

Peace

Peace. We all seek fulfilment in our work and in our closest relationships. When we go to sleep at night and when we wake up in the morning we long to have that deep sense of satisfaction. Contentment. **Peace.**

We try to help people when we see a need. We feel good about ourselves and drift off to sleep for the night. But before long that nagging uneasy feeling creeps back into our heart. We just sense that something is missing.

There is a hole in our heart that only God can fill. He created us to find our fulfilment in knowing Him personally and having real joy and satisfaction in our lives. The first man and woman that God created, Adam & Eve, knew this joy in perfect fellowship with Him until they chose to disobey. They tried to cover up their sin but they could not avoid the curse that sin brought. **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”** (Romans 5:12). God immediately provided the way for that death to be substituted by the death of an animal. The shed blood of the lamb satisfied God—the death of the lamb to pay their penalty—so they could again be in a right relationship with God. God instructed the people how to conduct animal sacrifices to pay for their sin during the Old Testament era. But it was *temporary*.

God’s plan for permanent forgiveness

Because of God’s great love for us, He provided His only Son Jesus to be the ultimate perfect **“Lamb of God”** (John 1:29). He gave His life’s blood to be the *eternal* payment for our sin. **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”** (Ephesians 1:7). **“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God”** (1 Peter 3:18). **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved”** (John 3:16,17).

What is it that we must be saved from?

Because **“death passed upon all men”** (Romans 5:12), we are all separated from God forever. **“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”** (Hebrews 9:27). **“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”** (Ecclesiastes 12:14). There is a real place called hell. **“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”** (Matthew 10:28). **“And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth”** (Matthew 13:42).

God’s plan saves us and gives us new life

Jesus said, **“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”** (John 3:3). **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature”** (2 Corinthians 5:17). God wants to give us new life in Him as His child. **“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”** (John 1:12). This new birth saves us from the penalty of hell and secures our future in heaven. **“For the wages [payment] of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (Romans 6:23). **“I go and prepare a place for you...that where I am there ye may be also”** (John 14:3).

God designed this plan to offer us perfect **peace** with Him. “For he is our **peace**, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us...that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross” (Ephesians 2:14,16).

*God’s plan is a gift that He offers—
not a reward that can be earned*

Many people feel that they can live a good life and God will take them to heaven. But our ideas cannot change God’s plan. If we ignore God’s truth and live as we want, we will stand before God for judgment in our sin. His plan never depends on whether we are good enough. In fact, God says, “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). “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). God simply wants us to admit we are a sinner and personally accept Jesus as our substitute. “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.” (Romans 10:9,10).

You can accept Jesus as your Savior right now—simply pray from your heart:

Dear God, You made me and You know me. I admit I am a sinner and I am sorry. You gave us Your Son to die in our place. Believing on Him as my substitute, I now accept Jesus as my personal Savior. Thank you for loving me and preparing a place for me in heaven. Please help me as I begin my new life as Your child. In Jesus’ name, amen.

When you accept God’s gift of salvation, God adopts you as His child. You have eternal life in heaven. You can have a life full of what is best rather than what is empty and false. You can have contentment. You can actually have **peace**.

“**Peace** I leave with you, my **peace** I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you” (John 14:27). “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

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