

God's Plan for You!

God desires that all of us have a wonderful life. Two great Bible verses attest to the extent of God's care and concern for our lives:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3.16)
(Jesus says) I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10.10)

However, man often chooses to take life the hard way. Because of the first sin of Adam and our own stubborn self will, our fellowship with God has been broken. This self-will, seen as either active or passive disobedience to God, is what the Bible calls sin.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3.23)
For the wages of sin is death (spiritual separation from God). (Romans 6.23)

Nonetheless, God wants us to have fellowship with Him. As a result, he sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be with us. And, after a time of ministry here on earth, Jesus—although totally blameless—was killed on a cross.

In dying on the cross, Jesus paid God's penalty for our sins. Jesus was our God-appointed substitute. He took the punishment we should receive, and in so doing took away our sin. Three days after he died, God raised him from the dead, never to die again. This was God's way of showing that the guilt Jesus had carried for us had been fully removed.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." (John 14.6)

But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5.8)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.... (1 Corinthians 15.3,4)

God has given us a gift—His Son—through whom we can have abundant life and eternal happiness. But, we must *accept* this gift. We must recognize what Jesus did for us and pledge our faith and undying love for Him.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3.20)

But to all who receive him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. (John 1.12)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesian 2.8,9)

You can accept God's gift by saying a simple prayer to him—perhaps something like this:

Lord Jesus, I need You. I thank You for how you died on the cross so that God would forgive my sins and let me be with him now and when I die. I accept Your gift of life and accept You as my Savior. Let me keep You as Lord of my life and help me not to serve my own disobedient self-will. Come into my heart to guide me and make me what You want me to be.

If this prayer expresses your heart-felt desire, why not pray it right now? If you do, Christ will come into your life as He promised.



© 1990 Scripture Union U.S.A.

(This page may be reproduced and distributed as you wish)