

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW MURDER AND EVIL?

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

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Rom 5:12

Has it ever occurred to us that following rebellion against God by Adam and Eve, we, the entire human race have inherited their sinful nature?

How true? As declared in Rom 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We know also from Rom 6:23 that, "The wages of sin *is* death."

As well, to God any sin is sin, whether it is any lust of the flesh or murder. Therefore, if God was to intervene in the world and apply the just penalty for any sin, we would all be dead.

Thankfully though, the second part of Rom 6:23 adds, "But the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In the liberalism and pseudo wisdom of our world, people pursue after foolishness, the reason God spoke through the prophet in Isaiah 55:8-9, "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

As 2Cor 4:18 says, "For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal."

This life is but a droplet as compared to the ocean of eternity, and depending on our choices, we'll either be welcomed in God's kingdom eternally, or lost in hell forever.

Where are we headed for?

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WHY SO MANY RELIGIONS IN THE WORLD?

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way,
the truth, and the life. No one comes
to the Father except through Me.*

John 14:6

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The Bible clearly describes what God requires from mankind: To believe in Him, submit to Christ as Savior and Lord, repent of our sins and surrender our lives to follow Him. Religions, on the other hand, are designed by men with the intent to fashion God to their desires. For example, purgatory taught by some is a lie that isn't even in the Word of God, and thereby denies the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice on the cross for salvation. Others teach reincarnation. Yet, God said in Heb 9:27, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."

Then some worship and pray to an endless list of so-called saints as mediators between God and man; yet 1Tim 2:5 declares, "For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus."

Jesus in Mark 7:7 said, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." In truth, God's Will is only found in His Word, period.

Why do religions add human lies?

1Tim 4:1: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."

Pro 14:12 warns us: "There is a way *that seems* right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death."

Will we trust God's Word or follow false prophets?

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The apostle in John 1:1-2 declared, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”

In John 1:14 he added: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

The apostle Paul in 1Tim 3:16 explained, “God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.”

In Rom 15:4 he added, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Paul also clearly described the purpose of Scripture in 2Tim 3:16-17 saying, “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Finally, in Rom 1:16 Paul declared, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

Have we embraced the gospel of Christ in our hearts to empower with the truth, and proclaim the message of salvation in Christ?

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WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS GOD?

*“No one has ever seen God,
but the one and only Son,
who is himself God and is in
closest relationship with the Father”*

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John 1:18

John 1:1-3 confirms what God spoke through the prophet in Isaiah 9:6, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

Clearly, Jesus was present with God at creation, making Him equal with God.

Then Isaiah 9:6 continues: “And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Col 1:15-16 confirms: “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

Then, 1Tim 3:16 : “God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.”

Jesus’ own words prove His deity:

John 8:58: “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

John 10:30: “I and My Father are one.”

The reason Acts 4:12 says “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

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IF I AM A GOOD PERSON, WILL I GO TO HEAVEN?

*"There is a way
that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way of death."*

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Pro 16:25

Many people profess to believe in God. Yet when asked to define who God is, they'll say things like, "He's the Man upstairs", or that they don't know and some aren't even interested in finding out.

Psalm 14:2 tells us that "The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God." Then,

God through the prophet in Jer 29:13 said, "And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart."

Why do we need God in our lives?

Rom 3:10: "There is none righteous, no, not one."

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

Jesus further declared in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

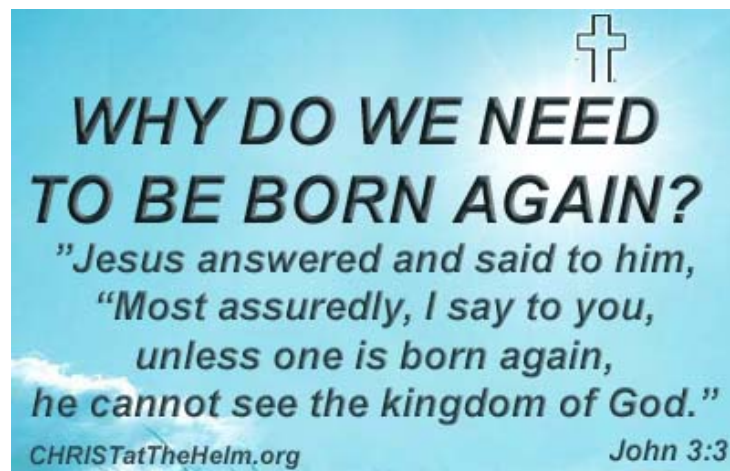
Clearly, without Christ, we are doomed to be eternally lost.

