

THE GREATEST DECISION

We are all in search for purpose, meaning and a reason for living. Despite all our efforts, we still feel empty and unfulfilled. This is because there is a spiritual vacuum in every one of us, an emptiness deep within our souls which neither possessions nor wealth can fill. Unfortunately, no amount of achievements and success can satisfy this emptiness. Neither self-development nor self-improvement will do. Relationships won't fill this hole. In fact, neither religion nor morality can fill this void that exists in our lives. There is something critically missing that you need to know. So, please, I encourage you to read on!

The Bible clearly identifies our most serious problem as sin. Sin is not just an act, but the actual nature of our being. We are not sinners because we sin. Rather, we sin because we are sinners. That is why you don't have to teach a child to lie yet he or she knows how to lie. Sinful nature is inherent in every human. We are all born with it, and that nature of sin expresses itself through our mind and body every moment.

Look at society, and you will see manifestations of hatred, violence, greed, corruption, and selfishness. Isn't that true? These are expressions of the sinful nature of man propelling him towards evil tendencies at all times. That's why each time a new law is enacted by governments; some are fast at work to find ways of circumventing such. Everywhere you turn you see the sinful nature of man in action; you can neither kill nor excise it. Laws are just palliatives. As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one' Rom3.10Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)

"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)

How did we get into this mess?

The starting point is the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve enjoyed a perfect, loving and unbroken relationship with God. This was God's perfect, original plan for mankind. God provided everything they needed. There was neither sickness nor pain, and everything was going on wonderfully in that beautiful garden until they made the wrong choice and sinned against God. They suffered the consequences of their disobedience to God. Man was polluted by sin, driven from the garden and separated from a holy and pure God who can never condone sin. This set the tone for a sinful way of life by all human beings as clearly explained by the Bible:

"When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone..." Rom 5:12Open in Logos Bible Software (if available). You may say, "That's not fair! Why should we suffer for what someone else has done?" However, given the same opportunity, each one of us would have done the same thing as Adam and Eve.

The serious impact of sin:

Our sin and sinful nature separated us from God who is pure, holy, righteous, and perfect. Sin offends God and cuts us off from Him, either now or eternally. Lying, hatred, adultery, fighting,

fornication, murder, etc., 'small' or 'big' sin, they all lead to death and separation from a Holy God. Sin disconnects us from God, and that's why God seems very far away and irrelevant. If you think of God's nature of love and justice, you will understand perfectly why He deals with us this way. Because God is holy and just, he must punish sin, but His amazing nature of love makes Him reach out to make us his friends again.

'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord'
Romans 6:23 Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)

Did God leave us permanently doomed by sin?

God understood our problem and knew that we could do nothing about it. He loved us and did not abandon us to a hopeless fate. So, he did something about it. God sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to bridge the chasm of sin that separates us from him. You and I cannot remove the barrier sin has created. No amount of our good work or deeds can remove this barrier. You and I need a saviour. We needed a saviour completely void of sin and able to fulfil all the demands of righteousness required by God. JESUS CHRIST is that saviour. He lived a perfect life and sacrificed himself for our sins

"God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16 Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus was not a religious leader or prophet as some may have you think. Although he is the Son of God, he has always existed with God the Father, and he shares the same divine qualities and characteristics with God. Although Christ is God, he became a man through a supernatural conception in the womb of a young virgin named Mary in order to fulfil God's plan of salvation for all people.

Although Jesus Christ took upon himself the full humanity and lived as a man, he never ceased to be the eternal God who has always existed, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and the source of eternal life. So, when he was on the earth, Jesus was fully human and fully God. What made his humanity unique was his freedom from sin. In his full humanity, Jesus showed us everything about God's character that can be conveyed in human terms.

He voluntarily laid aside his divine rights and privileges out of love of his Father and died on the cross for our sins so we wouldn't have to face eternal death. God demonstrated his love by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place, bearing the penalty our sins deserved.

Here is the good news!

Jesus took the full punishment for our sin when he was crucified on the cross. He loves you and me, and that's why he laid down his life on the cross; to pay the penalty that our sin deserved. He gave his life to purchase our freedom. His body was laid in the tomb, and a huge stone rolled to cover the

entrance, but on the third day, he rose from the death. He is alive! He has won the victory over sin and death. Now the barrier between God and us has been removed once and for all.

After his resurrection, he showed himself to his disciples and many other people for about forty days before he finally ascended to heaven as a testimony to the authenticity of his resurrection from death. The religious leaders and Roman soldiers could not disprove Jesus' resurrection from death; even though they tried so hard to do so, to the extent of bribing the Roman guards to cover it up. He is the only one who has the power to save and to offer forgiveness of sin. He is the only one who can fill that spiritual vacuum, nothing or no one else can! "I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)

What do you need to do?

Believe in Jesus Christ and receive him into your life as your Lord and Saviour and let him take control of your life. Today you can come to him by surrendering your life and giving your heart to Christ. You will receive forgiveness for your sin and experience a new life in God. It's never too late to turn towards Him. God loves you, and He has made way for you to be forgiven.

"For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved...Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced...Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:10-11Open in Logos Bible Software (if available)

God loves you, and He sent Jesus to die for you and me, not because we were good enough, but just because he loved us. He has been waiting all along for this moment when you will turn towards him. Don't let anything hold you back. Come to Jesus. The right time is now! This is the greatest decision of your life! If you'd like to make this decision to begin a personal relationship with Jesus today, please right where you are you can say this prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I know that I have sinned and need your forgiveness. I am sorry for my sins and turn away from my old life, and I turn towards you. I believe you died for me and rose from the dead. Please come into my life and be my Lord and Saviour. I surrender all to you."

Congratulations for taking that decision to commit your life to Jesus. We'd like to hear from you, and we'd also like to send you a copy of New Testament Bible as a gift and a booklet titled 'Now that you have committed your life to follow Jesus!' Could you please kindly leave with us your name, address and email using our contact form. Thanks

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