



SHADOW MOUNTAIN

YOUTH

BAPTISM
SHADOW YOUTH HSM

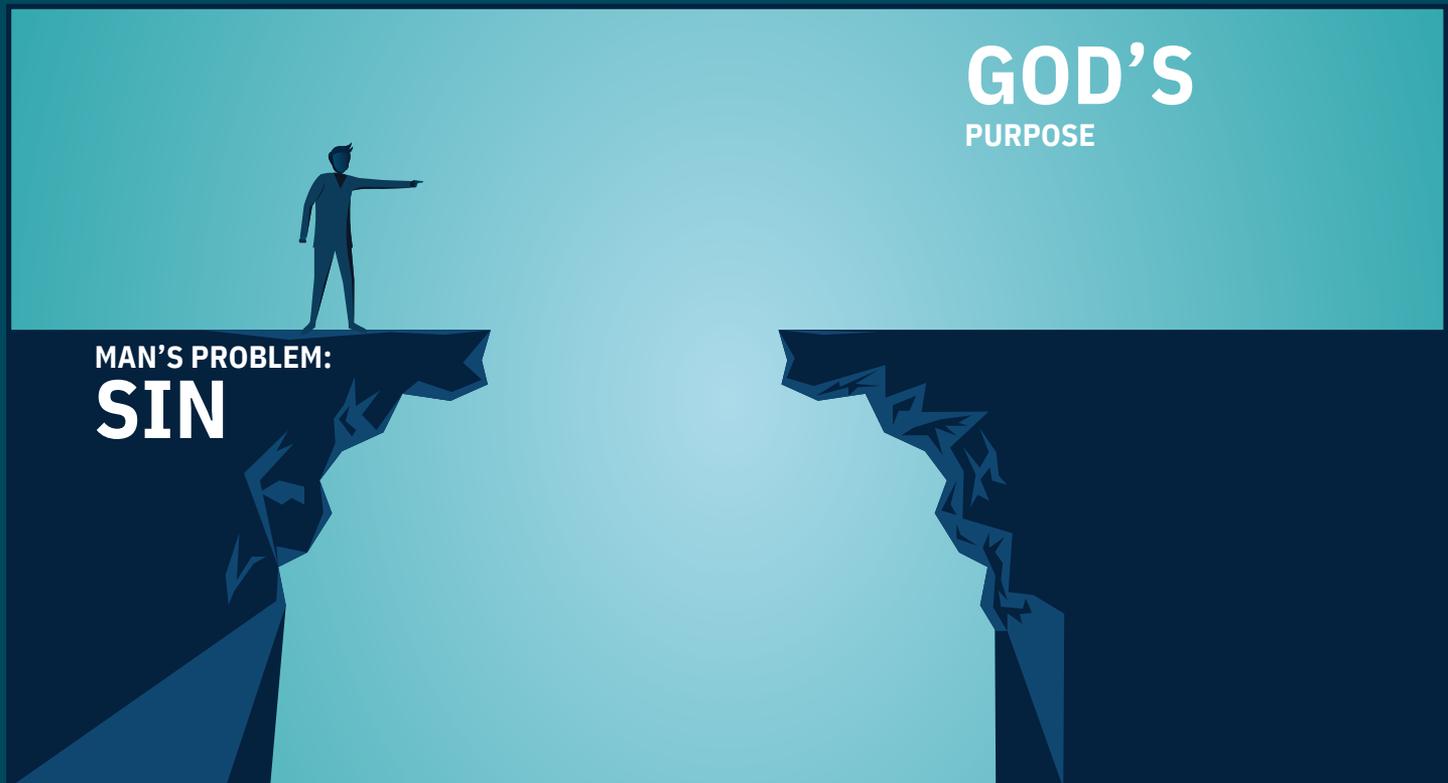


WHY SHOULD YOU GET BAPTIZED?

To show obedience to the Lord's command.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



ANYONE WHO HAS TRUSTED JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR AND IS THEREBY SAVED.

As you can see from these references, once the person(s) believed in Jesus as their personal Savior they were baptized.

ACTS 2:41

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

ACTS 8:12

But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

ACTS 16:33-34

And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

WHY DOES A PERSON NEED TO BECOME A BELIEVER, OR WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS A CHRISTIAN?

When Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden, they plunged the whole human race into sin. Here is how Paul puts it:

ROMANS 5

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—.

GENESIS 2:16-17

In the same way, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's direct command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, He followed through on the penalty He warned them about: That they would die that day ... spiritually and ultimately physically.

