

What's the Problem?

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 101*)

“All we like sheep have gone astray, and have turned every one into his own way” (Isaiah 53:6).



The crucial thing is to know what the BIBLE says about salvation, not just what a CHURCH teaches. Contrary to what you might think, they are not always one and the same!

WHY AM I HERE?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “**WHY?**” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “**What is the meaning of my life?**” Everyone wants to be happy, and people try to achieve happiness in many ways:

- Some look for happiness by acquiring **possessions**.
- Some look for happiness by experiencing **pleasure**.
- Some look for happiness by gaining **prestige**.
- Some look for happiness by seeking **power**.

But real happiness only comes from finding my **PURPOSE!**

1. I was created by God to have a personal relationship with Him.

“So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said ... live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge.” (Genesis 1:27-28)

“Jesus said, ‘I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness!’” (John 10:10)

2. When I love the Lord and live in harmony with His purpose, it produces incredible benefits!

Power and Strength Philippians 4:13	Real Life and Peace Romans 8:6	Help with Weaknesses Romans 8:26
Purpose Romans 8:28	Confidence Romans 8:31	Security Romans 8:39
Clear Conscience Romans 8:1	Fulfillment Philippians 4:19	Freedom John 8:32, 36

If this is the kind of lifestyle that God intends for us to live, why are most people still searching for real happiness?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

- 1. Man has a natural desire to be his own boss and to ignore God's principles for living. The Bible calls this attitude SIN.**

"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way." (Isaiah 53:6)

"If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth." (1 John 1:8)

- 2. Sin breaks our close relationship with the Lord and causes us to try to live our lives outside of His will.**

"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God." (Isaiah 59:2)

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious ideal." (Romans 3:23)

- 3. When people have problems, they often try many different ways of coping before turning to God.**

"There are ways that seem right to man, but they only end in death." (Proverbs 16:25)

- 4. Even when we realize that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him.**

- "I come from a Christian family"
- "I'll give up all my bad habits."
- "I'll work real hard and earn salvation."
- "I'll be religious and go to church."
- "My religion teaches it a different way."
- "It doesn't matter what you believe – just be sincere."
- "I'm as good as the next guy."

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

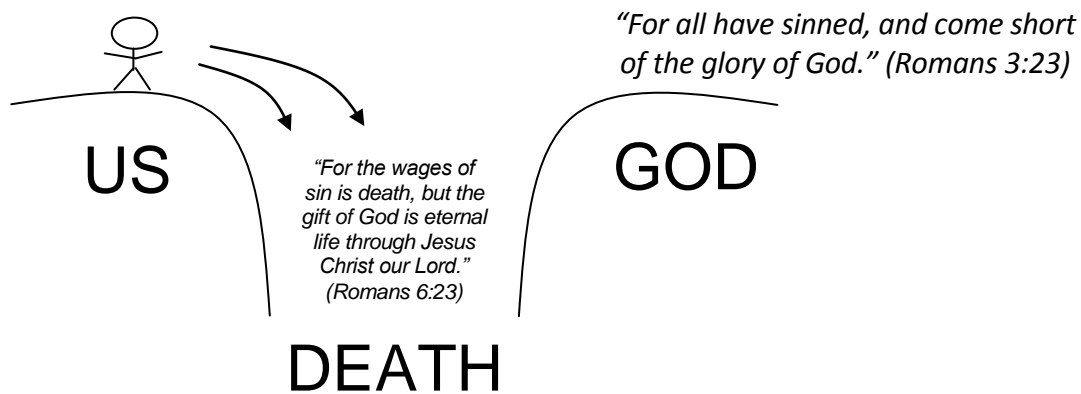
- 1. God came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. The solution is a SAVIOR!

"(Jesus said) I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me!" (John 14:6)

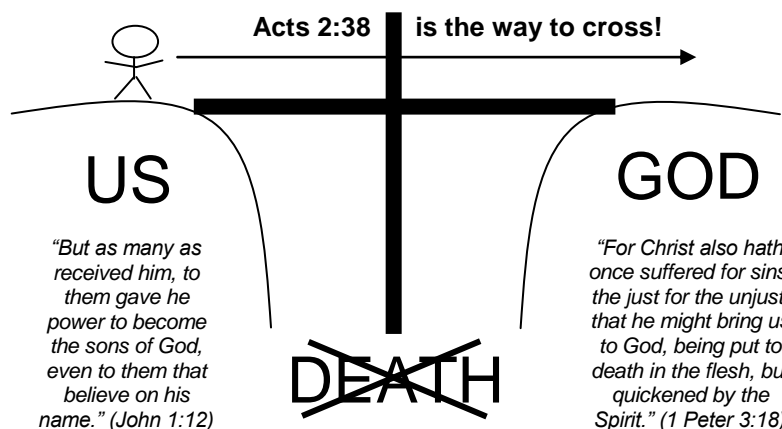


All of the major world religions attempt to POINT THE WAY to truth. But Jesus Christ says, "I AM the truth!"

