

works, you are taking glory to yourself and thus, you take some of the honor that God deserves and place it on yourself. This dishonors God. God will not allow this:

*“For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another” (Isaiah 48:11).*

Because of your crimes against God, you stand condemned before Him! Even though you deserve to be cast away from His presence forever, He has invited you to His palace. He desires to give you a gift that He values infinitely! That gift is something you do not deserve. It is the gift of eternal life that was paid for by God’s precious Son, Jesus. Two thousand years ago, Jesus was whipped, beaten and then hung on tree to die even though He had never sinned. While He willingly hung there, He took your sins upon Himself and took the punishment from God that you deserve. This voluntary sacrifice He made for you satisfied the righteous demands of God. Now, if you place your trust in Jesus as your only way to God (your savior), you will receive forgiveness of sins once and for all. *“Of Him (Jesus) all the prophets bear witness that through His name, everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins” (Acts 10:43).*

Jesus willingly gave up His life. He was not defeated! Through his death, he gained victory for God! Within three days after He died, Jesus rose from the dead (not just His Spirit, but His body too). During the next forty days, He was seen by over five hundred people and then God raised Him up to sit at His right hand as Lord and Judge over all. Before He left earth, Jesus promised He would come back to raise all the dead (bodily) and judge all people. He will re-create the heavens and the earth where His people will live with Him forever in bliss, and all who do not know Him will be justly cast into hell forever. If you believe these things, you must (and will) surrender the control of your life to Him and be joined together with Him as your loving King. But you must surrender your entire life and be willing to die for Him because Jesus said, *“Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will find it.”*

### **God’s loving invitation to you:**

If you believe you are a sinner condemned by God and unable to save yourself, then God invites you to receive His gift of eternal life through Jesus His Son. *“Come to me, all you who*

*are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30).* To receive Jesus, you must stop relying on your own righteousness and begin following Jesus today. ***If you wish to follow Jesus, you must be baptized to show your allegiance to him as your Lord and Savior.*** Because of Jesus, you can begin enjoying a personal relationship with God, your creator. Your life will be changed forever! *(to all who received Jesus, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... John 1:12)* If you have decided to surrender your life to Jesus, start reading the Bible to learn about God and His promises to us. (Perhaps start with John, the fourth book of the New Testament.)

You cannot save yourself. God has provided a substitute for you. He sent His precious Son Jesus to bear your punishment. You have already insulted God so many times by acts of disobedience. Do not commit the greatest insult possible and reject the gift He is offering to you, His precious Son who died in your place! If you persist in thinking you are righteous enough to gain God’s acceptance, then heed His warning: *“No sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:26-29).*

We would like to help you get to know God personally and enjoy a deep abiding relationship with Him. We also invite you fellowship with us when we gather to express our love to Him for all He has done for us.

Please join us!

-**Sunday Morning service 11:00am**

(Sunday School is at 10:00am)

-Sunday Evening service 6:00pm

-Wednesday prayer meeting 7:00pm

### **The Two Towers that Boast Great Things**

About five thousand years ago, the people of the world joined together and said, *“Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” ...Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”* (See Genesis 11:3-4) Prior to their decision, God had told them to multiply and spread out over the face of the earth (Genesis 9:1). The decision to build the tower was in direct opposition to God’s desire. The people, being full of pride, desired to “make a name for themselves.” If they reached their goal, they would have been able to boast great things. But God showed His displeasure and brought an end to their tower by causing their language to be confused. According to the Bible, God WILL NOT share His glory with anyone. *“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another” (Isaiah 42:8).* No man will ever be able to boast about his accomplishments before Jehovah. He will have none of it! The Bible is full of accounts in which the holy angels and God’s people bow before Him recognizing the He is holy, holy, holy and worthy of all honor and glory. The people are seen casting their crowns before Him expressing an attitude completely void of boasting, *“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being” (Revelation 4:11).* Contrast the attitudes of the people at the tower of Babel to these holy people. The people at the tower were boasting. The people pictured in the book of Revelation are humbly giving God all honor. Throughout the Bible, the true people of God are always pictured as humble people that give God all the credit and honor for the good things in their lives. Their attitude is not boastful before Him. An example of this is seen in the holy prophet Daniel as he prayed, *“We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws” (Daniel 9:5).* Samuel said