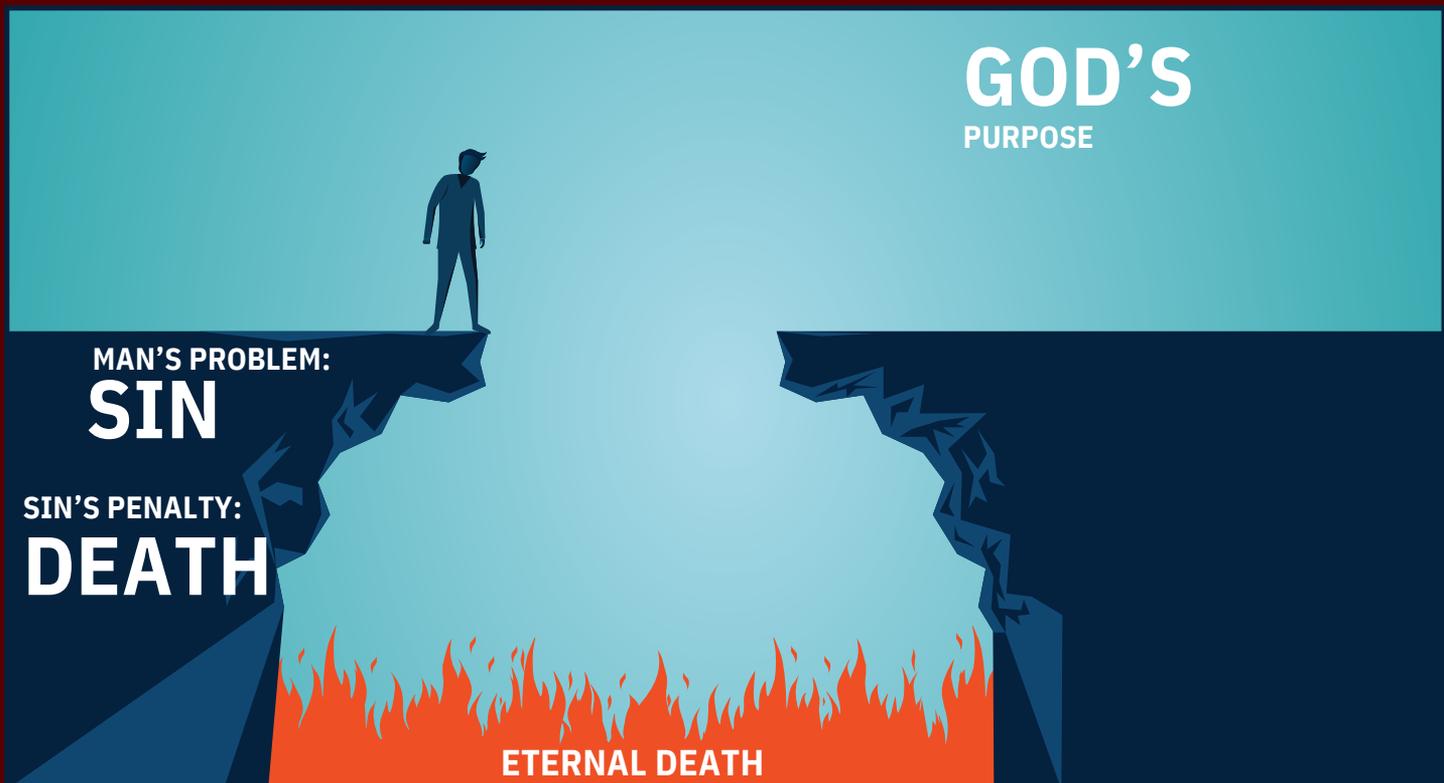
By way of analogy, this is exactly what happens on a football field. There are established rules all the players are supposed to observe. When, let's say, an offensive lineman jumps off-sides before the snap of the ball, the entire team is penalized by the referee ... even though only one person was actually guilty of the infraction.

