



comfortzone

freedom

free indeed

Free Indeed

Jesus said, “you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” John 8:32

Jesus said, “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36

Previously...

Freedom From Lies

Freedom Over Death

Freedom Over Selfishness

Freedom Over The Past

Next Sunday...

Freedom Over Fear

Today...

Freedom Over Sin

Last week... Sinful People & Holy God

- * Who is allowed to attend our church? Only sinners
- * Who was allowed to do great things for God in Scripture? Only sinners
 - Saul/Paul – persecuted followers of Jesus
 - David – committed adultery
 - Moses – committed murder
 - Peter – denied Jesus three times
 - Matthew – cheater and thief
- * Who can move past their past with Jesus' help? Only sinners

Our Eternal Problem... We Are Sinners

Sinful Man



Holy God

<https://bible.org/article/gods-plan-salvation>

What is Sin?

- First John 3:4 says, “Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.” Sin is any violation of God’s holy law.
- Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Sin is anything (words, thoughts, actions, and motivations) that falls short of God’s glory and perfection. All of us sin.
- We must know the character of God before we can accurately define sin, because His glory is the standard by which we measure it (Psalm 119:160; John 17:17). Without a perfect standard, there is no way to determine whether something is imperfect. Without the absolute standard of God’s glory, every word or action would be judged by the faulty, shifting standard of imperfect people. Every rule, law, and moral tenet would become a matter of opinion. <https://www.gotquestions.org/did-God-create-sin.html>

If a sinless God created us, how can we sin?

God created people and angels with free will and the *potential* to choose badly. The potential for sin was a risk God took. He created human beings in His image, and, since He is free, humans were created free (Genesis 1:27). Free will involves the ability to choose, and, after God communicated the moral standard, He gave the man a true choice (Genesis 2:16). Adam chose disobedience and rebellion.

God provided the opportunity to sin, but He did not create or instigate sin. Having the opportunity was good; without it, human beings would be little more than robots. God commands, pleads, and encourages us to follow Him (Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 12:28; 1 Samuel 15:22). He promises blessings, fellowship, and protection when we obey (Jeremiah 7:23; Psalm 115:11; Luke 11:28). Adam and Eve had freedom to choose obedience or disobedience. When they chose sin, they chose the consequences (Genesis 3:16–24).

We can choose to seek God, which leads to righteous living (Jeremiah 29:13; 2 Timothy 2:19). Or we can choose to follow our own inclinations, which lead away from God (Proverbs 16:5).

<https://www.gotquestions.org/did-God-create-sin.html>

Biblical Terms for Sin

- Sin – missing the mark
- Irreligion – unrighteousness
- Lawlessness – disregard of God's law
- Transgression – to step across the line
- Iniquity – lack of integrity
- Rebellion – stubbornness
- Treachery – a breach of trust
- Perversion – a twisted mind
- Abomination – God's attitude toward sin

Biblical Terms for the effects of sin

1. Agitation / Restlessness

- from Hebrew word “rasha” = wickedness

“There the wicked cease from raging, and there the weary are at rest.” Job 3:17

“But the wicked are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up refuse and mud.

‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’”

Isaiah 57:20-21

2. Evil / Adversity

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the Lord your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.” Deuteronomy 30:15-16

3. Guilt

- responsibility and accountability
- from the Greek word “enochos”

“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 11:27

4. Trouble / Misery

What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one. Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they keep deceiving, the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; their feet are swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their paths, and the path of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3:9-18 (quoting Isaiah 59)

