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GOD'S NATURE

The Bible tells us that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, mankind, and all things. He gave man and woman stewardship over His creation and He called it “good.” God is holy, just, perfect, and eternal – the only living God! His will is for all mankind to live with Him in Heaven by trusting in Jesus Christ and honoring His laws and commandments.

OUR STATUS

Though God gave us free will to choose to love and obey Him, we chose to rebel and disobey His laws, willfully breaking fellowship with the One who made us in His image. The Bible calls this “sin.” Since God is perfect and holy, sin cannot exist in His presence. Because of our sin, all creation suffers the curse of death, decay

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and separation from God. All sin, even the smallest, requires punishment—death—but God loved mankind too much to leave us with no hope!

GOD'S PLAN

Being a gracious God, He wanted us to be able to restore our relationship with Him, and from the foundation of the world He had a plan. Since the penalty for all sin is death, and all sin requires a perfect sacrifice to pay that penalty, the only acceptable payment for sin was His own Son, Jesus Christ. As God in the flesh, Jesus willingly gave His life to pay a debt we couldn't possibly pay to cover the penalty of our sins. This is the good news! Jesus took our sins and died in our place upon a bloody cross, providing all of mankind “the way” to be reconciled to God. If we honestly believe and fully trust in Him as our Savior and Lord, Jesus gives us His righteousness and we are saved!

OUR RESPONSE

Because He is the only Way to the Father and the only One who can bridge the gap caused by sin, every one of us must decide: accept Jesus or reject Him.

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* We must admit (confess) our sins to God, repent (reject & turn away from) our sin nature, and put our faith in Jesus Christ. Then, we are to follow His example and obey His teachings found in the Bible. Our salvation is by God's grace, through our faith in Jesus Christ. Thanks to Him we can be forgiven and avoid eternity in Hell because the sacrifice of Jesus Christ appeased the righteous wrath of God the Father.

LIFE UNDER ETERNAL SALVATION

The “proof” that our confession and faith in Jesus Christ is genuine is reflected in our new way of living. The Bible teaches us to turn from the world's ways and to grow in our faith and obedience to God as we pursue holiness. We will continue to sin, but those sins are “covered by the sacrifice of Jesus”. The life of the authentic believer is marked by our heartfelt repentance – godly sorrow for our sins.

Life's trials and challenges will not disappear—but as believers, we have now received the Holy Spirit and He lives in us, empowering and guiding us daily as we keep our eyes on the reward of eternal life with Christ.

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NEXT STEPS

Confess your sinful nature to God. Ask for His forgiveness and place your trust & faith in Jesus Christ as the only sacrifice pleasing and acceptable to God for the forgiveness of your sins. Ask God to reveal the sins hidden in your heart, helping you lead the life He desires of His saved people.

Trust and believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired, inerrant, eternal Word of God that teaches us about Him, ourselves and life in this world.

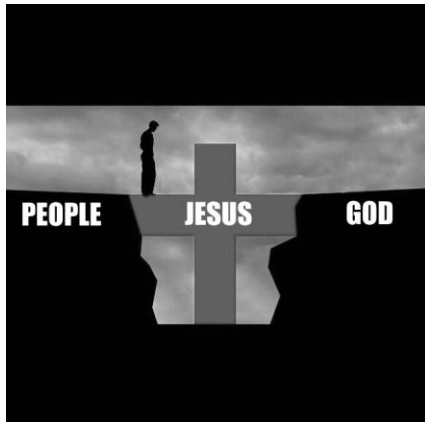
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