

THE
PASSION
and YOU

WHY

Jesus had to die

CROSS

ON THE Cross

1

a short test

The Passion of The Christ movie was about how Jesus died, this booklet explains why he died. Let's start by doing a quick fun test. Score yourself on a scale of 0 to 7 (0 = Never, 3-4 = Sometimes, 7 = All the time)

1. I give to charities



2. I pray



3. I help strangers in need



4. I read the Bible



5. I forgive people when they hurt me



6. I love and help family members



7. I am loyal with my friendships



8. I put other people first when they need me



9. I am totally honest in the things I say and do



10. I see the best in people



Total up your score out of a possible 70. Put your score in the box below.

SCORE

68 - 70	Angelic
64 - 67	Saintly
35 - 63	Good
25 - 34	Struggling
under 25	Seek help

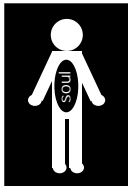
Thank you. Most people who sit this test discover they rate as 'good'. However, what most people don't realise is that the standard for entrance to Heaven is one big step past the 'Angelic' rating - it's perfection. Here is why the standard is so high ...

God is Holy ... Holy means **perfect**

Heaven is Holy ... Holy means **perfect**

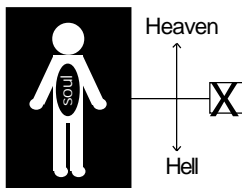
The dictionary defines **perfect** as '*entirely faultless*' or '*never ever having faulted*'. If God is perfect and Heaven is perfect, how can people at death, who are not perfect, go to live with God? Logically, it would seem impossible. Yet, there is a way for people to get to Heaven, regardless of their imperfections. This is the topic of this booklet. The problem of our imperfection concerns our souls. So let's start by talking about the human soul.

1 The Soul All people have a soul. Your soul is the non-material (unseen) part of you that lives on after you die. By non-material we mean that it cannot be x-rayed or viewed with the natural eye. Your soul is the life-force within you. It's the unseen part inside you that makes you uniquely 'you'.



Jesus warned that if you lose your soul, you have lost something more valuable than the total value of the whole world.* When Jesus said this, He was urging people to think seriously about what really matters in life and the critical issue of life after death. Please consider the following carefully. In this life you may live 60, 70, 80, maybe 90 years. Who knows? But one day you are going to die, ie life here on Earth is finite. Furthermore, if you don't like the place where you live at the moment, you can move to another town or city. In this life you can move around, but when you die all this changes.

2 After death experience
The Bible teaches three truths about after death experience:



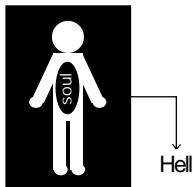
Firstly, when you die your body is going to decompose (or be cremated) but your soul will live on forever. You have no choice in this. Life after death is not finite, it's eternal.**

Secondly, the place your soul goes to is fixed. Unlike life on earth, after death you cannot move around.

Thirdly, and ultimately, there are only two places where your soul can go: either to Heaven or to Hell. There is no third place.

3 The Problem When God created the world, He established certain unchangeable moral laws. Three of these laws are relevant to this discussion.

1. The Law of Infringement.
2. The Law of the Soul.
3. The Law of Forgiveness.



1. The Law of Infringement. The Bible explains that if a person has done just one thing wrong (eg lied once, cheated once, hated once, etc) they have broken God's perfect moral law.*** When a person breaks one of God's perfect moral laws, this is recorded in Heaven against their name and their soul has become imperfect. It has become a 'lost' soul.† No one can honestly say they have never done any thing wrong. We have all broken God's laws. Unfortunately then, all people have imperfect souls and imperfect records in Heaven.

2. The Law of the Soul. The Bible also says, "The soul that is not perfect (entirely faultless or never ever having faulted) shall die (go to Hell).": †† This seems harsh and lot of people would say 'How could a loving God create a place like Hell, let alone send someone there?' Yet there has to be a Hell for the sake of justice. The illustration over the page explains why there has to be a Hell.

Bible References

*Matthew 16:26 *What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?*

**Matthew 25:46 *Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life*

Other references are: Isaiah 66:24; Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:43-48

***James 2:10 *A person who follows all of God's law but fails to obey even one command is guilty of breaking all the commands in that law*

† In fact, we are all imperfect before we break any of God's laws because of Adam and Eve and original sin

†† Ezekiel 18:4 *For every living soul belongs to Me, the father as well as the son - both alike belong to Me. The soul who sins is the one who will die*

Justice and Jesus

Imagine the person you love most in your life is murdered. The murderer is caught and is brought before the judge. To your horror, the judge says "This is really bad thing you have done, but because I am a loving judge, I am just going to let you off." You would rightly be angry. Why? Because we all know that when someone has broken the law, they must be punished, otherwise there is no justice. Can I ask you a couple of personal questions?

