

SALVATION STUDY

Galatians 3:26-28

26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

We are a part of the family of God as a result of the salvation that we have received.

This section takes a look at the most important message that we have.

MADE FOR MORE

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing why they exist! They live year after year with no idea of why they live or God's purpose for their lives. Everyone wants to be happy. People try in many ways: acquiring possessions, experiencing pleasure, gaining prestige and power. But none of these things lead to authentic wholeness and joy.

Real joy comes from understanding one's PURPOSE.

So why are we here and what is our purpose?

We were created to LIVE IN a personal relationship with God and with all of the rest of God's creation.

Check out what the Bible has to say on this subject:

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 1:25,27,28

Even before the world was made, God has already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...because of His love. God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children—this was God's pleasure and purpose.
Ephesians 1:4-5

THE PROBLEM

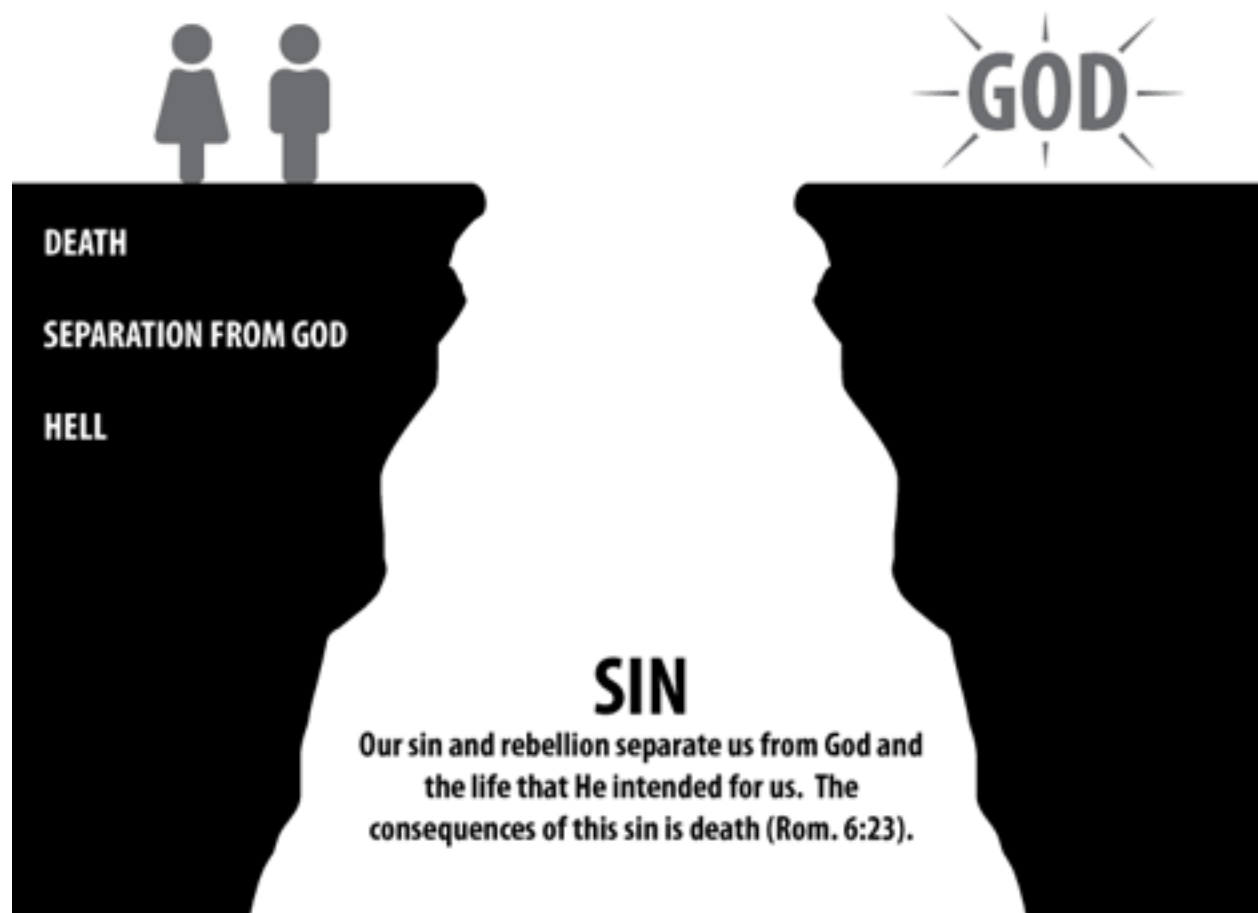
Relationships require trust, and a choice to love. So, God lovingly gave man a gift: choice.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.' Genesis 2:15-17

