

FACT # 1 - GOD IS THE ORIGINAL CREATOR OF ALL; AND GOD CREATED HUMANS (INCLUDING YOU) FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE & RELATIONSHIP (which Easter is all about)!

The Bible informs us:

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator... This is what the Lord says...who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord who makes all things...It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it...I am God and there is no other.(1)

...all things were created by him and for him.(2)

God is love... (3)...God created man in his own image... male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." (4)

God revealed Himself, and this important information in history, and had it recorded into the Bible. God is thus revealed as the Supreme personal being - the one and only Eternal, All-Powerful, All-Knowing, All Good and Loving Creator who is the ultimate owner & authority over all. We were created to fulfill God's good purposes for our lives.

HERE ARE GOD'S MAIN PURPOSES FOR OUR/YOUR LIFE AS A HUMAN -The Bible says:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart ...soul, ...mind ...and strength). This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.(5) (God wants a love relationship with you)

(Also God said), be holy because I am holy...(6) (that means, be completely pure and good, like God is)...
And...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.(7)

How well would you say you have been doing at living according to God's main purposes for your life? Do you think that would be good enough for God to accept you into heaven?

In any case, this is the way God wanted things to be in the world----->>>
Obviously the world is not going the way God intended.
Fact #2 explains why there is so much difficulty and death, and why God seems so far away.



FACT # 2 - WE HAVE ALL BEEN AFFECTED WITH A SIN NATURE (why we need Easter)!

In order to make a true love relationship possible, God created angels and humans not to be robots but to be persons with understanding and free will, but this also allowed for the possibility of sin. This is where evil spirits and human badness come from, which leads to serious consequences.

The following Bible verses tell us about what sin is:
All wrongdoing is sin...(and), Everyone who sins breaks (God's) law; in fact sin is lawlessness...(8)

SIN EXPLAINED: In essence then, sin is an indifference or rebelliousness towards God and His Laws of righteousness - though others may be hurt by our sin, it is primarily an offence, or crime, against our Creator.

Are you familiar with God's 10 main Commandment Laws (that go with the 2 Great Love Commands from #1)? Here is a quick review:

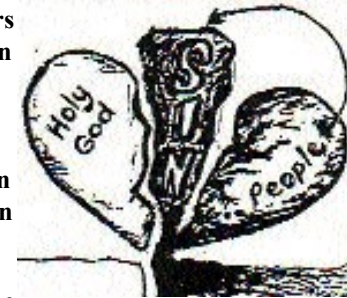
- 1.Have no other gods (truly worship the one true Creator only, and always put God first in your life & loyalty);
 - 2.No Idols (no praying to or trusting religious statues or charms);
 - 3.No Misuse of God's name;
 - 4.Honor God every week with a Sabbath day;
 - 5.Honor Parents;
 - 6.No Murder (or malicious anger or hatred);
 - 7.No Adultery (or lusting or fornication);
 - 8.No Stealing;
 - 9.No Slander (or dishonest lie-ing);
 - 10.No Coveting (malicious envy of things that belong to others)!
- Have you always kept all of these Laws of God?**

We need to understand that God's standard of acceptance is perfect goodness: *...whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.(9)* (that is because God is completely Holy and cannot allow for any sin).
So, would you be considered guilty or not guilty at God's judgment time? Acceptable or Not?

The Bible declares that sin is a universal human problem, and explains why:*...through (the first) man sin entered into the world... (and corrupted human nature, so that now) ...all have sinned... there is no one righteous, not even one.(10)* *For out of the heart comes evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make (a person) unclean.... Who can say, 'I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin? '(11)*

So the Bible explains that all of us are sinners by our inherited human nature which was corrupted and contaminated at the beginning of the human race, and was passed on down to us all.

As such, each of us manifest various kinds of indifference or rebelliousness towards God in violating His laws (whether internally or externally).



We need to understand the trouble this puts us all in with God? Our sin problem leads to some serious consequences (we are all in the same sinking boat).

