

## THE ONLY WAY TO GET SINS FORGIVEN

**1 John 4:10**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** Not everybody is aware that they are a sinner in God's eyes. As a matter of fact, not everybody even knows what "sin" is. Sin in a person's life has to be removed before that person can approach God and there is but one way to get rid of one's sins and that is by what God's Son, Jesus has done. To get rid of one's sins requires forgiveness from God and that is done in only one way. Only through Jesus can one get rid of his/her sins.

### I. WHAT SIN IS

1. Some wrong ideas, understandings of sin:
  - It's nothing more than some violation of relationships among people.
  - That something is sinful only if:
    - it is frowned upon by society.
    - it bothers one's conscience.
    - it hurts someone else.
  - The wrong idea about sin also causes misunderstanding about how it is corrected:
    - Some think that making things right with others corrects sin.
    - Some think that they are forgiven of all their past wrongs if they simply change their behavior for a while.
2. What the Bible calls sin:
  - There are three different kinds of sin:
    - Direct violation of God's Law (sin of commission) - 1 John 3:4
    - Failure to do what is right (sin of omission) - James 4:17
    - Violating one's own conscience - Romans 14:23
  - However sin is more than just violating human relationships:
    - Human relationships are sometimes involved, however to a degree.
    - Sin is a serious matter that involves God and His will for people.
  - Sin is serious and has consequences:
    - The wages of sin is death - Romans 6:23
    - Death from sin involves everlasting torment - Revelation 21:8; 20:10
    - Unforgiven sinners will experience everlasting punishment.

### II. GOD'S NATURE AND THE PROBLEM OF SIN

1. God's nature:
  - God is supremely holy:
    - His holiness makes any "truce" with sin impossible.
    - Psalm 5:4-6; Isaiah 59:1-2
  - God is supremely just:
    - His justice demands that sin be punished properly.
    - Some cases in the Bible where God punished sin:
      - Nadab and Abihu - Leviticus 10:1-3
      - Moses and Aaron - Numbers 20:12

- The terrible penalty for sin shows:
  - How holy God is
  - How terrible sin is to God's holiness

## 2. The problem of sin:

- It places mankind in a terrible situation (predicament):
  - For all have sinned - Romans 3:23
  - God's holy and just nature demands:
    - His separation from sinners
    - Punishment for those who sin
- People are unable to do anything by themselves:
  - There are no "works" that one can do to make him/herself innocent from the guilt of sin:
    - A person who murders is not made innocent of that murder by living the rest of his/her life by the law.
    - Many think that they can save themselves by balancing their good acts against their sins.
  - Any sin of any kind is repulsive to God's holiness and His justice demands punishment:
    - Revelation 21:8
    - No matter if the sin is fear, lack of faith, lying, murder, etc., the "second death" is reserved for those who are guilty of unforgiven sin.
    - One sin makes a person as guilty before almighty God as the person who has multitude of sins - James 2:10

## III. THE ONLY WAY TO GET SINS FORGIVEN IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

### 1. Jesus is the "propitiation" for sin:

- God provided Jesus as a "propitiation" for the sins of mankind - 1 John 4:10
  - "Propitiation" refers to an act of sacrifice that a person offered intending to appease his/her god.
  - In the Bible "propitiation" refers to that which GOD has done, not something man has.
  - What a person cannot do for him/herself, God has done.
- God has offered His Son, Jesus, on the cross as a means to appease His justice:
  - It was foretold by Isaiah almost 700 years earlier - Isaiah 53:5-6, 10-11
  - By the act of Jesus' suffering the punishment due the sinner, that sinner is forgiven of his/her sins - Isaiah 53:11; Ephesians 1:7
  - Through Jesus Christ's death on the cross, a person can come back to God, having been forgiven of his/her sins by what Jesus did for him/her.
- God is then able to:
  - Preserve His holiness when a person is in His presence as that person's sins have been forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ.
  - Maintain His justice because the believer's sins have been properly punished by the death of Jesus Christ.
  - Continue to demonstrate His love, grace and mercy.
- Jesus is the ONLY way to get forgiveness of one's sins for He has been made a "propitiation" for the sinner - has paid the price God requires.

2. Receiving Jesus as one's Savior is the ONLY way to forgiveness:
  - After Jesus' death for sin, and following His resurrection, Jesus charged His apostles with the duty of spreading the good news - Mark 16:15-16
  - Acts describes how this Great Commission/duty was carried out by the early Christians:
    - Peter proclaimed the gospel for the first time - Acts 2
      - Peter told how Jesus was risen from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God - Acts 2:36
      - Many people believed what Peter preached - Acts 2:37
        - They wanted to know what to do.
        - What can be done by a person who realizes that he/she needs to be saved?
      - Peter told them what needs to be told today - Acts 2:38
      - Peter told those who believed that they needed to repent.
    - A similar thing happened to Saul (Paul):
      - He saw Jesus on the road to Damascus.
      - After praying and fasting for three days He was told what to do - Acts 22:16
  - Jesus commanded also: Mark 16:16
    - When someone wanted to be saved through the blood of Jesus:
      - They were told to believe in Jesus and repent of their sins.
    - Faith and repentance were the conditions by which one could receive Jesus and have the forgiveness of sins - Romans 10:9-20

## CONCLUSION:

1. The ONLY way to find forgiveness of sins is through Jesus Christ.
  - God has offered NO other way to be reconciled to Him.
  - Jesus said, ***"...I am the way, the truth, and the life, NO one comes to the Father except through me..."*** - John 14:6
2. Have YOU accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
  - Have YOU trusted in Him for salvation?
  - Have YOU made the decision to turn from YOUR sins (repentance?)
3. Repeating a number of "Hail Mary's" as some are told to do will not give a person forgiveness of his/her sins. ONLY Jesus Christ can bring forgiveness of one's sins.