It's no wonder, then, why Paul made this observation in his letter to the Roman church:

ROMANS 3

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

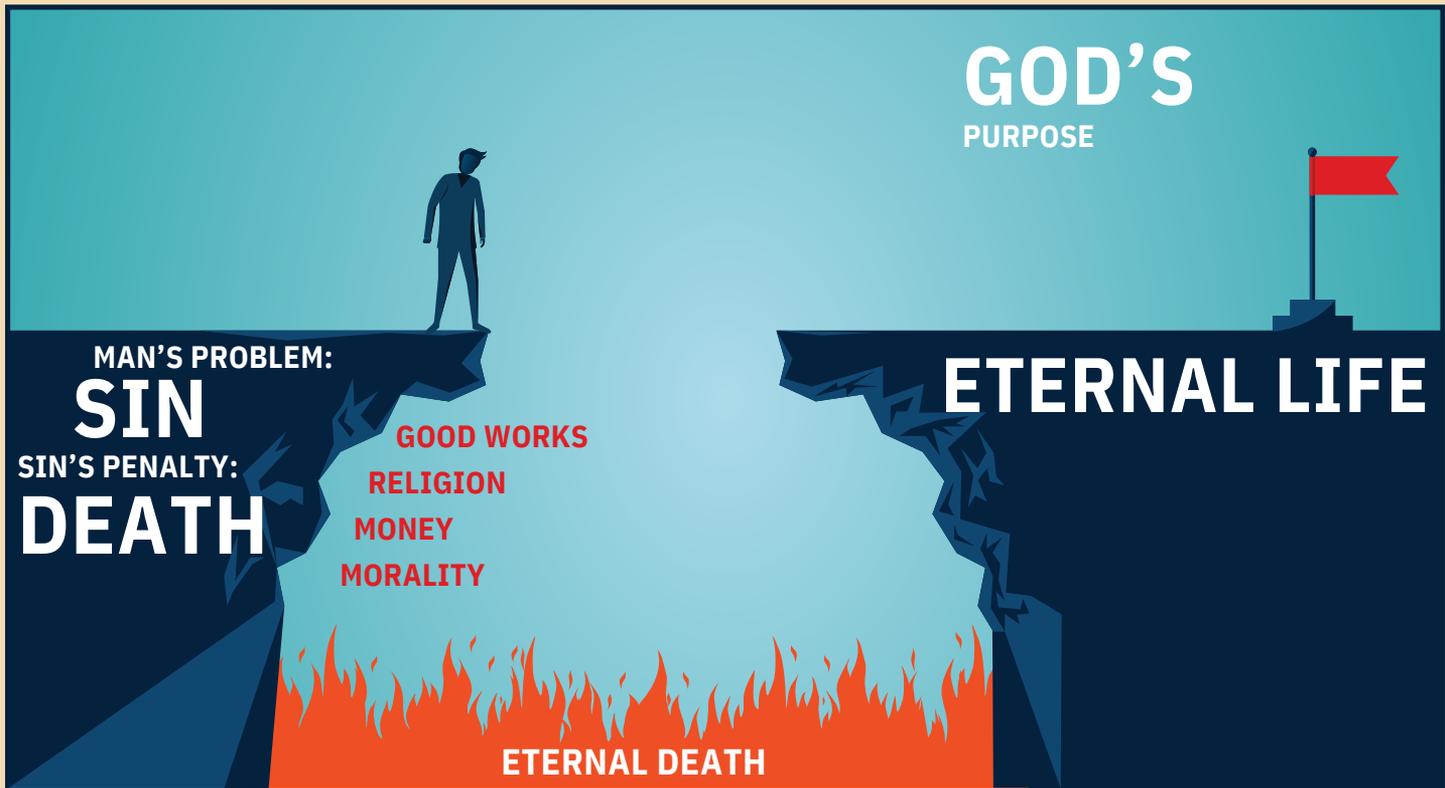
WE ARE ALL BORN GUILTY BEFORE GOD.



WHEN DID WE SIN?

When Adam stepped “off- sides,” as it were. What’s the result of his sin? We all logically fall short of God’s glory. What this means is there is absolutely nothing we can do as fallen creatures to procure God’s good favor and to obtain a relationship with Him.

Here’s how this situation might look in a graphic picture. Note how all of the bridges man attempts to build fall short, or don’t come close to the moral, spiritual perfection an absolutely holy God is looking for:



Perhaps a story will help you get a handle on this important concept.

At the turn of the century, diseased people were kept on Angel Island in San Francisco until they were healthy and disease free. Then and only then were they permitted to go ashore. Even though a given person might have been an exemplary individual, worked hard on the island for many months, and treated others with dignity and respect, the only way they could get off the island was to have their disease fully treated. Until that occurred, their disease overshadowed all of their good works.

Spiritually, it is the same with us. We can't move from the Island of Sin because of our spiritual disease. What we need is for someone to make us healthy so we can take a trip to God's presence.

That someone is none other than Jesus Christ.

WHY DID JESUS COME TO EARTH?

To bear our spiritual disease, our sin upon His perfectly holy body so He could, in turn, die as our sin substitute. This is what God required to restore fallen man. Many Scriptures talk about it.

