

A dramatic landscape photograph of a mountain peak. The sky is filled with white and grey clouds, with a small patch of blue visible. A person is silhouetted against the sky, standing on the very peak of a jagged, rocky mountain. The foreground shows the steep, rocky slopes of the mountain, with some green moss or lichen visible. The overall mood is one of solitude and achievement.

FINDING THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE

by Paul Chappell

YOU CAN KNOW YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Many people claim to be enlightened and believe that through their good works, and continual learning they can earn a place in Heaven someday. However, God has given a promise in His Word, the Bible, that we can know for sure that we have eternal life and a future home in Heaven.

The Bible says in 1 John 5:11–13, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; *that ye may know that ye have eternal life*, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” God does not want us to wonder about this important issue of eternal life.



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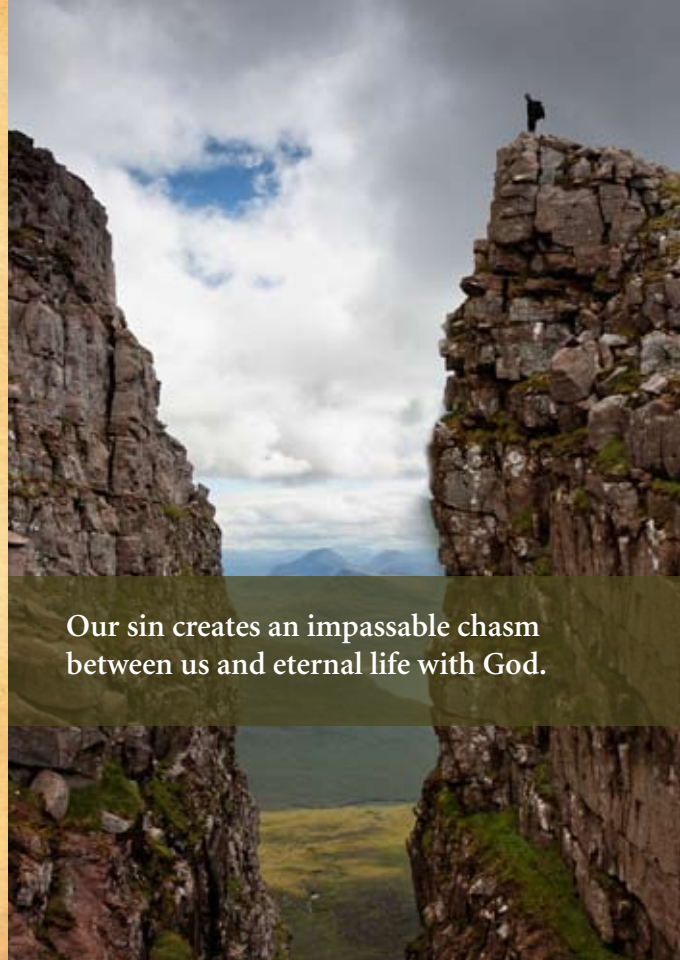
RECOGNIZE YOUR CONDITION

My biggest mistake when I don't know my way is that I don't want to admit that I am lost! My wife calls this, "pride."

In order to find the way to eternal life with God, I must admit I am lost in sin. Romans 5:12 teaches us that since Adam and Eve, the first man and woman on earth, a sin nature has been present in all people. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Sin is any act contrary to God's laws and commandments, and those sins that I have committed separate me from God.

Whenever I have been lost, I have paid some type of penalty. I have been late to a special event and, on occasion, I have received a speeding ticket.

Sin also has a penalty. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The "wage" or payment for our sin is spiritual death, and eternal separation from God.



Our sin creates an impassable chasm
between us and eternal life with God.

