

What's Next?

If you have made the life-changing decision to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord, begin to grow in your spiritual life. Find a local church where Jesus is honored as Lord. Read God's word, the Bible, daily so He can speak to you and talk with Him in prayer.

Why should I believe that Jesus is the only way to God and that his death reconciles Me to God despite my sin?

Because He said so.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father but by Me.'" John 14:6

Consider His qualifications. He claimed to be God's Son. He predicted his death by crucifixion to be followed by his resurrection from the dead 3 days following. Then He delivered on his claim by actually doing it. Even his closest followers couldn't fathom this until they saw Him face to face after He was raised from death just as he said he would.

After his resurrection he was seen not only by his closest followers, but by over 500 people at one time. We have the written record of his life, works, and resurrection that was penned so soon after his death that people still living at that time could have refuted it; but, they didn't. And we have the witness of changed lives by those who have trusted Him to save them from sin's consequences.

The question that *truly* matters. . .

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

Matthew 16:26

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DIE?

The Question That Lingers in the Back of Our Minds

From the time we are old enough to be aware of death, either through the loss of an animal or a person, each of us has wondered: "What will happen to me when I die? Will I cease to exist or will I live on in another form? Where will I go when I die?"

Most of us don't like to think about death. We prefer to focus on the here and now and to postpone facing questions of death. We know death is in our future, but we don't want to face it because after all, WHO CAN REALLY KNOW FOR SURE? But the question doesn't go away. Actually, the Bible, God's word, has a lot to say about it. It only stands to reason that the One who created us is the only One who accurately can inform us about this subject.

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What does the Bible say about human life?

God created humans to reflect his goodness, and God declared them “very good.”

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.’ ... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” Genesis 1:27-28, 31

God created humanity to be a reflection of his goodness and to live a blessed (good) life on earth. The relationship between humans and the earth, the relationship between humans and each other, the relationship between humans and God: *all of it was meant to be good.*

So what went wrong?

Humans chose against God, and we keep on choosing against Him. This “away-from-God” behavior is called sin, and it naturally separates us from God and the life God intended.

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

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” 1 John 1:8

We may resist a word like “sin,” but it describes something true about every human. Despite being made to “be like God,” we often act in ways that are anything but good. We’re selfish, we “bend” the truth to our advantage, or we choose to hurt others in our anger. No one makes us sin; we choose it often and freely, even if we try our best to do the right thing.

AND, sin comes with its own “compensation package.”

“The wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23

Like a salary earned from employment, sin earns wages that lead to death, both physical and spiritual. We are broken in our relationship with each other, with God, and even within ourselves.

Is there hope?

The GOOD NEWS: God did not give up on us, even though we are the ones who broke his good creation.

There’s MORE to Romans 6:23. The full sentence reads: *“For the wages of sin is death, **but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”*

God came to earth in human form to heal the brokenness that exists because of human sin. Sin earns us death, but Jesus (God) died on our behalf. **Whereas we earned death, God gives us life through Jesus.**

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

Through Jesus Christ, humans are restored to right relationship with God and begin the journey toward right relationship with all of God’s creation.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.” 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

What Action Must I Take?

“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” John 1:12

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already.” John 3:16-18

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him.” Revelation 3:20

To understand and agree with the above information isn’t enough, however. By faith, you must open the door of your heart and invite Him to come into your life. This is how to do that:

(Sample prayer you can pray.)

Jesus, I am sorry I have sinned. I am opening the door of my heart to you. Please come into my life. Forgive me and lead me from now on. Thank you for taking my sin-earned death so I can have eternal life with you in heaven.

If you just prayed that prayer, your destiny has changed from eternal death to eternal life.