

"But...*the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars* -- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." - Revelation 21:8

IF YOU STILL DON'T SEE YOUR NEED OF FORGIVENESS, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS:

POINT ONE:

Although the Bible says that humanity hates God "without cause" (John 15:25), most would refute that statement.

POINT TWO:

This is because we feel secure in our concept of God. We have made a "god" to suit ourselves; he is not angry at sin, nor would he create Hell...because he could not--he doesn't exist! He is a figment of the imagination, shaped to conform to our sins, and we love our god.

POINT THREE:

To most, the Biblical revelation of God is offensive.

He is the God who:

1. Slew the whole human race, except for eight people, because of their thought life. (Genesis 6:5)
2. Killed Uzzah because he steadied the ark of God, which held the Ten Commandments, when it began to fall. (2 Samuel 6:7)
3. Told King Saul to kill men, women and children showing no mercy. (1 Samuel 15:3)
4. Who slew a husband and wife because they told one lie. (Acts 5:1-11)

POINT FOUR:

Whether we like it or not, "our God is a consuming fire"(Hebrews 12:29), a God of burning holiness who "will by no means clear the guilty." ²⁰ He is the God of uncompromising justice and what's more, each of us must stand before Him in Judgment:

The Scriptures warn,

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God." ²¹

STOP RIGHT HERE!

You've seen by now whether you have broken God's Law. You now know that your lies, your lust, your theft, hatred and rebellion have set you in opposition to God. By now, you may have admitted that you are a guilty sinner (a sinner is someone who has broken God's Law) and that you are heading for Hell. If that doesn't bother you, then don't bother reading the rest of this message.

If, however, you realize that you, a guilty sinner, are going to the Hell that you justly deserve, then you need to know that God, in His love and mercy, has made a way for His justice to be satisfied and for His mercy to be extended.

THE GOSPEL:

"He that covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." ²²

- "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us" (Galatians 3:13).
- "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5).

- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes (trusts) in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ suffered in place of each of us. He took the punishment due to us. The Bible teaches that, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" - Romans 5:8

"God commands all men everywhere to repent because He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness." ²³

"UNLESS YOU REPENT, YOU SHALL PERISH." ²⁴

To repent means "to turn around," like when you're walking in one direction, but turn around and walk in the opposite direction. In the past, you have lived for yourself. When you repent of your sins, you choose to no longer love yourself first and foremost, but God. You put God on His rightful throne in your heart, and you obey His commands, loving Him supremely, and loving others like you love yourself.

Will you make this decision to repent **today** and live, from this day forward, for God?

If your answer is "Yes," then you may want to pray something like this:

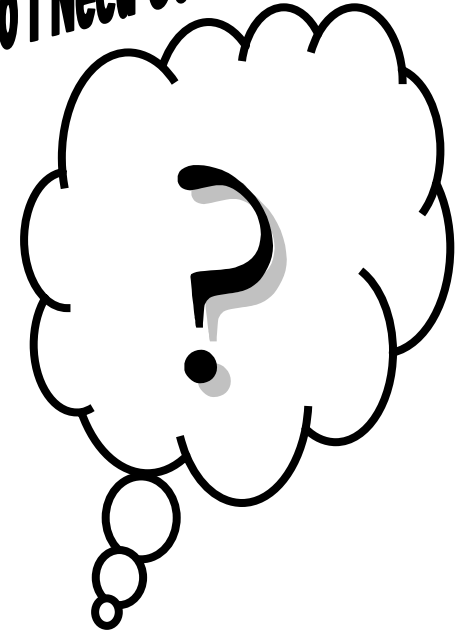
"Dear God. I have broken Your commandments. If I faced the Law on Judgment Day it would send me to Hell. Please forgive me for my sins (name them). This day I turn from them and turn to Jesus Christ, trusting Him as my Savior and Lord. Thank You that He died for me and rose again on the third day. I will read the Bible daily, and obey what I read. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen."

Scripture References:

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Jeremiah 17:9 | 13. Exodus 20:15 |
| 2. Isaiah 53:6 | 14. Exodus 20:16 |
| 3. Isaiah 53:6 | 15. Exodus 20:17 |
| 4. Romans 3:10-12 | 16. Revelation 21:8 |
| 5. Hebrews 9:27 | 17. James 2:10 |
| 6. Exodus 20:3 | 18. Romans 6:23 |
| 7. Exodus 20:4 | 19. Luke 16:15,17 |
| 8. Exodus 20:7 | 20. Exodus 34:7 |
| 9. Exodus 20:8 | 21. Hebrews 10:31 |
| 10. Exodus 20:12 | 22. Proverbs 28:13 |
| 11. Exodus 20:13 | 23. Acts 17:30 |
| 12. Exodus 20:14 | 24. Luke 13:3 |

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Do I Need God's Forgiveness?



