

# Prepare to Meet Thy God!

**M**ANY in the world believe that they have faith in God. They believe that they are able to please Him by obeying His laws, and that by so doing they will receive eternal life. In order to know how a person can be justified before God, we must know what God says about Himself and what He says about us. We cannot come to God our own way; we can only approach Him in the way in which He commands.

We know that *God is perfect and without sin*. He can do no wrong; for He is absolutely pure and righteous. He stands alone as the Creator of this world and universe. All powerful, eternal, and unchanging, He is the sovereign ruler of all creation. God reveals to us that He is a holy, righteous God Who hates sin. Sin is anything which is opposed to His holy character and Law.

God's revelation to man, the Holy Scriptures, tell us that God is holy and hates all evil. He can make no mistakes and can in no way sin. Man, however, is a creature created by God alone. Man was created perfect by God. However, man listened to the devil's lie and disobeyed God. That day man became a sinner and lost his original perfection.

*Ever since the time of Adam and Eve, men have been born with a sinful nature.* We are born sinners and grow up with a natural inclination to do evil. As a result, all men and women are sinners in God's sight. God, Who looks on the heart, says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer 17:9). He also says, "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psa 14:2-3). God says that not one person is good in His sight. All are evil and wicked at heart. Thus the evil which comes out of men proceeds from the heart. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries,

fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies; these are the things which defile a man” (Mat 15:19-20).

God looks upon your life. *He sees the wicked things you do.* He sees your heart and knows your evil thoughts and intentions. The world may never see your evil deeds, but God says that even your evil thoughts condemn you. You must realize that God, Who is holy and searches and knows all things, knows you and pronounces that you are a sinner. God reveals that you are under His condemnation.

Because He is a holy God Who hates sin, He is against you. *Because He is a righteous and just God, He must punish sin.* You cannot escape. His Law, as revealed from heaven in the Ten Commandments, condemns you in His sight. “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law; that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Rom 3:19). Your mouth will be stopped before God. You will have no defense, no excuse, because your sin condemns you and you are guilty before God. You deserve God’s eternal wrath in hell—that eternal lake of fire into which sinners will be cast and tormented forever and ever.

God also declares that *there is no way that we of ourselves can undo our sin.* We might reform our lives, have a belief in God, and begin to obey His laws. But God says that sin already committed must be paid for. Its penalty is eternal damnation. Your present obedience, even if it were perfect obedience, cannot pay for past sin.

Your debt of sin is like a man who owes ten billion dollars and has not one cent with which to pay it. This man may promise that from now on he will pay any more debts which he may incur. However, his creditor is not satisfied. He may pay any future debt which he incurs, but that will not satisfy the debt of which he has already incurred. You only have to sin once and break one of His commandments and you deserve eternal punishment. God declares: “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (Jam 2:10).

God further declares that *our good works are not good enough*. You may follow every law which your prophet has laid down and you may believe that you are a good person. However, you must realize that God has declared that your works are filthy in His sight. He says, “We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isa 64:6). “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Rom 3:20). You have a depraved and corrupt heart in which there is no good. Your works are rejected by God as filthy. Recognize your present situation! God sees your foul heart and you are condemned. He sees your past debt of sin which you cannot repay. He says that your present good works are filthy in His sight. If your religion teaches you that you will be saved by your obedience to a set of rules, then you are hopelessly lost and have been deceived.

Dear sinner, realize that *you are under God’s judgment*; you are yet in your sins and are presently facing the eternal wrath of God in hell. If you will humble yourself at this point and confess your sin and helplessness to save yourself, then God has a further word for you. The Holy Scripture tells us that *God is also a God of love*. He cares for His creation and takes particular care of us as individuals. He does not take pleasure in afflicting or punishing us. God delights to show mercy. In love God provided a way in which we filthy sinners could be made clean. There is only one way in which we can approach God and be saved, and God Himself has revealed that way to us. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

God was not interested in one race of people only, but *He provided a way of salvation for all people*. God so loved *the world*. The Lord Jesus Christ is for lost sinners. “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). Here we see God’s great love and mercy demonstrated. He did not love us when we were deserving, but while we were undeserving and unworthy. He sent Jesus to die for us when we were against Him, while we were hostile sinners. We see God’s great love and mercy providing

One Who could obey the Law perfectly in our place and pay that debt of sin we could not pay.

