



A guilty man was convicted of murder. Justice demanded that a price be paid for his error. A payment must be made, the courtroom Judge said. His debt must be paid - it was the only just and righteous thing to do! The man was therefore sentenced to death by the Judge.

After many days of waiting, the day of his scheduled execution has arrived. The man is led out of his cell by prison guards. He is walked down the long corridor of death, with chains on his feet and hands. His heart is pounding. His body is soaked with sweat. Tears start pouring out of his eyes.

He knows he has but minutes to live!

He is almost at the end of the corridor. He can see the light of the execution room. He has heard stories of horror and pain and death about this room, and is afraid of what he is about to face. As this guilty murderer approaches the entrance to the execution room, a man steps in front of him and the prison guards. This man looks very meek and caring, and with a peaceful look on his face, he hands the guards a letter from the courtroom Judge.

As the prison guards read it, they realize that the Judge has given permission for this man to take the murderer's place! This man is a friend of the murderer and loves his friend very much, even though his friend is guilty. So great is his love for his friend that he has offered his own life before the courts to be sacrificed in place of his guilty friend, and the Judge has agreed to allow this substitution!

The murderer is suddenly released from his chains, and his chains are placed on the hands and feet of his innocent friend. The murderer is astonished. His mouth is wide open and he cannot speak. He watches in disbelief of the great love of his friend, as his friend is led to the execution room and beaten and put to death.

What a friend. This was a true friend.

This story illustrates what God has done for us. A true friend sticks by you no matter what, even when you are wrong. There is no greater proof of love and friendship than this.

Jesus said *“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”* John 15:13

Do you know that you have a friend like this? Our True Friend has already died as a substitute for us. The Heavenly Judge has allowed it. He died for us because, according to the Bible, we are all guilty of sin before our holy God. Romans 3:3,10

The good news is that our debt has been paid! We have been saved from a death sentence! The Bible tells us we are all deserving of eternal death, because nothing we do as sinners can please a perfect God.

But thanks to our Best Friend, the eternal judgment for our sins has been removed. Our sins were poured out onto Jesus Christ. God Himself broke down the invisible dividing wall between man and God — the wall between a holy God and His rebellious creatures.

No one is worthy except the perfect God-man, Jesus Christ, who has stepped in the way of our execution. He was without sin, and therefore qualified to be our sacrifice. Our death sentence has been transferred to our true friend, God Himself! John 5:24

God loved us so much that He stepped out of heaven. He became that innocent man in the long dark corridor. He became poor so that we could become rich, 2Cor 8:9. He paid the price for us, so that we could be offered the free gift of eternal life THROUGH HIM. Our certificate of debt, which we owed God for our sins, was nailed to the Cross with Him. And by simply believing in His Son, we are saved!

That is a True Friend. That is True Love. All of us have this Friend on our side, IF we choose to accept Him.

WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM, the Lord Jesus Christ, will NEVER perish, but **has ETERNAL LIFE!** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16

The Bible says *"The wages of sin is eternal death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Rom 6:23

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." Eph 2:8-9

The Bible says *"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved!"* Acts 16:31

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for anyone who has made the decision to believe in your Son Jesus Christ for eternal life!

We gladly welcome them as fellow children of God and heirs to eternal life. We ask that You bless us as we go forward to learn more about You from your perfect Word, the Bible.

We ask that You help all believers find the Pastor-teacher you have assigned them to, 1 Peter 5:3, so they can learn Your incredible Plan for their lives.

We thank You for Your free gift of salvation. We ask that You bless and protect everyone as they go forward in Your destiny for them. It's in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we pray. Amen.

**WE ALL NEED TO BE SAVED FROM A DEATH SENTENCE.
We just don't realize it!**

The contents of this booklet are to make us aware of the death sentence we are under, and how we can be spared from it.

**THERE IS A PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE.
It is up to you to search for it.**

You have free will, and if you seek for the truth,
you will find it!

This booklet is NOT for sale.