

WHY IS THE WORLD SO BAD IF GOD IS SO GOOD?

ALL PEOPLE KNOW OF GOD

Romans 1:18-20 "From heaven God shows how angry he is with all the wicked and evil things that sinful people do to crush the truth. ¹⁹They know everything that can be known about God, because God has shown it all to them. ²⁰God's eternal power and character cannot be seen. But from the beginning of creation, God has shown what these are like by all he has made. That's why those people don't have any excuse."

1. *Why is no one in the world without an excuse for following God?*

ALL PEOPLE DON'T CHOOSE TO FOLLOW GOD

Romans 1:21-23 " They know about God, but they don't honour him or even thank him. Their thoughts are useless, and their stupid minds are in the dark. ²²They claim to be wise, but they are fools. ²³They don't worship the glorious and eternal God. Instead, they worship idols that are made to look like humans who cannot live forever, and like birds, animals, and reptiles."



2. *The passage says that people worship idols. Rate the following on how popular they are for people in your area to idolise. 0 No one 5 Everyone*

a. Cars	0 1 2 3 4 5	b. Girl/boyfriends	0 1 2 3 4 5
c. Famous scientists	0 1 2 3 4 5	d. Rock bands	0 1 2 3 4 5
e. Surf	0 1 2 3 4 5	f. Sport heroes	0 1 2 3 4 5
g. TV or Movie Stars	0 1 2 3 4 5	h. Clothes	0 1 2 3 4 5
i. Statues	0 1 2 3 4 5	j. Money	0 1 2 3 4 5

REJECTION OF GOD LEADS TO SIN

Romans 1:24-27 "So God let these people go their own way. They did what they wanted to do, and their filthy thoughts made them do shameful things with their bodies. ²⁵They gave up the truth about God for a lie, and they worshipped God's creation instead of God, who will be praised for ever. Amen. ²⁶God let them follow their own evil desires. Women no longer wanted to have sex in a natural way, and they did things with each other that were not natural. ²⁷Men behaved in the same way. They stopped wanting to have sex with women and had strong desires for sex with other men. They did shameful things with each other, and what has happened to them is punishment for their foolish deeds."

3. *If people reject God then He*

- a. *Still loves them.* True / False b. *Leaves them be* True / False
c. *Let them go to hell* True / False d. *Lets their minds become dark* True / False
e. *Doesn't let them have fun* True / False

SINFUL ATTITUDES LEADS TO SINFUL ACTIONS

Romans 1:28-31 "Since these people refused even to think about God, he let their useless minds rule over them. That's why they do all sorts of indecent things. ²⁹They are evil, wicked, and greedy, as well as mean in every possible way. They want what others have, and they murder, argue, cheat, and are hard to get along with. They gossip, ³⁰say cruel things about others, and hate God. They are proud, conceited, and boastful, always thinking up new ways to do evil. These people don't respect their parents. ³¹They are stupid, unreliable, and don't have any love or pity for others."

4. *If people reject God what happens to them in this life?*

5. *What is sexual immorality and what causes it?*

SIN LEADS TO APPROVING OF OTHERS WHO SIN

Romans 1:32 "They know God has said that anyone who acts this way deserves to die. But they keep on doing evil things, and they even encourage others to do them."

6. *If a society rejects God what happens to it?*

7. *Why is the world so bad, if God is so good?*



Social Issues

Homosexuality

Romans 1:21-28 *"21 They know about God, but they don't honour him or even thank him. Their thoughts are useless, and their stupid minds are in the dark. They claim to be wise, but they are fools. They don't worship the glorious and eternal God. Instead, they worship idols that are made to look like humans who cannot live forever, and like birds, animals, and reptiles.*

So God let these people go their own way. They did what they wanted to do, and their filthy thoughts made them do shameful things with their bodies. They gave up the truth about God for a lie, and they worshipped God's creation instead of God, who will be praised for ever. Amen.