Galatians 2:16 adds, "A man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ."

The apostle in 1John 1:8 clarified: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Therefore, to proudly state that being a good person is our justification, is tantamount to say we don't need Christ and therefore reject God and His salvation.

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Nicodemus, a leading Pharisee, came to see Jesus at night to inquire about the Kingdom of God. When Jesus told him he needed to be born again, he was clueless as to what it meant.

Here's Jesus' explanation in John 3:5-6, "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Clearly, our spirit needs to be born in Christ in order to inherit eternal life with God.

In John 14:6 Jesus added, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 3:36 specifies, "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Why the need to be born again?

Rom 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

What happens when we are born again?

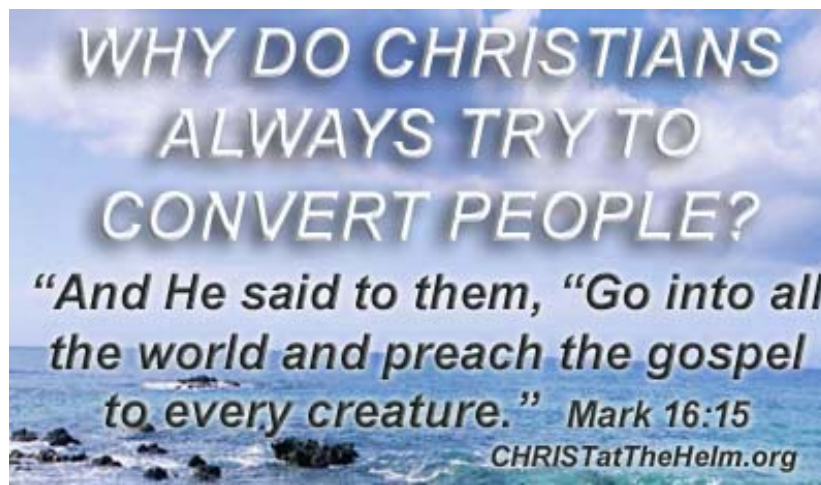
In John 10:28 Jesus said, "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

Rom 8:16: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

1John 3:24: "And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us."

Do we cherish the Spirit of Christ in our life?

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Indeed, non-believers oftentimes ask us, "Why do you need to always talk about God and Jesus"?

The short and clear answer:

Acts 13:47: "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

What is the purpose of our mission?

2Cor 5:20: "So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

Mat 5:14, 16: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Speaking about believers, Paul in Col 1:27 said: "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

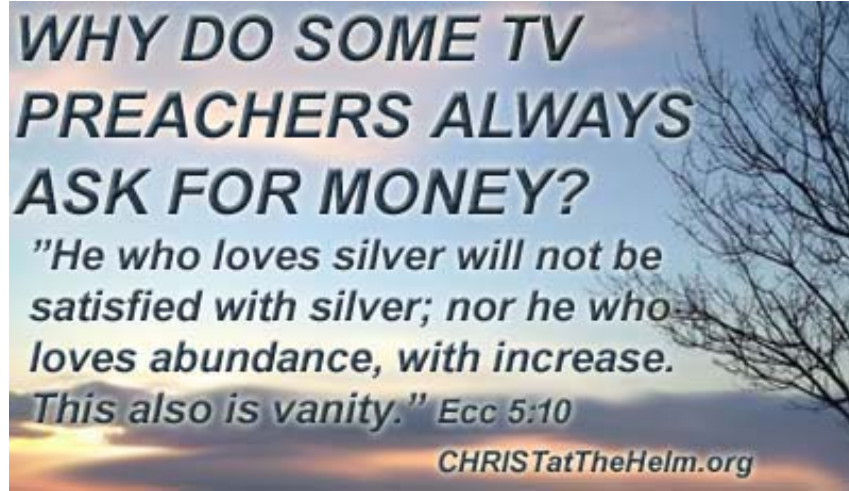
1Peter 3:15: "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."

What's our motivation?

Rom 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."

When's the last time we shared the gospel of Christ with anyone?

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Obviously, our world is driven by money and power. But, what does the Word of God teach us on this?

Mat 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Clearly, we're not to be driven by financial prosperity, but rather focused on advancing the Kingdom of God, as God will supply all our needs.

The reason Jesus said in Luke 12:15, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

In essence, while it costs money to further the Kingdom of God, seeking financial support should never be the end but rather the means."

Additionally, it is not meant to fulfill wants, the reason we are warned in 1Tim 6:9-10: "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of evils.*"

Jesus added in Mat 7:15-16, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits."

Finally, 2Cor 9:7 says, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

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