

cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

RSV 1 Peter 3:21—Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

BBE 1 Peter 3:21—And baptism, of which this is an image, now gives you salvation, not by washing clean the flesh, but by making you free from the sense of sin before God, through the coming again of Jesus Christ from the dead.

NAU Titus 2:14—Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

YLT Titus 2:14—Who did give himself for us, that he might ransom us from all lawlessness, and might purify to himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Ephesians 1:7—In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

NLT Isaiah 53:11—Because of what He has experienced, My righteous servant will make it possible for many to be [justified—KJV], for He will bear all their sins.

NKJ Romans 5:1, 8-10—Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.



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INTRINSIC OR IMPOSED?

Understanding the Law of Sin and Death

THEISM 1: Sin is inherently harmful. To encounter God is to also encounter ourselves. If any of us were to experience this encounter in its fullness, then end result would be death.

Matthew 1:21—“She [Mary] will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

NAU Titus 2:14—Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

YLT Titus 2:14—Who did give himself for us, that he might ransom us from all lawlessness, and might purify to himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

NKJ Exodus 33:18-20—And he [Moses] said, “Please, show me Your glory.” Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”

Isaiah 6:1-5—In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.” And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

THEISM 2: Each of us is destined for a full, undiluted encounter with God. For some this encounter will bring healing, for others it will initiate a psychological reaction of cause and effect—a self-realization leading to life-crushing guilt that leads to death.

NKJ Revelation 6:15-16—And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.”

Isaiah 33:17-18—Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; they will behold a far-distant land. Your heart will meditate on terror.

“God is Love.” —1 John 4:8

*All Scripture References are from the updated New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

Proverbs 28:1—The wicked flee when no one is pursuing.

Romans 2:5,9, 12, 15—But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS . . . There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil . . . all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law . . . in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.

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.

Revelation 14:10-11—He also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.

Deuteronomy 28:65-67—Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you will be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life. In the morning you shall say, “Would that it were evening!” And at evening you shall say, “Would that it were morning!” because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see.

NIV Ephesians 5:13-14—But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible.

THEISM 3: God longs for us to understand that sin produces guilt. Because this guilt, when revealed in the light of God’s goodness and holiness, will reach such proportions that it will crush out our lives under its heavy weight.

Genesis 2:16-17—The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

NKJ James 1:14-15—But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

RSV Romans 7:5,7, 9, 13—While we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear

fruit for death . . . What then should we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet, if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin . . . I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died; the very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, finding opportunity in the commandment, deceived me and by it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good. Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working [“producing”-NKJ] death in me through what is good.

Glory Sin Torment/Wrath Death
NIV Galatians 6:7-8—Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Proverbs 8:36—But he who sins against me injures himself; all those who hate me love death.

Proverbs 1:32—For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them.

Genesis 3:7-11—Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

NKJ 2 Thessalonians 1:9—These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

YLT 2 Thessalonians 1:9—Who shall suffer justice ~ destruction age-during ~ from the face of the Lord, and from the glory of his strength.

NJB Romans 6:23—For the wage paid by sin is death; the gift freely given by God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THEISM 4: God’s dilemma was that the very thing we needed in order to be saved [revelation of His character] is the very thing that would destroy us rather than save us. The cross of Calvary stands in solution to this dilemma. Calvary not only restores a correct concept of God, but does so in such a way that we see His great forgiveness. Rather than igniting that chain reaction of self realization, shame, guilt, and death, God’s forgiveness removes our guilt and shame and grants us psychological and emotional peace in a restored relationship with Him.

Matthew 1:21—“She [Mary] will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

NIV Hebrews 9:14—How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God,