

JESUS SAVES

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE AGES





Do you know
for sure that you
will spend eternity
with God in Heaven?

You *can* know.

This booklet is subtitled ***God's Plan for the Ages***, because God had a plan for humankind when He created the world, and He has a plan for your individual life. Many people wander through life without accepting God's plan. Therefore, they miss out on God's loving direction in this life and forfeit eternal life with God in Heaven. Since God had a plan for this world, He found a means to reveal it to humankind. God has chosen to reveal His plan for the ages in His written word, the Bible.

Why was the Bible written?

The Bible was written so that you may know that you have eternal life. The Bible says: "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" (I John 5:13). The point of this booklet is to share with you what the Bible has to say about eternal life. However, before we do, there is one more question to ask.

The Bible tells us that one day we will all stand before God. Just suppose that you were standing before God and He were to say to you...

"Why should I allow you to live with Me in Heaven forever?"



What answer would you give to God?
Before you go on, please write your answer here.



Did you know... Eternal life is offered to you as a gift?

The Bible clearly tells us, “For the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23a). This death is eternal separation from God in a place the Bible calls Hell. The Bible describes Hell as a place of eternal torment and fire, “where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:48). “But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23b). This life is eternal fellowship with God in Heaven.



You’ve watched the Olympic games on TV and have observed the marathon race. The best runners in the world compete in the race. They condition hard for many years just for the opportunity to represent their country in the Olympics. And yet, only one runner can come away with the coveted gold medal. That runner believes that he or she could not have earned that gold medal without years of hard work and training.

We are all conditioned to believe that nothing in life is free — we must earn it! So, when we think of spiritual things, we apply this same logic: “If I’m going to live with God in Heaven forever, I will have to be the best person I can be in this life. When I stand before God, I can hand Him my gold medal of achievement, and certainly He will let me into Heaven.”



The Bible has something to say about attempting to reach Heaven through good deeds alone. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). Working your way to Heaven seems right, but God says it leads to death. Again, this is not just a physical death, but eternal separation from God. The Bible also says: “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways’ saith the Lord” (Isaiah 55:8).

Let’s look at the ways humanity tries to achieve Heaven...



Humanity's way

Humanity attempts to achieve Heaven through religion, good works, morality, philosophy, and self-righteousness. Yet these ways all fall short of God's way.

The Bible says: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The Bible also says: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done..." (Titus 3:5a).

Getting to Heaven by good works is humanity's way, but let's look at...

God's way

We cannot save ourselves! The Bible points out that we all fall short of God's standard. Have you ever thought just how many times a day it is possible to sin?

Let's just suppose you sin only three times a day: once verbally by saying a wrong word, once mentally by thinking a wrong thought, and once physically by committing a wrong deed. Just three sins a day would be over a thousand sins a year. That would be over 70,000 sins in an average lifetime.

What if you were to stand before a judge in a court of law in your city with 70,000 crimes on your record? Would that judge let you go free?

Would you expect the judge to be just and do what is right? Yes! You must not expect any less from God; for the Bible says: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25b). God, the Judge of all the earth, is right 100% of the time.

We are all guilty before God. The Bible says, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Ecclesiastes 7:20). God's Word further states that He "will by no means clear the guilty" (Exodus 34:7). No one has ever reached Heaven based on their performance in this life. It is clear from Scripture, that because of your sin, you cannot make it into Heaven on the basis of your good works.

Question:
What if you
were to stand
before a court
of law in your
city with
70,000 crimes
on your record?



*So, how do you
receive God's gift of
eternal life in Heaven?*

**The answer lies in
looking to God...**

God is loving and merciful.
He will *never* stop loving you.

God is a God of love, kindness and compassion. The Bible says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).

His mercy will endure forever. The Bible says, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever" (Psalm 107:1). If God were only a God of love and mercy, there would be no problem. God would have to let everyone into Heaven. The same Bible that tells us that God is loving and merciful, also tells us that...

God is righteous and just.
He *has* to do what is right.

Referring to God's righteousness, the Bible says: "The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works" (Psalm 145:17). Righteousness is a separation from all that is evil unto all that is good. Because God has to do right all the time...

He will always be just in His actions. The Bible says: "The just Lord is in the midst thereof: He will not do iniquity [sin]..." (Zephaniah 3:5a). Tell me, if God were only righteous and just, where would that leave you?

So, how can God be loving and merciful, and not want to punish you, and yet, at the same time be righteous and just and deal effectively with your sins? God has answered this question very clearly in Jesus Christ.

God's answer is Jesus Christ. The Bible presents Jesus Christ as a great teacher and miracle worker with great love and compassion, but beyond this, the Bible also teaches that...

Jesus is God.
Jesus is God.

