

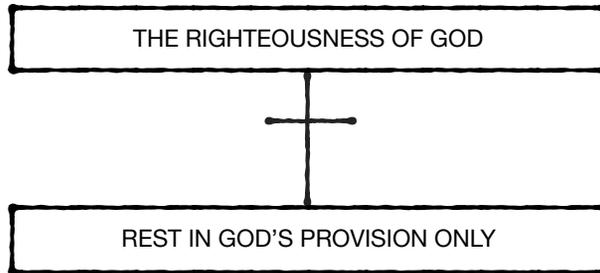
THE DECISION

If you pray the meaning of this prayer anywhere, anytime, you will begin eternal life at this moment:

God,

I know I am not as good as You are. I know You will not permit me into Your heaven with sin in my life. I realize that Christ died for my sins. I am relying on that to go to heaven.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



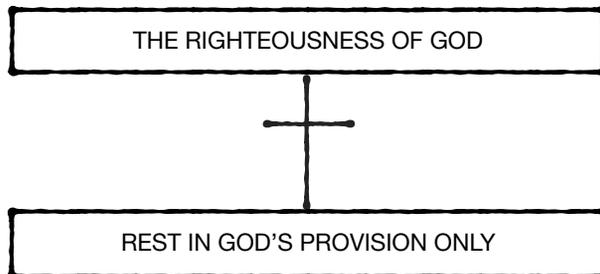
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BRIEFLY, HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

1. You are a sinner.
2. Christ took the penalty for your sin.
3. Rely on that for **yourself** to be acceptable to God for eternity.

REFERENCES

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| 1. Romans 3:21, 22, 25, 26; 10:3-4 | 5. Romans 3:23 |
| 2. Romans 3:10, 23 | 6. Isaiah 53:6 |
| 3. Romans 4:4, 5; 11:6; Galatians 3:11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5 | 7. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5 |
| 4. Galatians 3:11 | 8. Romans 3:24-25; 5:1 |
| | 9. Romans 11:6 |
| | 10. Romans 3:21-28; 4:3, 5, 6, 20-22 |

DR. GRANT C. RICHISON (©2017)

Author, lecturer, Bible expositor using Verse-by-Verse Commentary

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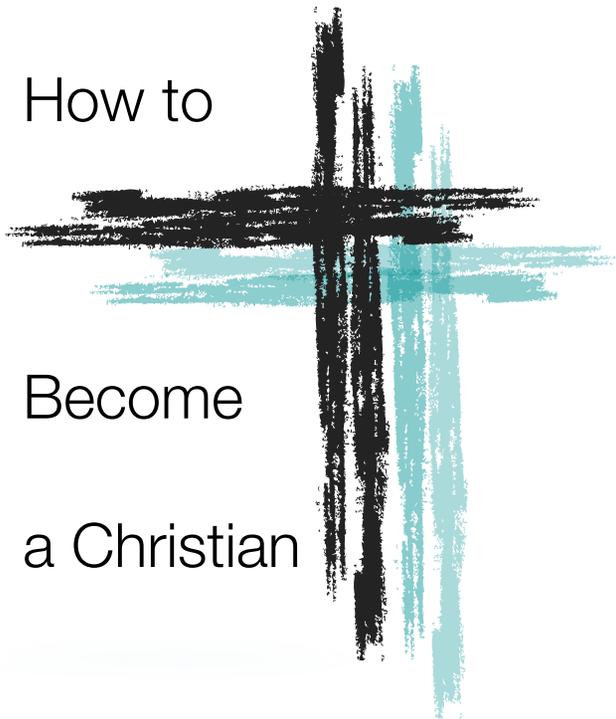
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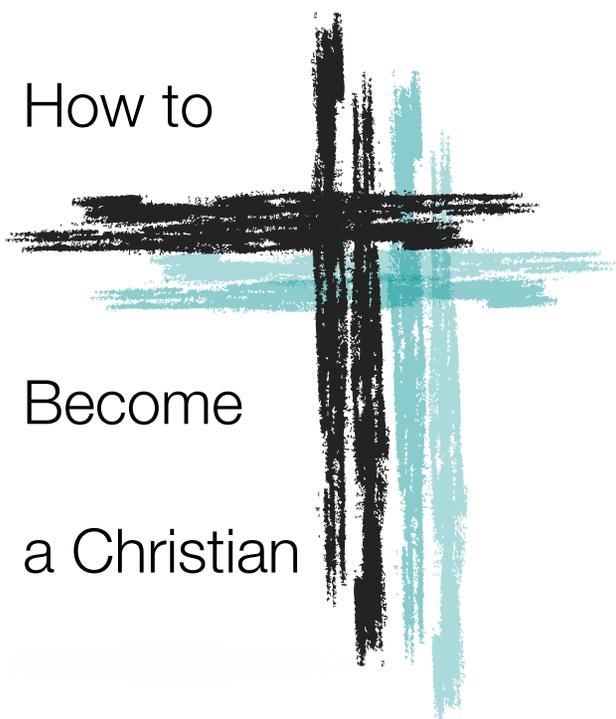
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How to