Man has a natural desire to DISOBEY and to ignore God's principles for living.

We have many excuses for not obeying God:

- Just looking out for #1
- If it feels good, it must be right
- Do your own thing
- It's my life and I'll do as I please



The Bible calls this attitude SIN.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God rather than have reverence for Him. We struggle with living our lives outside His Will.

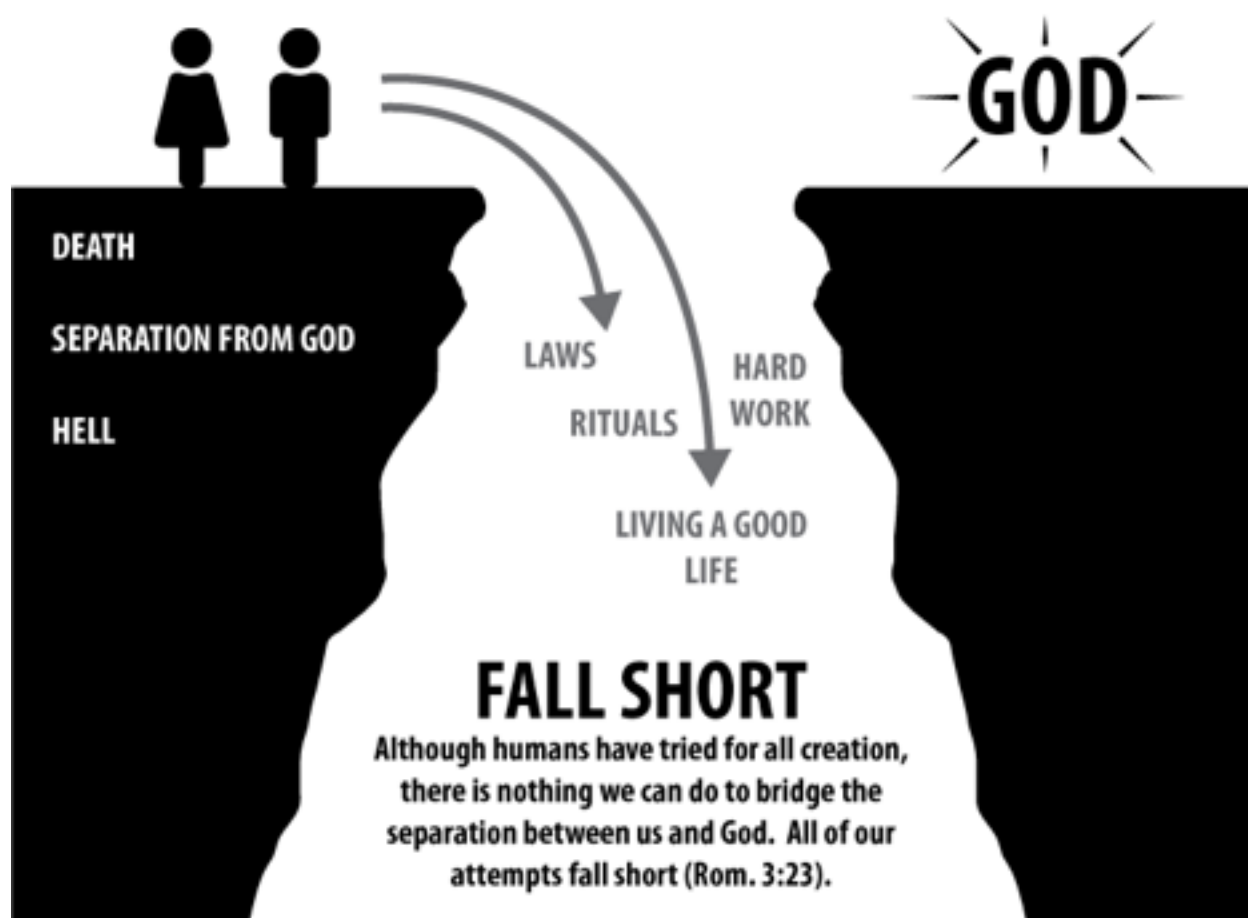
But your iniquities (sins) have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that He will not hear.