Peter's words are most illuminating:

1 PETER 3:18

For Christ died for our sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

ISN'T THAT AN AMAZING CONCEPT?

HE DIED IN MY PLACE ON THAT CROSS.

WHY DID HE DO IT?

BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR US.

As Jesus said Himself:

JOHN 3

¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son ...

To this Paul added years later:

GALATIANS 2

²⁰I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I ^{now}

live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

HOW, THEN, DO I BECOME A BELIEVER?

How do I move from a spiritually diseased status to one of spiritual health before God?

FIRST

I understand that I am, in fact, sin and in need of the Savior, Jesus.

SECOND

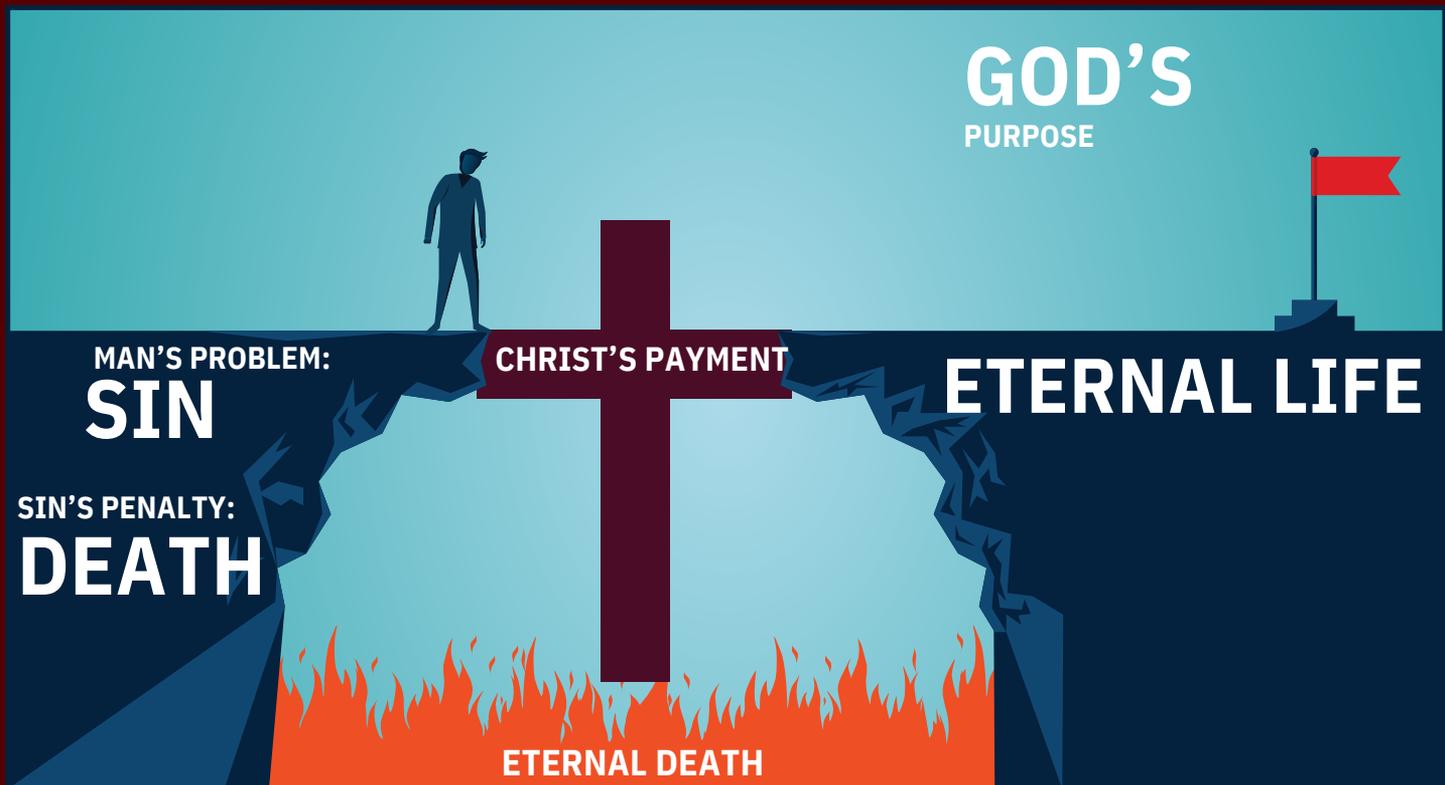
I recognized my utter inability to save myself from God's wrath against my sin.

