



WHAT IS SIN?

CLEAR ANSWERS

'Sin' – have you ever stopped to think what that word means? Or why you don't hear it so often? Is it a real thing? Is it just another word for doing something wrong? And who has the right to say when something is wrong anyway? Since this subject is so important, we want to give some clear and direct answers to some crucial questions.

WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is a special word used to describe breaking God's law.

WHAT IS GOD'S LAW?

God's law is the rule He gave to the human race by which we must live.

WHERE IS GOD'S LAW WRITTEN?

God's law is written in the Bible and summarised in the Ten Commandments.

WHO MUST KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

The Ten Commandments are for everyone to keep (as Jesus Christ clearly taught). The Bible also says that the principles of the Ten Commandments are written in our hearts by nature - for example, that it is wrong to lie.

HOW DO WE BREAK GOD'S LAW?

We break God's law when we do what the commandments tell us not to and when we don't do what they tell us to do. We break them in our thoughts and words as well as in our actions.

WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR BREAKING GOD'S LAW?

The penalty for breaking God's law is everlasting punishment in a place called hell.

WHY IS THE PENALTY FOR BREAKING GOD'S LAW SO SERIOUS?

God is perfectly holy and must deal with sin. His requirements are perfect and sin is far more serious than any of us realise.

CAN WE KEEP GOD'S LAW?

None of us, by nature, is able to keep God's law.

WHY ARE WE NOT ABLE TO KEEP GOD'S LAW?

God created human beings with a holy nature. But shortly afterwards, humanity (as represented by Adam) chose to disobey God. This decision polluted human nature so that we all now share a corrupt nature which desires to break God's law.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT, BY NATURE, WE ARE ALL UNDER GOD'S JUDGMENT AND DESTINED FOR HELL?

Yes – tragically and solemnly, it does.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THIS?

Please turn over...



WHAT IS SALVATION?

THE ANSWER TO
THE PROBLEM OF SIN

If you have just received this leaflet, please read the other side first! Some people, and churches talk about being 'saved' but don't tell us what we actually need to be saved from. After all, we begin on the other side by talking about sin and, if you don't know what that means, you won't know what salvation means. So, if you haven't read the other side, please turn the page round...

HOW CAN WE BE SAVED FROM SIN?

God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save sinners.

IN WHAT WAY DID JESUS CHRIST COME INTO THE WORLD?

Jesus Christ is God. He came into the world by taking a real but distinct human nature into union with His divine nature. He was conceived, by the power of God, in the womb of His mother and was born naturally – except without sin.

HOW DOES JESUS CHRIST SAVE SINNERS?

Jesus Christ came into the world to be, like Adam, a representative for His people. As their representative, He lived a perfect life for them and suffered the penalty they deserved for their sins.

WHAT DID THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST DO?

The life and death of Jesus Christ dealt with the problem of sin and secured everlasting life.

HOW DOES THE LIFE AND DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST DEAL WITH SIN?

It takes away the guilt of sin (so that no punishment is due for it anymore). In heaven, it takes away the very existence of sin in the soul as well as the effects of sin (so that soul and body are perfectly healed forever).

HOW DOES THE LIFE AND DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST SECURE ETERNAL LIFE?

By living and dying for His people, Christ secured their union with Himself and adoption into God's family. In this way, through Christ, we can come into a special and living relationship with God which we can enjoy forever in heaven.

DOES JESUS CHRIST SAVE ALL SINNERS?

No – He only saves those who look by faith to Him alone for salvation.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

To be saved, you must believe and repent.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELIEVE?

To 'believe' means that you accept and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died as a sin-bearer on the cross. Believing also means trusting Christ. You trust that He is able to do, and will do, all that He has promised in the Bible for everyone who trusts in Him – including you.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPENT?

To 'repent' means to make a complete about turn. It means that you confess your sinful ways to God and that you ask for His help in forsaking these ways. You resolve to live in a new way, following Jesus Christ as your Lord in the way that the Bible defines.

WILL JESUS CHRIST ACCEPT ABSOLUTELY ANYONE WHO COMES TO HIM IN FAITH AND REPENTANCE?

Yes He will – and He will never cast them out or let them go.