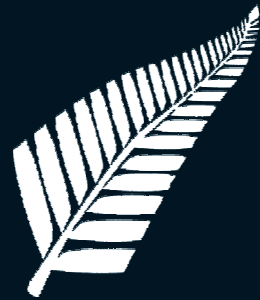


THE



TEST



THE START

"In the beginning God created..."

Genesis 1:1

The Bible teaches that God created all things including you and me. In the beginning the world He created was perfect (no pain, no war, no suffering, no death). His original plan for human beings was that we would know Him, live for Him on the earth and enjoy Him forever in heaven.

However, a lot has happened since that time and it doesn't take long to realise that the world is no longer perfect. This is because mankind (you and me) decided to rebel against God, ignore Him and live our lives however we please. This rebellion is what the Bible calls 'sin'.

If you are not convinced that you have rebelled against God please take the following test...



THE TEST

Please tick the boxes if your answer is 'yes' to the following questions:



1. *Have you ever told a lie?*

2. *Have you ever stolen something (the value is irrelevant)?*

3. *Have you ever dishonoured your parents by disobeying them?*

4. *Have you ever hated someone and wished they were dead?*

5. *Have you ever used the name of Jesus or Christ as a swear word?*

The above questions relate to just 5 of God's Ten Commandments. How many boxes did you tick?



THE PROBLEM

If you're like most people you have probably ticked a number of boxes, if not all of them.

The Bible makes it clear that we are all guilty of breaking God's laws and rebelling against Him (the Bible calls this 'sin'). This 'sin' has caused a barrier between us and God.

"...all have sinned..."

Romans 3:23

Not only are we guilty of breaking God's laws by our actions but also by our thoughts and motives. Nothing is hidden from God's sight.

When we disobey God it shows that we would rather live without His loving rule over our lives. In reality, we are rejecting our all-knowing, all-powerful Creator.

If this attitude towards God continues until death there are serious consequences.



All of Us

*'...all have
sinned...'
Romans 3:23*

S
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B
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R
R
I
E
R

GOD

*Creator
King
Ruler
Perfect
Holy
Pure
Loving
Judge*



THE CONSEQUENCES

Firstly, our choice to reject God on this earth will be made permanent at death. This means we will be separated from the source of all love and goodness forever. By rejecting God we are also rejecting heaven.

Secondly, God knows everything including what is best for us. By rejecting God's guidance we hurt ourselves and others e.g. Sex outside marriage can lead to unwanted pregnancies, abortion, broken homes, STD's and neglected children. Drunkenness can lead to health problems, traffic accidents, violence, addiction and poverty. Pride can lead to the illusion that we are in control of everything and not accountable to God for our lives.

The truth is, none of us deserve to get to heaven, we all deserve hell. By our own efforts there is nothing we can do to change this fact. We need help! Fortunately God has done something incredible for us.



All of Us

*'...There is a
problem-your
sins have cut you
off from God.'
Isaiah 59:2*



Hell

S
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GOD

*Creator
King
Ruler
Perfect
Holy
Pure
Loving
Judge*



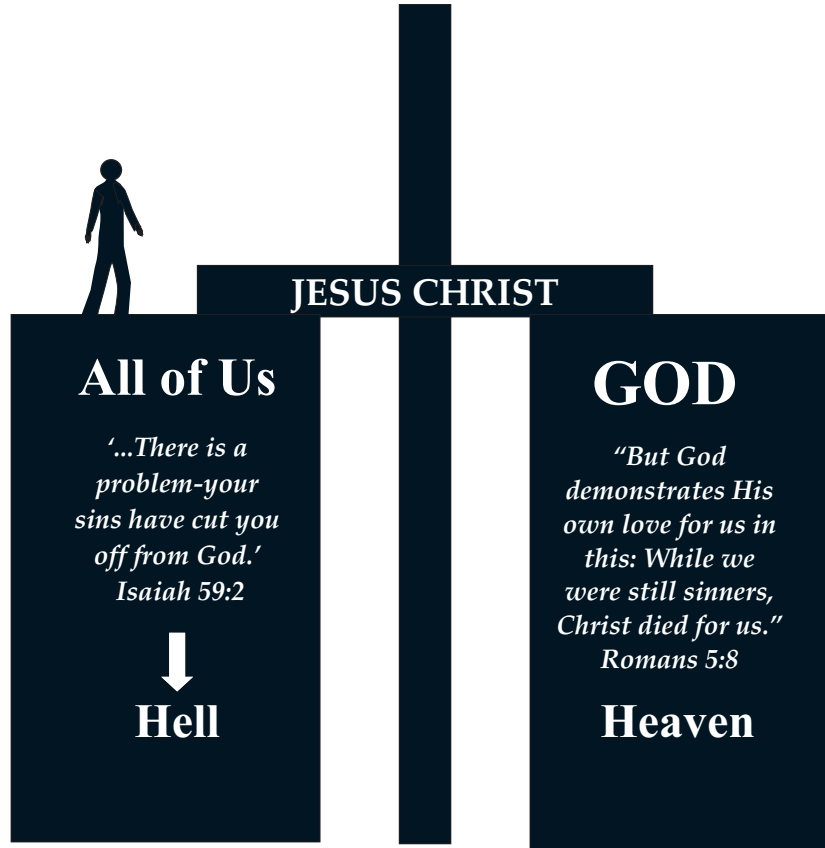
THE SOLUTION

Instead of giving us what we deserve God actually wants to forgive us. He does not want anyone to go to hell and has made a way for us to be forgiven.

