

HOW CAN A SINFUL MAN GO TO HEAVEN?

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1 Timothy 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all
acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save
sinners; of whom I am chief.*

I AM A GOOD PERSON

Many are deceived to believe that they are good. They compare themselves with others and see that they are not as bad as the drug addict on the street, or a murderer. You may say, "I don't steal, I don't lie, I don't cheat. I may sin a little bit here and there but God sees my heart as I am very loving, caring and I help people and I know when I die, God will consider all the good things I have done and I believe that I will go to heaven."

Objection.

If you believe that God will take your good works into consideration, then why did Jesus have to come upon this earth and be crucified to a cross? Jesus just wasted his time; your good works could have taken you to heaven. Therefore, if righteousness can be gained by your good works then Christ died for nothing!

If you are good, then why did Isaiah the prophet say, "*Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean*

lips... " (Isaiah 6:5)

Why did Peter tell Jesus, "Depart from me; for I am a sinner, O Lord."

Paul said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief." (1 Timothy 1:15) Paul said that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. If you are good then you do not need Jesus. Are you more righteous than Isaiah, Peter and Paul? Why did these holy men of God see they were evil and why can't you see your sinfulness? The answer is you are seeing sin horizontally, comparing yourself to a bad drug addict on the street or a murderer. The only way you will see how sinful you are is when you compare yourself to the infinite holiness of God.

WE ARE EXCEEDINGLY SINFUL IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.

King David said in Psalm 25:11, "O Lord, pardon my iniquity; for it is great." He did not say, "Pardon my sins but I have done much good work to counter-balance them." He did not say, "Pardon my sins, they are small." On the contrary, sin is great against God. The need for pardon is because of sin against God.

WHAT IS SIN?

1 John 3:4. "Sin is the transgression of the law."

1 John 5:17. "All unrighteousness is sin."

WE HAVE VIOLATED GOD'S LAW

God is the supreme ruler of the universe. All creatures are

subject to Him. He governs the sun, moon, stars and we are all dependent on Him. The Lawgiver is God, the Creator and Preserver of all things. He is above the local magistrate, he is above the police officer on the road, and he is above the President. He is the majestic and the exalted One, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He gives life to man and preserves his being. He has the authority to issue laws without our vote. We are all subject to him in existence and to the obedience of his law. The summary of the moral law is found in the 10 Commandments. Apostle Paul said, *"I had not known sin, but by the law."* (Romans 7:7) In the light of the 10 commandments, we have broken God's law. We become conscious of sin by the Law. In reality, we have sinned against God in thought, by our speech, and by actions. Jesus exposed the law and the inability of man to keep the law when he said, *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."* (Matthew.5: 27) Man sees the result of sin but God sees the cause of sin. The Law condemned us and showed us to be guilty before the Lord.

IN THE SIGHT OF GOD WE ARE ALL SINNERS

Isaiah 6:1 *"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one*

cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. 4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." When Isaiah saw the awesome majesty of God's holiness, he said, "Woe to me!" This is the prophet of God, a good and righteous man, the servant of God, but when he saw the holiness of God, he saw his sinful nature, and instead of saying 'blessed is me as I have seen the glory of God,' he put a curse upon himself and said, 'woe unto me'. The word "woe" is mentioned as a curse in the Bible. Isaiah saw that he was not good in God's presence. The word of God says, there is no one righteous.... no one good. (Romans 3:10-12)

Then Isaiah said, "*I am ruined!*" The Hebrew root word means, 'I am lost.' It took only one glimpse of the holiness of God and Isaiah was brought to zero, as he saw how wretched he was in the presence of God's holiness. Yes, God is infinitely holy and we are infinitely un-holy. Peter too, when he realized who Jesus was, he said, "*Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*"

WE ARE ALL SINNERS WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTIONS

1 John 1:8. "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*"

1 John 1:10. "*If we say that we have not sinned we make him*

a liar, and the truth is not in us."

Romans 3:10 *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"*

Romans 3:23 *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:"* Jeremiah 17:9. *"The heart of man is deceitful above things and desperately wicked."*

You do not have to teach a child to sin. Instead of saying, "Yes" in obedience they say, "No" in disobedience. Why? Because the sin nature is already in us. We are born with sin.

Romans 5:12 *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."*

Psalms 51:5 *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."*

THERE IS A DAY OF JUDGEMENT FOR EVERYONE

Acts 17:31 *Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained.*

Matthew 12:36 *But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

Romans 14:12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

1 Peter 4:5 *Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.*

Heb 4:13 *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes*

of him with whom we have to do.

God is going to judge our actions and conduct according to **HIS** Law. Every evil thought, every hidden sin, all the pet sins, all the bad motives and all that we have done in secret will be brought to open light. Why is Christ appointed to judge the world instead of the Father or the Holy Spirit? The great theologian Jonathan Edwards answers this question by saying, "because he is the one who clothed human nature, he became a man. He who is in the *human nature* should be the Judge of those who are of the human nature."

Christ Jesus was mocked, spit-upon and condemned to be crucified. The High priest, Pilot, Herod and the entire crowd condemned the Lord to the cross. The crowd kept on shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Now he will be the one who will judge humanity with his righteousness.

John 5:27 *And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*

He is the judge of the Universe and a good judge will punish the guilty party; a good judge will not compromise with the lawbreakers. "...The Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished." (Nahum 1:2-3)

***ALL SINNERS WILL BE PUNISHED WITH AN EVER-
LASTING PUNISHMENT.***

2Thessalonians 1:7 *"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our*

Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" Everlasting means without end.

Matthew 25:46 *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."*

Once a person is in hell, there is no escape. Christ has the keys of hell; *"he shuts and no man opens."*

The sinners are the children of the wrath; the law of God is against them; God is angry with them every day. (Psalm 7:11)

The worst thing is to have God as their enemy, and they will not bear his punishment. The sinner can fall anytime to hell.

