

## LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

### “LAW VERSUS GRACE”

When we speak of law we are speaking of God’s law. We are under the human law of the country in which we live but everyone in the world is under God’s law. We find God’s law in the Bible. What about those people who have never read the bible or had teaching from the bible. Romans 2:14,15. Tells us that those people who have never heard or been taught God’s law, “ do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness.”

In other words everyone in the world has a sense of right and wrong and a conscience that makes them feel good when they do right and guilty when they do wrong. For example, everyone knows it’s wrong to tell a lie, especially when someone tells a lie to them. Everyone knows it’s wrong to steal, especially when someone steals from them. Everyone knows it’s wrong to commit adultery, especially when it’s done to them. Everyone knows it is wrong to murder, especially if they try to do it to them. All this is written in the Bible.

The Bible also says we are to believe in, and worship the Great Creator God. That includes those who have never read or heard teaching from the Bible. Romans 1:19, 20. Says, “Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities- his eternal power and divine nature- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

God is saying that the whole human race is without excuse for not believing in him that being surrounded by all the things he has made and things he has provided like air that we breathe and food that we eat is proof that he exists.

God’s law can be summed up by the words of Jesus, Mark 12:30, 31. “Love the lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Then, “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

This means God must always have first place in your heart before anyone or anything. That you only do good things to other people and you never do any bad things to them. In other words this is how God wanted the people he created to live. This is the law of God, if we break this law there is a penalty. If we break the law of this country we live in, there is a penalty, a fine, community service, home detention, or prison. In some countries it can be execution.

When we break one of the commandments of God he calls it sin. We earn the penalty, we deserve the penalty it's our reward for doing something wrong that's why the Bible says, "The wages of sin is death." Roman 6:23. So when we break God's law the penalty is death. Death is the separation of your soul, your human spirit, your living, conscious personality, from your body. But it is also your eternal separation from God because God can have nothing to do with sin. Sin is walking away from God and in death we just keep walking away too late to turn back.

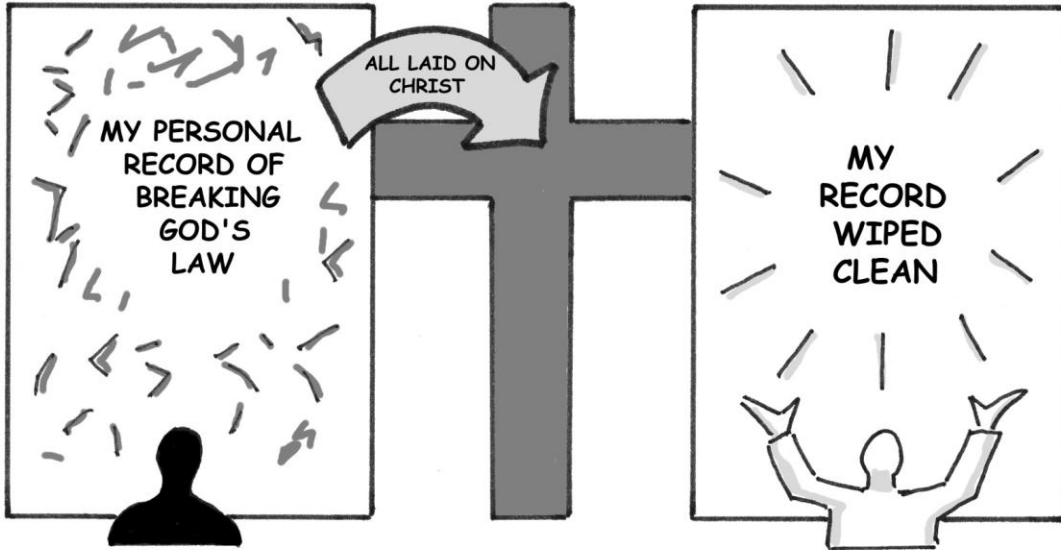
Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." What is the glory of God? It is the perfect shining glorious law of perfect love to God and man. What a mess the human race has made of it. Anyone who keeps it will earn the right to everlasting life. But no one has kept it except Jesus God's Son. So everyone has to pay the penalty, the wages of sin death. Praise God, that's only half the story for the same verse continues to say, "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We can never earn eternal life but we can receive it as a gift. It's the only way we can get it. The only other alternative is to pay the penalty for our breaking of God's perfect law. This is where grace comes in. Grace means favour, God's favour shown to us who don't deserve it. Ephesians 2:8,9. "For it is by grace (undeserved, unmerited favour) you have been saved (have your sins forgiven, have eternal life, have Christ living in your heart by the Holy Spirit, have a future resurrection body that will live forever) through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works (good works or religious works) so that no one can boast."