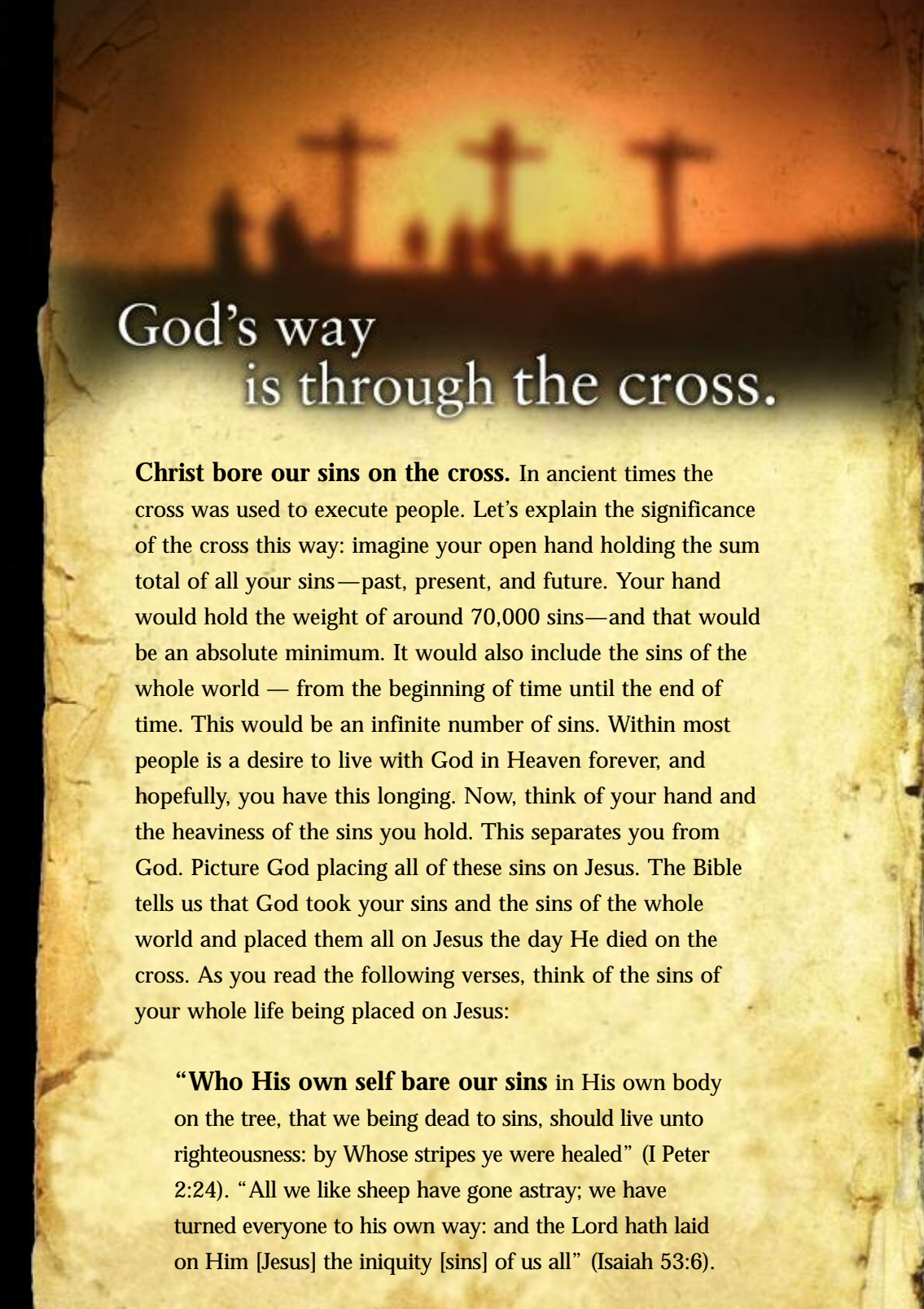


The Bible says: "In the beginning was the Word, [Jesus is the Living Word of God] and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word was made flesh [Jesus Christ is the Living Word made flesh] and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1,14). There was a man named Thomas. He said, "I won't believe that Jesus is risen until I see the **nail prints in His hands and the wound in His side.**" When Jesus appeared to Thomas and showed him the nail prints in His hands and the wound in His side, Thomas knelt at Jesus' feet and said unto Him: "'My Lord and my God.' Jesus saith unto him, 'Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed...'" (John 20:28b-29a). Jesus accepted Thomas' worship of Him as God, because He *is* God. Now, have you ever seen Jesus? Jesus continued: "...blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29b). Do you believe that Jesus is God? Read on...

He created all things. The Bible also says: "For by Him were all things created that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16). As God, Jesus created the universe for His pleasure and glory.