God let them follow their own evil desires. Women no longer wanted to have sex in a natural way, and they did things with each other that were not natural. Men behaved in the same way. They stopped wanting to have sex with women and had strong desires for sex with other men. They did shameful things with each other, and what has happened to them is punishment for their foolish deeds.

Since these people refused even to think about God, he let their useless minds rule over them. That's why they do all sorts of indecent things."

1. What does the passage say about God's attitude to homosexuality?
2. What is the cause of this behaviour?
3. Is it possible to be a Christian and remain being a practising homosexual? Why?

Divorce

Matthew 19:3-9 *"Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"*

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?"

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

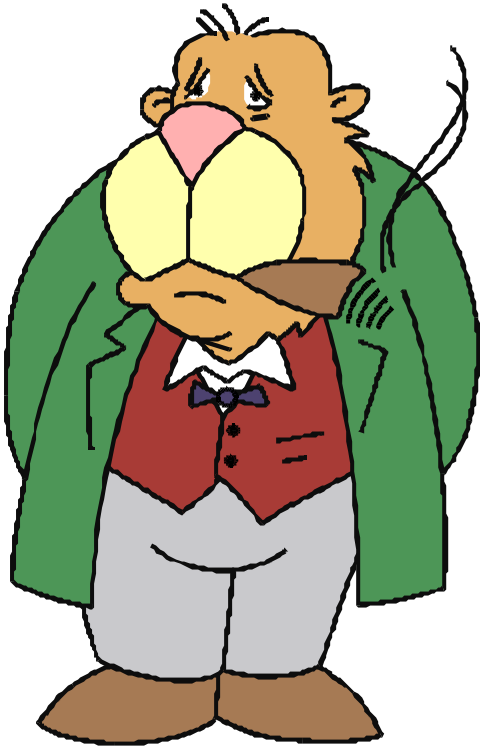
4. Write in your own words what was Jesus' answer to the pharisees' question?
5. Does this apply only to "church" or Christian marriages?
6. Why did God allow divorce?
7. Is it okay to divorce someone if you love someone else?
8. Divorce is an easy way to solve marriage problems, but how should marriage problems be solved?

Eye Problems

Matthew 6:22-23 *"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"*

9. What does Jesus say about our eyes?
10. How does this passage deal with those who claim that we watch, does not influence how we think or act?
11. How are you exercising wisdom in what you watch on TV or read, or films you see?

WHO GETS INTO HEAVEN?



1. Rate the following on how people have judged you? 0= never 5= often

Beauty	0 1 2 3 4 5	Intelligence	0 1 2 3 4 5
Friends	0 1 2 3 4 5	Where you live	0 1 2 3 4
Wealth	0 1 2 3 4 5		

2. When is judging wrong?

3. When is it okay to judge people?

"Some of you accuse others of doing wrong. But there is no excuse for what you do. When you judge others, you condemn yourselves, because you are guilty of doing the very same things. ²We know that God is right to judge everyone who behaves in this way. ³Do you really think God won't punish you, when you behave exactly like the people you accuse? ⁴You surely don't think much of God's wonderful goodness or of his patience and willingness to put up with you. Don't

you know that the reason God is good to you is because he wants you to turn to him?

⁵But you are stubborn and refuse to turn to God. So you are making things even worse for yourselves on that day when he will show how angry he is and will judge the world with fairness. ⁶God will reward each of us for what we have done. ⁷He will give eternal life to everyone who has patiently done what is good in the hope of receiving glory, honour, and life that lasts for ever. ⁸But he will show how angry and furious he can be with every selfish person, who rejects the truth and wants to do evil. ⁹All who are wicked will be punished with trouble and suffering. It doesn't matter if they are Jews or Gentiles. ¹⁰But all who do right will be rewarded with glory, honour, and peace, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. ¹¹God doesn't have any favourites!

