**Life seems to be full of problems:**

* Problems with our economy, problems in relationships, and problems between nations and races.
* Problems in our families, in our schools, and in our jobs.

Could things be any worse? The bad news is that these are not the worst of our problems. Our greatest problem is that we are separated from God. This separation is called sin. With all the problems we face, what, where, who is the solution?

## ***Problem—Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”***

* Romans 5:12 – “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all menbecause all sinned.”
* Ephesians 2:1-3 – “And you were deadin your trespasses and sins,in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”
1. ***Penalty—Romans 6:23a “For the wages of sin is death.”***
* Hebrews 9:27 – “And inasmuch it is appointed for man to die once, and after this comes judgment.”
* James 4:12 – “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge; the one who is able to save and to destroy.”
* Psalm 50:6 – “For God Himself is judge.”
* A just judge brings justice. Sin must be paid for.
* Punishment is Hell – Motivating
1. Place of Weeping (Luke 13:28)
2. Place of Wailing (Matthew 13:42)
3. Place of gnashing of teeth (Luke 13:28)
4. Place of darkness (Matthew 8:12)
5. Place with no bottom (Revelation 20:1-2)
6. Place of eternity (Revelation 14:11)
* Revelation 20:11-15 – “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

## **Provision—Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”**

* John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
* Salvation is us being saved from God’s wrath. We are delivered from the consequences of our sin.
* Ephesians 5:2 – “Christ also has loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”
* Hebrews 9:11-14 – “But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good thingsto come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfecttabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanseyour conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
* We are stamped “Paid in Full.”
* Salvation: “The deliverance by the grace of God from eternal punishment for sin which is granted to those who accept by faith God’s conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus.
* Provision cannot come from self; it must come from Jesus. (I am the way…)
* Christ provides a sacrifice in our place.

## ***Personal—Romans 10:9-10 “That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”***

* Mark 1:15 – “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
* John 1:12 – “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”
* *Believe* ***—*** *Receive*
* Plead – Beg with the lost to consider Jesus because without Him there is no hope.
* Persuade – Know how to defend/present the Gospel.
* Persevere – If a presentation of the Gospel is rejected, you are not being rejected but instead they are rejecting Christ.
* John 3:16, 36 – “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.” “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

## ***Promise—Romans 10:13 “For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”***

* James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”
* Romans 8:1 – We now have no condemnation; we are forgiven.
* 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.”
* Ephesians 2:4-9 – “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 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.”
1. **Price-Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**
* Galatians 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”
* Explain the culture of this.
* The gospel is not only known to Christians so that we can share it with others, but to serves as a daily reminder of grace.
* Acts 1:8 - “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
* Matthew 28:18-20 – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
* John 15:20 – “Remember the word that I said to you, “A slave is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”
* 2 Timothy 3:12 – “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”
* Satan shows his best up front (“You will not surely die”), however, Jesus shows His cost up front and continually shows us His best.
* When we calculate the cost we see that Christ is abundantly worth it.
* Matthew 16:24 – Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.”
* Luke 9:56-62 – for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” And they went on to another village. 57 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” 59 And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” 60 But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead\*; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” 61 Another also said, “I will follow You Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

**Do YOU Want to Be Saved?**

Saying the sinner’s prayer is simply a way of declaring to God that you are relying on Jesus Christ as your Savior. There are no “magical” words that result in salvation. It is only faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection that can save us. If you understand that you are a sinner and in need of salvation through Jesus Christ, here is a sinner’s prayer you can pray to God.

**Sinner’s Prayer:**

G

od, I know that I am a sinner. I know that I deserve the consequences of my sin; however, I am trusting in Jesus Christ as my Savior. I believe that His death and resurrection were provided for my forgiveness. I trust in Jesus and Jesus alone as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you Lord for saving me and forgiving me! Amen