

# We've got some GOOD NEWS

# and some BAD NEWS for the holidays . . .

**OKAY,** so you've heard that line before. But what if we told you that the good news we have for you is the best news you will hear in this life? And what if we told you that the bad news is the worst possible news you'd ever hear?

## Here's the bad news:

You have broken the law—God's law.

The Bible says:

The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; [There is] none who does good. No, not one.

Psalm 14:2-3

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

You might argue that you haven't broken God's law to the extent or to the degree that many others have, and that may be true. But unlike our legal system of misdemeanors, felonies and capital offenses, God's law is not simply a matter of degree. Whether we break the law a little or a lot, in a big way or a small way, it's been broken and with that come consequences.

You've been tried, found guilty and sentenced to death.

The consequences are both immediate and eternal.

The Bible says:

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.

Isaiah 59:2

For the wages of sin [is] death . . .

Romans 6:23a

The Hebrew prophets understood this and were regularly communicating what we would call "bad news" to the people. Even great rabbis like Maimonides understood the necessity of judgment. He said:

I believe with perfect faith that God rewards those who fulfill the commandments of the Torah, and punishes those who transgress them.

There is no possibility of appealing this Divine Decision.

Our court system allows for a myriad of appeals that can go on for many years. But once an appeal makes its way to the highest court and is denied, the process stops . . . and the only way to stay the sentence is to be pardoned. This brings us to . . .

## The very good news:

God loves us and offers to grant that pardon by providing another in our place.

The Bible says:

But He [was] wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Messiah died for us.

Romans 5:8

His name is Y'shua (Jesus) and He came to redeem all (Jews and Gentiles) who accept his offer of pardon.

The Law of Moses allowed God to mitigate His sentence by accepting a substitute; that is why animals were sacrificed in the ancient Temples. However, God has provided a "once and for all" sacrifice in Jesus to pay the price for our sin. Jesus, our sin bearer, gives us right standing before the court; He makes us blameless in God's sight.

Jesus the Messiah said:

I am the way, the truth and the life . . .

John 14:6

He also said:

. . . he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and

shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 5:24

All we need to do is take a step of faith and believe. The Bible says:

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Y'shua (Jesus) and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

## What next?

We are stuck with the bad news that we are all guilty and deserve punishment. And while we can point a finger at someone else's greater guilt than our own, it doesn't change the fact that God is holy and He hates sin—including ours.

But there *is* something we can do about the good news that God loves us enough to provide a solution to our sin problem. The Bible says:

He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord God will wipe tears away from all the faces, and he will remove the reproach of his people from all the earth.

Isaiah 25:8

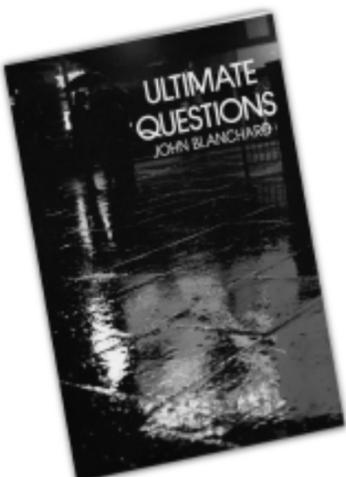
That is a promise we can count on if we are willing to give up our self-centered, self-reliant strategies and accept both His verdict and His solution. Won't you take the time to read His terms of settlement and see if you can agree to and believe them and make them your prayer to Him?

## Terms of Settlement

I agree with the Bible and believe before You that I have sinned. I do not meet your standard of goodness and I know I can never be good enough on my own.

I agree with the Bible and believe that because I have sinned, I am separated from You. I deserve the penalty for my sins and I need Your forgiveness and Your gift of eternal life.

I agree with the Bible and believe that You love me and sent Y'shua (Jesus), the Messiah, to die as a sacrifice for my sins. I believe He rose from the dead and I recognize Him as my Lord and my Savior.



Whether or not you agree with the statement above, we'd like to offer you a free booklet with more in-depth answers to your questions.

- I agree. Please send me the free booklet.  
 I disagree, but I'm willing to hear more. Send the booklet anyway.  
I am  Jewish  not Jewish

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