

## God's Plan

### 1. God **CREATED** you.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:13)

### 2. God **LOVES** you and wants a personal **RELATIONSHIP** with you.

"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)

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." (1 John 3:1)

### 3. God has a divine **PLAN** for your life.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

## Our Problem

### 1. We have a natural desire to **SERVE SELF** and ignore God's principles for living.

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21)

### 2. The Bible calls this attitude **SIN**.

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8)

### 3. Sin **SEPARATES** us from God.

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)

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

### 4. Sin **TRAPS** and **HURTS** us.

"For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing." (Romans 7:19)

"I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am!

Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord!"  
(Romans 7:23-25)

When our relationship with God is not right, it eventually causes problems in every area of our lives - marriage, career, relationships, finances, personal satisfaction, etc.

## God's Solution

God loved us so much, even while we were sinners, and still wanted to extend to us a relationship with Him...that He offered the ultimate solution.

### **1. Jesus is the ONLY SOLUTION to our sin problem!**

Jesus Christ said of himself, "I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!" (John 14:6)

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." (1 Timothy 2:5)

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way had worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come.

### **2. Jesus DIED on the cross and ROSE from the grave!**

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

"... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve." (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

### **3. Jesus PAID the penalty for our sin and BRIDGED the gap between God and people.**

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

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." (1 Peter 3:18)

### **4. The only way to receive salvation is by GRACE THROUGH FAITH.**

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**GRACE** is God's part. (Unmerited favor) - God's Riches **At Christ's Expense**.

**FAITH** is man's part. (But, what is true faith?)

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1)

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. " (Hebrews 11:6)

"You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did." (James 2:22)

# Our Response

The New Testament both commands and shows how we should respond to God's offer of forgiveness. This faith response includes these aspects:

## **BELIEVING** in Jesus.

It is recognizing that he is God's Son; he came as a man, died for us and rose from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

It is having faith, which is placing our total trust in him. (John 3:16)

It is NOT simply intellectual assent; Biblical faith includes obedience to Him. (James 2:14-24)

## **CONFESSING** that Jesus is Lord.

It is publicly declaring that you are now living your life for Jesus. (Romans 10:9-10)

It is NOT simply saying that you believe in Jesus, but that He is in charge of your life. (2 Corinthians 9:13)

It is never denying him, even when people and situations pressure you. (Matthew 10:32-33)

## **REPENTING** of sin.

It is asking for forgiveness while we walk toward Jesus and away from sin. (Acts 2:38)

It is NOT achieving perfection before you follow Jesus, but it is changing your heart and mind, turning from your old way of life. (Acts 26:20)

It is NOT merely being sorry for what you have done, but getting right with God. (2 Corinthians 7:10-11)

## Being **BAPTIZED** into Christ.

It is for believers only and it is properly done by immersion in water. (Acts 8:36-38)

It is NOT magic water, but it is commanded as part of the faith response to the gift of God's grace. (Acts 2:38) (Galatians 3:26-27)

It is our pledge to God that pictures Jesus' resurrection in our life. (1 Peter 3:21) (Romans 6:4)

## Remaining **FAITHFUL**.

It is following Jesus for the rest of your life. (Revelation 2:10)

It is growing in our relationship with Him. (Philippians 1:6, 2:12)

It is staying connected to Jesus and bearing fruit for Him. (John 15:5-8)

It does NOT mean you will never sin again, but that you will not deliberately continue in sin. (Hebrews 10:26)

It is NOT earning grace, but it is a response to grace. (Romans 6:1,2)

## **PERSONAL RESPONSE INVENTORY**

**Realizing that God loves me and created me to have a personal relationship with Him and that my sin makes me guilty and separates me from God - I have responded in the following ways:**

**I BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for me upon the cross.

**I have CONFESSED** Jesus to be the Lord (Leader) and Savior (Forgiver) of my life.

**I have REPENTED** of my sin, turning from my old way of living to God.

**I have been BAPTIZED** (immersed) in obedience to Christ's example and command.