

A WAY HAS BEEN MADE

Romans 3.21-25: But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, by his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin through faith in his blood.

1. GOD _____ YOU.

Your life matters to God.

He desires to bless you and to give you everything that is truly good in life.

John 10.10: The thief comes to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly.

John 3.16: For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

2. SIN HAS _____ US FROM THE GOD WHO LOVES US.

Romans 3.23: For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

WHAT IS SIN?

A. _____ the mark

Sin is any act or thought that fails to meet God's standard.

B. Trespassing

Morally moving beyond the _____ God has set for us.

C. _____

Defying God's rightful claims on our lives.

Isaiah 1.2: Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the Lord has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me."

Sin is not just an act we commit, a failure to perform, missing a target, or wandering into a moral place we shouldn't go.

Beneath our sins is an attitude of rebellion that tells God: You're not the boss of me. It's an attitude that says: I am the Lord my God and I shall have no other gods before me.

WHO HAS SINNED?

Romans 3.22-23: _____ has sinned.

WHAT DOES SIN DO TO US?

It separates us from God.

Isaiah 59.1-2: Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you.

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THE SEPARATION SIN CREATES?

Spiritual _____.

Romans 6.23: For the wages of sin is death.

Connected to God we live – we have life abundant in this world and life eternal in the world to come.

But separated from God we die.

First, spiritually; later, physically; and then, if our sin problem is not corrected – if our spirits are not reconnected with God – ultimately, we die eternally.

C. S. Lewis: Good things as well as bad are caught by a kind of infection. If you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to or even into, the thing that has them. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very centre of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you: if you are not, you will remain dry. Once a man is united to God, how could he not live forever? Once a man is separated from God, what can he do but wither and die?

We don't like admitting we are sinners.

To avoid that that reality:

1. We _____ our sin.

We admit that we've done some wrong things along the way, but we tell ourselves we'll be ok because we haven't committed any "big" sins.

2. We _____ ourselves to others.

We tell ourselves that we'll be ok because we're not as bad as many people; in fact, we're better than most.

Mike Tyson: I'm not Mother Teresa, but I'm not Charles Manson either.

3. We turn to our _____.

We admit we've done some wrong, but we add up all the good we've done, and we conclude that the good we've done far outweighs whatever sins we may have committed.

So, on balance we should be fine.

Michael Bloomberg: I am telling you if there is a God, when I get to heaven I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close.

Richard John Neuhaus: We could not bear to live in a world where wrong is taken lightly and where right and wrong finally make no difference. Spare me a gospel of easy love that makes of my life a thing without consequence. Atonement is not an accountant's trick. It is not a kindly overlooking; it is not a "not counting" of what must count if anything in heaven or on earth is to matter. God could not simply decide not to count without declaring that we do not count.

3. GOD HAS MADE A WAY FOR US TO _____ WITH HIM.

Romans 3.23b-25: For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, by his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin through faith in his blood.

How does God make us right with himself?

By his _____.

What is Grace?

A simple, technical definition: unmerited divine favor.

Grace is:

God's

R_____

At

Christ's

E_____

4. WE RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE THROUGH _____.

Romans 3.22: We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.

What is faith?

A decision to stop trusting in ourselves and start _____ in God.

A WAY HAS BEEN MADE FOR US TO BECOME RIGHT WITH GOD

John 14.6: I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

Revelation 3.20: Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him and he with me.

John 17.3: Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.