

“THESE THINGS I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU
WHO BELIEVE IN THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD,
THAT YOU MAY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.”

1 JOHN 5:13

DO YOU KNOW THE GOOD NEWS?

The Good News of Christ proclaims that you can have absolute assurance of going to heaven when you die.

How would you answer the following questions?

1. If you died today, what do you think your chances are of making it to heaven?
 - I am certain I am going to heaven (100%)
 - I probably will make it to heaven (80-90%)
 - I hopefully will make it to heaven (50-80%)
 - I might make it to heaven (20-50%)
 - I have no chance at all of going to heaven (0%)
2. If you believe that you would go to heaven, why would God let you in?
3. Is heaven free or is it something you must earn?
4. What does God require for you to obtain everlasting life?

GOD'S GOODWILL TOWARD YOU

Dear reader, as you interact with the information in this booklet, please know that you have tremendous value to God. As the Creator, He made you in His image. This makes you unique and gives you special worth and dignity above all other living things.

God loves humanity and desires a relationship with each one of us, but unfortunately our sin prevents us from having this relationship. In order to make things right between us and God, our sin must be dealt with.

God wants you to be reconciled to Him forever and to know with certainty that you will spend eternity with Him in a condition of perfect peace and joy. So, in His goodwill and love toward you, He has already provided the perfect remedy for this problem and has done everything necessary to make His solution freely available to you.

This booklet contains the good news that your Creator wants you to know and believe so you can receive His gift of eternal life and be restored to a secure relationship with Him forever.

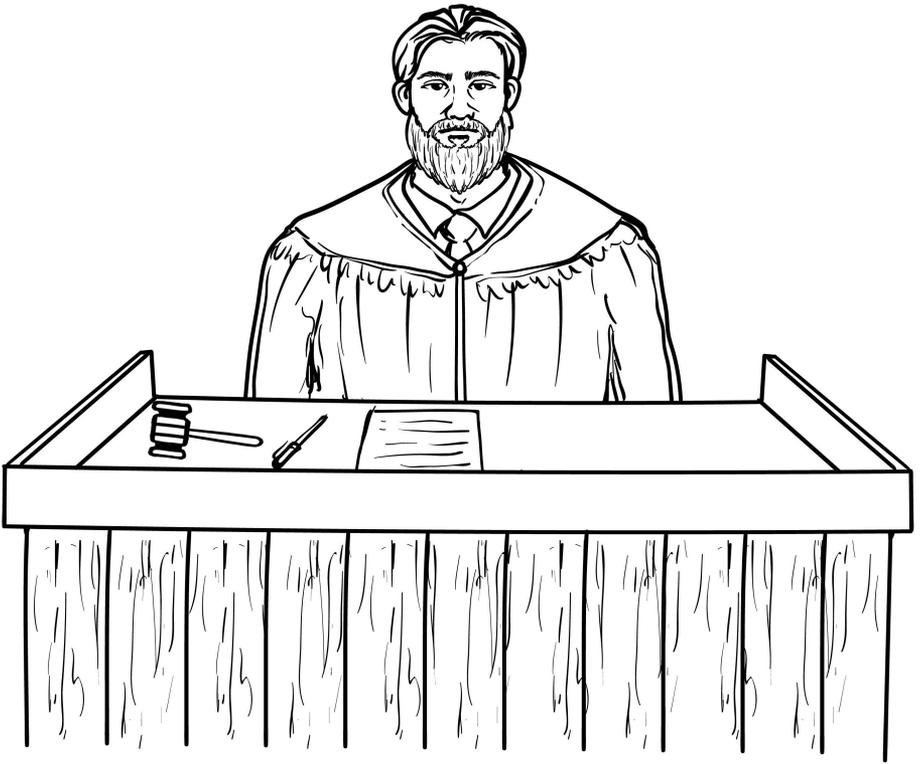
GOD IS HOLY

The first thing you need to understand is: God is holy. This means He is pure and righteous in every way. He lives eternally in a perfect place called heaven.

“Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.” (Psalm 99:9)

“But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by His justice, and the holy God will show Himself holy by His righteousness.” (Isaiah 5:16)

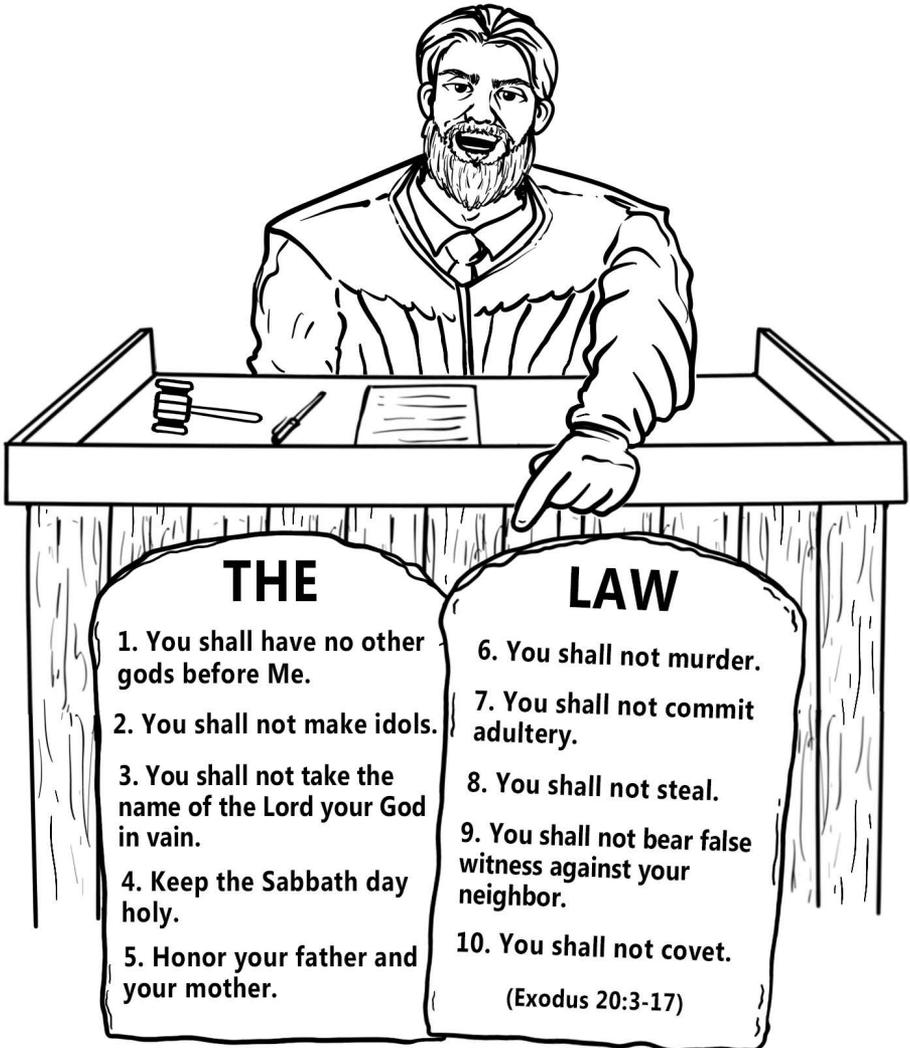
His desire is that we spend eternity with Him, but there is a problem.



MAN IS SINFUL

The bad news: You and I are not like God. We have broken God's laws and are declared sinners before Him. Sin is a violation of God's holy law or going against His ways. Sin is something we all have done.

To help us see that we have sinned before God and need a Savior, God gave His righteous standard to man in the form of the 10 Commandments.



Have you ever lied? Have you ever stolen something? Have you perfectly obeyed your parents? The 10 Commandments were given to show us that we are guilty of breaking God’s law and stand as sinners before a holy God.

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:19-20)

When we evaluate ourselves against God’s standard, we are to come to the same conclusion God has declared in His Word:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)



SIN HAS A PENALTY

The bad news continues: God’s holiness includes justice. Our sin before God incurs a penalty from God. Like in every society, breaking a law requires some sort of payment be made.

“For the wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23)

The just punishment or penalty that God requires for sin is death. This death is described as eternal separation from Him in hell, which is designated in the Bible as a literal lake of fire. Since all have sinned, this is a penalty we all deserve to pay.

