

So you need to cry out to Him to save you, not by anything you have done, but only by His GRACE! You have a RESPONSIBILITY to obey the command of God. Jesus said in *Mark 1:15* "Repent and believe in the gospel!" And again the scripture says in *Acts 17:30* "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent."

Notice God didn't suggest that you repent, or ask you if you would like to repent. God commands you to repent.

We would recommend that you read the Gospel of John and the following scripture, which contains the essence of the gospel (*Ephesians 2:1-10*). Find a church that preaches the Bible and glorifies God, not man. It is the preaching of the Word that brings salvation. *Romans 10:14 reads: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"*

Please take note in the first five verses of the passage, the Scripture says TWICE that we are DEAD in our trespasses and sin. That is not a good state to be in.

*"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins<sup>1</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-<sup>2</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.<sup>3</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,<sup>4</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved-<sup>5</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,<sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own*

*doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so no one may boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* - (*Ephesians 2:1-10*)

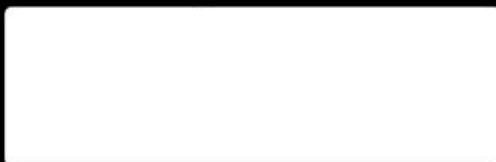
### FIND A LOCAL CHURCH THAT PREACHES THE GOSPEL OF GOD!

We urge you to seek God and His mercy and grace! If you feel that you are under a heavy burden as you read this, it may be conviction from the Holy Spirit. If so, call upon God to save you.

*"For You, Lord, [are] good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You."* - (*Psalms 86:5*)

It is extremely difficult to present what God prepared before the foundation of the world in a few paragraphs. The Gospel is much too rich to even try. What we have tried to do is to open up enough truth that you might seek salvation and new life in Christ Jesus by reading the Bible and praying to God that He will reveal that truth to you.

*Romans 4:3 "For what does the scripture say?"* If you are not sure of what is contained in this text, please take a Bible and search it. Find out what Scripture says. The Word of God is the final authority.



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# THE PROBLEM & SOLUTION

## THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION...

During our lives, we are constantly faced with problems and in most cases, eventually, their solutions.

**THE PROBLEM:** ALL of us are born with one universal problem which has eternal consequences. We are not in a right relationship with God. The reason we are not is because we are born in sin, which means **"to miss the mark"**. *Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* In addition to being sinners, we have also TRESPASSED against God's law. This means we have willfully done that which we know is wrong. If you trespass on someone else's property, you have crossed a line and gone somewhere you are not supposed to be. Ask yourself honestly if you have ever broken God's law, the Ten Commandments: dishonoring your parents, coveting, lying, lust, anger, and not putting God first in everything. The problem is, we are all guilty and will face God's judgment and wrath when we die. God is perfectly righteous and holy and cannot look on any sin, not even one. These three verses reveal what will happen to those who have not been reconciled, or saved:

*"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet [are]. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." - (Revelation 20:10)*

*"Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." - (Revelation 20:14)*

*"And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." - (Revelation 20:15)*

*"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." - (Hebrews 10: 31)*

These verses alone should be enough to cause you to seek God and flee to Him!

*John 16:8 reads "And when He (the Holy Spirit) has come,*

*he will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."* The Holy Spirit will convict and convince you that you are an enemy of God. To use such descriptions today is not very popular, but read what the Bible says in *James 4:4 "Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."*

Having this all revealed is like going to the doctor. The examination and tests are completed and the doctor reveals the diagnosis of the disease. In some cases the disease revealed is horrible and there is little hope for a treatment or cure. **But for your sin problem there is a cure...a permanent solution!**

**THE SOLUTION:** The good news! The word gospel means "good news". God being holy and just, is also rich in grace and mercy. God has provided a way, the ONLY WAY, for you to be forgiven and reconciled back to God. Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God, was born of a virgin 2000 years ago. He was perfect and sinless. He announced His ministry by recalling the words from Isaiah:

*"<sup>11</sup>The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because He has anointed me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>12</sup>to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." - (Luke 4:18-19)*

We are all poor spiritually. We are spiritually blind and oppressed. We are prisoners of sin. We are dead in our sins. I pray that God is revealing this to you.

Jesus Christ, fully man and fully God, continued to preach and to minister for three years, predicted His own betrayal by Judas, His death on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead.

During His ministry in John 3, Jesus told Nicodemus that you must be born again.

*"<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.' <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.' <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'" - (John 3:1-8)*

Two thousand years later, the same message and command applies. You must be born again, and it is only by the Spirit of God that the new birth occurs!

Jesus shed His blood and took the full wrath of God on the cross. *"For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." - (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

Sin cannot be just forgiven. It has to be paid for as well. That is what Jesus did. He paid our debt, because we cannot. No amount of "good" works can ever pay our debt. Scripture says *"that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin."* That is what Jesus did on the cross. He shed His blood to cover your sins. He became sin, so that you could have His righteousness. Jesus took what you deserved, the wrath of God, and gave you what you did not deserve; mercy!

What God requires of us, through His mercy, is to admit that we have sinned against Him in our disobedience and have offended Him more than we can ever comprehend.