Have you ever told a lie? So what does that make you? Same as me - a liar. Have you ever taken anything that did not belong to you ... a paper clip, a pen, a piece of paper? A piece of food that wasn't yours to eat? Doing your own work in your employer's time [which is stealing time]? etc. So what does that make you? Same as me - a thief. Now, do you think that lying thieves like you and me will get into heaven without punishment for breaking the law? The punishment for breaking any of God's laws is Hell.

You might say, "there is a big difference between lying and thieving and what the criminal did to the person I love!" True. But Jesus said that if we have hated someone in our hearts, we have murdered them in our hearts. I must admit I have hated someone in my life, even just for a moment. Have you ever hated anyone, even just for a moment? If so, you, like me, according to Jesus, are also guilty of murder. When we die, God can't just say to us 'Come on in to Heaven. Don't worry about all those laws of mine you have broken!' If He did so, he would be unjust. God is incapable of injustice.***

Clearly, if the standard for getting into Heaven is to have a perfect record before God, and no one has a perfect record, then no one is going to Heaven. It is not that God does not want people in Heaven. No. The opposite is true. God wants everyone in Heaven!*** It is more like this: Firstly, if God is to be God, and Heaven is to be Heaven, they both must be kept holy (perfect). Secondly, if He admitted us into Heaven without punishment for His laws that we have broken,

He would be unjust. In summary, two things prevent us from entering Heaven: God's holiness and God's justice.

You may ask, "What about my friend who is a fantastic person, who helps everyone and who goes to church? She prays, has done 'nothing wrong' all her life, has been baptised, christened and confirmed, has given time and money to good causes and has been kind to everyone and has lived up to her motto 'do unto others as you would want them to do unto you' - is she not going to get to Heaven?" Your friend **is** good and we would acknowledge that, but like all of us, she is not perfect. She too has broken God's laws.

illustration

"Good" is a relative term A mother and daughter are going down the road in the car. The daughter says, "Look Mum, that sheep in the green field looks so white." The mother agrees. One week later, the mother and daughter are going down the same road and the same lone sheep is in the same field but this time snow has covered the field. The little girl says, "Mum, the sheep looks so dirty!" The mother explains that the sheep is no more dirty than it was last week. It's the background that has changed. It's the same with us. When we compare ourselves with ourselves, we look like the clean sheep. But when we compare ourselves with the standard of perfection, we all look dirty.

Bible References

*Matt 5:21-22

**Deuteronomy 32:4 *For all His ways are just, a God of truth and without injustice*

Jude 1:14-15 *Look, the Lord is coming with thousands of His holy ones. He will bring the people of the world to judgement. He will convict the ungodly of all the evil things they have done in rebellion and of all the insults that godless sinners have spoken against Him*

Hebrews 9:27 *... it is destined that each person only dies once and after that comes judgement*

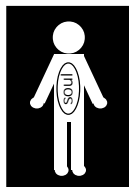
***2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*

There is a third unchangeable moral law which God established when he created the world.

3. The Law of Forgiveness. He announced that ‘without the shedding of blood (i.e a death sacrifice), there could be no forgiveness for law-breakers’.* Furthermore, the death sacrifice had to be both holy (perfect) and human. Both were necessary for the sacrifice to be acceptable to God. Only one person could meet these conditions. His name is Jesus. He is the ‘The God-Man’. For this reason He is absolutely unique.** This is why Christians focus on Him. Through Jesus, not only has access to Heaven been made possible, but also forgiveness for breaking God’s laws. Peace with God is now possible for anyone.

A Jesus - the solution Based on what the Bible teaches we could say the following: before Jesus came down from Heaven to Earth, He looked down on the people on Earth and said to His Father (who is also God), “Father, is there a way for these beautiful people we created on Earth to be forgiven for breaking your laws and to gain access to Heaven? I love them. There must be a way!” The Father said, “Jesus, there is one way. If you (Jesus) go to Earth, become a human being, live a perfect life and then die a cruel, agonising death on a cross to take the punishment which people justly deserve for breaking My laws, I’ll make it possible for people to be forgiven for breaking Your laws and to gain entry into Heaven.”

