

What Makes Jesus Christ a Suitable Savior?

There are many religious figures that will claim that if you put your trust in them, they will bring you to some kind of good afterlife or give you a better life now. What about Jesus Christ? How can you be assured that if you repent from your sins and place your trust in Him alone for salvation that you will be forgiven, receive eternal life, be made brand new, be adopted into God's family, walk with Him in this life and taken to be with Him for eternity when you die?

Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh (Jesus Christ) and dwelt among us, and we saw His (Jesus') glory." (John 1:1, 14) "Therefore He (Jesus Christ) had to be made like His brethren (all who come to Him for salvation) in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest... to make propitiation for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:14, 17).

As God He was able to be a perfect sacrifice on behalf of all who come to Him for salvation. He was sinless. He could pay our debt that we owe to God and His Law. God the Father accepted the sacrifice of God the Son, proving it by raising Him from the dead three days later. As fully man, Jesus Christ could stand in our place as our perfect Substitute, bearing our sins and the wrath of God on our behalf. Here's some pictures of what Jesus did at the cross.

He was the propitiation for sins—(I John 2:2, 4:10; Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17) To propitiate means to satisfy the wrath of God so that God can now show mercy and grace to all who come to Jesus for salvation.

He reconciles sinners to God—(II Corinthians 5:18-20) Our sins have driven us away from God. (Isaiah 59:2) Jesus fully paid the penalty for the sins of all who put their trust in Him so that they can be reconciled to God, no longer separated from Him. A true believer is no longer an enemy of God but a child, a friend. (Romans 5:10, Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 3:12-15)

He takes away sins. "Behold the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29) As the Lamb of God, He was the perfect sacrifice. "He (God the Father) made Him (Jesus Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (II Corinthians 5:21) "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross..." (I Peter 2:24) Jesus Christ proved to be victorious over sin and death by raising from the dead after three days. (I Corinthians 15:1-8, 20)

All of this was an expression of the love of God for sinners. "But God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16, 36)

Your Only Hope—JESUS CHRIST

John 14:6: "I (Jesus) am the way, the truth, and the life. Nobody comes to the Father but through Me."

Acts 4:12: "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name (Jesus Christ) under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

I John 4:10: "In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son Jesus Christ to be the propitiation (wrath-bearer) for our sins."

Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

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

I Timothy 1:15: "It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Luke 19:10: "For the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) has come to seek and save the lost."

II Corinthians 5:21: "The Father made Jesus Christ who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

I Peter 3:18: "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God."

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

This is where the "gospel" comes in. "Gospel" means "good news". So far we have seen the holy and glorious nature of God and man's sinful nature. We have seen that because you break God's Ten Commandments and reject Jesus Christ, you stand guilty before God. Either you will pay the fine of eternal punishment in hell, or you can place your faith in Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross.

Here is the good news. God came to this earth and became flesh and blood. His name is Jesus Christ. He came to seek and save those lost in their sins. He had to be made like us so that He could give Himself in our place. He perfectly kept the Law that you broke and went to the cross as a sinless sacrifice. He was perfectly righteous, being God. (I Peter 2:21,22; Hebrews 4:15; John 1:1,2,14) He freely gave Himself as a sacrifice on the cross, taking the wrath and judgment of God the Father and paying the full debt for sin for all who would truly repent of their sins and put their faith in Him. Only a perfect sacrifice could pay the debt for our sins. God the Father accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, proving it by raising Him from the dead. Now you must repent from your sins and turn to Jesus Christ. **THIS IS THE ONLY WAY YOU WILL ESCAPE THE WRATH OF GOD!!!** You are guilty, Sinner friend, and heading for the judgment of God. If you refuse God's salvation, there waits for you

the "certain terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire that will consume His adversaries." (Hebrews 10:27)

He commands you to REPENT and turn to Jesus Christ to be saved from His wrath. He will be rich in mercy, love and grace to you if you turn to Him (Ephesians 2:1-9). "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) That's God's great love, that He would give His only Son in the place of guilty sinners in order to save them for His own glory and praise!!! God promises that if you repent from your sins and place your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, He will remove His wrath from you, forgive all of your sins, and give you a new heart to live for Him. He will declare you to be perfectly righteousness and give you eternal life along with all of His blessings, love and favor. You will then have a **PERFECT HEART and a PERFECT RECORD before God!** Perfect heart because God gives you a new heart when He saves you and perfect record because of Christ's righteousness applied to your life before God! No longer guilty!! No wrath to face!! "Jesus delivers us from the wrath to come" (I Thessalonians 1:10).