of God, “*You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low*” (2 Samuel 22:28). While on Earth, Jesus repeatedly taught that only the humble will inherit eternal life. He said, “*I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it*” (Luke 18:17). Consider the text that immediately precedes this statement of Jesus.

*To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18:9-14).*

At their core, the teachings of the Watchtower express the same sentiment as the attitude expressed at the other tower we examined, the tower of Babel. It is one of boasting before God. Hope of blessed life after death is dependent on one’s good works. In this way, the teachings of the Watchtower are aligned with all of the man-made religions in the world and are in direct opposition to the Bible’s main theme of redemption through the finished work of Jesus. Instead of having confidence only in the promise of God to completely forgive all sins on the basis of Jesus’ blood and righteousness, the Watchtower people are boasting that their good works will satisfy God’s absolute demand for perfect righteousness. Thus, their attitude is like the Pharisee in the parable Jesus taught. Though they would probably never say this out loud, their heart’s prayer might go something like this: “God, I am glad I am not like other people. I go door to door for you. I give my money for the

expansion of your kingdom. I study the Bible. Etc.” In their mind, blessing of life after death is something earned by one’s own good works. In this way, God is depicted as someone that owes them for the good works they have done as if He is an employer that owes people a paycheck of eternal life. Such thinking dishonors Jehovah by taking some honor to one’s self for the good works he has done. On judgment day, all the self-righteous will suddenly understand very clearly the words of Jehovah, “*I will give My glory to NO ONE.*” Their boastful reliance on their own good works will be seen for what it truly is, repugnant in Jehovah’s eyes. Consider the following passage to see Jehovah’s response to people who dishonor Him:

*“Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said:*

*‘Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; **in the sight of all the people I will be honored.**’ Aaron remained silent.” (Leviticus 10:1-3)*

This Bible narrative proves that God is greatly insulted whenever He is dishonored. God had already provided specific instruction about how the incense was to be offered and which incense was to be used. But because Aaron’s sons did not follow God’s specific directions, He considered their offering an insult even though they thought they were serving God by performing their priestly service. They should have taken more care to do exactly as God had told them. Because God demands to be honored in the sight of all people, He sent down fire from heaven that consumed Aaron’s sons. Like Nadab and Abihu, we all have dishonored God and so we all deserve to be instantly consumed by fire! To dishonor God is a wicked crime and we have all done it so many times! On the final judgment day, all people and all the angels will be gathered together.

Since God WILL be honored in the sight of all people, everyone that has dishonored Him in this life must be judged with severe judgment (eternity in hell). Even if you have disobeyed Him just once in your entire life, you will have to be judged this severely because you have insulted Him like Nadab and Abihu. If God were to let you off without this severe punishment, He would fail to execute perfect justice that demands this punishment. In other words, God would cease being righteous if He simply excused your sins without this severe punishment.

Do you really think that your good works will outweigh your offenses against God in light of the fact that you have greatly insulted Him so many times? The Bible says that your good works are like filthy rags in God’s sight so how can they make up for your offenses against God?

*“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).*

You insult God even further if you think that your good works will outweigh your offenses because such thoughts rob Him of His glory. God did not create you for your sake. He created you for **His own pleasure**.

*“He created us for His glory (honor), not our glory. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’*

*and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth-- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made” Isaiah 43:5-7).*

*“I am the LORD; that is my name! **I will not give my glory to another**” (Isaiah 42:8).*

If God were to accept your good works as payment for your sins, He would be giving glory (honor) to you while violating His perfect justice at the same time. By thinking you can merit honor from God on the basis of your good