As you know, Jesus did this. When He was scourged at ‘the pillar of flogging’ by the Romans guards, He was taking the punishment which each of us ought to justly receive for our law breaking. He took my flogging and your flogging. He took my place and your place. But he didn’t just stop at the flogging. He went all the way to death on the Cross. Yet, all the time was entirely innocent. He did it for me - and

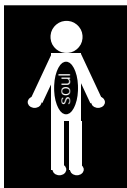


*Jesus' soul
is perfect*

you. His sacrifice was an act of supreme love and compassion. This is why Jesus said in ***The Passion of the Christ*** 'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends'.***

He rose from the dead to prove His claim that He was God, and that He had the authority to forgive. Only Jesus can give you His perfect record and forgive you.† A 'good' record will not be good enough for entry to Heaven.†† This is why, tragically, some good people (those without Jesus' perfect record) will not go to Heaven.

5 How about you? Be honest. Have you ever broken any of God's laws? If everything you have read here is true (and it is, for this is what the Bible teaches, which has never been found to be wrong about anything), and if you died tonight, where would you go?



Heaven?



Hell?

Bible References

*Heb 9 :22 *In fact, under the law almost everything is cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of the blood there is no forgiveness.*

**Isaiah 44:6 *I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God*

***John 15:13

†Acts 4:12 *Jesus is the only One who can save people. His name is the only power in the world that has been given to save people. We must be saved through Him*

††Isaiah 64:6 *All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags*

God's book about your life

Based on what the Bible teaches, we could say the following.

When you were born, God started a book about your life. He does this with everyone. God never sleeps. He sees all attitudes, thoughts, motives and actions. Every time we break one of His laws, He records it. You can imagine that as we get older, some of us have a library written against us! Just one thing written against us is enough to give us an imperfect record before God. Jesus invites us to exchange our imperfect record with His perfect record, and to completely forgive us, but we must accept the invitation. We do this by making a decision to become a follower of Jesus.*

*When you make this decision to become a follower of Jesus, God takes your book with the record of everything you have ever done wrong. He rips out the pages within the cover and throws them into the deepest sea so they can never be seen again. He doesn't even remember what was written on those old pages. He then takes a copy of Jesus' perfect record and puts it inside the cover of your book. This book, with your name on the cover, now has a copy of Jesus' perfect record inside. This new book about you is stored in Heaven like a library book ready for the day you die. Between the point at which you made a decision to become a follower of Jesus and death, if your decision was genuine,** your book is not touched again, even though you may sometimes fail after you made your decision.*** When you die, you will come up before Jesus at Judgement. He will command the angels to get your book with the record of your life. They will open it and exclaim, "You were perfect!" You will say, "No I wasn't!" Smiling, Jesus will say, "I know that, but I made you perfect **in my sight** and I forgave you completely, once and for all, the day you asked me to exchange your imperfect record for my perfect record. Welcome to Heaven!"*

Illustration of God's great love and forgiveness
In some parts of the world it is possible for people to be executed by capital punishment (eg the electric chair or lethal injection). Imagine you're in the electric chair for the laws you have broken and just before they're about to turn the power on, Jesus bursts into the room and offers to take your place. This is an illustration of the love and forgiveness He is offering you today.† But we need to get out of the chair.

You see, someone has to be punished for the laws we have broken. We can either take the punishment ourselves the other side of death or we can humbly let Jesus take the punishment for us this side of death.

Bible References

*Colossians 2:14 *Having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross*
Revelation 20:12 *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books*

**Provided you pass the Genuineness test on page 23

***Page 20 of this booklet explains what happens when we fail after we have made a decision to become a follower of Jesus

†Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

John 8:36 *So if the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free!*

An illustration to explain the big difference between having a perfect record before God and being a perfect person on Earth

In many countries, if a person has been convicted of a serious drug charge, they are unable to travel overseas. Imagine that the Prime Minister or President of the country that the criminal comes from, takes pity and wipes the criminal record clean. The criminal would have a clean record and would be free to travel again but would still not be a perfect person.

It's the same with becoming a Christian. God offers to clean your record and to completely forgive you, but you will never become a perfect person on this earth.

Receiving a perfect record and being completely forgiven for breaking God's Laws doesn't happen automatically. The Bible teaches that for this to happen, we must:

1. Be willing to TURN away from everything that we know to be wrong. God does not expect us to be a perfect person. He will accept us and love us just as we are with all our imperfections, fears, and failings, but we must be willing to change.
2. SURRENDER our lives to Jesus, who is a loving, caring God who only wants the best for us.

