"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" - <u>ACTS 16:30.</u>

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God is the Creator and the One who gives and sustains life to all of us: -

"The Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves" – Psalm 100:3.

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; ... For in him we live, and move, and have our being." – Acts 17:24, 25 & 28.

As God is our Creator, he has the right to give his human creation, Moral Rules of right and wrong, by which they are to live, which are commonly called <u>The Ten Commandments.</u> <u>Exodus 20:3-17: -</u>

- 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

- 5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- 6. Thou shalt not kill.
- 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 8. Thou shalt not steal.
- 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
- 10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

^{CP} Our duty to our Creator is to fear God and to keep his righteous Commandments.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." – Ecclesiastes 12:13.

^C If this Moral Law of Absolutes did not exist, there could be no such thing as SIN. The breaking of this holy Law is defined as <u>SIN</u> in the Bible.

"Where no law is, there is no transgression" – Romans 4:15.

"Sin is not imputed when there is no law" – Romans 5:13.

"Sin is the transgression of the law." – <u>1 John 3:4.</u>

The Bible teaches us that we are all sinners, and that not one human being is naturally a "good person" as far as the holy and righteous God is concerned.

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." – Romans 3:10-12.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" – Romans 3:23.

 ${}^{\textcircled{C}}$ Sin brings death, and as we have all sinned, we are all under the Divine sentence of death.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." – Romans 5:12.

"The wages of sin is death" – Romans 6:23.

But the good news of the Christian gospel is, that God is a God of love, who sent his only Son, Jesus Christ into our world to die upon the cross for our sins, suffering the penalty of death in our place that we all have justly merited because of our sins.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." – John 3:16.

"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."- Isaiah 53:5 & 6.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ... But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:6 & 8.

What does God require of us so that we can receive the forgiveness of our sins and his offered mercy? Does he require good works or for us to undertake some great religious pilgrimage or penance? No!

All God requires of us is that: -

- 1. We confess our sins to him alone;
- 2. That we have faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour; and that,
- 3. We forsake our sins and disobedience of his righteous Law.

"Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" – Acts 20:21.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." – Proverbs 28:13.

"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." - Isaiah 55:7.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" – <u>1 John 1:9.</u>

No one can escape the divinely appointed decree of Death and the Judgment.

"As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." – Hebrews 9:27.

He Christian Bible teaches plainly that those who do not accept God's gracious offer of mercy and forgiveness contained in the Christian gospel, are already under condemnation with their Maker.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." – John 3:36.

THE CHOICE BEFORE EACH ONE OF US: -

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life" – Deuteronomy 30:19.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." – Romans 6:23.