- 2. Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem!



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)



"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

3. **God did this for us because He loves us and He wants us to have a second chance to be His children through being BORN AGAIN.**

“God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

“For there is only one God, and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)



God has already done His part to restore our relationship with Him. He took the initiative! Now He waits for each of us to individually receive what He has done for us.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. **ADMIT** that there is a problem! Tell God that you are willing to set aside your own selfish will, give Him first place in your life and receive His gift of salvation.
2. **BECOME** a Christian by obeying God’s salvation plan given to us in the Bible. (God requires more than mere intellectual belief – He wants to really change your life!)
3. **COMMIT** yourself to a church family where you can receive encouragement as you begin your new life.

Faith

1. **The Bible teaches that it is absolutely essential to believe in God, or we will never take another step toward being saved.**

“So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

2. **Faith by itself is incomplete. Believing alone doesn’t constitute salvation. Real faith becomes the propelling force that causes you to act on what you believe.**

“Dear brothers and sisters, what’s the use of saying you have faith if you don’t prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can’t save anyone.” (James 2:14)

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (James 2:17)



The Bible says that even demons BELIEVE in God – and tremble in terror! (James 2:19) But that doesn’t mean they are SAVED!

3. Every step toward God must be accompanied by faith. Otherwise, we would never obey Him!

“For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.” (Hebrews 4:2)

“(God says) ‘And a righteous person will live by faith. But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away.’ But we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation.” (Hebrews 10:38-39)

THE ROMAN ROAD

A Roadmap to the Plan of Salvation from Paul’s Letter to the Romans

- **Romans 3:23** – How many people have sinned?
- **Romans 6:23** – What is the eternal penalty for sin?
- **Romans 5:8** – What is the only remedy for sin?
- **Romans 2:4** – What is the right response to God’s love?
- **Romans 6:4** – How do I put an end to my old sinful life?
- **Romans 8:11** – Where do I get power to live a new life?

Answers: All, Death, Jesus Christ’s Death on the Cross, Repentance, Water Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Study Questions

1. I was _____ by God to have a personal _____ with _____.

2. List nine (9) benefits I get when I love the Lord and live in harmony with His purpose. Give Scripture reference to support each.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____

3. Man has a natural desire to be his own _____ and to _____ God's _____ for living. The _____ calls this attitude _____. (List two Scripture references that support this statement.)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

4. Sin _____ our close _____ with the Lord and causes us to try to live our lives _____ of His _____. (List two Scripture references that support this statement.)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

5. When people have _____, they often try many different ways of _____ before turning to _____. (Support this statement with one Scripture reference.)

- 1) _____

6. Even when we realize that our deepest _____ is _____, we often try _____ ways of getting to _____ Him. (List seven of these ways.)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____

7. _____ came to earth as a _____ being to bring us back to _____. The _____ is a _____! (Support this statement with a Scripture reference.)

- 1) _____

8. All of the major world _____ attempt to point the way to _____. But _____ says, "I AM the _____!"

9. List and write out each of the Scriptures given on the diagram that follows the statement: "Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem!"

- 1) _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

10. God did this for us because He _____ us and He wants us to have a
_____ chance to be His _____ through being _____ again.
(Support this statement with two Scripture references.)

1) _____

2) _____

11. List and briefly explain the three (3) things God wants me to do to receive what He has
already done for me.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

12. The _____ teaches that it is absolutely _____ to _____ in God, or we will never take another step toward being _____. (Support this statement with one Scripture reference.)

1) _____

13. _____ by itself is _____. Believing _____ doesn't constitute _____. Real _____ becomes the propelling force that causes you to _____ on what you _____. (Support this statement with two Scripture references.)

1) _____

2) _____

14. Every _____ toward _____ must be accompanied by _____. Otherwise, we would never _____ Him! (Support this statement with two Scripture references.)

1) _____

2) _____

Additional Notes