He is without sin. Jesus lived a sinless life while He walked on this earth. The Bible says: "In Him is no sin..." (1 John 3:5b). The Bible tells us that Jesus gave the world its most noble teaching, performed the greatest miracles, and then, at the end of His earthly life, He went to the cross...







God's way is through the cross.

Christ bore our sins on the cross. In ancient times the cross was used to execute people. Let's explain the significance of the cross this way: imagine your open hand holding the sum total of all your sins—past, present, and future. Your hand would hold the weight of around 70,000 sins—and that would be an absolute minimum. It would also include the sins of the whole world — from the beginning of time until the end of time. This would be an infinite number of sins. Within most people is a desire to live with God in Heaven forever, and hopefully, you have this longing. Now, think of your hand and the heaviness of the sins you hold. This separates you from God. Picture God placing all of these sins on Jesus. The Bible tells us that God took your sins and the sins of the whole world and placed them all on Jesus the day He died on the cross. As you read the following verses, think of the sins of your whole life being placed on Jesus:

“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed” (I Peter 2:24). “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way: and the Lord hath laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity [sins] of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).



He paid the debt for our sins on the cross. When Jesus said, “It is finished” (John 19:30), He was saying “I have paid the debt of sin for the world.” Now you don’t have to pay a debt for your sins, because Jesus paid it; and has purchased, with His own blood, a place in Heaven for you, and all those who believe in Him.



He not only purchased this place for you in Heaven, but...

He rose from the tomb so that He could give you eternal life.

Jesus said, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand" (John 10:28). Only Someone who has life could give us eternal life. Jesus also said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

Those who reject Christ are condemned to eternal death in Hell, but those who accept Christ are given eternal life with God in Heaven. Eternal life must be received by saving faith at a point in time between birth and death...

Saving faith is the only key that will ever unlock the door to Heaven.

The Bible says, "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" (Ephesians 2:8, 9). If anyone could make it into Heaven with their gold medal of achievement, they would certainly boast about it.

What is saving faith?

Saving faith is simply transferring your complete trust from yourself and what you have been trusting in, and trusting Jesus Christ alone, plus or minus nothing, for eternal life.

Jesus Christ didn't leave Heaven, come to earth, and suffer the agony of death on the cross, just to get you through life on earth. Jesus did all those things so that He could take you to Heaven when this life is over.

Are you willing to say from your heart that you want eternal life?



Are you willing to...

- *transfer your trust from yourself to Jesus Christ alone for eternal life?*
- *believe that Jesus took your place and paid for all your sins on the cross?*
- *repent of your sins and follow Him?*
- *receive God's gift of eternal life?*
- *ask Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of your life?*

Jesus wants to guide and lead in your life.
Are you willing to let Him?

Are you willing to pray to God?

God will hear your prayer: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10: 9, 10, 13).

Just pray this simple prayer, believing it in your heart:
Lord Jesus, I now transfer my trust from myself and the things in which I have been trusting, and I place my trust entirely in You. Forgive me for all my sins. I repent and turn away from my sins and will follow You. I now receive Your gift of eternal life. Jesus, be the Lord and Savior of my life, in Your name I pray, Amen.





Your new life in Christ ...

You are to be congratulated for receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior. The Christian life, by far, is the most joy-filled life that any person could ever live. This life is so exciting that the Bible says, "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God..." (Luke 15:10).

It was by faith that you accepted God's free gift of eternal life; and now, by faith, you must believe that God will do all that He said He would do. You can base your eternal life on three important truths...

God cannot lie. The Apostle Paul said: "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2). It is impossible for God to lie, so if God makes a promise, it will come to pass.

God's Word is sure. The Apostle John described God's sure Word when he wrote: "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, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (I John 5:13). The last important truth to understand is....

God's Word never changes. The Apostle Peter wrote: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (I Peter 1:23). In a world of constant change, it is reassuring to know that one thing never changes. God's Word, the Bible, has stood the test of time and has come through unchanged.

As you continue your walk as a new believer in Christ, you need to associate yourself with a community of believers just like you. God calls these communities *churches*. In the local church you will find other followers of Jesus Christ who will pray for you and guide you as you learn to live for Jesus with all your heart. Just contact the person or church that gave you this booklet.



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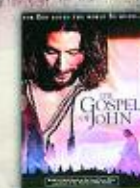
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You can know *for sure* where you will spend eternity!

My friend, the Bible clearly says that you can know for sure that when you breathe your last breath of air on this earth...

- your next breath will be celestial air in Heaven
- your next step will be on streets paved with gold
- the next hand you touch will be the gentle hand of Jesus Christ.

Please read this booklet and then contact the person or church listed below.

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