

The Five Most Important Truths:

1. God created us to honor Him and commands us to do the same.

The Bible makes it clear that in creation mankind was crowned with glory and honor (Ps. 8:5), which means that God made us to reflect His greatness (Isaiah 43:7). Through displaying His grace, love, and works in our lives, attention and worship are drawn to the Creator. Though we may think this ugly at first (God created to bring attention to Himself), on second thought we understand that anything else would have been evil. For example, think how wrong it would be to hide from sight a beautiful work of art (e.g. Michelangelo's "Creation Of Adam" on the Sistine Chapel ceiling) or to keep from public knowledge Jonas Salk's polio vaccine. Yet, such crimes would be nothing compared to hiding or distorting the glory of the source of all beauty and goodness in the world—God. This first truth highlights life's purpose.

God commands us to honor Him through loving and delighting in Him. This was the Apostle Paul's point when he wrote: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31) and this is accomplished when we are satisfied in God (Phil. 2:14-15; 4:11). It was the point of King David when he penned the lyric, "Delight yourself in the LORD" (Psalm 37:4). This was the point of the Apostle John when he reiterated Jesus' words that doing the work of God demands "you believe in him whom he has sent." (John 6:29) Since God is the source of all that is beautiful, good, and right, since He is worthy of our worship, love, and devotion, it makes sense that ultimately all God's commands (love others as ourselves, tell the truth, honor your parents, practice sexual purity, etc.) are tied into this ultimate purpose.

2. We all fail to honor God as we should.

Romans 3:23 states this simply: "For all have sinned and fall short of God's glory." Earlier in that same book of the Bible we learn that mankind "exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles." (Romans 1:23) In other words, mankind naturally worships everything other than God: Himself, things he makes, sports, work, money, and on and on. We are a discontent people who live for self, ignore God, and hurt others along the way. This is what the Bible means by the word "sin".

3. God's judgment is upon mankind because of this sin.

"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), which includes alienation from God (Isaiah 59:2; Romans 5:10; James 4:4) and becomes permanent if not dealt with before one leaves this world (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:14-15). Additionally, this alienation from God takes man ever deeper and deeper into despair and pain. We were designed to know, love, and follow God, just like a refrigerator is designed to cool food. When a refrigerator is not plugged into its source of power, it cannot carry out its end. Likewise, when we are not plugged into our source (God), we cannot accomplish our purpose. And since this state arises from our unbelief and our rebellion against God, we rightly face the judgment of a God who will not allow the guilty to go unpunished (Exodus 34:6-7).

4. God sent His Son to save sinners from God's judgment.

God exists in three persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—all of whom are ever distinct from each other, but also make up only one God. God the Father sent the Son to save people from sin (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15). The Son became man (John 1:14) and died on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of sinners (Romans 3:24-26; 8:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24). He was raised from the dead to destroy the bondage of sin and death and also to demonstrate His crucifixion was a sacrifice for sin. (1 Corinthians 15) What is more, He accomplished this work that the barrier of sin might be removed between God and man (Ephesians 2:11-22), that man might be brought back to God (2 Cor. 5:18; 1 Peter 3:18), and that we might joyfully love God and magnify His greatness as was originally intended (Matthew 5:16; John 14:12-15; Ephesians 1:6; Titus 2:14).

5. We must repent and trust Jesus Christ as savior to be saved.

We are called to turn from the idea that we can save self and, with grief over and hatred of our sin against God, throw all our trust upon what Jesus Christ has done to save us (Acts 2:37; 16:31; Eph. 2:8-9).

Once we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Savior, we will grow in our new faith, our new relationship with God, by reading our Bible (Joshua 1:8; John 17:17), praying (Philippians 4:6-7), and by uniting with a Bible-teaching Church which joyfully follows and loves God and others to His glory (Hebrews 10:24-25).

If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, please let us know.