



EVERY BELIEVER STUDIES

Session 1: Good News for Sinners

MEMORY VERSE: 1 JOHN 5:11,12

"And this is the testimony, God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

I. THE PROBLEM

The bad news is a problem that we all have in common. Sin. It does a lot of damage to our lives in many ways, but by far the worst thing about sin is that it leads to eternal spiritual death and separation from God.

A. According to Romans 3:23, who has sinned?

B. According to Isaiah 59:2, what does sin do?

II. SOME FAILED SOLUTIONS

People try to overcome separation from God in a lot of different ways, but the Bible tells us there is only one way to bridge the gap to God caused by our sinfulness. You might be surprised to know some of the things that CANNOT bridge the gap or release us from our bondage to sin. Those who are depending on these things to overcome separation from God will be disappointed.

FAILED SOLUTION #1: DOING GOOD THINGS

Good works and good deeds can't bridge the separation from God caused by sin. Why? Because no matter how many good things we do today, none of them can undo our past sins. Doing good things is wonderful, but it doesn't take away sin!

- What is the basis of salvation according to Ephesians 2:8,9?
- What is the basis of salvation according to Titus 3:5?
- How effective are good deeds for salvation according to Isaiah 64:6?

FAILED SOLUTION #2: BEING A GOOD (MORAL) PERSON

Being a good person can't eliminate separation from God. Why? Because none of us is good. You see, if we were good, we wouldn't be separated from God in the first place. Even the best of us has fallen at some time in some way. No one is without sin, and being good or moral (having standards) doesn't make a person sinless.

- Read these passages of scripture: Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:8

FAILED SOLUTION #3: BEING RELIGIOUS

Many people are very religious, interested in spiritual things, or superstitious, but being religious doesn't make a person free from sin. Though the practice of religion can be a good thing when it is done in the right way for the right reasons, it is not God's solution to our bondage to sin. In fact, too often religion is nothing more than empty ritual that God hates, and a source of bondage.

- Read: Isaiah 29:13 and Ezekiel 33:31
- Is it possible to be religious and still be distant from God?

III. God's Solution to the Sin Problem -

The Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price (death) for our sins. God's love for us is so great that he was willing to share our humanity through Jesus, and die in our place. His death is the payment for the sins of all humanity, because Jesus was without sin!

- > John 3:16
- > 1 Peter 3:18
- > Acts 4:12
- > Romans 5:8
- > Hebrews 2:14,15
- > Colossians 1:19,20

IV. Think it Through and Nail It Down -

1. How would you describe your own struggle with sin and awareness of guilt?
2. How have you tried to deal with sin and guilt on your own?
3. Which of the failed solutions in this study do you find the easiest to fall into?
4. In your own words, based on the verses listed in Section III, how would you explain God's solution to humankind's sin problem.
5. How do you think a person can take hold of God's solution and salvation?