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:30,31). Quit trusting in yourself and put your trust in Christ's finished work on the cross. Tell God that you have sinned against Him and realize your good deeds are filth to Him. Ask Him to forgive you because of what Jesus did for you on the cross. "If you confess your sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9) Cry out to God to save you until you know that He has done a work of salvation in your soul. Tell Him you are done living for yourself and want to live for Jesus Christ. "I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; and You forgave the guilt of my sin." (Psalms 32:5) "Whoever will call on the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:13)

If you refuse God's salvation: "Because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God." (Romans 2:5) Your sins will run before you to Judgment Day and will face you there and prove you "Guilty!" before a Holy and wrath-filled God!

But if you turned to Jesus Christ: "If any man wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, pick up his cross and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24) There is no cheap Christianity! Live a life sold out to Jesus Christ, a life of love, gratitude and obedience to God for His kindness in saving you. The proof that you are saved is that you will walk in the narrow way and bear fruit for His glory (Matthew 7:13-29). Your life will show that you are in love with Jesus Christ. Get a Bible, read it daily and do what it says. Seek God in prayer. Find a good church. Get some gospel literature and tell others this message of salvation in Jesus Christ!!

"Today is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2). "How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3). "There is no other name given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Turn to Jesus Christ today!

HOW WILL YOU ESCAPE THE WRATH OF GOD?

BY TOM RAYBORN

Dear reader, I wrote this message that you might consider where your relationship is with God and what will happen when you die. If you are honest with yourself, you know you will die and there is something on the other side of death. It is called "Eternity". The Word of God, the Bible, says there is an eternity in heaven or hell awaiting all people. Prepare to meet your God!

The Bible says that all mankind are born in sin, live lives of sin, are an offense to a holy and righteous God, and are on the road to hell. In the 27 books of the New Testament, there are 234 references to hell. If your life was like a 27-mile road and there were 234 billboards along the way warning you that the road you are on will take you to hell, would you continue on that road?

Please take some time to carefully read this message. Ask God to show you your true spiritual condition and to have mercy on you to bring you to salvation in Jesus Christ. Your only hope to escape the wrath of God is to turn from your sins and put your trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. Only Jesus Christ delivers from the wrath to come! (I Thessalonians 1:10) This message will help to show you the way.

Turn tract over to continue →

The most important question you can ask yourself is “How can I escape the wrath of God?” After you die, you will appear before God for judgment. Listen to Acts 17:30,31, “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

You will die one day and then you will face God for your judgment. “It is appointed to man to die once, and after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27) If you meet God in your sins, He will judge you as guilty for breaking His Commandments and rejecting His Son Jesus Christ and pour out His wrath on you in hell for all of eternity.

To help you understand the seriousness of Judgment Day, we need to look at the Character of God, the Spiritual Condition of Man, God’s Commandments, The Eternal Consequences of Sin, What Makes Jesus a Suitable Savior, and Your Only Hope—Jesus Christ.

The Character of God

What is God like? The Holy Bible describes God chiefly as HOLY! He is also infinitely loving, just, merciful, wrathful, gracious, etc. His attributes and characteristics are flavored with this over-shadowing nature of God... that He is holy! His justice is holy justice, His love is holy love, His mercy is holy mercy, His wrath is a holy wrath!

Revelation 4:8b: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come.”

Isaiah 6:3: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of Hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory.”

Psalms 77:13: “Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?”

Habakkuk 1:12,13: “Are you not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, my Holy One? Your eyes are too pure to approve evil and You cannot look on wickedness with favor.”

Exodus 34:6,7: “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in loving-kindness and truth; who keeps loving-kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.”

Psalms 86:15: “But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and truth.”

Romans 1:18: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

Do these few scriptures help you understand the character of God? While God is holy and hates sin, He is also ready to forgive and pardon the person that cries out to Him for mercy. He is perfectly holy and righteous and He must judge us for sinning against Him. But He has provided a way, only ONE WAY, so that we do not have to bear the judgment for our sins. If God did not make a way for us to be forgiven, we could never stand in the Day of His Judgment without being declared “Guilty!” and sentenced to eternal hell. This will be clear as we look at the Spiritual Condition of Man and God’s Commandments.

