

rule over their own lives are His **enemies**³ because they are living in rebellion against His rule over them. Those who are not a part of His Kingdom are not on “His side.” They are a part of the “kingdom of darkness” (Colossians 1:13). According to the Bible, all those who are not in God’s Kingdom will be cast into hell away from His presence and the glory of His power **forever**.⁴ While alive on earth, you may experience a certain degree of love and happiness. But in hell, there is no love or happiness, only torment. The Bible says that the eternal punishment of hell fits our crime of rebellion against God. If you are the one running your life, then you deserve eternal condemnation in hell for your **rebellion**.⁵

You might think your life is not that **bad**.⁶ You may falsely think that the good things you do will make up for your

crime of **rebellion**.⁷ You may think that God is not offended even though you have disobeyed Him continually. You are guilty of breaking God’s **commandments**.⁸ You may falsely think that God will ignore all of **your sins**⁹ or that eternal hell is too severe a punishment. If you think any of these things, then your hope is not based upon anything trustworthy. It is based upon your own **imagination**¹⁰ and is in direct contradiction to the Bible. Perhaps you hope that the Bible is incorrect and not really God’s revealed word to mankind. Perhaps you will just put your head in the sand and pretend you did not read this. But if you are concerned, let me tell you how you can be reconciled to God and enjoy peace with Him as part of

⁷ *All of our righteous deeds are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).*

⁸ *“You shall have no other gods before me... “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.” Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. “Honor your father and your mother. “You shall not murder. (This includes hatred) “You shall not commit adultery. (This includes just looking at someone with lust in your heart.) “You shall not steal. “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house...or anything that belongs to your neighbor” (Exodus 20:3-17)*

⁹ *The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; **the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished**” (Nahum 1:2-3)*

¹⁰ *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death” (Proverbs 14:12).*

His Kingdom. You can begin serving Him as your loving King rather than continue living as His enemy. Do you want to be on “God’s side?” Or do you insist on living life your way?

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18).

God has made a way for you to be reconciled to Him. All your sins will be washed away, and you will receive eternal life. But you must come to God His way. Even though God is merciful, He still cannot simply excuse sin. His perfect righteousness will not allow Him to ignore or excuse your sins. God’s perfect righteousness demands that each and every sin you ever committed be punished.

The good news:

God made a way for someone else to take that punishment instead of you! He sent His own Son (Jesus) into the world to take your punishment for you! Two-thousand years ago, Jesus came down out of heaven and lived a life of perfect obedience to God. He was then whipped, beaten and hung on a cross to die even though He had never sinned. Though He was completely innocent, He willingly hung there and took the punishment that you deserve. He absorbed the wrath of God as your substitute. This voluntary sacrifice He made for you satisfied the righteous demands of God. Now, all who place their trust in Jesus as their only way to God receive remission of sins once and for all. *“Of Him (Jesus) all the prophets bear witness that through His name, **everyone who believes** (and continues to believe) **into Him receives remission of sins**” (Acts 10:43).*

³ *Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. ‘Let us break their chains,’ they say, ‘and throw off their fetters.’ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath” (Psalm 2:1-5).*

⁴ *“When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels, He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord (II Thessalonians 1:7-9)*

⁵ *“Whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him” (John 3:36).*

⁶ *“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one” (Romans 3:10-12).*

Through his death, Jesus gained victory for God! After three days, Jesus rose from the dead (not just His Spirit, but His body too). He then showed Himself to over five hundred people. Then God raised Him up to sit at His right hand as Lord and Judge over all. Before He left, 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, and all who do not know Him will be cast into hell forever.

God's loving offer to you: If you believe you are a condemned sinner and unable to save yourself, then God invites/commands you to receive His gift of eternal life by believing into Jesus, His Son. Jesus said, *"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 "take Jesus' yoke upon you," you must surrender the control of your life over to Him as your King. And, you must believe that Jesus fully took your punishment and now counts you as one of His own children. (So, stop relying on your own righteousness and begin depending on Him alone.)

When you begin to believe these things from your heart, you will increasingly let go of your life and want Him to have control. Jesus said, *"Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it"* (Luke 17:33). You must believe that God is good and that He knows what is best for you. If you truly wish to follow Jesus, show your allegiance to Him by being

baptized.¹¹

The joy of following Jesus!

Because of Jesus, you can begin enjoying a personal relationship with God, your creator. Your life will be changed forever! *"As many as received Him (Jesus), He gave the right to become children of God to those who believe (and continue to believe) in his name"* (John 1:12). In response to God's gracious offer, I urge you to surrender yourself to Him today! If you have decided to surrender your life to Jesus, start reading the Bible to learn about God and His promises to you. (Perhaps start with John, the fourth book of the New Testament.) To be strengthened in your faith, you should begin spending time each week with other believers.

If you persist in viewing yourself as "okay" and reject the viewpoint of God, 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).

¹¹"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

Who runs your life?

If you are like most people, you live from moment to moment, making decisions as you see fit. You assume that God does not care about the decisions you make. Generally, God is not in your thoughts unless something bad happens to you or someone you love. Perhaps you attend a church, mosque or synagogue and even pray repetitive prayers. But you do so out of habit or because your religion, culture or family expects you to do so. Perhaps you do so because your friends are all there. Though you may have friends and family, your life revolves around you. You might show concern for those close to you and even occasionally do something good for others, but you pursue your own comfort, pleasure and satisfaction most of your waking moments **independent of God.**¹

Is this the way you live? Are you the one running your life this way? If so, you are living as king, ruling over your own life. The Bible says that as Creator, God is the only One who has the right to rule our lives. As Creator, He owns everything, including us. He is the One who gave us life and He has the right to take it away any **time.**²

God is the King with absolute authority over us. He has declared that people who

¹ "All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each one of us has turned to our own way" (Isaiah 53:6).

² "I hold the keys of death and hell" (Revelation 1:18).