Isaiah 59:2

God is life, and separation from Him is death. Sin has put our lives in eternal jeopardy, and even to- day we see a world filled with pain and despair as a result of sin.

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 1:29-32

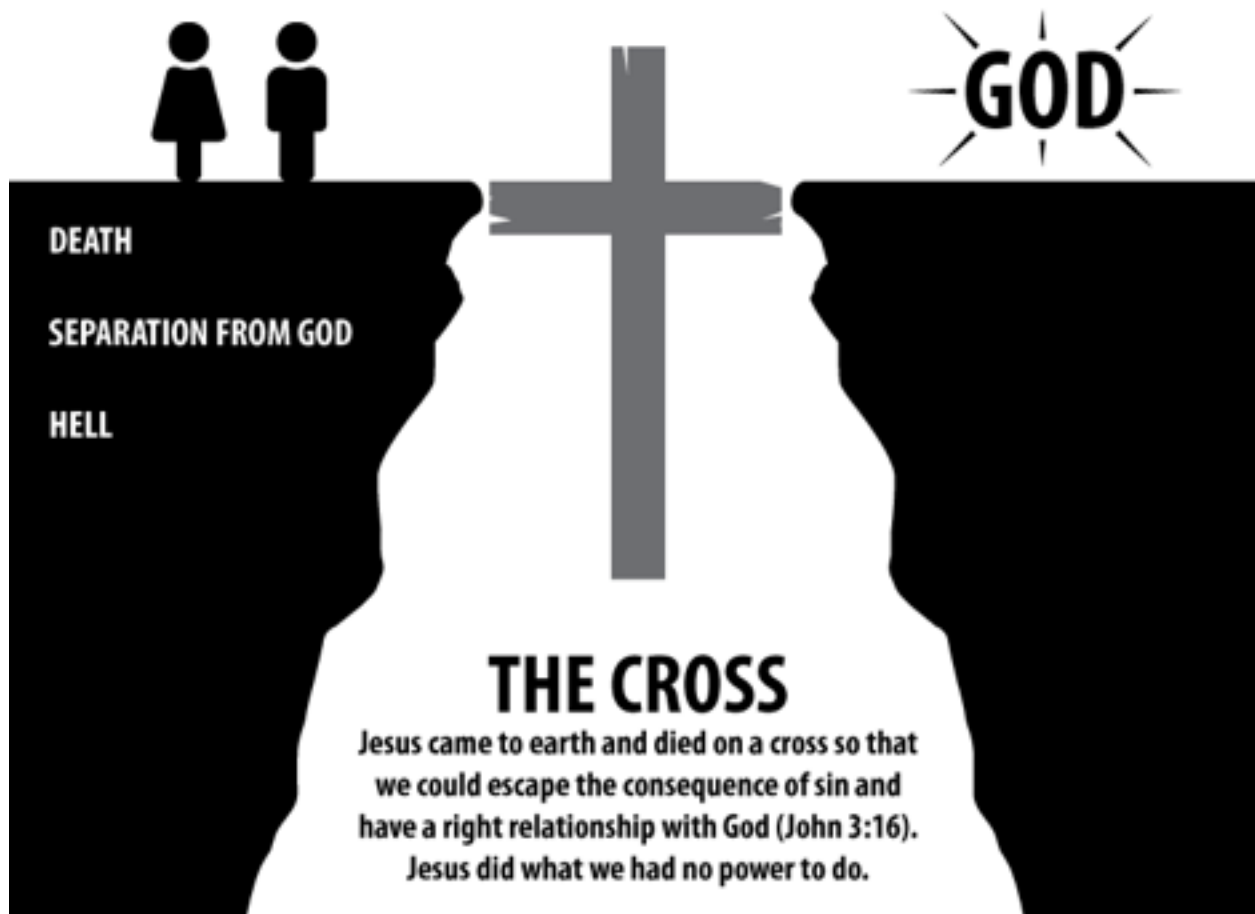


All of our rationalizations and attempts FALL SHORT of solving the sin problem.

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

There is a problem, and people know it. They also understand their need for a solution. Seeking spiritual answers, we often try to rationalize our spiritual needs:

- My mother was a Christian so...
