

The Good News: The Bridge

We all have a limited time here on earth before we die, and then we will step off into eternity; either with God in the new heaven and the new earth, or in hell, separated from God forever. In light of this, there is nothing more important than where you will spend eternity. In the midst of the busyness of life and the demands of each day, we must all take the time to answer the important questions, “Where will I spend eternity?” and “How can I be sure that I will spend it with God in heaven?”

The Bad News:

Some people hope that somehow everyone will get into heaven, as long as they try to be a good person, but the Bible shows us that this is not the case. Romans 3:23 says, “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” Has anyone measured up to God’s standard of “good”?

Many people think they are “good enough” but that is only in comparison to those around them. Answer these questions to see how you measure up to God’s standard:

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” Exodus 20:16	Have you ever told a lie? <i>No matter how small.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
“You shall not steal.” Exodus 20:15	Have you ever stolen something? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
“You shall not covet... anything that belongs to your neighbor.” Exodus 20:17	Have you ever been jealous or coveted something/one? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:28	Have you ever had a lustful thought? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
“But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.” Matthew 5:22	Have you ever had anger toward someone in your heart? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

James 2:10 says, “*For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God’s laws.*” According to God’s standard, would you be **innocent** or **guilty**?

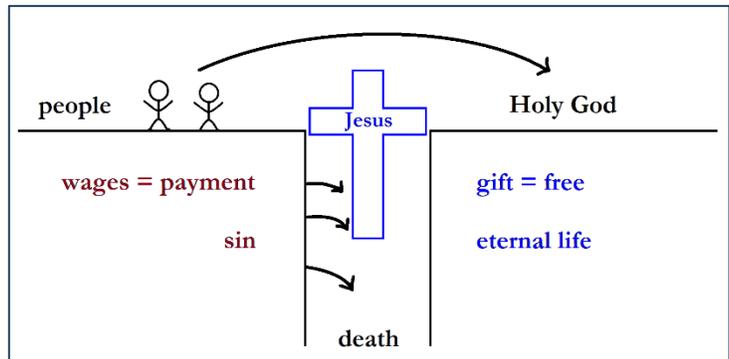
It is important to recognize that we are **guilty** before God. It is a sign of humility and it brings us to see our need for his mercy.

The Good News:

God is perfectly just and must punish your sin, but is also full of love. Romans 5:8 says, *“But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Did you get that? In your own words, how much does God love sinners?

Romans 6:23 says, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

This verse can be illustrated by the picture on the right. There is a divide between us and God that was created by our own sin. What we earned for our sin is eternal separation from God in hell. BUT God chose to bridge this gap by taking care of our sin through Jesus Christ dying on the cross and then being raised to life again.



2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us that Jesus, the Son of God, “knew no sin.” He never sinned, so he didn’t need to die, but he chose to allow himself to die on the cross to take the penalty (the wage) that we deserved. He died in place of sinners like us, so that people would not need to go to hell. Because of this, he offers you the gift of eternal life.

<p>A life that has Christ but is not submitted to Christ. Christ is not on the throne, and self is leading life.</p>	<p>A life entrusted to Christ. Christ is central and on the throne; self yields to Christ.</p>	<p>A life without Jesus Christ. Self is on the throne and Jesus Christ is on the outside.</p>

The illustration to the left depicts three types of lives. Which circle best represents your life right now? Which one would you like to represent your life? The one in the middle is where we all should be.

Receiving Christ means you believe that Jesus died for your sins, you are willing to turn from your sins and surrender your life to his control from this day forward.

You can receive Christ right now through prayer. The following is an example:

Jesus, I admit that I have sinned against you. I believe that you lived a perfect life, died on the cross and rose again to take the penalty for my sin. I commit my life to you. Please come into my life and take control. In Jesus name, Amen.

Does this prayer express the desires of your heart? If so, **would you like to receive Christ right now?**