The following Bible verses tell us about the several stages of God's judgment (the punishment-consequences) that are the results of our sin problem:

Stage 1 - Earthly consequences:

... your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you...(12)

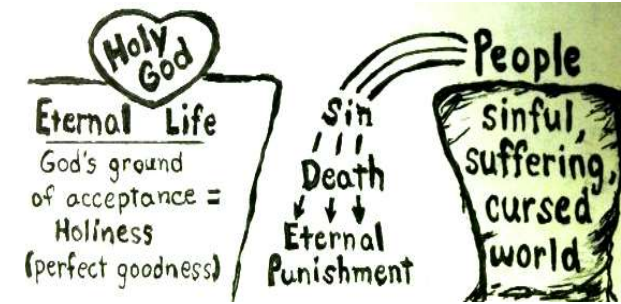
The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. (13) (The sin-curse is the reason for random disasters, diseases, and decay in this world, as well as the man-made problems of life, and also stages 2 and 3 below)

Stage 2 - (which is actually just the conclusion of the stage 1 earthly consequences):

... the wages of sin is death...(14)
...it is appointed (for people) to die once and after this comes judgment. (15)

Stage 3 - Eternity consequences:

God is JUST (and in His Justice)... They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord...(16)
For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness (of people). (17)

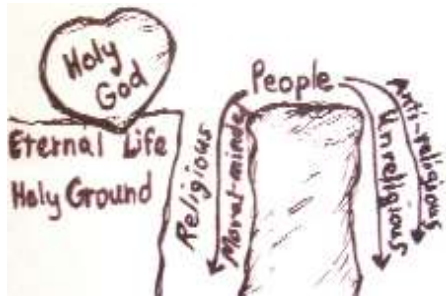


Thankfully the Bible is meant to show us the way of personal reconciliation with God and salvation from sin's eternal consequences, if we respond with the right attitude towards His word about our sin situation. What do these Bible verses say is the right response to this situation? *He (God) is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.(18)* *God commands all people everywhere to repent.(19)*

The good news is that God wants to mercifully save those who are repentant towards Him regarding their sin problem. Repentance is having a change of mind and heart-attitude. Whereas sin is rebelliousness or indifference towards God and His Law, repentance is being sincerely sorry for your sin problem and wanting to be reconciled and right with God, with a willingness to turn over your life to him. **Do you feel ready and willing to accept whatever changes are needed to make sure that you are right with God?**

A CAUTION: Though God is receptive to a repentant heart, that does not mean that He expects or will accept any type of alternate payment for our sins from us. No kind or amount of religious rituals or charitable works and good deeds can make you righteous or make up for sins already committed (or for future sins) - God has provided for that in another way. **The following Bible verses make this clear:**
There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death.(20) (the religious or self-righteousness way is the wrong way to God - it is not good enough)

...no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. (21) (like a mirror showing our dirtiness)
All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags...(22)



Can you accept that, according to God's standard, our human efforts at trying to be good, or at trying to make up for our sins, are not good enough?

Though being repentant does not pay for sins, or save you out of sins eternal consequences, it should make you humbly receptive and responsive to what God has provided to save you from that. **So what is needed?**

The following Bible verses tell us about what makes our salvation from sin's eternal punishment possible: *...when the kindness and love of God our savior appeared, He saved us not on the basis of righteous things we have done, but according to his mercy...through Jesus Christ our Savior.* (23)

Jesus instructed us to: *"Repent, and believe in the gospel."* (24) (the gospel is the good news about how God made salvation possible through Jesus Christ) **This leads us to the next and most amazing and wonderful fact of human history...**

FACT # 3 - GOD BECAME A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE, IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST, IN ORDER TO SAVE US!

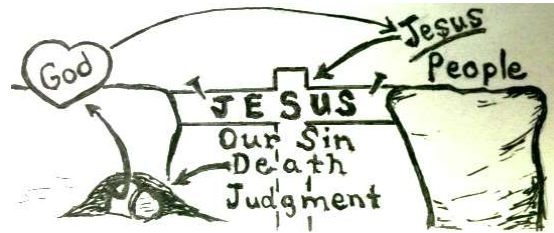
(This is the real reason for and meaning of Easter)

The following Bible verses tell us about who Jesus really was and is, and what He did for us, and why:

...Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God...taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness...being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself...He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know him... (25)

God demonstrated His own love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...He himself bore our sins in his body on the (cross)... Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. (26)

Jesus revealed to us the mystery that God is actually 3 persons within one being, whom He identified as The Father, The Son (Jesus himself), and the Holy Spirit. They are eternally united and acting together as one.



