1 John 3:15: "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." So we see that, not only is murder physically killing someone, but also hating someone. Have you ever hated anyone or lost your temper? Then you are guilty of murder in the eyes of a holy, righteous God!

Leviticus 20:10: "And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that commiteth adultery with his neighbor's wife, that adulterer and adulteress shall surely be put to death." We see here that God does not take the sin (unrighteousness) of adultery lightly. The punishment for this sin was death! Jesus took it further: **Matthew 5:28: "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."** This shows us that not only can adultery be done physically, but also in the heart. Men, have you ever lusted after a woman? Women, have you ever lusted after a man? I'm sure you have (unless you have had homosexual lusts, which God also condemns). If so, you are guilty of adultery!

Leviticus 24:16 "And he that blashemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death," To blaspheme simply means to curse God. If you have spoken bad about the Lord Jesus Christ, you are guilty of blasphemy! Do you stand before God today as a murderous, adulterous blasphemer? A holy God MUST punish you!

Exodus 20:7: "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Not only is speaking evil of God worthy of death, but so is taking his name in vain! Have you ever taken God's name lightly, or in vain, such as "oh my God," "oh my Word" (see **John 1:1**), or "oh my Goodness" (see **Psalm 144:2**)? Most likely you have, and therefore, you are guilty of this terrible sin (unrighteousness) against God.

Based on all this, if you stood before Almighty God today, would you be guilty or innocent? God won't overlook sin, but will punish it: **Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."** The sins that you have committed will earn you death. You may say, "So what? We all are going to die anyway!" This is true, but notice where death will go! **Revelation 20:14: "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire, This is the second death."** This is telling us that, in the future, death and Hell will be put into the lake of fire. When this day comes, will you be in death and Hell, or alive in Christ? Notice again: **Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the <u>gift</u> of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."** You must remember: your sin will lead you to Hell. There is an escape, by God's **gift**. You can be saved!

Jesus said this in **John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."** Remember how death will be cast into the lake of fire? Jesus just said that if you believe on Him, you will pass from *death* to *life!* **1 John 5:12: "He that hath the Son [Jesus] hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God [Jesus] hath not life."** It is simple! You need Jesus Christ. You may ask: "Why do I need Jesus Christ—what did He do for me?" Let's look to the Scriptures: **1 Peter 2:24: "Who his [Jesus's] own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness."** That is what Jesus Christ did for us! He took our sins upon Himself, dying in our place, so we could live forever!

There is a big difference between Jesus Christ and every other human being: **Hebrews 4:15: "For we have not an high priest [Jesus Christ] which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."** We are all sinners, but Jesus Christ <u>never sinned</u>. This is why He is the Saviour of the world. He came to save us from our sins, and from their penalty, Hell!

As you read this, you are a sinner. You have committed murder, adultery, and blasphemed the name of God. There are many other sins that you have also committed. You stand before God as guilty as can be. What will be your escape plan? Will you confess to God all the good you have done? Try that in a court of law—a good judge MUST punish lawbreakers, and you have broken the holy Law of the Judge of all the earth. Will you beg Him to let you out of Hell because you haven't killed someone? Yet He judges secret thoughts, including hatred. WHAT WILL YOU DO? You have a sin debt before God, and the payment must be made—but you can never make up for your sins. How can you be made clean?

1 Peter 1:18a,19: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, ... But with <u>the precious blood of Christ</u>, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." The only thing that can take away your sins is the <u>blood</u> of Jesus Christ! **Romans 14:12 "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."** Mark my words: you will stand before God one day. The Bible says in **Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the**

judgment." What will you do? You will be in Heaven or Hell forever, so pay close attention. There are two things God commands. First, you must repent of your sins. Second, receive Jesus by faith. Repentance and faith go hand in hand. You can't save yourself, or Jesus would not have had to die. To be forgiven, you must come to God in humility and full trust.

Jesus said this twice, in **Luke 13:3,5: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."** Repenting is having a change of heart and mind toward God, His holiness, and your sinfulness, which leads to a change in actions (after salvation). Ask God to give you heartfelt repentance, and He will.

2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." It is God's will that you repent! TURN TO JESUS CHRIST! **1 John 5:14 says: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us."** If you ask God to give you repentance (a change of mind and heart toward God, and away from sinfulness and self-righteousness), He will do so, because it is His will that you repent! **James 4:10: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the LORD, and he shall lift you up."**

The other thing you must do is to receive Jesus Christ by faith. **John 1:12: "But as many as received him [Jesus Christ], to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."** You can only become a child of God by receiving Jesus Christ by faith. **Romans 5:1: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 2:8,9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."** All you can do with a gift is accept it. Right now, right where you are, you must refuse all self-effort, and turn to God. With a humble, repentant heart, trust Jesus Christ in total faith, believing Who He is, and that He can and will save you if you ask. Consider this now, for you are not guaranteed tomorrow!

Consider **Isaiah 55:6,7: "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."** Call out for mercy.

Hebrews 2:3: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"

If you've trusted Christ, find a solid, Bible-believing church (**Hebrews 10:25**)—contact us for help, and for a free study. Read the Bible (KJV) daily, and obey it: a love for God's Word is crucial in fighting sin (**Psalm 119:11**). Be baptized (**Acts 2:41**); pray always (**Ephesians 6**; **1 Thessalonians 5:17**), and tell others how they can flee from God's holy wrath, to be forgiven freely by Jesus Christ (**Jude 22,23**).

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Tracts4God@gmail.com
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SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

Jonah 2:9

If you were to die today, and stand before God Almighty, would you be innocent or guilty? Heaven or Hell? Will your good outweigh the bad? Have you even done any bad? *Please,* take a few minutes let the *Bible* show what you really are, and what can be done about it!

First of all, let us consider what we really are. **Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."** Unfortunately, that includes both you and me. **Galatians 3:22: "But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin."** Again we read: **Romans 3:9: "For we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin."** A Gentile is anyone who is not a Jew. Whichever you are, you have sinned against a holy, perfect God.

"What is sin?" you may ask. The Bible tells us, in **1 John 5:17: "All unrighteousness is sin."** Unrighteousness is explained in **Matthew 15:19**: **"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."** Let us examine murder, adultery and blasphemy (all among the Ten Commandments). **Genesis 9:5 says, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."** A person who commits murder must, by God's Law, be put to death. This is what is called capital punishment, and it was in use during the Old Testament. God does not take murder lightly. The severe punishment shows us how much God **hates** the sin (unrighteousness) of murder. You may never have killed anybody, but consider God's perfect, holy standard: