



**Genesis 2:17b “for in the day that you eat from it, you will surely die.”**

In the Hebrew (the language it was originally written) it says, “*dying you shall die*”. This refers to both spiritual death (separation from God) and physical death. Spiritual death destroys fellowship with God; it separates us from Him. Physical death is a result of spiritual death. Adam did not physically die the second he ate of the fruit, did he? No, he died spiritually which eventually made his physical body die.

So, we are all born spiritually dead, separated from God. This spiritual death is the real issue. So, as you can clearly see, we are all born with a very serious problem. So, now that we have established this very large problem, which is being born spiritually dead, not having the ability to have fellowship with God, what is the solution? In God's eyes you are helpless and hopeless:

**Romans 5:6 “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”**

**Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”**

So, we must accept the cards that we have been dealt, that we are hopeless and helpless creatures. Our next question will surely be, “Where does that leave us?” Well, the Bible tells us the result of sin-

**Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Now what? After hearing the Truth of the Gospel, we must repent (admit we are a sinner and need a savior)- that is our first big step. So, what exactly IS salvation? We learned that we are all born depraved, spiritually dead. How are we saved from this death? How do we stay with God forever? The word “saved” is an action word and implies something or someone is going to take us from total depravity, being down in the dumps, to something or somewhere else.

We must understand that we are helpless and hopeless and do not have the power to accomplish this. We must understand that salvation is actually a divine work of God on man's behalf. In other words, salvation is the result of the work of God **for** us, rather than the work **of** us for God. Salvation is not something that we can accomplish. It is a grace gift from God through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior on the cross.

The “wages of sin” is spiritual death. The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, being judged and paying the price for our sin. To accept this payment on our behalf, we must admit we are a sinner (repent) and have faith (to believe and trust) in His saving work.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

So, ask yourselves this, as a helpless and hopeless person do you think you can accomplish salvation on your own? Are you a perfect sacrifice for your sins? To be this, you cannot think one bad thought or do one bad thing from birth until death and, then, you must be willing to offer your “perfect” self to be beaten and hung on a cross. Well, we all failed the first part of this test, right?. As we learned earlier, there is NONE righteous, NO NOT ONE!! When you admit that you are a sinner and want God to change you- you “change your mind” (repent) about who you want to be and how you want to live. You decide you want to stop living for self and start living for Jesus Christ. He now becomes your Lord, your true master, instead of that icky, sinful part of you.

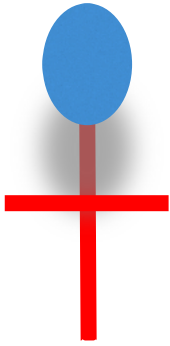
**Acts 16:30-31** *“and after he brought them out, he said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”*

Notice that even the very FAITH necessary for salvation is a “work of God”! Do not miss this! Our problem is that we have difficulty seeing ourselves exactly as God sees us. We must LEARN to understand what it means to see ourselves through the perfectly righteous, divine eyes of God. The ONLY way to do this is to humble ourselves when we hear the Gospel message, for starters and, then to continue in a path of lifelong learning to obtain the “mind of Christ” (**1 Corinthians 2:16**).

Here are some words that God has used to describe our state prior to salvation: “lost, condemned, under the wrath of God, blind, in the powers of darkness, dead in trespasses and sins. ”So “YES” the human race has a problem and Jesus Christ is our solution!

# The Chasm

Depravity



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**God**