The Lord Jesus, when He died on the cross, took the place you and I deserve. *The Lord Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son.* Many cannot understand or believe this truth. We must realize that, as creatures, we cannot understand our Creator; and as sinners, we tend to reject God and to disbelieve what He says about Himself and about us. You must believe what God says and receive His Word by faith. God gave ample testimony that the Lord Jesus was His eternal and perfect Son. God even spoke audibly from heaven on several occasions and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mat 3:17). One other notable time in which God spoke audibly from heaven was at Mount Sinai, when the Ten Commandments were spoken to the whole nation of Israel. When God speaks audibly from heaven, He is emphasizing something very important. He wants us to believe that the Lord Jesus is His eternal Son. Any prophet who denies that the Lord Jesus is the eternal Son of God is a liar and a deceiver, and will only lead you to eternal damnation.

God tells us that the Lord Jesus willingly died on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sin, and to wash our sins away with His own precious blood. *He stood condemned in our place and bore the full wrath of God on our behalf.* He paid the debt of sin for us so that we could receive eternal life. 1 Peter 2:24 says, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree." Hebrews 9:28 says, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many." You will bear the wrath of God for your own sins unless you forsake sin and turn to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to save you and give you eternal life.

God gave further evidence that the Lord Jesus was His eternal Son, Who had fully paid the penalty for our sin, by *raising Him from the dead.* Jesus Christ is alive forevermore. He died and was buried for three days, and He rose up triumphant over sin and death. There is no other prophet who has risen from the dead. All prophets who taught contrary to the Lord Jesus are deceivers, for they are still dead and in the grave. But the Lord Jesus is alive. He was "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the

resurrection from the dead” (Rom 1:4). God says that because the Lord Jesus rose from the dead we can be sure that His death paid for our sins fully. Our debt of sin has been discharged and we are justified in His sight through the Lord Jesus.

If you would know eternal life and lead a life pleasing to God, then *you must repent and forsake your sin*. You must turn from your self-efforts, for you cannot earn God’s favor because you are full of sin. The root of all your efforts is filthy and corrupt. You must come to the Lord Jesus and receive Him as the Lord of your life. You must seek forgiveness and cleansing from sin through His precious blood, or else you will never be forgiven and will never enter heaven. The Lord Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” There is no other way of salvation. “Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Joh 14:6; Act 4:12).

There are many who would deceive you and lead you away from the Lord Jesus. To reject Him is to reject God and His offer of mercy and love. Roman Catholicism and ritualistic churches are not true biblical Christianity. The truth concerning the Lord Jesus has been brought into disrepute because of the errors propagated and practiced by these groups. *A real Christian believes God’s Word and comes to God humbly, seeking salvation through Jesus Christ alone*. A true Christian leaves sin behind and is no longer its slave. Like God, a true Christian hates sin. He surrenders his whole life to Jesus as Lord. A true Christian calls on the Lord Jesus to wash his sins away through His shed blood. A true Christian receives new life and begins to obey God’s Word from his heart, because he is now saved by Christ and is a child of God. A true Christian lives a holy life and is prepared to die because he has eternal life. If you would obey God, you must repent and come to the living God through the Lord Jesus. Jesus Christ must be your Lord and Savior, or you will certainly spend eternity in hell.

“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1Jo 5:12) You can only come to God by coming personally to the Lord Jesus

Christ and putting your trust in Him alone. Dear reader, do you have life? Do you have the Lord Jesus Christ?

—*Malcolm Eglinton*

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