The next section of this booklet explains in more detail what it means to 'turn' and 'surrender'.*

Bible Reference

*Luke 18:13-14 *The tax collector ... would not even look up to heaven, but beat his chest and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'* "He was right with God but the Pharisee was not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted"



HOW **FORGIVEN**
to be forgiven

'TURN' and 'SURRENDER'

Most people think about entry to Heaven in two ways:

1. All we need to do to get to Heaven is be a good person.
2. If we have done certain bad things (murder, adultery, rape, etc), it is impossible to get to Heaven.

Both these statements are untrue. We have discovered from the first section that no matter how 'good' or 'bad' we are, to enter Heaven we need a perfect record. Furthermore most people think that to be forgiven all we need to do is say a short prayer each time we are conscious of the need to be forgiven. But to receive a perfect record and be completely forgiven, we first need to 'turn' and 'surrender', which is what it means to become a follower of Jesus. Followers of Jesus call themselves 'Christians'.

If you understand and agree with this and want to become a Christian, this section explains how.

Becoming a Christian involves a change of attitude (a new way of thinking), which leads to a change of behaviour. Someone who is considering becoming a Christian must be genuine in agreeing with God on the following seven attitudes. Agreeing with these seven attitudes will show that you are willing to 'turn' and 'surrender' your life to Jesus.

1. I admit that I have broken God's Laws and God would be justified in punishing me.*

I can agree with this

I can't agree with this

2. I am genuinely sorry for breaking God's Laws and I sincerely desire to turn away from the wrong ways of my past (your conscience will alert you to what is right and wrong. Reading the Bible will clarify any uncertainty about this).

I can agree with this

I can't agree with this

3. I understand that Jesus wants to be my friend and to fulfill my deepest needs. If I become a Christian, He will commit Himself to lovingly and gently changing me into the person He wants me to be. I understand that real change will only happen as I co-operate with Him.** Change will sometimes be painful and at times I may fail. When I fail I must be sincere

in asking Jesus to forgive me, knowing that He will. No matter how many times I fail, I'm going to keep living for Him.

I can agree with this

I can't agree with this

4. I acknowledge that Jesus, as God, is loving and absolutely awesome. He is the Supreme Ruler and Creator of the world. Because this is true, I understand that He owns me and has the right, in love, to ask me to do anything that is His Will for me.*** I want to surrender my life to Jesus, have a personal relationship with Him and follow Him with all my heart.

I can agree with this

I can't agree with this

What does it mean to “follow Jesus with all your heart”? It includes a new attitude towards the Bible, the Church and the World. If we are genuine in our decision to follow Jesus we will want to agree with these last three attitudes.

5. **The Bible** I may not know what this Book teaches yet, but I understand it is God's message to me. It shows me how He wants me to live. I want God to help me obey what it says with all my heart.†

I either agree or am willing for God to change me in this area

I can't agree with this

Bible References

*Romans 2:2 *God, in His justice, will punish anyone who does such things*

**Amos 3:3 *Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*

***Colossians 1:16-17 *For by Him all things were created: things in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together*

Ezekiel 18:4 *Every living thing belongs to Me. The life of the parent is Mine, and the life of the child is Mine. The person who sins is the one who will die*

†John 14:21 *Whoever has My commands and obeys them, He is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love him and show Myself to him*

- 6. The Church** I can see that all churches, like all people, have strengths and weaknesses. I want to learn from the strengths and help with the weaknesses. I will start going to church regularly and contribute to the life of it.*

I either agree or am willing for God to change me in this area

I can't agree with this

- 7. The World** All people in the world have needs (eg **physical** - food & clothing; **spiritual** - peace with God; **emotional** - acceptance, love & laughter; **relational** - deep & meaningful relationships; **intellectual** - How did the world begin? What is my purpose here on earth? What happens after death? etc). I want to love people so that these needs, especially the spiritual, can be met.

I either agree or am willing for God to change me in this area

I can't agree with this

How did you go? Write in the box what you scored out of seven.