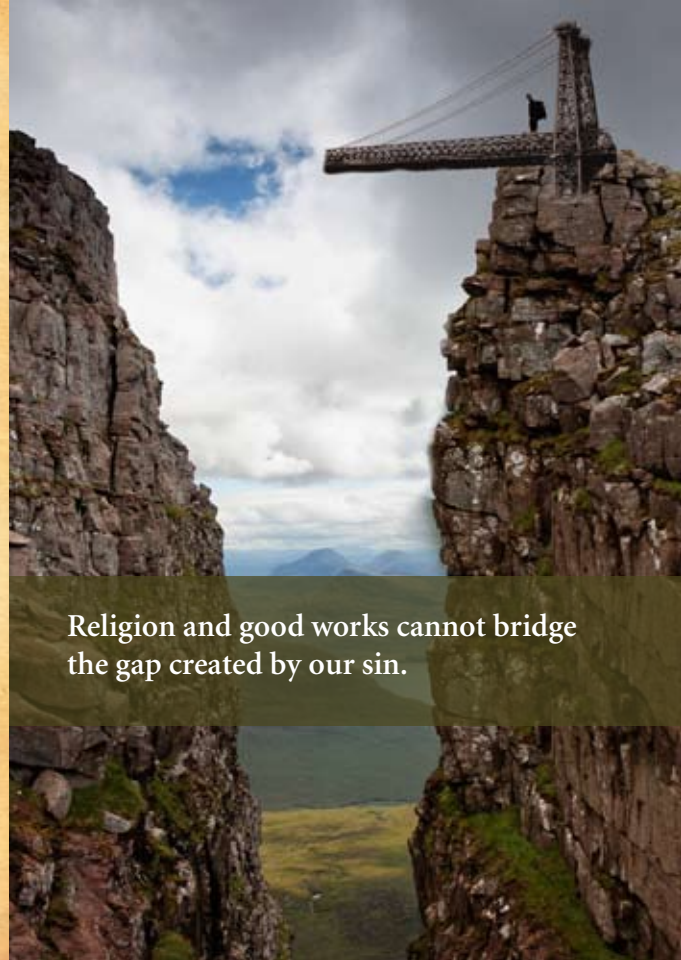
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RELIGION AND GOOD WORKS ARE NOT THE ANSWER

Religions try to create their own ways to God. Their systems may seem logical, but they cannot bridge the gap created by our sin.

Proverbs 14:12 says, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” In other words, our thoughts and ways are not what matter. God’s Word, the Bible, provides true answers of grace and forgiveness.

In Ephesians 2:8–9 the Bible says, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”



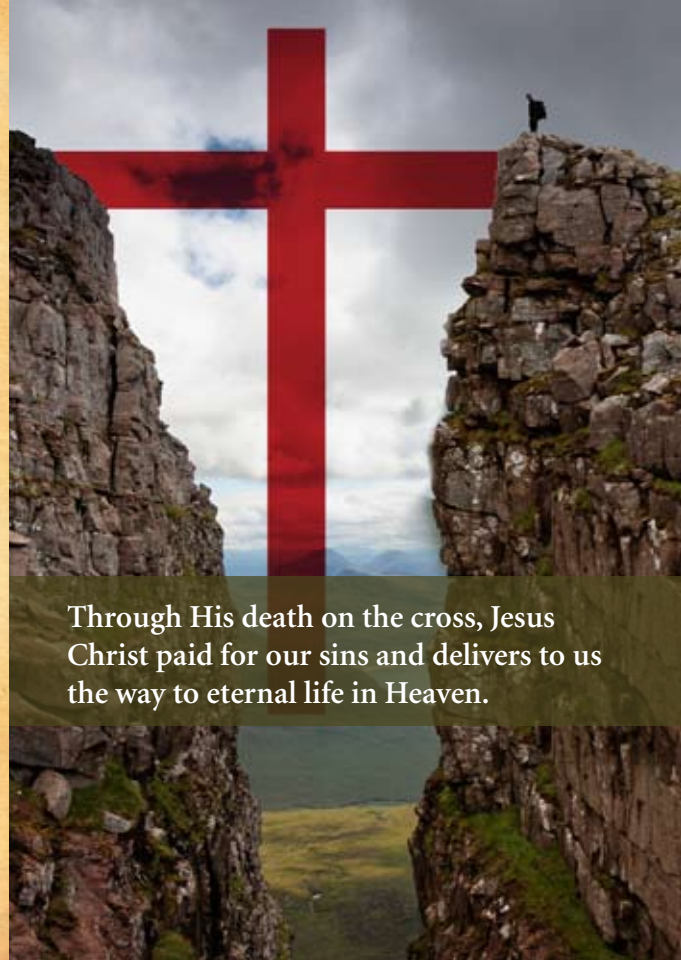
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THE GOOD NEWS— JESUS CHRIST PROVIDES THE WAY!