Our Sin Separates Us From God

Sinful Man



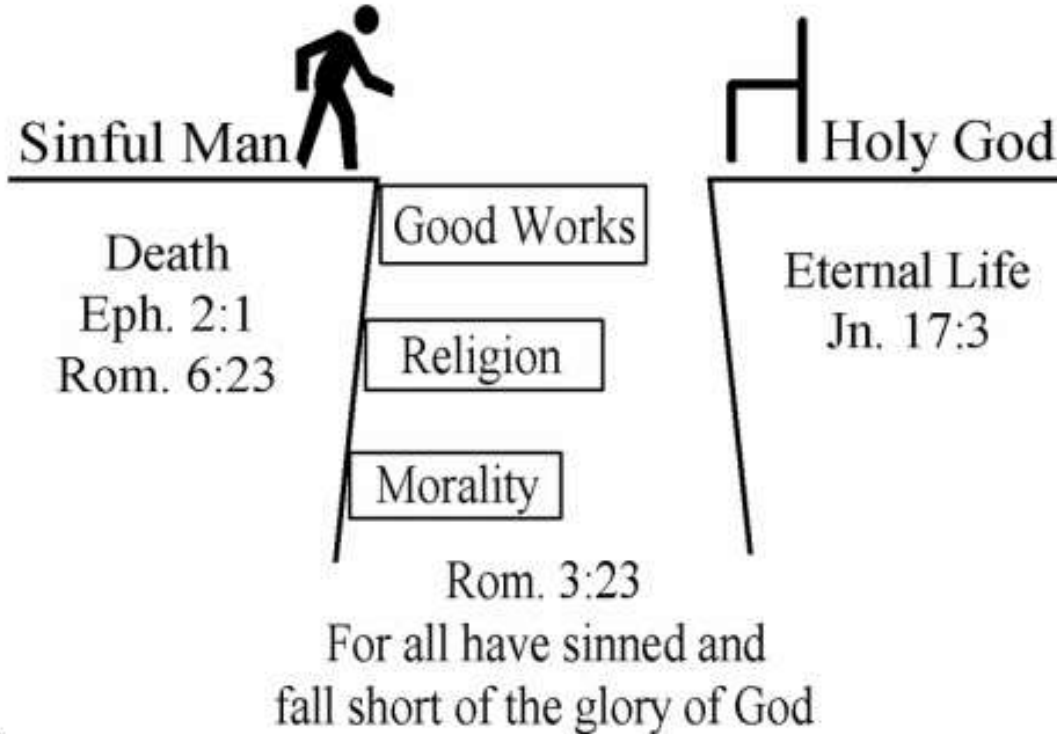
Holy God

- And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins Ephesians 2:1
- For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment**; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. Isaiah 64:6
- Remember that you were at that time **separate from Christ**, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. Ephesians 2:12
- For **the wages of sin is death** Romans 6:23

Yet... We Long For A Relationship With God

- by the **works** of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20
- For not knowing about God's righteousness and **seeking to establish their own**, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. Romans 10:3
- a man is not justified by the **works** of the Law Galatians 2:16
- Jesus said, "For I say to you that unless your **righteousness** surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20

“Works Based Salvation”



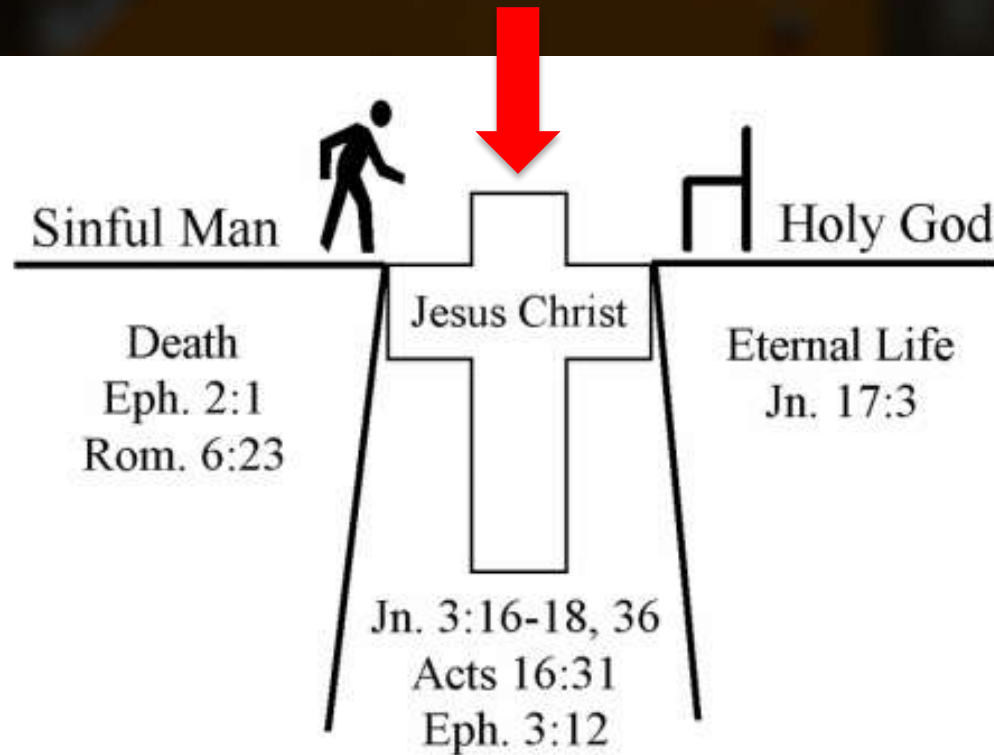
**Our good
deeds
and hard
work
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Instead Of Our Works, God Reaches Out To Us

- For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: **sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin,** He condemned sin in the flesh Romans 8:3
- Jesus said, “For God so loved the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son,** **that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.** For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” John 3:16-17
- This was in accordance with the eternal purpose **which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,** in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Ephesians 3:11-12
- Jesus said, “This is eternal life, **that they may know You,** the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” John 17:3

“God sent His own Son” Romans 8:3



In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
Ephesians 1:7

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How Are We Redeemed?



