



Try to imagine a man swimming in a pond. The water is clear and cool and the day is hot. What he doesn't know is that the pond is full of crocodiles. Now imagine another man walking along beside the pond, who knows what dangers lay beneath the water, and who has a rope that he could use to pull the other man to safety.

What kind of man would he be if he kept quiet and kept walking? What if he was afraid that the other man might think him crazy? It wouldn't matter would it? He'd be a terrible man if he let the stranger unknowingly go to his death. Please keep that in mind, because you and I are in a similar situation right now. You are the swimmer, and I, the man with the knowledge of danger and the rope.

The Bible tells us that the God who made the universe is perfect and holy. (Hab. 1:13, Isa. 59:2)

Because God is righteous and holy, He must hate what isn't holy and punish all who have sinned. (Gen. 18:25, Psa. 11:7, Isa. 5:16, Psa. 7:11-12, Prov. 17:15)

The big problem here, is that literally every person who ever lived is guilty of this. (Rom. 3:23, Isa. 64:6, Gal. 3:10)

Think about ten of the commandments of God's law for a second. (Ex. 20:1-17) Let's look at just a couple:

Vs. 16 says that we shouldn't lie. Have you ever lied? All of us have.

Vs. 14 says that we shouldn't commit adultery. Jesus said in Matt. 5:28 that if we look at someone with lust, we have committed adultery in our hearts. Have you ever lusted after someone? Again, we're all guilty.

Vs. 7 says that we shouldn't use God's name in vain, like a swear word. Most of us have done this in some form or another.



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Even if you haven't done some of these, according to James 2:10 you only need to break 1 to be guilty of the whole law.

So we are all guilty of sin and deserve the punishment that God has decreed for sin, which, according to scripture is death and Hell. (Matt. 5, Matt. 10:28, Rom. 6:23)

BUT, all isn't quite as it seems. While God is righteous and holy and will punish the unrepentant, the Bible is clear that He is love, and that because He is love, He has made a way for us to be reconnected to Him. (1 John 4:8-10) His only son, Jesus took our punishment on the cross. (Rom. 3:23-26)

After taking our punishment on the cross, Christ was raised from the dead, and ascended back into heaven where He is sitting at the right hand of the Father. Because of His sinless perfection, His death on the cross, and His resurrection, we can be justified, or made right with God. (Rom. 4:25)

When Jesus was here, He preached, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17)

This is what He commands of us, repentance. This begins with our recognition and confession that what God says is true...we are sinners. (Psalm 51:3-4)

This is reflected by a true sorrow and hatred for these things we do that offend God. (Rom. 7:15, 24)

Repentance means turning away from our sinfulness. Just admitting we've done wrong and feeling bad about it isn't enough. We MUST fight the temptaion to continue in our sin. (Isa. 1:16, Matt. 3:10)

Repentance is the evidence that we have put our trust and faith in God and in his Word. (Heb. 11:1, Rom. 4:21, John 3:16, Acts 16:31) We are saved by God's grace, through faith.

The way to truly know that you are saved is to study God's word and to measure yourself against it. Test yourself and make sure of what you believe. (2 Cor. 13:5, 1 John 5:13)

If you have confessed your sin, hate it, love the Lord and are walking in righteousness, know that you are a Christian and don't let anyone convince you otherwise.

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