¹²Those people who don't know about God's Law will still be punished for what they do wrong. And the Law will be used to judge everyone who knows what it says. ¹³God accepts those who obey his Law, but not those who simply hear it." **Romans 2:1-13.**

4. Why is it OK for God to judge people?

5. How would you answer the following people?

- I have never done anything wrong, so God should let me into heaven.
- I am not as bad as some Christian's, so God will let me in.
- God is love, so He will let everyone into heaven?

6. Who are rewarded on the day of Judgement (2:6-7)?

7. Who are punished on the day of Judgement(2:8-9)?

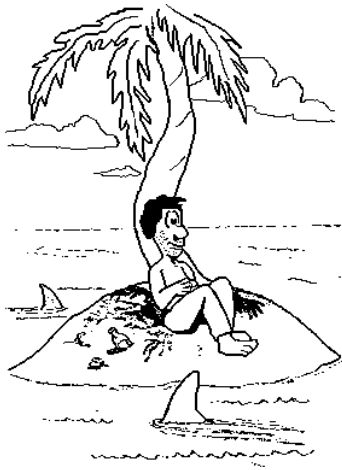
8. What is the reward on the day of Judgement (2:10)?

9. What is the punishment (2:8-9)?

10. What does "God accepts those who obey his law, but not those who simply hear it." mean?

11. If you were to die, what would happen to you?

LIVING IN A PERFECT WORLD



1. Which of the following problems will get solved in your life time? Why?

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| a. War | b. Poverty |
| c. Population explosion | d. Sickness |
| e. Pollution | f. Crime |
| g. Murder | h. Pornography |

2. What is the common cause behind all these problems? Why?

3. If a machine was invented that turned all people into sinless and perfect people would it solve most of the problems of the world?

4. Do you think all people would be willing to use it? Why?

5. If only half the world would use, it would that solve the

problems of the world? Why?

6. Should people be forced to use it? Why?

7. Would you use it? Why?

"¹⁷Some of you call yourselves Jews. You trust in the Law and take pride in God. ¹⁸By reading the Scriptures you learn how God wants you to behave, and you discover what is right. ¹⁹You are sure that you are a guide for the blind and a light for all who are in the dark. ²⁰And since there is knowledge and truth in God's Law, you think you can instruct fools and teach young people.

"²¹But how can you teach others when you refuse to learn? You preach that it is wrong to steal. But do you steal? ²²You say people should be faithful in marriage. But are you faithful? You hate idols, yet you rob their temples. ²³You take pride in the Law, but you disobey the Law and bring shame to God. ²⁴It is just as the Scriptures tell us, "You have made foreigners say insulting things about God." **Romans 2:17-24 (CEV)**

8. What are six things that made the "Jews" feel superior?

9. What is the difference between obeying God and knowing about God?

10. Do all people who go to church or a youth group go to heaven? Why?

11. What is the difference between in believing in God and obeying God?



THE YEAR 2020 A.D.

1. In the year 2020 I will be _____ years old

2. I will probably be doing the following

3. What will be the main problems in society in the year

2020?

4. What is the main cause of problems?

- a. Lack of education.
- b. Poor government planning.
- c. Taxes.
- d. People wanting too much.
- e. Other.

5. Do you think in the year 2020 poverty will be?

- a. worse.
- b. the same.
- c. better.
- d. not exist.
- e. other.

6. Does a higher education mean that?

- a. People do more crime.
- b. people will do less crime.
- c. do about the same amount of crime.
- d. It has nothing to do with crime.
- e. other.

"The Scriptures tell us, 'No one is acceptable to God! ' Not one of them understands or even searches for God. They have all turned away and are worthless. There is not one person who does right." Romans 3:10-12

7. What are problems the result of?

- a. Not going to Sunday School.
- b. Not knowing the Ten Commandments
- c. Watching too much TV.
- d. Each of us having a desire to sin.
- e. The whole world not being Christians.

