



## The Questions

### 1. Why did God send Jesus to us?

What was God's motivation for sending Jesus into the world? The answer is good news for us. He sent Jesus because He loves us. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life,"* John 3:16. Everyone wants to be loved. But sometimes, love is given only if it is earned. It is not like that with God. He loved us when we do not deserve it. *"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,"* Romans 5:8. Some people feel unloved. Where love has been sought, none was found. However, we do not have to feel that way. We are loved. God loves us. *"By this the love of God was revealed in us, that God has sent His only Son into the world so that we may live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins,"* 1 John 4:9-10.

Motivated by love, God sent Jesus to provide the free gift of eternal life. And that eternal life is more than living forever. The Bible makes it clear that everyone will live forever. No one will be extinguished beyond the grave. What is God's gift of eternal life? Jesus defined it as, *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent,"* John 17:3. His gift of eternal life is a personal relationship with Him ... one that continues on into eternity. If we refuse His gift, we will suffer God's wrath, John 3:36, and be separated from Him forever, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

Why did God send Jesus to us? God sent Jesus to us because He loves us and because He wants to give the gift of eternal life to us ... the gift of a relationship with Him for all eternity.

## 2. Why did Jesus come to us?

True Christianity is God seeking man. However, all other religions are examples of men and women seeking God. Christianity is the opposite of that. Jesus said that He came *“to seek and to save that which was lost,”* Luke 19:10. Jesus came to our world to seek and to save lost people ... lost people like you and me.

Some people describe religion as a blind leap of faith into the dark. Actually, that is true of other religions. However, that is not the way of Christianity. Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life,”* John 8:12. Believing in Jesus is a rational step of faith into the true light of God. Other religions are lost men following their manmade roads that do not lead to God. Biblical Christianity is not like that. Jesus came to show us the way to God ... to be the way. Jesus said, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me,”* John 14:6. Jesus is the one true road to God. The Apostle Peter declared, *“There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved,”* Acts 4:12. Jesus is the one bridge between God and man. *“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all,”* 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

Why did Jesus come to us? He came to seek and to save us. He came to be our light in the dark world. Jesus came to show us the way to God ... to be our way to God.

## Question 3. What did Jesus do for us?

Other religions are manmade guesses about what men and women must do to gain some God’s approval. Christianity is different. It is about what God has done for man. The death of Jesus on the cross is the one event in all of history that makes it possible for us to become right with God. He died for us. He paid for our sins.

Jesus said, *“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep,”* John 10:11.

The Apostle Paul wrote, *“I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins ... and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day,”* 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

Speaking of Jesus, the Apostle Peter wrote, *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness,”* 1 Peter 2:24. And, *“You were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold ... but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ,”* 1 Peter 1:18-19.

What did Jesus do for us? He gave His life for us. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

#### **Question 4. Why is the cross important?**

Our sin separates us from God. Other religions offer no solution to our sin-caused separation from God. However, the death of Jesus on the cross provides the solution ... a solution that actually works. Other religions suggest that improving personal behavior is the path to salvation ... in hopes that if we are good enough, God will overlook our record [our history] of sins. We can improve our moral and ethical behavior. However, that does not change our record of sin. Imagine a person who has murdered many people for many years. What would happen in court if he asked the judge to pardon him because he has been killing fewer and fewer people each year? Such a defense would not work in a courtroom ... and it does not work with God. The penalty for our sins must be paid. God is a just God. His justice must be satisfied. Improving our behavior is not enough. Improving our behavior only makes our record of sin get worse more slowly. There are horizontal sins directed towards our fellowman and against ourselves. In addition, there are vertical sins directed toward God. It is very serious sin to spend a lifetime ignoring or rejecting God.

You may not have committed many big horizontal sins. But four sins a day for 15 years adds up to almost 22,000 sins. Six sins a day for 10 years adds up to the same number. And add to that number a lifetime of vertical sin toward God. We are far from perfect. God requires payment for our sins. We can pay for our sins with our own spiritual death ... by eternal separation from God. Or we can take God's better way. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord,”* Romans 6:23.

Why is the cross important? It is important because it is the place where Jesus paid for your sins. The gift of eternal life is free to you because Jesus paid for it by His death on the cross. However, that gift is not automatically yours. The Bible states that you must do one thing. You need to believe in Jesus.

### **Question 5. What does God want you to do?**

Some men asked Jesus, *“What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”* He answered, *“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent,”* John 6:28-29. Believing in Jesus is the one thing that each of us must do to become right with God. Believing in Him is more than believing about Him. You believe about Him with your mind. Believing in Him is different ... it is a decisive response from the heart.

Imagine standing at the open door of an airplane that has lost its engines in mid-flight over the Atlantic Ocean. If you stay on the plane, you will die. However, you have one chance to be saved. A parachute has been offered to you. You always believed about parachutes. But stepping out of that plane with one on your back requires more than mental belief. It requires an active response of your will. You must believe in the parachute to be saved by the parachute. When you step out, it will carry you to safety. Stepping out of the plane in faith without a parachute would be fatal. No amount of faith can replace a missing parachute. Moreover, you must have the right parachute. A faulty substitute cannot save you. A similar step of faith is necessary for your spiritual salvation. You must do more than believe about Jesus ... you must believe in Jesus. Your step of faith allows Him to save you. Be sure that you have taken that step.

What does God want you to do? He wants you to believe in Jesus. He wants you to take that step of faith. You need to put your faith in Him.

### **The one question only you can answer**

**Will you put your faith in Jesus?** Only you can answer that question. Your answer is the most important answer you will ever give. This is not about being religious. It is about a relationship. You need to establish your relationship with God by putting your faith in Jesus ... by believing in Him. Being religious is not enough. You may love God, pray to Him, go to His house, and give gifts of your time and money to Him. All of that is

good. But it is not enough. Before I married my wife, I loved her very much. I talked to her almost every day. I went to her house often. I read her letters. And I gave gifts to her. However, none of those things made me married.

I was not married until I made my covenant with her. I had believed about her ... but that was not enough. On our wedding day, I took a step of faith when I said, "I do". I was not married until that moment. That day I changed from believing about her to believing in her. It is like that in your relationship with God. You are not in a true relationship with God until you make your covenant with Him ... until you say, "I do" to Him by believing in Jesus. Have you put your faith in Jesus? You need to be sure about this. If that step of faith is missing or might be missing in your life, today would be a good day for you to say, "I do" to Him. You need to settle this once and for all of eternity.

The choice is yours. Will you put your faith in Jesus right now? Will you take that step of faith by believing in Him? No one can take that step for you. If you are ready to believe in Jesus, it is easy to do. God loves you. However, your sin separates you from Him. He is perfect and you are imperfect. The wrong things that you have done keep you from Him. Your problem is separation from God. The good news is that God has done something about that separation. He loves you and sent Jesus to solve the problem. Jesus, being God, died on the cross to pay for your sins. That is God's part of the solution. Your part of the solution requires a step of faith ... a decisive believing in Jesus. At the moment you believe in Jesus, you become God's child ... your sins are forgiven ... and you are given the gift of eternal life. The question you need to answer is, Will you put your faith in Jesus right now? Only you can answer this question. The choice is yours.

This PDF comes from [www.ReadyForEternity.org](http://www.ReadyForEternity.org). Be sure to visit the site. You may freely print, copy, post, or link to that site or any part of it. Additional free Biblical resources for seekers, skeptics, and believers are available in English at [www.TheWebSites.org](http://www.TheWebSites.org).