

Committed to our Decision!

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If we have definitely decided to *commit* our life to God; to *accept* His Son Jesus into our life as our Lord and Savior; totally *trusting* in His Atonement sacrifice for every aspect of life; and we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us every day in making scriptural decisions, then by God's grace, we have to remain *Committed to our Decision!*

Scripture tells us that Satan is the god of this world who controls most people in the world, and that he is the father of lies who continues to *deceive* people by offering false places of trust—clouding their minds to the Truth of the Bible. ² Corinthians 4:4 “*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*”

In our *search for Truth*, we discovered that we *cannot* enter His kingdom simply because we are guilty of sin—one time or thousands of times. There is, no doubt, no one on earth who has *not* told a lie; *taken* something that did not belong to them; *looked* with lust at someone or something—thereby committing adultery in their heart. Hundreds of millions have been *angry* without a cause; or harbored *hatred* in their heart—which the Bible says is the *same* as *murder*.

Everyone has *trusted* in something *other* than God—there is no one who can say they have *not sinned* in one way or many ways. Billions have *not kept* the Sabbath holy; and, no doubt, many *more* have *coveted* someone's house, their wife, their car, or their luxuries and possessions. How many, we ponder, have *not honored* their parents; have *cheated* on tax returns; told something that was *not true*; or made an *idol* of something or someone.

All such sins were committed by us in one way or another, in spite of the fact that our conscience reminded us that it was wrong to do them. God has *blessed* us beyond counting—and the apostle addressed the crowd at Mars hill in Athens—saying Acts 17:24 “*God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things*”—He gives us *all things!*

We have seen beautiful sunrises and sunsets; we have heard sounds of nature; and are reminded of God's promise when a vivid rainbow appears. We have been the recipient of an incredible array of blessings—all of which have come from His gracious and loving hand. But even knowing of all of these pleasures and blessings, we still *complain* and ask for *more*, or *newer*, or *better*.

We *know* that if we pass into the *next life* still in our *sins*, we will never experience pleasure again. That makes us *stop* and *think* about the Lord who *suffered* and *died* for us, so that we could be *healed* and *forgiven*; *converted* and *forgiving*. We know that He shed His *Blood* and gave *His life* so that we could have a *new life*—so *different* from what it *was* or what we *were!*

Jesus *rose* from the tomb, so that we could *rise* above the wrong *attitudes* and wrong *decisions* of the past. The resurrection *power* of *Christ*, destroyed the destroying power of the devil. All that God asks of us is to *admit* our sin and be willing to *place* them at the *foot* of the cross.

Psalms 32:5 “*I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*” Psalms 51:2 “*Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.*” And 1 John 1:9 “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

Over 7 *billion people* world-wide—and this *could* include us—will eventually be cast into the lake of fire if they do not *read*, *heed*, and *live* by the instructions of the holy Scriptures. If anyone is so *unfortunate* as to find themselves in that horrible place, they will have *no one to blame* but themselves, because their *decisions decided* their *destiny!* They decided that living God's Truth was not something they wanted to pursue.

It is *not* God's will that *anyone* would perish, but it *is* His will that *everyone* would be *saved*—but they have to *definitely decide* to *accept* and *live* His Truth. If anyone will *Make the Decision* to surrender their *heart* and *life* to *God*—and if they will *Stay with that Decision* through every trial; every trouble; and every test along the way; they would escape the wrath of God that befalls the ungodly.

God has shown His love for *all of us*, by sending His Son to die on the Cross for *all of us*. Romans 5:8 “*God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” Jesus gave *His life* to give us a *new life*—of *faith* and *trust*; and of *love* and *forgiveness* toward

everyone no matter *what* happened; *what* was said; *who* did the wrong; *when* it took place; or *how* serious it was.

It is Satan who wants to take something *from* us. He wants to *hurt* us by the second death; and to *destroy* the promise of salvation God wants to give us. Satan is a *thief* who only wants John 10:10 "*To steal, and to kill, and to destroy*" but Jesus is a *Savior* who came, "*That they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*"

Why would anyone rather have everything taken *from* them, and to be *destroyed* forever in Hell—than to be *given* everything they need in this life and then *enter* their eternal home in Heaven! Only *Satan* would influence someone to choose *that* wrong way. *Refusing* to follow Jesus is *choosing* to allow Satan to take everything from them—and to eventually destroy them forever.

Jesus asked that question—Why would anyone *not* believe Him and *not* accept Him—Matthew 23:37 "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.*"

Repeated verses mean repeated warnings Luke 13:34 "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! 35 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*"

If we continue to *resent*; or to *hate* and harbor bitter feelings toward someone—and if we continue to accumulate financial resources on earth; to find false places of trust; and if

we continue to walk in the spiritual *darkness* of this world, we will experience the fate of the unfaithful.

The unbelieving Revelation 21:8 "*shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*" That horrible fate does *not* have to happen to *anyone*, because they can *choose* differently. They could only blame themselves, because John 3:19 "*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil [wicked].*"

Everyone will have to *admit* before God, that we have *sinned* against Him, by breaking His commandments. Despite the *conscience* we have, we still have looked with lust at some time or many times, and have committed adultery in our heart. We, no doubt, have said something that was not true; and we could easily have taken something that belonged to another.

We have failed to *love* God with all our heart and have failed to *love* our neighbor as we love ourselves. Without question, we have *not* always kept the Sabbath holy, nor made it a day of rest as instructed. We have been covetous all too many times, and harbored hatred and anger without a cause—which is related to murder. 1 John 3:15 "*Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*"

We must admit that we have used God's holy name in vain and have made our own idols—replacing God with something or someone or some attitude. To be truthful, we have not always honored our parents, but have disappointed them and dishonored them in more ways than we care to admit.

Knowing all this, if we stood before the God of the universe, in all of His holiness on Judgment Day—and if every *secret sin* we have ever committed, as well as every *idle word* we have spoken

all too many times were presented as evidence of our sins against God, we would be *guilty* of every charge—we would justly deserve the lake of fire forever.

That is why we are eternally thankful that His Son took our place on the cross, suffered, and died in our place. He was *bruised* for our iniquities; He *paid* our sin debt, so we could leave the courtroom *pardoned* of the sins, the mistakes, the injustices, the wrongdoings, the vices, and all the iniquities we had been guilty of through many years—that is how much God loves us. Romans 5:8 "*God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

God just asks that we *believe* in our heart that His Son rose from the dead to give us a new life of faith in Him. It is the gospel message of the apostle 1 Corinthians 15:1 "*Which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*" When we *decided* to believe, we must *stay* with, and be committed to, that decision.

3 "*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*"

It is all part of being *committed to our decision* to believe God's Truth; and staying with our decision to meet the basic requirement of God. John 6:29 "*This,*" replied Jesus, "*is above all the thing that God requires—that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent*"—and remaining *committed to that vital decision!*



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