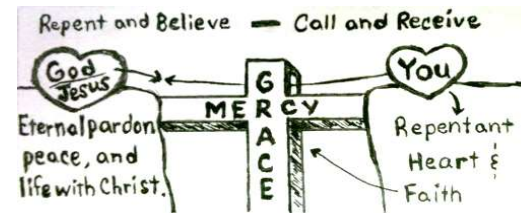
The Bible gives us multiple eye-witness testimonies about how Jesus proved to be the one to believe in: *...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures... he was buried, (and) he was raised on the third day...he appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve. After that he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time... he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days... (27)* (and then He ascended into heaven alive as they watched Him go up). **This next Bible verse tells you about God's only way for you to be saved from the judgment of your sins, and be accepted by God: God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life...whoever does not believe stands condemned already...** (28)

Can you accept that Jesus is both the Creator God, and Christ the Divine-human Savior and King for all Mankind? It is not enough just to know and generally believe these things and to associate with Christianity - God requires a specific faith response from you, if you want to get in on His salvation, as in Fact #4...

FACT # 4 - THE ONLY WAY YOU (OR ANYONE) CAN BE ACCEPTED BY GOD, AND AVOID ETERNAL JUDGMENT, IS TO PROPERLY RESPOND SO THAT YOU RECEIVE ETERNAL PARDON, AND A NEW LIFE FROM CHRIST!

The following Bible verses tell us about how we must view God's offer of spiritual and eternal salvation: *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.* (29) **... it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.** (30)

These next Bible verses explain how you must respond in order to receive God's FREE gift offer of pardon and salvation into eternal life with Him: *... to all who received him (Jesus Christ), to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God ...born of (God's) Spirit.* (31) *Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame...for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (Jesus Christ) will be saved.* (32)



If a person of responsible age & mind dies without having received Christ then they will have to receive the punishment of their own sins throughout eternity.

So, do you feel ready and willing right now, to fully trust in and receive Jesus Christ (entering into a committed relationship with Him as your Savior & Leader in life), in order to be accepted by God (for forever more)?

As a help, if you are ready, here is a suggested way you could pray and call on Christ to receive what God is offering - Read this over and consider if you could say this to God and really mean it - God will respond to a truly repentant and believing heart, not to just a reciting of these words:

Dear God, I realize that I am a sinner and I am sorry for offending you. I do want to be in a right relationship with you. I believe that you became the man Christ Jesus, and sacrificed yourself for my pardon and eternal salvation, and I thank you with all my heart. Please give me this gift of eternal life in relationship with you. Please take my life, and change me and lead me according to your good will and Spirit. Amen

If you truly received Christ as your God and Savior, then you need to (and should want to) learn how to follow Him and His plan for your life. If so, we would be happy to know about that and pray for you, and we will get you a free Bible resource to help with that -use the contact info on the front cover to let us know.

Wishing you & yours a Happy Easter, and offering this Easter message in hopes of making it the happiest...

THE 4 MAIN BIBLE FACTS WHICH EXPLAIN THE REAL REASON FOR THE EASTER SEASON

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- BIBLE VERSES REFERRED TO IN ORDER** (by Footnote #, Bible book name and chapter number: and verse number(s)):
- (1) Isaiah 40:28 & 44:24 & 45:12,22 / (2) Colossians 1:16b / (3) 1John 4:8 / (4) Genesis 1:27 / (5) Matthew 22:36-39 / (6) 1Peter 1:16 / (7) 1Corinthians 10:31 / (8) 1John 5:17 and 3:4 / (9) James 2:1 / (10) Romans 5:12 and 3:10, 23 / (11) Matthew 15:19-20/ Prov. 20:9 / (12) Isaiah 59:2 / (13) Isaiah 24:5-6 / (14) Romans 6:23a / (15) Hebrews 9:27 / (16) 2Thessalonians 1:6, 7b-10 / (17) Romans 1:18 / (18) 2Peter 3:9 / (19) Acts 17:30 / (20) Proverbs 14:2 / (21) Romans 3:20 / (22) Isaiah 64:6 / (23) Titus 3:4-6 / (24) Mark 1:15 (25) Philippians 2:6-8 and John 1:10 / (26) Romans 5:8 and 1Peter 2:24 & 3:18 / (27) 1Corinthians 15:3-6 and Acts 1:3-9 / (28) John 3:16-17/ (29) Romans 6:23 / (30) Ephesians 2:1-9 / (31) John 1:10-12; and 3:8 / (32) Romans 10:11,13