The Spiritual Condition of Man

Genesis 6:5: “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

Mark 7:21,22: “For from within, out of the heart of man, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”

Ecclesiastes 7:20: “Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

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

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

Isaiah 59:2: “Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”

The Bible also says that you are “dead in sins” (Ephesians 2:1), “helpless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies of God” (Romans 5:6-10), and “held captive by Satan” (II Timothy 2:25, 26). Your condition is serious and you yourself cannot do anything to change it. God must!

As you can see from these verses, God has seen the heart of man and man’s deeds. The evidence all points to the guilt of man before a holy and wrath-filled God. “Every intent and thought of the heart was only evil continually”, “there is none who does good”, “all have sinned”, etc. Man has a **BAD HEART** and a **BAD RECORD**.

Mankind was originally created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26,27). Adam and Eve were perfectly righteous before God. When they disobeyed the command of God by eating the forbidden fruit (Genesis 2:16,17; 3:1-19), God gave them spiritual death, they were separated from God. They brought upon themselves and all mankind spiritual darkness, perversity, hardness of heart toward God, a love for sin, and death. Now your sin separates you from God and brings spiritual death, and one day, physical death and judgment. But God has provided a cure! All mankind is spiritually dead, unable to help him self get right with God. A dead person can do absolutely nothing. A dead person doesn’t need medicine, he needs life. While you are physically alive because you are

reading this pamphlet, if you have not come by faith and repentance to Jesus Christ, you are dead spiritually. Apart from Christ you are an offense to a holy God. You need to repent and come to Jesus Christ for salvation and life.

God’s Commandments

For some it’s hard to believe that they have a **BAD HEART** and a **BAD RECORD**. We compare ourselves to others around us and we come away feeling pretty secure in our “goodness”. But that’s our problem. If you compare yourself to others around you, you might look “good”. But you must compare yourself to the perfectly holy and righteous God who created you and will call you to judgment one day! The Ten Commandments express the holy character of God. They are like a mirror that show you your moral filth and uncleanness before God, because you cannot keep one of them.

1. You shall have no other gods before Me
2. You shall not worship idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not commit murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not lie.
10. You shall not covet.

Have you ever told a lie (even “white” lies, half truths)? You are a liar! Have you ever stolen anything no matter the value? A cookie, pen, small change, etc.. You are a thief. Have you ever committed adultery? Jesus said that if you look with lust on the opposite sex you have committed adultery with that person in your heart (Matthew 5:27, 28). You are certainly guilty.

Have you ever committed murder? The Bible says in I John 3:15: “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer.” If you have hated anyone you are a murderer. Have you ever taken God’s name and Jesus’ name in vain, used it instead of a cuss word? You are a blasphemer!

There’s even another greater Commandment from God. “This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ” (I John 3:23). On top of breaking all of the Ten Commandments, you have despised and rejected God’s Beloved Son, Jesus Christ!

Do you see yourself as God sees you? You are not good or righteous like you probably thought.. You live your own life, loving your sin and hating God and Jesus Christ. You make up your own rules and expect God to accept you and allow you into His heaven when you die.

God’s standard to get into heaven is perfect righteousness. You must have a **PERFECT HEART** and a **PERFECT RECORD**. He will allow no sin into His heaven. He will judge you against the perfect standard of His Son, Jesus Christ the righteous and against His perfect Law. (I John 2:1; Romans 3:19,20) It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the Living God! (Hebrews 10:31)

The great day of His wrath is coming. (Revelation 6:15-17) Flee from the wrath to come!

The Eternal Consequences of Sin

How serious is your sin and breaking of God’s Law? Your love for sin will keep you out of God’s kingdom.

I Corinthians 6:9,10: “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-21: “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Every one of the above sins is in some way tied to the breaking of the Law of God, a rejection of Jesus Christ, and a falling short of the glory of God. “This is the judgment, that the Light (Jesus Christ) has come into the world, and men loved the darkness (sin) rather than the light because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:19)

Revelation 20:11-15: “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

II Thessalonians 2:12: “In order that they may all be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”

Friend, your sins will be revealed on Judgment Day and will declare you guilty. After you die there are no second chances. There are no words that could possibly describe the horror of Judgment Day for the person that lives in rebellion against God and Jesus Christ. As you are reading this I hope that you are getting a sense of the Lord’s extreme holiness, your own sinfulness, and your need to repent and put your trust in Jesus Christ for salvation!

You may say, “OK, I see that God is holy and just, He hates sin, and that I am a sinner. If I were to die right now I would die in my sinful condition and go to hell, and that I have broken His commandments and therefore will face His justice. What must I do to be saved?” Read on and see what God has done to save sinners like you and me.