

## **"How can I be sure I will be accepted by God when I die?"**

**Introduction:** The title of this message is the most important question that any person will ever ask. Many however never consider this question but they ask many others;

How can I be rich?

How can I be successful?

How can I get the most out of life?

How can I be assured comfort in this life?

There are many in our world who are so caught up in searching out the answers to these questions that they neglect to seek out the answer to the greatest question ever ask.

So today I want to answer the greatest question that has ever been ask.

### **I. You need to have the proper perspective of yourself.**

#### **1. You are a sinner.**

People have many different views of themselves, but few have the proper view. Most people would see themselves as "good people" or people who are "better than most".

In the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote about 3 different types of sinners.

1. The Rational Sinner
2. The Reformed Sinner.
3. The Religious Sinner.

**The Rational Sinner** is the person who denies the existence of God and he relies heavily upon human reasoning. This individual collides with the wrath of God and finds themselves in a downward spiritual spiral that takes them deeper and deeper into spiritual darkness.

#### **Romans 1:28-32**

*<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

*<sup>29</sup> Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

*<sup>30</sup> Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

<sup>31</sup> *Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

<sup>32</sup> *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

**The Reformed Sinner** is the individual who looks at this Rational Sinner and believes he or she is acceptable in the eyes of God because they do not practice the sins of this individual.

**The Religious Sinner** is a person who also looks down on the Rational Sinner and believes they will be accepted by God for two reasons. First, because they too do not practice the same sins they believe they will be accepted. Second, because they are RELIGIOUS they believe they will be accepted.

### **Romans 2:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> *Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,*

<sup>18</sup> *And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;*

<sup>19</sup> *And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,*

<sup>20</sup> *An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.*

Now, each of these "SINNERS" has a distorted view of themselves. None of them truly understands how sinful they really are. Let me also say that everyone fits into one of these categories and that means that most people have a distorted view of their true sinful condition.

Let me show you how God views you and how He describes you.

### **Romans 3:9-15**

<sup>9</sup> *What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;*

<sup>10</sup> *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

<sup>11</sup> *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

<sup>12</sup> *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

<sup>13</sup> *Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:*

<sup>14</sup> *Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:*

<sup>15</sup> *Their feet are swift to shed blood:*

<sup>16</sup> *Destruction and misery are in their ways:*

<sup>17</sup> *And the way of peace have they not known:*

<sup>18</sup> *There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

So, the bottom line is that we are all sinners and we are described by the Bible as UNGODLY.

**2. Your sin has separated you from God.**

**Isaiah 59:2**

<sup>2</sup> *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

**3. Your sin must be paid for.**

**Romans 6:23a**

<sup>23</sup> *For the wages of sin is death;*

If your sin is not paid for before you die you will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire as the judgment and penalty for you sin.

**4. You cannot earn the forgiveness of sin.**

**Isaiah 64:6**

<sup>6</sup> *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

<sup>9</sup> *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**Titus 3:5**

<sup>5</sup> *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost:*

Let me now pull these thoughts together. We are all ungodly sinners who are separated from God. We are all under the power of sin because we have within us a sin nature. Our words, thoughts and actions are all sinful. We are on a path that is leading directly to hell and none of us can find the brake. We completely unable to do anything to save ourselves. We are spiritually helpless on our own.

**Hebrews 9:27**

<sup>27</sup> *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

The Bible declares man to be an UNGODLY SINNER who is completely helpless, who is headed on a collision course with the judgment of God. So, man's greatest need is forgiveness.

II. **God's Provision**

God in His love has made a way for you and me to be forgiven of all our sin. Two-thousand years ago God demonstrated His love for us by sending His Son Jesus Christ to the cross to die for your sins and mine.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures:*

<sup>4</sup> *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

Now the question is, "How did Jesus Christ die for our sins?"

When Jesus was nailed to the cross God took all of your sins and all of my sins and He piled them upon Jesus.

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

<sup>5</sup> *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

<sup>6</sup> *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**Isaiah 53:10**

<sup>10</sup> *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

<sup>21</sup> *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Now when Jesus died on the cross He experienced the judgment that should have been ours.

**Matthew 27:46**

<sup>46</sup> *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

Jesus was separated from and forsaken by God the Father on the cross. This was equal to the eternal separation which we should have experienced as the penalty for our sins.

Now, when Jesus took our sins and our penalty He satisfied the judgment and the wrath of God on our behalf.

**1 John 2:1-2**

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

<sup>2</sup> *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**Romans 3:25a**

<sup>25</sup> *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation..*

The word "PROFITIATION" in these verses is very important. It means that when Jesus died for our sins He satisfied the righteousness, the justice and the wrath of God on our behalf.

Let me explain what this means. Because God is righteous and holy He cannot just ignore sin. In order to be able to forgive us **SOMEONE** had to pay the penalty for our sins.

**Illustration:**

If we committed a series of crimes and went before a judge you would not expect him to just brush aside our crimes and let us go. The law says there is a penalty assigned to the crimes and the penalty must be paid. It is the same with God.

Jesus went to the cross and paid the penalty for every one of your sins. **The righteousness and the wrath of God has been satisfied.**

III. **Man's Responsibility**

There are really two requirements for forgiveness.

1. **Repentance**

When you understand your true sinful condition and understand that as an **UNGODLY** sinner you are lost then repentance is to have a change of mind about how you are living and to have a true Godly sorrow over your sin. Let me show you a couple of verses.

**Acts 3:19**

<sup>9</sup> ***Repent ye** therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

**2 Peter 3:9**

<sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, **but that all should come to repentance.***

**2 Corinthians 7:10a**

<sup>10</sup> *For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation...*

You must have a sorrow about your sin and be willing to turn to Christ.

2. **Faith**

The other responsibility is to have faith that Jesus died for your sins. Believing that He was your Substitute.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

<sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 3:16

**John 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> 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.

Now let me show you what God does when you rest your faith in what Jesus did on the cross.

**Romans 3:22, 24**

<sup>22</sup> Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

<sup>24</sup> Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

When you accept Christ as your Savior God removes all the sins from your account and imputes to your account the righteousness of Jesus Christ. God then declares that you are righteous that is JUSTIFICATION.

**Conclusion:**

Have you had your sins forgiven?