Become

a Christian



How to

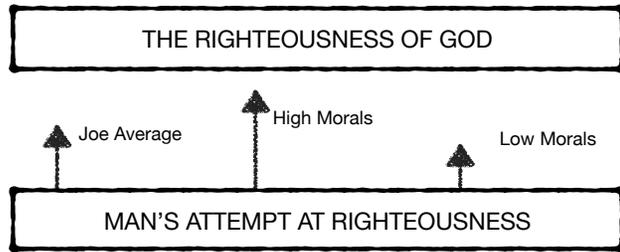
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GOD'S GOODNESS IS THE STANDARD FOR HEAVEN

How good does a person have to be to go to heaven? The Bible answer to that is a person has to be as good as God.¹ Since there is no person **as good as God**,² no one can go to heaven **by being good**.³

Committing even **one** sin, such as telling a white lie, makes a person a sinner.⁴ God is perfect righteousness. It is utterly impossible for God to permit sin in His presence—even one! A person cannot enter heaven with a single sin, because he or she has come short of God's righteousness.⁵

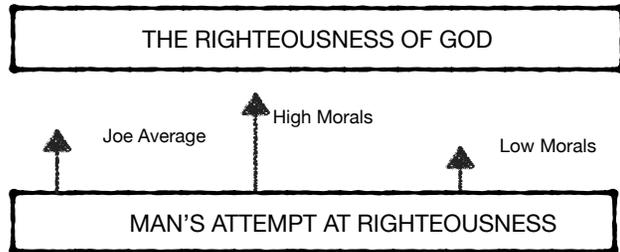


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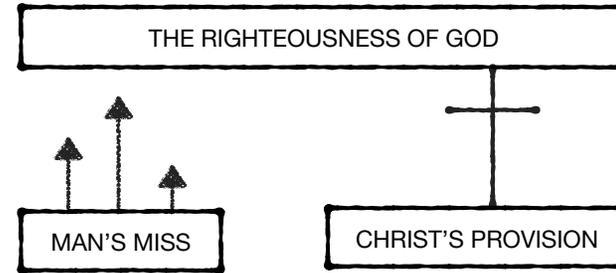


ALL come short of God's righteousness. Some are more righteous than others, but ALL come short of God's standard.

CHRIST IS THE PROVISION FOR MAN'S MISS

How, then, does a person become as righteous as God is righteous? God Himself has solved man's sin problem.

He sent Jesus Christ. Christ became man and lived without sin His entire life. He died without sinning. But God put our sin on Christ at the cross.⁶ We do not have to pay the penalty for our sins. He took our penalty. He took away all our sin. Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the key to our fellowship with God.

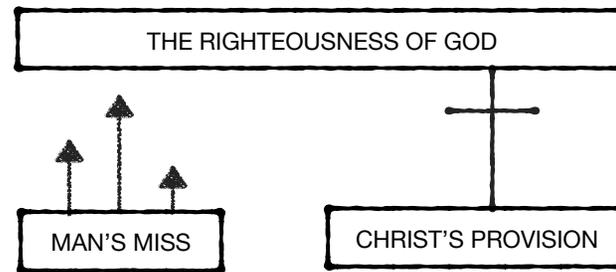


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FAITH IS THE KEY TO CHRIST

What is faith? The word means to *rely* or *rest*. Faith is not just believing that Jesus Christ lived in history; it is no mere mental assent to historical facts. Neither is faith some dim, vague hope for God to help us through life.

We must rely solely on Christ's death to pay the penalty for **our sins**.⁷ This means we must reject trust in anything else to bring us to heaven.⁸ For example, we cannot rest in the cross plus good works, the cross plus baptism, the cross plus church attendance. To trust in the cross plus anything else, such as the golden rule, is to not trust the cross.⁹ The cross plus anything means that we don't fully trust in the cross but rather in our own idea to get to heaven.

As soon as we lean on other things in addition to the cross, it is not Bible faith. Bible faith is total change of mental attitude from trusting anything else to resting on the cross to take away every sin we have committed or ever will commit. We must rely on what **Christ** did; that is, He suffered for our sins. When we do that, God declares us as righteous as God Himself.¹⁰

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