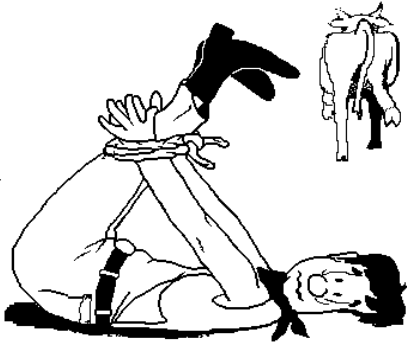
"Their words are like an open pit, and their tongues are good only for telling lies. Each word is as deadly as the fangs of a snake, and they say nothing but bitter curses. These people quickly become violent. Wherever they go, they leave ruin and destruction. They don't know how to live in peace. They don't even fear God."

God's way of accepting people

"We know that everything in the Law was written for those who are under its power. The Law says these things to stop anyone from making excuses and to let God show that the whole world is guilty. God does not accept people simply because they obey the Law. No, indeed! All the Law does is to point out our sin." Romans 3:13-24.

8. How are people put right with God?

9. If you died tonight would you go to heaven or hell and why?



PROBLEMS

WHERE DO THEY START?

1. What are four problems in the world today?

2. What were four problems in the year 1000 AD?

Jesus said "from the heart of man come evil ideas that lead him to kill, commit adultery , and do other immoral things; to rob, lie, and slander others, these are the things that make a man unclean (wrong)"

3. Circle the problems that Jesus said that are still in the world today.

4. Look at all the problems that are above and list 3 and what you think is their cause and a possible solution.

SOLUTIONS

The Bible describes the basic cause of all problems is sin which is man's rebellion

¹⁹"We know that everything in the Law was written for those who are under its power. The Law says these things to stop anyone from making excuses and to let God show that the whole world is guilty. ²⁰God does not accept people simply because they obey the Law. No, indeed! All the Law does is to point out our sin."

God's Way of Accepting People

²¹Now we see how God does make us acceptable to him. The Law and the Prophets tell how we become acceptable, and it isn't by obeying the Law of Moses. ²²God treats everyone alike. He accepts people only because they have faith in Jesus Christ. ²³All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. ²⁴But God is really kind and because of Jesus Christ, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins. ²⁵⁻²⁶God sent Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life's blood, so that by faith in him we could come to God. And God did this to show that in the past he was right to be patient and forgive sinners. This also shows that God is right when he accepts people who have faith in Jesus."

Romans 3:19-26

5. Why does the Bible mean by "No, indeed! All the Law does is to point out our sin."?

6. Can anyone be perfect? Why?"

7. What is faith?

8. How are people put right with God?

9. In one sentence write a prayer that people could say to become a Christian?

Getting right

with God.



1. Should you have to pay from your own birthday presents? Why?

ABRAHAM was the father of the Jewish nation. God said to him that he was to travel from Ur to a distant land (Israel) where he would be the father of a great nation with many children.

DAVID was the most famous King in Israel and he wrote many of the Psalms in the Old Testament.

Read Romans 4:1-8 "Well then, what can we say about our ancestor Abraham? ²If he became acceptable to God because of what he did, then he would have something to brag about. But he would never be able to brag about it to God. ³The Scriptures say, 'God accepted Abraham because Abraham had faith in him.'

⁴Money paid to workers isn't a gift. It is something they earn by working. ⁵But you cannot make God accept you because of something you do. God accepts sinners only because they have faith in him. ⁶In the Scriptures David talks about the blessings that come to people who are acceptable to God, even though they don't do anything to deserve these blessings. David says, "God blesses people whose sins are forgiven and whose evil deeds are forgotten. ⁸The Lord blesses people whose sins are erased from his book."