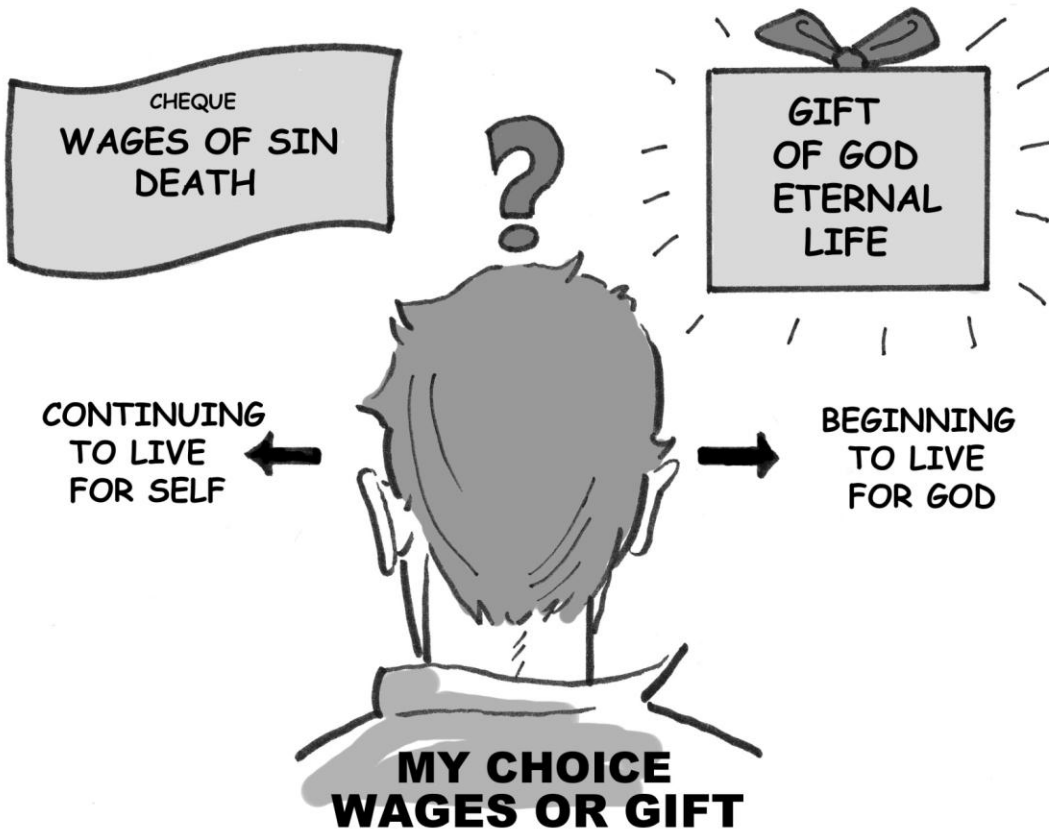
Just imagine if God were to show you on a big screen every wrong thing you had ever done in your life, things you had forgotten about, things you didn't think were wrong but now know are wrong, things that are wrong you are going to do in the future, what would you do? Why, you would hope he would not show anyone else, because there would be so many wrong things you had done written on the screen. You would see them as a big block between you and God. But what if he offered as a free gift of his grace(undeserved favour) to instantly wipe the screen clean so that every wrong thing is gone forever, what would you do? Would you say, "It's too good to be true!" Well it is true and it is the only way you will get to heaven, it's the only way Christ will live in your heart by the Holy Spirit, it's the only way you will have a future resurrection body that will never die.

It is yours if you accept it, its free to you but at great cost to God. God's Son Jesus, suffered agonizing separation from God for a brief period that you might be saved from eternal separation from God. Jesus did this for us when he died for us on the cross. Once we accept this wonderful gift from God then we will want to spend the rest of our lives on earth in grateful appreciation living for him and serving him.

**LAW VERSUS GRACE**



**THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE**



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