

Updated: 7/3/18

WHAT IS THE WAY OF SALVATION?

Are you hungry? Not physically hungry, but do you have a hunger for something more in life? Is there something deep inside of you that never seems to be satisfied?

If so, Jesus is the way! Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35).

There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus. Blaise Pascal

The void you feel in your heart is God missing from your life. We were created to have a relationship with God. Because of our sin, we are separated from that relationship. Even worse, our sin will cause us to be separated from God for all of eternity, in this life and the next (Romans 6:23; (NIV) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Wages are something we have earned and deserve. As sinful man, we have earned and deserve death. A gift is something not earned, but freely given. Here that gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (salvation).

Are you confused? Can you never seem to find a path or purpose in life? Does it seem like someone has turned out the lights and you cannot find the switch? If so, Jesus is the way of salvation! Jesus proclaimed, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Everyone wants to know their path or meaning for their life. It is Jesus Christ. Do you ask, "Why am I here?" It is to serve Jesus Christ.

Do you ever feel like you are locked out of life? Have you tried so many doors, only to find that what is behind them is **empty and meaningless**? Are you looking for an entrance into a fulfilling life? If so, Jesus is the **ONLY** way of salvation! Jesus declared, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture" (John 10:9). Pasture here represents peace, the one thing everyone searches for. Only Christians find true peace, for here and eternity.

The first step to salvation is to realize that you are lost and need to be saved. Salvation has to be experienced, not explained, to be understood. Lost people cannot understand the things of God.

Do other people always let you down? Have your relationships been shallow and empty? Does it seem like everyone is trying to take advantage of you? If so, Jesus is the way! Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me" (John 10:11, 14).



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Do you wonder what happens after this life? Are you tired of living your life for things that only rot or rust? Do you sometimes doubt whether life has any meaning? Do you want to live after you die? If so, Jesus is the way of salvation! Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26).

Hell is burning in darkness, alone, forever, while separated from God. Scary thought, but it is the truth. Read Luke chapter 16: 19 - 31 and the story of the rich man and Lazarus. What is the way? What is the truth? What is the life? Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). If you believe the Bible it says Jesus is the only way.

The hunger that you feel is a spiritual hunger, and can only be filled by Jesus. Jesus is the only one who can lift the darkness. Jesus is the door to a satisfying life. Jesus is the friend and shepherd that you have been looking for. Jesus is the life—in this world and the next. Jesus is the way of salvation!

The reason you feel hungry, the reason you seem to be lost in darkness, the reason you cannot find meaning in life, is that you are separated from God. The Bible tells us that we have all sinned, and are therefore separated from God (<u>Ecclesiastes 7:20</u>; (NIV) *Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.*

Romans 3:23) (NIV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

We all have a past that is full of sin. Satan has many tricks. Here are two. He tells "bad" people they are too bad to be saved. He tells "good" people they are so good they do not need God; both lies from the "Father of Lies." Your sinful past just highlights how good the Grace of God truly is.

He forgives all sins, except the sin of rejecting Him. Matthew 12:32 (ESV) And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. Note the wording "all sins, except the sin". Sins are our past; the sin is rejecting the Savior.

<u>John 3:36</u>) (NIV) Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

How can this problem be solved? Jesus is the way of salvation! Jesus took our sin upon Himself (2 Corinthians 5:21) (NIV) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



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Jesus died in our place (Romans 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Pay close attention to the words "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Another trick of the devil is to tell people they have to clean up their lives before they can come to God. That is guaranteed failure. We cannot clean up our lives, only salvation can do that. **Come for salvation while you are a sinner.**

In an act of love that mankind cannot fully understand, Jesus took the punishment that we deserve. Three days later, He rose from the dead, proving His victory over sin and death (Romans 6:4-5) (NIV) We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Why did He do it? Jesus answered that question Himself: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13) (NIV)

Jesus died so that we could live. If we place our faith in Jesus, trusting His death as the payment for our sins, all of our sins are forgiven and washed away. We will then have our spiritual hunger satisfied. The lights will be turned on. We will have access to a fulfilling life. We will know our true best friend and good shepherd. We will know that we will have life after we die—a resurrected life in heaven for eternity with Jesus!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Sinner's Prayer - Where does the Sinner's Prayer come from? It is woven all through the Bible. Perhaps the easiest to understand is what we call the "Roman Road To Salvation".

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



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Romans 10:9-10 ^{If} you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

To be saved you must pray to God to ask Him to forgive you. This must be **FROM THE HEART** and you must truly mean it. **GOD KNOWS YOUR HEART** and knows if you are truly serious.

If you wish to be saved pray this prayer, **from your heart**, to God.

Dear Lord, I confess that I am a sinner. I know that only you can save me. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and I ask that you save me. I invite you to come into my heart. I want to trust in you and follow you and your Word. Help me to live my life in a way that pleases you. Amen