Being true to His character, God must punish evil. Imagine if someone did an unthinkable act of violence against someone you loved. You would likely be shocked, deeply grieved, and angry if a judge let the guilty person go. God is a just judge and must punish our sin against Him.



THERE'S NOTHING MAN CAN DO

The news gets even worse: as guilty offenders we must pay the sin penalty, but to pay it with our own life would result in eternity in hell. That is indeed bad news! Unfortunately, as sinners before God we do not possess the resources needed to remedy our sinful condition. Many have tried to earn salvation through their good deeds, human kindness, or religious activity, but these efforts do not make us holy, nor do they pay the sin penalty.

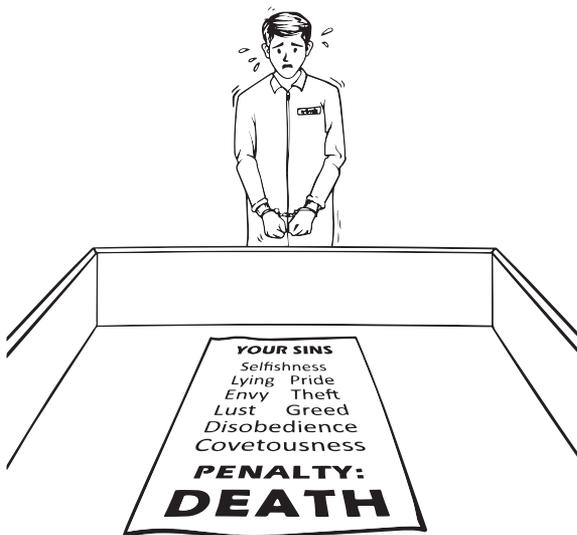
Why isn't our goodness enough? God compares the best we have to offer to pay for sin to washing our face with a thoroughly greasy rag. It is futile. God declares:

“All our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.” (Isaiah 64:6)

God cannot accept our works as payment to cancel our sin because our works are tainted by sin. If sin is going to be paid for, God states that death or the shedding of blood is required.

**“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.”
(Hebrews 9:22)**

Our good works can't pay the penalty, and if we pay the penalty with our own life then we'll spend eternity in hell. What are we to do? Do not fear! God didn't leave us doomed with our unpayable sin problem. God offers a solution to this dilemma.