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

This forgiveness was made possible when God sent Jesus Christ into the world. Jesus (the perfect Son of God) willingly suffered and died on a cross to take the punishment we deserve on Himself (we broke the law and Jesus paid our fine). God then raised Him from the dead three days later and now offers forgiveness (a perfect record) and new life to everyone.

However, this is not automatic, like any gift, we must receive it.





THE GIFT

Forgiveness cannot be earned! Going to church, praying, living a 'good' life and helping others are good things but none of them can give you a perfect record permanently before God. To receive this forgiveness you must...

1. Admit that you have offended God by your attitudes and actions.
2. Accept that you can do nothing to save yourself.
3. Be willing to turn away from anything that offends God (God will help you do this).
4. Trust that Jesus Christ died for your sins (past, present and future) on the cross and rose from the dead.
5. Through a prayer of faith (trust) give God control of your life.

If you are willing to accept God's gift of forgiveness you must also accept the cost.





THE COST

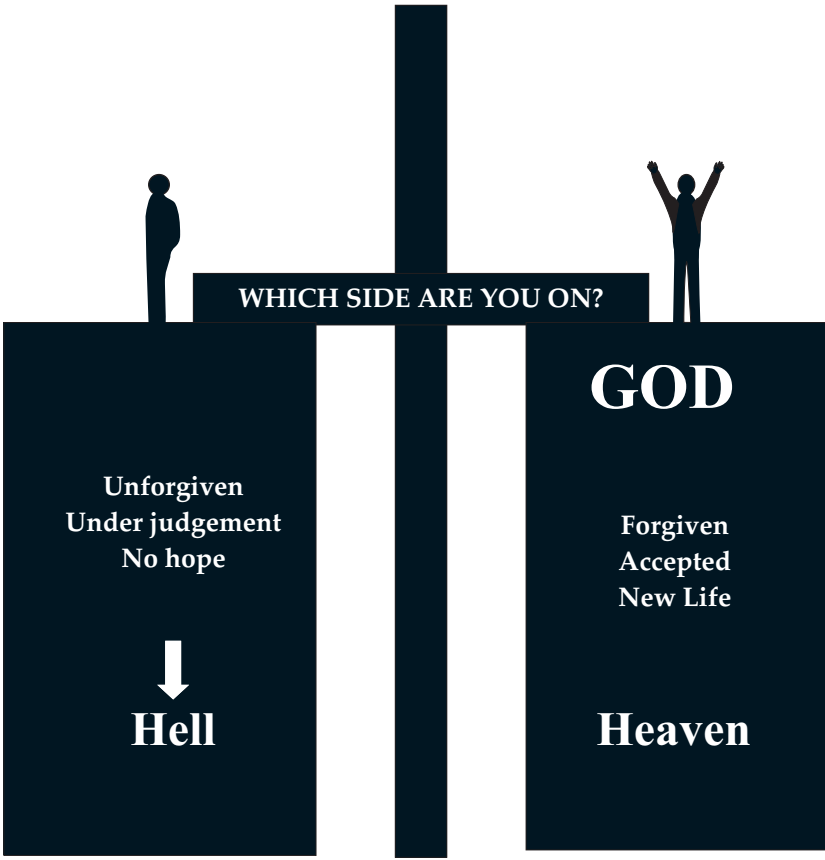
Jesus warned us about counting the cost before deciding to follow Him: *“But don’t begin until you count the cost...” (Luke 14:28)*

He made it clear that we are to submit to Him and be willing to face suffering and tough times just like He did. However, as a Christian, God enters your life by the Holy Spirit and teaches, encourages, strengthens and helps you even in times of failure. As you surrender control of your life to Him He will give you new desires and the power to change...this is a life long process.



SUMMARY

If you have counted the cost of being a Christian, want to become a follower of Jesus and accept the gift He offers you then the following is a suggested



*Dear Jesus,
I confess that I have rebelled against You and
am truly sorry. Please forgive me, I want to
start living my life Your way. Thank You for
dying on the cross to take the punishment for
my sins (past, present and future). I now invite
the Holy Spirit to enter my life to help me be the
person You want me to be, Amen.*

To help you grow as a Christian, read the Bible daily, obey what it says, join a Bible believing church, be baptised and tell someone about your decision. Talk to God as much as possible, He hears and answers prayer. For more information go to www.questionsoflife.com or contact:



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