Are you a good person?

If you are like most people, you're a pretty good person — *compared to Adolph Hitler*.

When we look at other people, it's easy to say, "I'm a good person." The question you need to ask yourself, however, is, "How do I measure up against God's standard?"

Are you willing to take a few minutes to see what God says about *you*? These few minutes could change your life.

The Bible tells what God says about you. He says that your heart is *"deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."*¹

He says of mankind -- including you -- that we all *"like sheep have gone astray,"*² and that we *"have turned, every one, to his own way."*³

And He also declares: *"There is none righteous, no, not one... There is none who seeks after God... There is none who does good, no, not one."*⁴

Does that sound somewhat harsh coming from a "loving" God? If so, you need to know that God is also a judge. More than that, He is the Lawgiver who will judge you according to His Law.

The Bible says, *"It is appointed unto men to die once, but after this, the judgment."*⁵

But by what will you and I be judged? In a court of justice, a person is judged according to the laws of the land. In the same way, we will be judged according to God's Law on the Day of Judgment.

In the second book of the Bible, we find the backbone of God's Law -- the Ten Commandments.

These Commandments are God's standard. We must measure up to these standards or else be found guilty on the Day of Judgment.

Let's look at the Ten Commandments and see how you fare.

This is how we find out our need for God's forgiveness.

Listen to your conscience.

Answer **KEPT** or **BROKEN** for each one.

1. "YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME." ⁶

Do you love God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength? Is He first in all areas of your life? Does the love you have for Him make your love for wife, husband, children, parents, boyfriend, girlfriend, and friends seem as hate in comparison? If you love anyone or anything more than God, then you have broken this commandment.

2. "YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF ANY GRAVEN IMAGE." ⁷

This means that you shouldn't make a god to suit yourself, either with your hands or with your mind. It is easy to make a god who ignores your sin, who

doesn't mind your lust, greed, or lies. This image of God is a figment of your imagination--an idol. The Bible reveals His utter holiness, supreme righteousness, and absolute truth.

3. "YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN, FOR THE LORD WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTLess WHO TAKES HIS NAME IN VAIN." ⁸

How often have you exclaimed "God!?" In most cases, it was only because it beat a word of profanity out of your mouth. This is blasphemy.

4. "REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY." ⁹

Do you set aside one day in seven to worship God with others?

5. "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER." ¹⁰

Do you respect and obey your parents? Failure to do so is as much a sin as breaking the other nine commandments. In fact, the Bible says you should keep this command so that "it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth" (Ephesians 6:3), implying that if you fail to keep this command, things will not go well with you and you will not enjoy long life on the earth.

6. "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER." ¹¹

Jesus warned that if we got angry without cause that we would be in danger of judgment. God says that if you hate "your brother," then you are a murderer at heart. How many people have you "murdered" in fits of anger?

7. "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY." ¹²

Elsewhere in Scripture it is found that all the sexually immoral, including fornicators (those who have sex before marriage), will not inherit the kingdom of God, but have their place in the lake of fire. Jesus said, *"Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart"* (Matthew 5:28). Lusting after someone is the same as having sex with them in God's sight.

8. "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL." ¹³

Have you ever taken anything that did not belong to you? A car? A paperclip? God is not concerned with the value of the thing. If you have ever taken something that belongs to someone else, then God calls you a thief.

9. "YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR." ¹⁴

Have you ever told a lie? An exaggeration? A white lie? If so, then God sees you as a liar, and the Bible says that *"all liars shall have their place in the lake of fire."*¹⁵

10. "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." ¹⁶

This means to be materialistic or greedy - wanting things that don't belong to you.

Now notice the following verse:

*"Whoever keeps the whole law yet stumbles in one point, is guilty of all."*¹⁷

Even if you have only broken just one commandment, you are still guilty of breaking them all. You still must receive the due punishment. The Bible says, *"The wages of sin is death."*¹⁸

LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE:

ARE YOU:

Innocent? Or Guilty?

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

1 John 1:8

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

Romans 3:19



ARE YOU HEADING FOR:

Heaven? Or Hell?