For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **who gave Himself as a ransom for all**, the testimony given at the proper time. 1 Timothy 2:5-6

“Christ saves us neither by the mere exercise of power, nor by His doctrine, nor by His example, nor by the moral influence which He exerted, nor by any subjective influence on His people, whether natural or mystical, but as a satisfaction to divine justice, as an expiation for sin, and as a ransom from the curse and authority of the law, thus reconciling us to God by making it consistent with His perfection to exercise mercy toward sinners.” - Hodge’s Systematic Theology

Jesus Is The Sacrificial Lamb Of God

- But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; **like a lamb that is led to slaughter**, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. Isaiah 53:5-7
- “For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Hebrews 9:13-14
- “Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For **Christ our Passover** also has been sacrificed.” 1 Corinthians 5:7

D. A. Carson writes in *A Call to Spiritual Reformation*:

“If God had perceived that our greatest need was economic, he would have sent an economist. If he had perceived that our greatest need was entertainment, he would have sent us a comedian or an artist. If God had perceived that our greatest need was political stability, he would have sent us a politician. If he had perceived that our greatest need was health, he would have sent us a doctor. But he perceived that our greatest need involved our sin, our alienation from him, our profound rebellion, our death; and he sent us a Savior.”

Exchange at the Cross

Use your phone today (or a piece of paper) and...

Write down the lies that you struggle with:

- There is no such thing as sin
- There is no real standard of right and wrong
- I have never done wrong, I have never sinned
- There are no consequences for sin
- I can earn my way to heaven by my good works
- _____

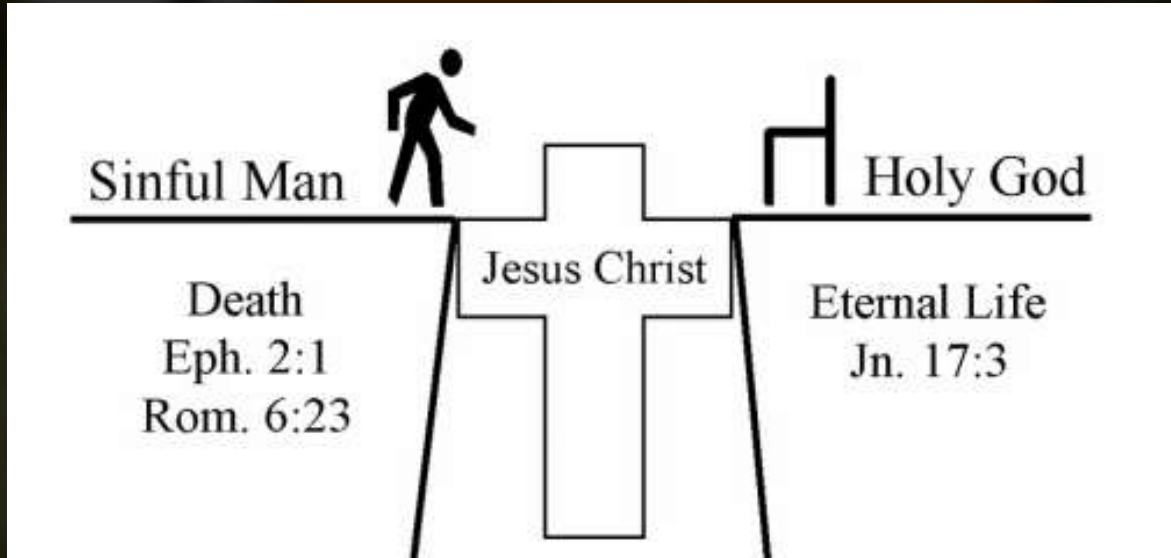
Exchange at the Cross

Use your phone today (or a piece of paper) and...

Write down these truths for disciples of Jesus:

- God the Father sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin (Romans 8:3)
- Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7)
- In Jesus we have redemption (Ephesians 1:7)
- I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Philippians 1:6)

Are you ready to receive forgiveness of sin and salvation today?



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

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