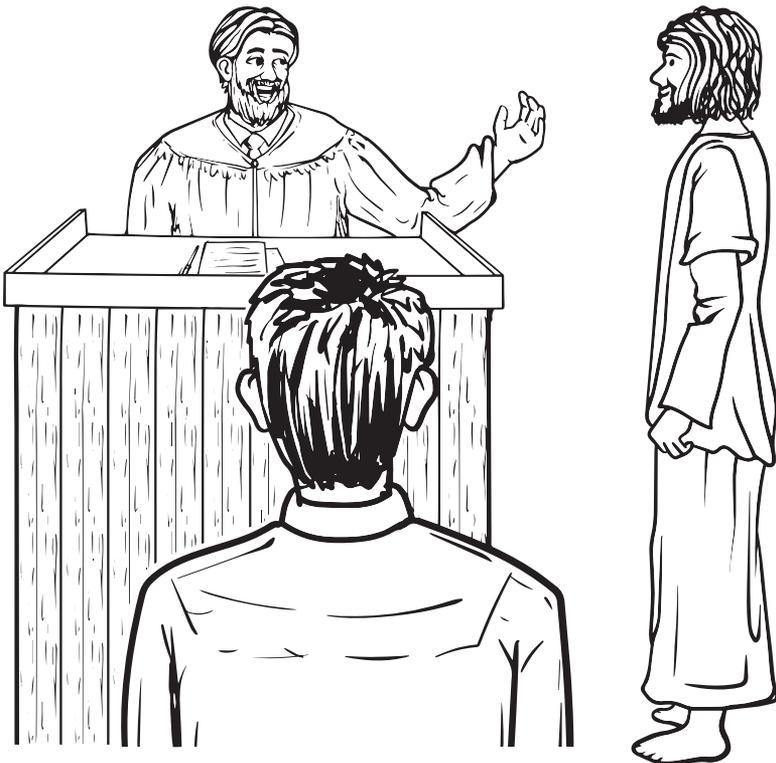


GOD'S SOLUTION: JESUS CHRIST

His provision for our sin is what the Bible calls "Good News." God is just and demands the penalty for sin be paid. However, God is also love. His loving desire is for all of humanity to escape hell and live forever with Him in heaven. This love for all humanity resulted in a plan to have sin paid for on our behalf through His supply of a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Jesus Christ is eternal God who entered humanity as a man. Jesus is both fully God and fully man. Unlike you and me, as a man, Jesus was completely sinless and He kept God's laws perfectly in all ways. He therefore was not under the same condemnation that we as sinners are before God. He had no sins and therefore did not deserve to die for sin.





As the perfect, sinless man, He demonstrated His love for all of us by choosing to die in our place to pay for our sin. His perfect life qualified Him to be made an acceptable sin offering on our behalf as our substitute to pay what we owe. Jesus offered Himself as payment for our sin when He died in our place.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

God’s justice demands that sin be paid for and so Jesus fully satisfied the wrath of God against us as sinners. He accomplished this on a cross just outside of Jerusalem about 2000 years ago.

“For He [God the Father] made Him [Jesus Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.” (1 Peter 3:18)



We deserve to be punished for our sin, but the “Just” one (Jesus) died in the place of the “unjust” ones (you and me). Jesus became our substitute. God punished His own innocent Son in our place.

Jesus proved His love for us on the cross when He took the penalty upon Himself for every sin we have and ever will commit. Through His death, He paid the full penalty that God required for sin. The justice that God required for all sin for all mankind for all time has been satisfied once and for all by Christ.

On the cross, Jesus personally reviewed your full list of sins and paid for them in full in advance. There is not one sin you have done or will ever do that has not been fully paid for by Christ. Right before His physical death on the cross, Jesus cried out, “It is finished,” which means “paid in full.”



What Christ accomplished on the cross in paying for your sins can be illustrated this way: Let's assume you owe a debt to a bank that you could never pay (\$5 million) and someone else had the resources to pay that debt. And that someone decided, willingly and out of love, to pay your debt in full. What would you then owe the bank? Nothing.

Since Jesus completely paid your debt of sin, there is nothing left to be done on your part to have your sins paid for. Jesus paid for them all.

Christ's resurrection from the dead is proof that God the Father accepted the payment made by His Son. Romans 1:4 says Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power by His resurrection from the dead. If Jesus had remained in the tomb, it would have meant that He died for His own sins, not for ours.

This is the principle behind salvation. Jesus Christ paid your sin debt in full and now God offers salvation for free.

GOD FREELY OFFERS SALVATION TO MAN

Because all sin has been paid for, God now offers to all mankind the opportunity to be saved from hell for free. To be “saved” means to be delivered from something. To receive God’s salvation is to be delivered from sin’s penalty (eternal hell).

This complete payment made by Jesus means your sins can be fully forgiven. To “forgive” is to release someone from a payment.

Upon salvation, God releases you of what you owe for your sins against Him. Forgiveness of sins (which is included in the offer of salvation) is free to you and me because the payment for sin has been fully paid.



MAN RECEIVES SALVATION BY FAITH

The one requirement to receive this free salvation is simple faith or belief in Jesus Christ as your Savior. “Faith” means to “rely on” or “trust in.” The very moment you place your trust in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross alone, you receive the gift of everlasting life. Faith is the hand that receives the gift of eternal life from God.

God offers salvation as a gift, NOT as a result of your works.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)



A gift, by definition, is offered freely to the recipient with no stipulations. Because God offers salvation as a gift, it cannot be earned through works. Works imply a reward earned through performance.

The above verses state that salvation is by grace. Grace is God showing kindness to the undeserving who are worthy of His judgment.

Grace is God's demonstration of good to people whose activity is bad. Grace is not God giving you a break because you tried really hard. Grace is God giving an "A" to a student who never passed a test and who never got any questions right. Grace is always completely undeserved. Grace means it must be free.

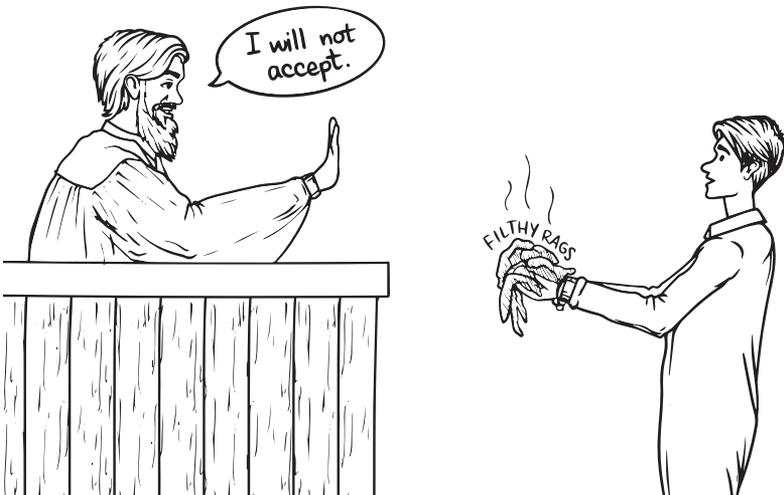
Salvation is not faith in Christ plus any of your works. Here are some examples of works that DO NOT contribute to receiving salvation:

- Repenting from your sins
- Walking an aisle or raising a hand
- Making a commitment to Christ
- Promising God anything
- Remaining faithful to Christ
- Giving money
- Attending church
- Being water baptized or confirmed
- Making Jesus "Lord of your life."

Salvation is offered freely with no demands for a changed life. No work on your part is required to receive or maintain salvation from God. In fact, here's what the Bible says about your good works:

"But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags." (Isaiah 64:6)

Jesus Christ once and for all did the work necessary for salvation when He paid for our sins by His death on the cross. His is the only good work God accepts for salvation.



PLACE YOUR TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST

The gift of salvation can either be received through believing in Christ or rejected through unbelief. The only thing that would result in someone going to hell is their rejection of Christ as Savior.

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:18)

“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24)

Though your sins have been paid for, you may choose to reject that payment Christ made and enter into eternal hell with your sins unforgiven.

Every person must make a choice. The gift must be accepted or by default it is rejected. Place your trust in Jesus Christ! Believe!

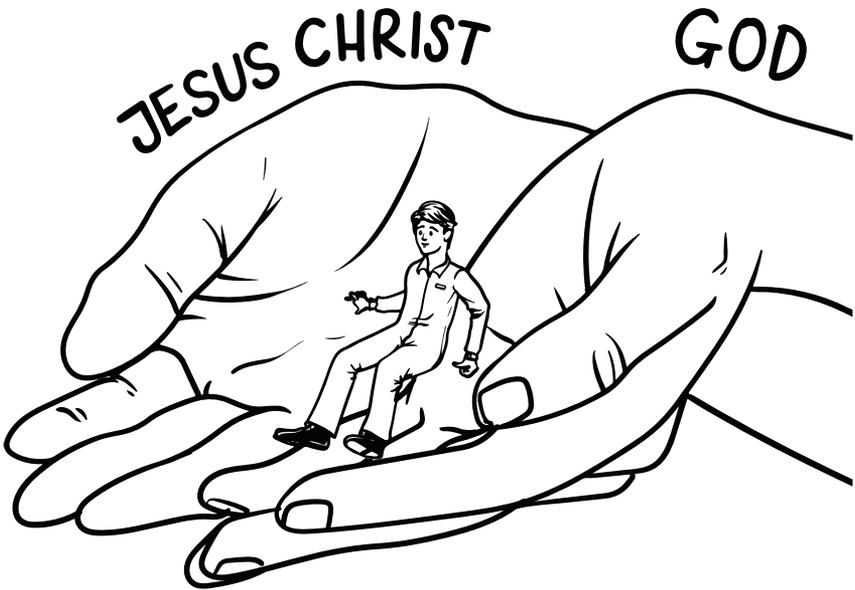


YOU CAN BE 100% SURE OF YOUR SALVATION

Once received by faith, salvation cannot be lost. The Bible is clear that the very instant you place your confidence in Christ alone for salvation, the eternal life you receive can never be lost. Jesus, who is the giver of eternal life, made this promise to those who trust Him for salvation:

“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.” (John 10:28-29)

You are safe and secure in the loving hands of God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Savior who loved you and gave Himself for you. In addition to that, the word “never” (as in “they shall never perish”) means “at no time in the past or future; on no occasion; not ever.” When you place your faith in Christ, you receive everlasting life, which means you receive a life which cannot come to an end.