Even though we were lost and separated from God, He loved us, and because He is love, God sent His Son to die on the cross and raise from the dead three days later. John 3:16 explains “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.” Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, He became the payment for our sin. Now, we do not have to pay for our sin ourselves. By His grace, salvation is provided.

In Romans 5:8, the Bible says, “But God commendeth [meaning proved or demonstrated] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”



Through His death on the cross, Jesus Christ paid for our sins and delivers to us the way to eternal life in Heaven.

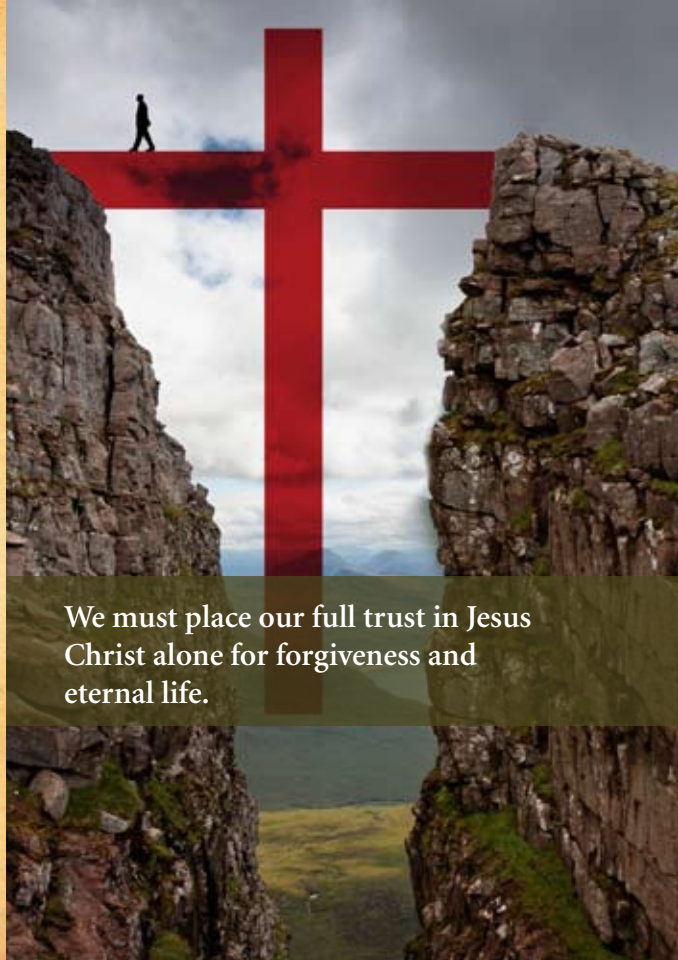
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BELIEVE AND RECEIVE CHRIST

In order to have a relationship with God and an eternal home in Heaven, we must stop trusting ourselves, our works, and our religions, and place our full trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of our sin and eternal life.

In Roman 10:13 the Bible says, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” That is a promise directly from God that if you will pray to Him, confess that you are a sinner, ask Him to forgive your sins, and turn to Him alone to be your Saviour; He promises to save you and give you the free gift of eternal life. You can make that decision today by praying from your heart, something like this:

*Dear God, I know that I am separated from you because of sin. I confess that in my sin, I cannot save myself. Right now, I turn to you alone to be my Saviour. I ask you to save me from the penalty of my sin, and I trust you to provide eternal life to me.
—Amen*



We must place our full trust in Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness and eternal life.

