RELIGION?

God has placed eternity and a longing for Him in our hearts. Sadly many people “become religious”. They try to still their conscience and earn eternal life through their own efforts. Religions are various ways whereby people, seek to come to terms with God; through baptism, communion, confirmation, self abasement, adoration of “saints”, church membership, talismans, offerings, meditation... the list could go on and on for pages. Lots of people think that there are many ways one can pursue in order to please God and that there is certain truth everywhere. However there is a saying, “A half truth is a whole lie”. Therefore no mere religion can make us good enough to have peace with God.

IS THERE A RIGHT WAY?

We have established that we cannot satisfy God with our own works and efforts. All religious ways to self-righteousness will lead to a dead-end. The gods of all the world religions cannot erase our sins. There is only one God who became man and came down to this earth to die for the sins of mankind, thus restoring the relationship between God and man - Jesus Christ. **“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name in heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).**

In the gospel of John there is a verse that can change our lives:

For God so loved the world

▶ unlimited mercy

that he gave his only begotten son,

▶ the greatest price

that whoever

▶ the largest number

believes in him,

▶ the easiest terms

shall not perish

▶ the greatest rescue
but have everlasting life.”

▶ the most wonderful promise.

John 3:16.

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

The whole Bible tells us about the person of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament a Saviour is promised who will pay the penalty for the sin of mankind and bring him peace: **“But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).**

This verse contains one of the many prophecies that show Jesus Christ is the promised Redeemer who was to die because of our guilt, even though He was guiltless Himself.

A long line of prophecies announced the coming of Jesus to this earth as a man. Seven hundred years before His birth the prophet Isaiah wrote that Jesus would be born of a virgin. **“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).**

The prophet Micah wrote of the place of His birth:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2).

Jesus Christ is God:

“... Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20).

Jesus Christ proved that He is the Almighty God through doing deeds that only God can do.

He can:

- bring dead people back to life,
- heal every sickness,
- multiply loaves of bread (create),
- command nature (the stilling of the storm),
- forgive sin...

Jesus Christ lived a normal life as a man: He knew hunger, thirst, weariness, and sorrow, but unlike all other people he lived a sinless life.

WHAT DID JESUS CHRIST DO FOR US?

According to God’s law every sin must be punished: **“For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).**

However God loved us so much that He did not want us to die and be separated from Him for all eternity:

“...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

That is why He chose a substitute to die in our place – Jesus Christ! For us this is unfathomable! But only He could pay this high a price with His life, because His was a perfect life, pure and without sin: **“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sin, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24).**

If there had been any other way, Jesus Christ would not have had to die.

VICTORY OVER DEATH

Jesus Christ did not remain in the grave! He arose from the dead. The Bible tells us about hundreds of eye witnesses who saw the resurrected Christ. Well known Roman historians have documented the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Then He ascended into heaven to His Father. He lives! Jesus has triumphed over death: **“Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:54-55).**