

Getting Right with God

Who is God?

God is the Creator of the world and of each person in it. Therefore, we are His property for Him to do as He desires.

God is a Spirit. He is invisible to our eyes. Without us realizing it, God is in every place, and there is nothing that you can hide from Him. He sees into our minds and knows us better than we know ourselves.

God is Holy, meaning that He is good and to be deeply respected. God is pure and He hates evil. The Bible says that God is Light in which there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).

God is a God of Love. We as human usually love those who love us. But God loves and does good to those who are His bitter enemies.

What is sin?

Sin is the breaking of God's law. The following is the summary of God's law:

- (1) We must worship no one else but the True God.
- (2) We must not have wrong thoughts about God. This is idolatry.
- (3) We must not use the name of God irreverently or as a swear word.
- (4) We must keep Sunday as a holy day set apart for God.
- (5) We must honor our fathers and mothers and obey them.
- (6) We must not commit murder, either in action or thoughts.
- (7) We must not commit adultery, either in action or thoughts.
- (8) We must not steal.
- (9) We must not lie.
- (10) We must not desire to have others' possessions.

We realize something terrible as we read this law. None of us have kept this law. If we are honest, we do not even want to keep it. Why? God says that it is because we have sinful hearts. God is not harsh. God is not malicious. God is slow to get angry. But our sinful hearts and the sinful things that we do are so bad that God is terribly angry with us now. Unless we can somehow be saved, we will be sent to hell

and experience God's terrible wrath forever after we die.

What did Jesus do?

About 2000 years ago, God became a man. He was known as Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a perfect sinless life. He fully kept the law in every way. But wicked men nailed Him to a wooden cross and killed Him. However, without realizing it, they were fulfilling God's plan of saving sinful people like us.

When Jesus died on the cross, He did not just suffer like other men dying by crucifixion. The wrath of God came down in all its force upon Jesus and He paid the price of sin. God showed that He had accepted the death of Jesus in the place of other people by raising Him from the dead on the third day.

So, for someone who trusts Jesus, a mysterious exchange has taken place. Jesus has taken away the person's sins, and the perfect life lived by Jesus is reckoned by God to belong to that person. On the cross, Jesus was reckoned by God to be as sinful as me

and you, and God's wrath fell on Him. But when a person trusts in the salvation work of Jesus, the person is reckoned by God to be as perfect and good as Jesus. This is how it is possible for sinners to be put right with God.

What must I do to be saved?

The only way to be saved is to repent of your sin and trust in Jesus Christ to save you.

What does it mean to repent of sin?

To repent means to hate and stop sin to please God.

What does it mean to believe in Jesus Christ?

You must believe that Jesus is the Lord and that He is able to save you.

What does it cost to become a Christian?

We cannot buy forgiveness of sins. It is a free gift of God. But if you become a Christian, it means that Christ must be your Master in the future. He will tell you to give up some things which you have done all your life. He will tell

you to do other things which you have never done before. People may laugh at you for being a Christian. Some of them may even try to cause you harm. This is the cost of being a friend and follower of Jesus Christ.

How can I turn from sin and trust Jesus?

None of us by ourselves have the power to turn from our sin and trust Jesus. Only God can enable you to do so. He will give you the power if you turn to God in prayer.

How shall I pray to God?

Since God is a Spirit, there is no need for you to face a particular direction to pray. It is also forbidden for you to pray facing a picture or a statue of God.

What you must do is to find a place where you can be alone with God. Speak to Him there. He will listen to anyone who is sincerely seeking Him. As you pray, you should:

Confess your sin to God.

Ask Jesus to help you to repent and believe.

Ask Him to save you.

Ask God to hear your prayers because of Jesus Christ.

What do I do next?

You must tell a Christian friend what you have done. It is very important that you find Christian fellowship as soon as possible.

“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.” (Isaiah 45:22)