_____ 7

If you genuinely agree with all seven attitudes you are ready to begin your life as a Christian by praying carefully and sincerely through the prayer on the next page. If you couldn't agree on one or more of the attitudes, perhaps you need to do some more thinking. Don't give up. Ask God to help you change. He will give you the strength to replace your old attitudes with new ones. If you don't understand these attitudes, ask an enthusiastic Christian to help you. Thinking, asking questions and reading will help you on your journey to becoming a Christian. At some point however, you must agree with all seven attitudes and begin your relationship with Jesus. Only then will you know the peace of being completely forgiven and of being absolutely sure you will spend your eternity in heaven.

Remember, if you become a Christian, your life will belong to God. You will commit to following Him and let Him, as a loving God, rule over you. He will help you do this.

After considering this carefully, are you ready to commit fully to becoming a Christian?

We have put together a prayer for you, which will help you start your new life as a Christian and your relationship with Jesus.

// *Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross to take my punishment for Your laws which I have broken. I can't thank You enough. Words cannot describe the amazing love You have shown me. I want to become a Christian right now. Please give me Your perfect record. Help me live out the seven attitudes in this book. I want to turn from everything I know to be wrong and fully commit myself to following You.* **//**

You should conclude your prayer by asking God to come into your life and fill you with His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help you to live to the fullest the new life you have chosen. Here is a suggested way to do this. "Holy Spirit, I invite You to come into my life, to fill me and empower me to live for God. I want everything You have for me! Thank you, in the name of Jesus, Amen."

Praying this prayer is like going through a gateway - forgiven, cleansed and empowered - to a new life as a follower of Jesus.

Bible Reference

**Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Another reference is: 1 John 2:19*

What now?

It is extremely important as a new Christian to ...

1. Start reading your Bible regularly.
2. Find a good Christian church immediately. A good church is one where you come away feeling lifted up, closer to God, challenged and encouraged to live out the seven attitudes described in this book. You will sense that the people in the church have a genuine, living, vibrant and growing relationship with Jesus.
3. Make friends with enthusiastic Christians. They will help you live out your decision to become a Christian.
4. Tell people what you have done and encourage them to do the same.

genuineness

There have been people who have just 'ticked the boxes' and 'prayed the prayer' but have not been genuine in their decision to become a Christian. If you are genuine, then points 1-4 above will happen naturally and will continue to happen for the rest of your life. This will be the evidence of your sincerity to follow Jesus. Our hope and prayer for you is that your decision will be genuine, your life will change and that you will experience a close relationship with Jesus.*

It would be good to contact the person who gave you this booklet and let them know what you have done. This will really encourage them. If they didn't leave a phone number or email address, use info@why.org.nz, and tell where it was given to you, and we will try to get a message to them.

Bible References

*James 2:14 & 17 *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such a faith save him? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead*

John 15:8 *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples*

Other references are: Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 3:8 & 10; Acts 26:19-20



HOW your life would change
LIFE

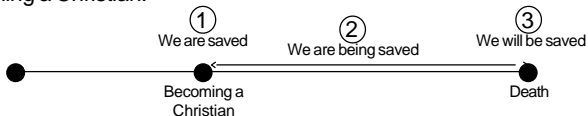
IF YOU became a Christian

When you become a Christian, the Bible says you are 'saved'. What does this mean?

The Bible talks about being saved in three ways:

1. We are saved
something that happens now and instantly - a point in time
2. We are being saved
something that happens over a period of time - a process
3. We will be saved
something in the future that happens after death

Look at the time line below. For a Christian the most significant event in life is becoming a Christian.



We are saved* This is a point in time decision and happens instantly when we become a Christian. Our imperfect record is replaced with Jesus' perfect record and we know for sure we are going to Heaven at death. We are forgiven once and for all. Our records are made perfect. We are saved from the consequence of breaking Gods' Law, which is eternity in Hell. We make peace with God.

We are being saved **This is a process and happens between becoming a Christian and death. What happens if a Christian fails and does wrong? Our perfect record remains in Heaven. However, in order to keep an open, honest, living relationship with Jesus and with others, we must confess our failures and ask Him to forgive us and clean us afresh. We must not only ask God for forgiveness for the things we have done wrong, but we must forgive others when they have wronged us.*** God helps us to forgive and change. Confession, forgiveness, forgiving and cleansing are vital for the process of 'being saved'. What are we being saved from? We

are being saved from ourselves. What most people don't realise is that our worst enemy in this life is ourselves. If we look back over our lives, we can see that many of our problems, heartaches and disappointments are the direct result of our own choices or attitudes.

Why are we our own worst enemies?

