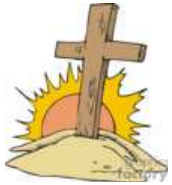
CHRISTMAS is a time when we think a lot about God's love. Most people know the familiar verse "...for God is love" **(1 John 4:8)** and try to follow Him. When asked what the greatest law was, Jesus said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" **(Matt. 22:37).**

However, everyone has sinned against God. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." **(Rom. 3:23)** Because God is perfectly holy and good, he must punish sin—hatred, lust, lying, and breaking the commandments. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." **(Eze. 18:4)** The death of your soul means eternal separation from God. God is love, and He cannot love good without hating evil. Anyone who has sinned even once deserves Hell justly: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." **(Jam. 2:10)**

Even though we have sinned, God still loves us: "The Lord is... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." **(2 Pet. 3:9)** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." **(Rom. 5:8)** God gave us his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who was born of the virgin Mary, and lived a perfect and sinless life. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." **(2 Cor. 5:21)**

God loves us so much that he made a way for us to escape hell, while still meeting his justice. Isaiah predicted this hundreds of years in advance: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." **Isa. 53:5-6**



Text adapted from ***"A Sure Future"*** and ***"Heaven: How to Get There"***

Tracts4God.googlepages.com
Tracts4God@gmail.com
(785) 691-8272

The Greatest Gift....

Eternal Life—God's Greatest Gift

Jesus Christ was born to suffer and die for all the sins of mankind. He was buried, and rose again in victory. His sacrifice was the payment for **all** your sins, and is the **only** way you can make it into Heaven. It is a free gift of Jesus Christ: "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." **(Eph. 2:8-9).** "Grace" means a free gift, or undeserved favor. You can't earn Heaven—no one is good enough. Only Jesus, Who is fully God and fully man, has ever lived a perfect life. When we receive the gift of salvation, He imputes his righteousness to us. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." **(Rom. 6:23)** To accept His forgiveness, turn to Christ to save you from your sins: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." **(Acts 16:31)** He gave his life for you. There is no other way to Heaven: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." **(John 14:6)**

Jesus also said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." **(Luke 13:3).** This means you must humble yourself before God: "But he gives more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." **(Jam. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5)**. If you will repent toward God and have faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be saved and spend eternity with Him. **(Acts 20:21) .**

God will give you a new heart, with new desires: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." **(Eze. 36:26)**

By placing your trust in Christ, you will be born again, into the family of God: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." **(John 3:3)** When we trust in Christ as Lord and Savior, we become God's children: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" **(John 1:12)** and this relationship is **eternal**: "for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" **(Heb. 13:5)**. This new life in Christ is the greatest gift anyone could give you, and is the "good news," or Gospel.

Will you receive God's free gift of eternal life? **Repent**—turn to God —and **believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ before it is too late: "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near..." **(Isa. 55:6)**. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." **(Rom. 10:13)**. You can pray to God, and he will forgive you.

Finally, if you've trusted Christ, it's important to read the Bible and pray to grow in your relationship with God.
Find a gospel-preaching church and be baptized.

Adapted from ***"A Sure Future"*** and ***"Heaven: How to Get There"***