The Bible says when you place your faith in Christ for salvation you are to know that you have everlasting life:

“And this is the testimony: that 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. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:11-13)

How would you answer the following questions based on 1 John 5:11-13?

“He who has the Son has life. Do you possess the Son?

He who does not have the Son of God does not have life. Does the verse say that if you do not have good works or religion you do not have life?

You who believe in the name of the Son of God...may know that you have eternal life.” Have you chosen to believe on Christ? Do you know you have eternal life?

These verses indicate that you can know you have eternal life. The One (God) who made the promise cannot lie, and the One (Jesus) who did the work in paying for your sins has not failed nor can fail.

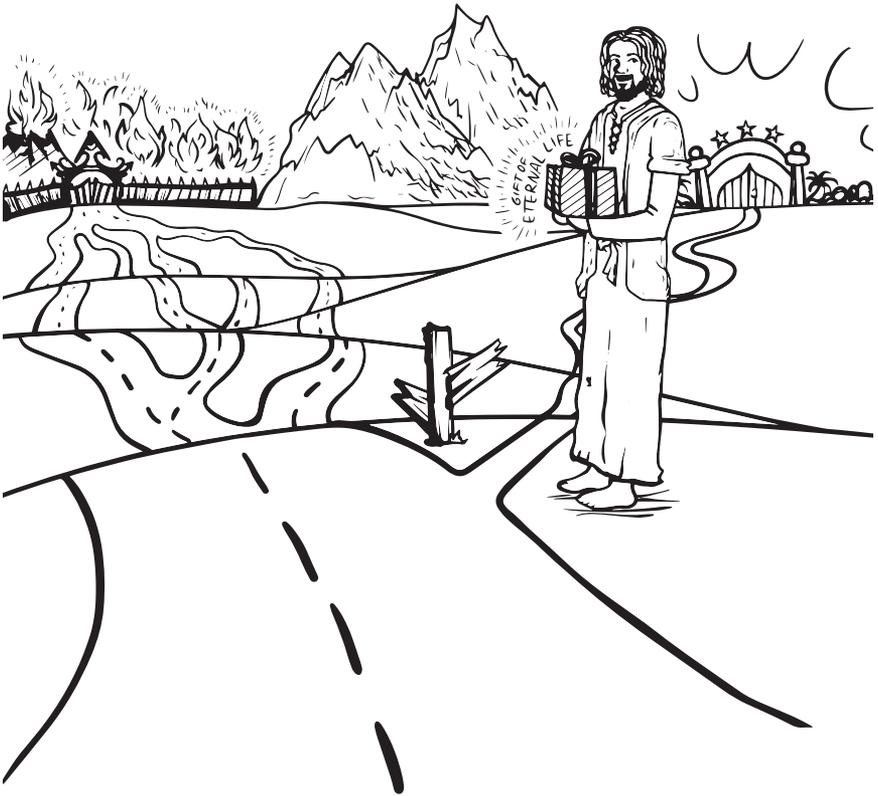
“...in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began...” (Titus 1:2)

THE ONLY WAY TO BE SAVED

The only way to be saved is by faith in Jesus Christ. There is no other option to obtain salvation. All roads do not lead to heaven. Note the following verses:

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (John 14:6)

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)



ARE YOU SAVED?

Have you believed in Christ? Do you know with 100% certainty that you have everlasting life?

The opening question in this booklet asked: If you died today, what do you think your personal chances are of making it to heaven?

- I am certain I am going to heaven (100%)
- I probably will make it to heaven (80-90%)
- I hopefully will make it to heaven (50-80%)
- I might make it to heaven (20-50%)
- I have no chance at all of going to heaven (0%)

How would you answer the above question now?

Can you say you are 100% certain that when you die you will go to heaven?

If you met Jesus at the gates of heaven and He asked, "Why should I let you in?" How would you answer?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." Acts 16:31



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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