

# ARE YOU



**"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)**

I was lost. For much of my life I thought that I was a decent person, who God would probably not send to Hell. I believed in Jesus and in the Bible, and I even prayed and went to church much of my life. I felt that God was near to me, and even though I made plenty of bad choices, I still thought that I was a pretty good person (at least compared to a lot of other people). The problem was, I was foolishly using my own standard and my own wisdom from my own thinking (Proverbs 14:12). I was not using **God's Standard** and **God's Wisdom** from **God's Word**, the Bible. But then the LORD opened my eyes, and I became aware of **The Truth...**

**The Truth is,** "As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven..." (Psalm 18:30). **The Truth is,** "The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life..." (Genesis 2:7). **The Truth is,** "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23). **The Truth is,** "The heart is deceitful above all things..." (Jeremiah 17:9). **The Truth is,** Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven..." (Matthew 7:21).

If you are lost, realize this... Jesus Christ, the Son of God, shed His precious and Holy blood for His lost sheep. He died on the cross at Calvary, was raised from the dead three days later, and now sits at the right hand of His Father to make intercession for those who put their faith in Him. In Luke 19:10, Jesus said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." But the Bible also makes it very clear that you must **repent, and believe in the gospel** to be saved from God's punishment in the eternal lake of fire.

God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, including you and me. He Alone is Holy, Pure, and Absolutely Righteous and Just in all His ways. But in contrast, and because of sin and our disobedience to God, we have all been infected and thoroughly corrupted by sin, whether we think so or not.

If we understood how utterly filthy, evil, and vile the sin in our lives actually is, in comparison to the Absolute Holiness of God, it would be a horrifying and unbearable sight.

In the 4th chapter of 1 John, the Bible states that "God is Love". God's Love, Mercy, and Grace are Perfect, Spotless, and Holy (as He is) and are beyond measure and all comprehension. Yet, as a Just God, His Righteous Judgment and Terrifying Wrath are also beyond comprehension. And on the Day of Judgment, He will pour out His Judgment and Wrath on all disobedience and sin and on those who have loved their own lives more than Christ (thus, having rejected His Love, Mercy, and Grace). How will you be seen by God on that day? Hebrews 10:31 states, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

If you are one of God's lost sheep, how can you be saved from God's Wrath to come, His Eternal Judgment, and the Unquenchable Lake of Fire?

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That was a primary purpose for Jesus Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross. Demonstrating His Great Love, He willingly and obediently went to the cross as a Holy, Sinless, and Complete Sacrifice. In doing this, He took sin upon Himself, while bearing the Father's Wrath and Judgement for that sin. He took the full punishment for the sin of those who truly repent and believe, and put their complete trust in Him. As a result, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" in Christ, and therefore, will bear good fruit and will continue to grow in a life of obedience to Him. It is written in 2 Corinthians 5:(14-) 21, "...He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Countless numbers of people are deceived, believing they are in Christ, but are not truly saved. You may be a member of a church, you may have been baptized with water, you may have said a prayer to receive Christ, or you may have undergone some other religious "accomplishments". Yet those who never genuinely repent, and as a result, do not show true evidence of increasing, ongoing, and lasting spiritual growth, conviction of sin, and good fruit in their lives, do not belong to Christ. These will receive the full punishment of God's Wrath and Judgement (for their sin) as they are cast into the everlasting lake of fire, at the Judgement seat.

In Matthew 7:18-20, Jesus said, "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits." Jesus was not saying that someone who does not bear good fruit is thrown into hell because they were not doing enough good things to go to heaven. If that was the case, then salvation would be dependent on you and your works, and not completely on Jesus Christ and His finished work and sacrifice on the cross. Jesus was pointing out that if you are truly saved, your new life in Christ will be obvious, as He is displayed more in your life by the good fruit that He is now producing through you. That is the evidence of your salvation.

If you believe that you have been saved, then honestly ask yourself, "Am I bearing good fruit?," and "Am I becoming more and more like Jesus Christ as I grow in Him, **OR** do I even know Christ, have I really been converted?" Again Jesus said, in verse 20, "So then, you will know them by their fruits."

**"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!... unless indeed you fail the test?"**

(2 Corinthians 13:5)

\*Please also read Luke 8:4-18.

Be sure that you are found in Christ. Humbly and desperately cry out to Him. **THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE TO GO AND THERE IS NO OTHER HOPE BUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

**"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;" (Acts 3:19)**

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**CONSIDER THIS:** On the day of Judgment we will all be Judged by God, according to the same Standard, the Word of God, the Bible. We are surrounded by countless false prophets and false teachings that infiltrate the US and the world today, of which we have been repeatedly warned about in the Bible. Spend the rest of your life seeking the Face of God in prayer and by reading and learning of God, directly from His Inerrant and Perfectly Inspired Words of the Bible, so that you might be prepared on that day, before entering into eternity. Please read 2 Timothy 3:16,17 and Hebrews 4:12,13, and "Prepare to meet thy God!"