2. How was Abraham made acceptable to God (v.1-3)?

3. How are we made acceptable to God today (v.4-8)?

4. What does "Faith" mean?

Read Romans 4:9-13 ⁹Are these blessings meant for circumcised people or for those who are not circumcised? Well, the Scriptures say that God accepted Abraham because Abraham had faith in him. ¹⁰But when did this happen? Was it before or after Abraham was circumcised? Of course, it was before. ¹¹Abraham let himself be circumcised to show that he had been accepted because of his faith even before he was circumcised. This makes Abraham the father of all who are acceptable to God because of their faith, even though they are not circumcised. ¹²This also makes Abraham the father of everyone who is circumcised and has faith in God, as Abraham did before he was circumcised. ¹³God promised Abraham and his descendants that he would give them the world. This promise was not made because Abraham had obeyed the Law, but because his faith in God made him acceptable."

CIRCUMCISION was a Jewish ceremony given by God to Abraham as a sign of God's relationship with the Jewish nation. Many Jews believed that they were right with God not by faith but because they were circumcised. SARAH was Abraham's wife who didn't have children till late in life.

5. Some Jews believed that circumcision was enough to be a follower of God. How could some of the following become like circumcision?

Baptism (Christening) _____

Communion _____

Going to church _____

Going to youth groups _____

6. How should the Jews have viewed circumcision? (v.9-12)

7. How should we view baptism, communion and church going in relation to being a Christian?

8. If someone trusts Jesus is that enough? Why? (13-16 and 22-25)

9. What is important to make a wedding a wedding?

10. What is important in a marriage to make it last?

11. How is a becoming and growing as a Christian like a wedding and a marriage?

12. What is importance to do to becoming a Christian?

13. What is important to help you grow as a Christian?



What are you worth?

People are

120 grams of sugar
7 kilos of oxygen
50 litres of water

1.5 kilos of calcium
14 kilos of carbon
60 grams of salt

In addition, enough

Chlorine to disinfect 4 swimming pools
Phosphorus to make 20,000 matches
Fat for 10 bars of soap
Iron to make a large nail
Sulphur to rid one dog of fleas
Glycerine to explode one bomb

Acts Chapter 3:1-10 "The time of prayer was about three o'clock in the afternoon, and Peter and John were going into the temple. ²A man who had been born lame was being carried to the temple door. Each day he was placed beside this door, known as the Beautiful Gate. He sat there and begged from the people who were going in.

³The man saw Peter and John entering the temple, and he asked them for money. But they looked straight at him and said, "Look up at us!"

⁵The man stared at them and thought he was going to get something. ⁶But Peter said, 'I don't have any silver or gold! But I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, get up and start walking.' ⁷Peter then took him by the right hand and helped him up.

At once the man's feet and ankles became strong, ⁸and he jumped up and started walking. He went with Peter and John into the temple, walking and jumping and praising God. ⁹Everyone saw him walking around and praising God. ¹⁰They knew that he was the beggar who had been lying beside the Beautiful Gate, and they were completely surprised. They could not imagine what had happened to the man."

1. *What was the cripple asking Peter and John for?*
2. *What was his real need?*
3. *How did Peter and John meet his real need?*
4. *How do you think cripples were treated?*
5. *How would you have felt if you were healed?*

"As God transformed the life of this crippled man so God can transform your life!"

Romans 5:1-10 "By faith we have been made acceptable to God. And now, because of our Lord Jesus Christ, we live at peace with God. ²Christ has also introduced us to God's kindness on which we take our stand. So we are happy, as we look forward to sharing in the glory of God. ³But that's not all! We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. ⁴And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope ⁵that will never disappoint us. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love.

⁶Christ died for us at a time when we were helpless and sinful. ⁷No one is really willing to die for an honest person, though someone might be willing to die for a truly good person. ⁸But God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful.

⁹But there is more! Now that God has accepted us because Christ sacrificed his life's blood, we will also be kept safe from God's anger. ¹⁰Even when we were God's enemies, he made peace with us, because his Son died for us. Yet something even greater than friendship is ours. Now that we are at peace with God, we will be saved by his Son's life."