The torment of hell is extreme. There are no soda fountains or even a drop of water to cool the tongue. For they will be tormented with fire and brimstone; and will have no rest day nor

night forever and ever. Imagine yourself falling into a fiery great furnace. Imagine also that your body was to lie there for

a few minutes, what horror you would feel in the fiery furnace! And how long would that few minutes seem to you!

Moreover, after you had endured it for few minutes someone comes and rescues you! What a relief as you are rushed to the

hospital! However, there is no one to rescue you in hell. It is

not a few minutes but for eternity, day and night forever and ever. If there was an evil judge, he will compromise with sin

and there will be less punishment for the wicked. However, God is infinitely righteous and the punishment will be infinite.

Many are living a careless life. They hear the dangers of sin but go on sinning. They are cold to the word of God. Young

and old both live looking for the pleasures of this life. They spend most of their leisure time on TV, movies, sports, shopping, traveling, parties, with friends and relatives but they have no time to study the Word of God and to have fellowship with God. They spend a lot of money for their food, clothes, makeup, and vitamins but take little care about their salvation. My friend, there is no TV in hell nor any sports or shopping. Remember the rich man in hell begged of Abraham to send Lazarus to his brethren to warn them of hell, that they might take care for their salvation, and escape that place of torment. But Abraham said, *"If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead"* (Luke 16:31). We have the truth, the Bible, God's testimony which is much surer than a man rising from the dead.

The Psalmist said, *"Indeed you have made my days as hand-breadths. And my age is nothing before You. Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Surely, every man walks about like a shadow. Surely they busy themselves in vain."* (Psalm 39:5-6) We need to remember the life on earth is very short. *"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh, but the earth abideth for ever."* (Ecclesiastes 1:4) Death will come unexpectedly. But God said unto him, *"Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee."* (Luke 12:20) After death comes the judgment. Many in hell in their roasted bodies will remember the sermons of the preacher, and they will be screaming with agony but it is too

late! Heb 2:3- *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;*

HOW TO ESCAPE THE ETERNAL FIRE

You can effectually escape the eternal torments of fire by embracing the Lord Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul said: *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."* (1Timothy 1:15)

You have to realize, like apostle Paul, that you are a sinner; like King David who said, *"O LORD, pardon my iniquity for it is great."* (Ps 25:11)

Realize you are exposed to eternal punishment as you have violated the law of God and sinned against God. But God being merciful has provided a Savior, who is able and offers to save you from hell. Christ Jesus came into the world and fulfilled the law where you have broken. We were indebted to God in our sins; Christ paid the full price to God by offering himself as a sacrifice for our sins. The justice of God was poured upon Jesus. If you truly believe in Him, commit your souls to Him to be saved by Him; in Him you shall be saved from the eternal torments of hell. He satisfied the anger of God toward the sinners and found peace between God and men.

Oh! The grand discovery of the gospel, the good news is that you can be saved from hell. Oh! My friend, the justice of God, which was the great barrier to the salvation of sinners, does not stand as a barrier anymore. Now the sinner can be pardoned, justified through the blood of Jesus Christ! Jesus can

reconcile you to God.

IN CHRIST SINNERS CAN BE MADE RIGHTEOUS.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

"Oh, hear that piercing cry! What can it mean? 'My God! My God! oh! Why hast thou in wrath forsaken me?' 'Oh 'twas because our sins on him by God were laid; He who himself had never sinned, for sinners, sin was made.' Our hearts should tremble, when they spit on his face. It was the cruelest thing to do upon the most holy person. Oh! The love of Christ to the believer, that we might be made the righteousness of God. Our sins were charged to Christ and his righteousness was charged to us.

***REPENTANCE IS TO LEAVE THE SINS YOU LOVED,
AND TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.***

Many acknowledge hell but they do not take the word of God seriously. They say, "I believe in Jesus, and I believe in God. I have a Bible, I go to church sometimes." The demons also believe in God and they tremble, but they are not saved.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well; the devils also believe, and tremble.

The demons believe in God, but there is no repentance. In the same way there are so many people who believe in God, know the Bible, go to church, but there is no repentance. This is what is called the demonic faith. Repentance is changing one's mind. There must be sorrow for sin and hatred for sin in true

repentance. The definition of repentance is found in a children's hymn:

*"Repentance is to leave
the sins we loved before,
and show that we in earnest grieve,
by doing so no more."*

It is like the tax collector who went to the temple to pray. He beat his chest and would not even look up to the heavens. He said, "God be merciful to me, I am a sinner." There is not only sorrow of sin and hatred for sin, now in there is a love for God in repentance. In repentance, you will see you are a new person in Christ.

1 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Do not say, "I will repent tomorrow." That is what Satan is telling you. There is an old poem:

*"I will do it to-morrow, that I will, I will be sure to do it;
To-morrow comes, to-morrow goes, And you have not done
it,*

*Thus, then, repentance is deferred from one day to another,
Until the day of death is one, And judgment is the other."*

Once you hear the gospel, the good news, how you can escape from the fires of hell, do not say, "later". You never know at what time your life will end and most of the people who postponed their repentance are in hell.

But if you truly come to God as beggars, through Christ alone,

pleading for mercy, God can pardon the greatest sinner, because his mercy is infinite. God is satisfied with the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and the blood of Christ cleanses all sin. (1 John 1:7) Christ can remove the greatest guilt. Before God was your enemy and now God will love you and you can call him 'abba,' Father. Obey this divine message and you shall have eternal life. God's word says, *"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) But if you refuse the gospel message and refuse to repent, you will be tormented in hell forever and ever!

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