The Bible explains that all people are 'fallen'. † This means we have a built in tendency to do wrong. This tendency is first seen in childhood, eg children do not need to be taught to do wrong. It just seems to be 'in them'. Doing wrong takes away from the quality of life. This tendency to do wrong can be reversed. The more this tendency is reversed, the more real life we will experience. In fact, Jesus said His intention for all people is that they really live. In the movie "Braveheart", William Wallace (Mel Gibson) said, "All men die, but not all men live." Jesus wants you to really experience a full, vibrant, purposeful life. ††

Certain things (the negative) take away from this quality of life and certain things (the positive) add to it. Look at the diagram over the page ...

Bible References

*Ephesians 2:8 *You have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God*

2 Corinthians 5:21 *Christ had no sin, but God made him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God*

**1Corinthians1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*

***Ephesians 4:31,32 *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you*

†Genesis chapter 3

††John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full*

<p>Things in us that take away from life - THE NEGATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lying • cheating • lust • anger • jealousy • pride • greed • selfishness • laziness • resentment and so on 	<p>Things that God wants to bring into our lives - THE POSITIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instead of being a liar, He wants to make you a person of truth. • instead of being a cheat, He wants to make you a person of honesty. • instead of lust, He wants to make you a person of love. • instead of anger, He wants to make you a person of peace. • instead of jealousy, He wants to make you an encourager. • instead of pride, He wants to make you a person of humility. • instead of greed, He wants to make you a person who is generous. • instead of being selfish, He wants to make you kind. • instead of being lazy, He wants to make you hard working. • instead of being bitter and resentful, He wants to make you able to forgive. and so on ...
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Let's face it, when we do the things that take away from life, we feel terrible, hopeless, depressed, purposeless etc. On the other hand, when we are truthful, honest, loving, encouraging, generous, humble, kind, hard working, forgiving, full of vision and hope and so on, we feel truly alive! Right feelings follow right attitudes and actions.

One of the great benefits of becoming a Christian is having God work on changing you. The more you commit to Him, the more God will commit Himself to changing you, and the more you let Him change you, the more **real life** you will experience. His intention is also to restore us to wholeness and heal us from past hurts and disappointments. He does this in four ways: through the Bible, as you read it day by day; through the Holy Spirit, who will live in you and help you; through the love of fellow Christians; and through suffering: working through and overcoming difficult and painful experiences in life. Through these means He gives us the power to change. It's impossible to really change without His power. It is certainly impossible to get to Heaven and to be forgiven without Jesus' perfect record.

As a Christian, you will have a perfect record before God, but you will not become a perfect person on this earth. You may still fail - lie, cheat, be selfish, lash out in anger etc but over time God will replace these negative behaviours with the positive. The good news is that your future failures can be confessed, forgiven and cleansed. Your record, made perfect by Jesus, still stands. Thus at death, and only because of Jesus, you can be **absolutely sure** of your forgiveness and of your entry to heaven.

We will be saved* This happens at death and is in the future. Here, the decision we made to become a Christian at some point in our lives, is confirmed or ratified. Instead of going to Hell, we go to Heaven. All suffering and pain finally ceases once and for all.

Summary. A Christian ...

- Recognises that they are saved, are being saved and will be saved.
- In the first instance, has agreed with attitudes one to seven. Their agreement is genuine. By 'genuine', we mean there is evidence over time (ie for the rest of your life) of a gradual and progressive change of behaviour consistent with all seven attitudes. People who know you will notice your increasing love for Jesus and your desire to follow Him and fulfil His purposes. This will be evidence of the genuineness of your decision to 'turn' and 'surrender'.

If you want to become a Christian right now, turn back to page 17.

Bible References

**Romans 5:9-11 So through Christ we will surely be saved from God's anger, because we have been made right with God by the blood of Christ's death. While we were God's enemies, he made friends with us through the death of his Son. Surely, now that we are his friends, he will save us through his Son's life. And not only that, but now we are also very happy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we are now God's friends again.*

Is all this true? How can I know? Where do I look if I want to explore some more? Check out the following websites ...

www.answersaboutlife.com

Here you will find answers to questions like ...

*What about all the other religions?
How can I know if the Bible is really true?
Can't I just worship God in my 'own' way?
Can't I just live a good moral life?
Don't all paths lead to God?
But isn't evolution true?
Does God even exist?
The big difference between Jesus and any other religious
'guru' is the claim that He rose from the dead.
How do I know this really happened?*

This booklet is endorsed by mainstream Christian churches and organisations as a clear and accurate summary of the message of the Bible and the Christian faith.

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