THIRD

I realize and affirm that Jesus came to earth with a mission of paying the penalty for my sin by dying of the cross.

FOURTH

and finally, I personally ask Jesus to forgive me, to cleanse my life of my sin, and to become my Savior and Lord.



JESUS' WORDS EXPRESS HOW SIMPLE AND WONDERFUL THIS DECISION IS:

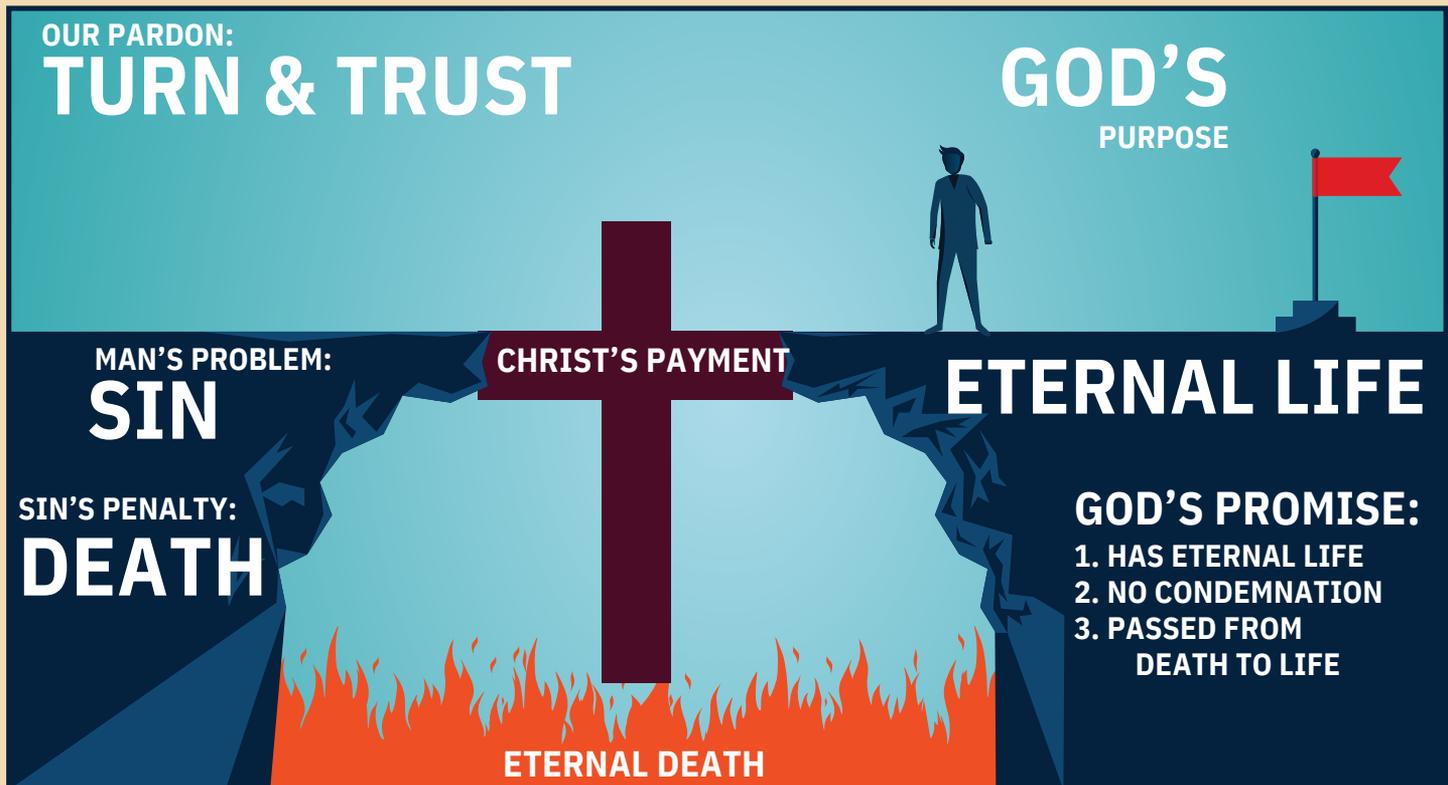
JOHN 3:16

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.

HAVE YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN JESUS?

If so, your sins are forgiven and this very moment you are His child and an inheritor of heaven.

The following chart shows you your new standing before God:



If you haven't crossed this bridge yet,
then I think you know what you need to do.

**DON'T PUT OFF
THIS DECISION OF ANY LONGER.**

Pray a simple prayer committing your whole life to following Him.

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