6. *How does God show his love for us?*
7. *How do we become God's friend?*
8. *What are we worth?*



WHO ARE YOU WILLING TO DIE FOR?

1. *Who would you be willing to die for?*
a. Money b. Headmaster c. A teacher d. Country
e. Mum or Dad f. A stranger g. Best friend
h. Prime Minister i. No one
i. Other _____

ATOMIC BOMB

During the making of one of the Atomic Bombs, in World War Two, a workman dropped a spanner into the starting mechanism. One of the key scientists instantly put his hand into the radioactive material and recovered the spanner. If he had not, the bomb would have gone off. As a result of the radiation he died a few days later. He gave his life to save those who were around him, plus the city in which the bomb was being built.

2. *If he had not taken the spanner out what would have happened?*
3. *Do you think he knew that he was going to die? Why?*
4. *Why do you think that he gave his life?*

"⁶We know that the persons we used to be were nailed to the cross with Jesus. This was done, so that our sinful bodies would no longer be the slaves of sin. ⁷We know that sin does not have power over dead people. ⁸As surely as we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. ⁹We know that death no longer has any power over Christ. He died and was raised to life, never again to die. ¹⁰When Christ died, he died for sin once and for all. But now he is alive, and he lives only for God. ¹¹In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God."

Romans 5:6-11

5. *Would you have done the same as the scientist? Why?*
6. *What type of person did Jesus die for?*
7. *What was the reason for Jesus dying?*
8. *How does a person become a friend of Jesus?*
9. *Write a prayer that someone would say to become a Christian?*

B E I N G F R E E



1. What do you think "trains find their freedom on the tracks" means?
2. Would sports be better with or without rules? Why?
3. What would be the advantages?

Romans 6:1-23 "What should we say? Should we keep on sinning, so that God's kindness will show up even better? ²No, we should not! If we are dead to sin, how can we go on sinning? ³Don't you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptised also share in his death? ⁴When we were baptised, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptised, so that we would live a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

4. What would be the disadvantages?

⁵If we shared in Jesus' death by being baptised, we will surely be raised to life with him. ⁶We know that the persons we used to be were nailed to the cross with Jesus. This was done, so that our sinful bodies would no longer be the slaves of sin. ⁷We know that sin does not have power over dead people. ⁸As surely as we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. ⁹We know that death no longer has any power over Christ. He died and was raised to life, never again to die. ¹⁰When Christ died, he died for sin once and for all. But now he is alive, and he lives only for God. ¹¹In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God. ¹²Don't let sin rule your body. After all, your body is bound to die, so don't obey its desires ¹³or let any part of it become a slave of evil. Give yourselves to God, as people who have been raised from death to life. Make every part of your body a slave that pleases God. ¹⁴Don't let sin keep ruling your lives. You are ruled by God's kindness and not by the Law. ¹⁵What does all this mean? Does it mean we are free to sin, because we are ruled by God's kindness and not by the Law? Certainly not! ¹⁶Don't you know that you are slaves of anyone you obey? You can be slaves of sin and die, or you can be obedient slaves of God and be acceptable to him. ¹⁷You used to be slaves of sin. But I thank God that with all your heart you obeyed the teaching you received from me. ¹⁸Now you are set free from sin and are slaves who please God. ¹⁹I am using these everyday examples, because in some ways you are still weak. You used to let the different parts of your body be slaves of your evil thoughts. But now you must make every part of your body serve God, so that you will belong completely to him. ²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you didn't have to please God. ²¹But what good did you receive from the things you did? All you have to show for them is your shame, and they lead to death. ²²Now you have been set free from sin, and you are God's slaves. This will make you holy and will lead you to eternal life. ²³Sin pays off with death. But God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord."

5. Since Jesus forgives all our sins (past, present and future) should we try to not sin? Why?
6. In what way's are we one with Jesus' death?
7. How can sinning be slavery?
8. How can you beat sin in your life?
9. What are three things you can do in your life to be more like Jesus?