- It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere.
- I'll give up all my bad habits.
- I'll work real hard and earn it.
- I'll be religious and go to church.



THE SOLUTION

Sin is a problem only God is able to solve. A righteous and yet loving God showed His perfect love and justice in ONE historical rescue mission: He became a man.

The solution is JESUS!

Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' John 14:6

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:9-11

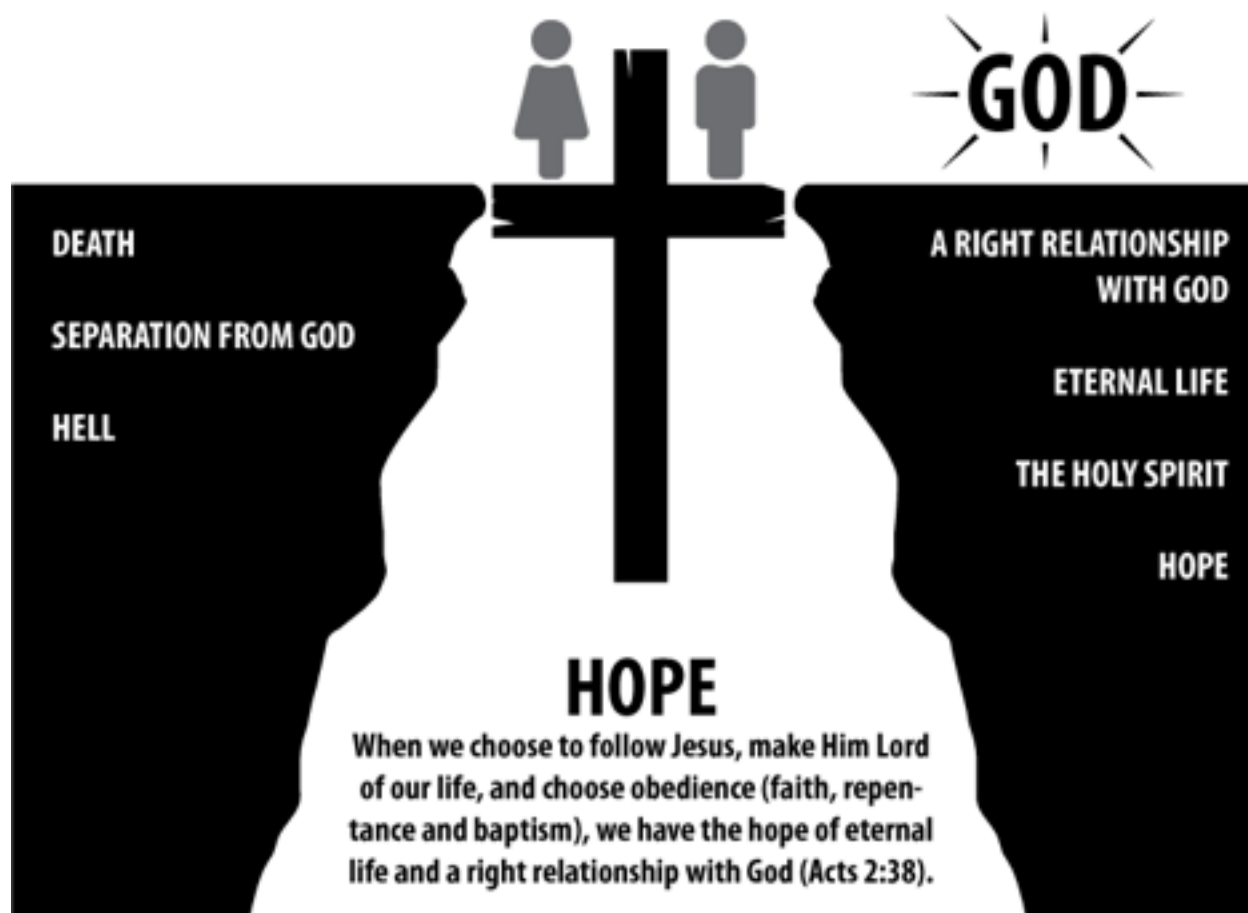
Christ is the bridge between our sinful selves and a loving relationship with God.

Jesus took care of our sin problem by taking our punishment, dying on a cross, and beating DEATH for all time!

The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

God did this for us because He loves us and wants to be with us FOREVER.

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. 1 Timothy 2:5 - 6



God gives us the option to CHOOSE to make Jesus Lord of our life.

Through Jesus, God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. He has offered us salvation, forgiveness, and eternal life. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

Peter continued: 'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.' When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles,

'Brothers, what shall we do?'

Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.' With many other words he warned them;

and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.'

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:36-41

OUR CHOICE

The Scripture emphasizes that God saves us by our FAITH in Jesus.

Faith in Jesus is at the root of our salvation, not human works. Only the Spirit of God can do the necessary transformation in our lives to redeem us and make us Children of God.

For it is by grace you are saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Faith in Jesus manifests itself in action. According to God's Word, there are certain things that a person placing their faith in Jesus will do in order to accept this invitation from Him.

BELIEVE that Jesus died to pay for our sins and that He rose again and is alive today.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17

That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

CONFESS with our mouth and our way of life that Jesus is Lord.

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:10

Recognizing Jesus as Lord will lead to understanding of how far we stray from His desire for our lives. As a result, we need to **REPENT with our way of living and thinking.**

Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Acts 2:38

BE BAPTIZED into Jesus Christ for the promise of the Holy Spirit and to have our sins washed away.

Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

Acts 2:38

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-4

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

Question 1: Why should I be baptized?

To follow the example set by JESUS.

At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river. Mark 1:9

Because Christ COMMANDED it.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:18-19

To follow the example set by the early CHRIST FOLLOWERS.

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:41

Other examples in the Bible:

- Jewish people at Pentecost (2:37 - 41)
- Philip and the Samaritans (8:9 - 13)
- Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (8:34 - 38)
- Saul the Pharisee (9:17 - 19)
- Cornelius and his family (10:34 - 48) • Lydia (16:13 - 15)
- The Jailer and his family (16:25 - 34) • Apollos (19:1 - 5)

Question 2: What is the meaning of baptism?

It means PLEDGING

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience.

1 Peter 3:21

It means FORGIVENESS

Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Acts 2:38

It means DYING

For when you are baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.

Colossians 2:12

It means REBIRTH.

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5

Question 3: Why be baptized by immersion?

Because JESUS was baptized that way.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the BIBLE was by immersion.

The word "baptize" means to PLUNGE UNDERNEATH water. The Greek word "baptize" (Greek: Βαπτίζω: Baptizo) means "to immerse or dip under water."

Question 4: Who should be baptized, and when?

Every person who has FAITH in Christ and wants to be saved...as soon as possible! In the Bible, we see an urgency in baptism. Placing faith in Jesus was always immediately followed by baptism.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Acts 8:36 - 38