



# The Problem & The Promise

Lesson 1

## Introduction: "What's wrong with my life?" (Individual—or common?)

Written...

**Genesis 3:4-6** "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

**Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned...



## When sin entered the picture, everything changed. What are some of the effects?...

Written...

**Genesis 3:16-19** To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."



**Romans 5:19a** For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners...

**Psalms 51:5** Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

**Matthew 15:19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

**Romans 8:7,8** ...the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

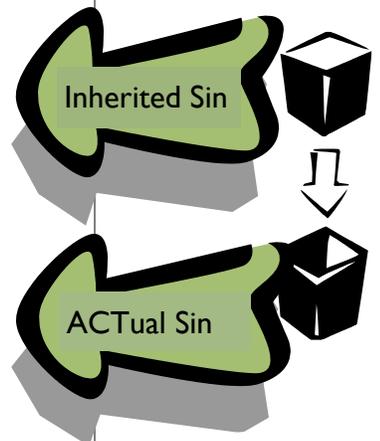
Let's Read Romans 3:9-20 What reality must we face about ourselves as we read this portion of God's Word?

## What punishment does God prescribe for sin?

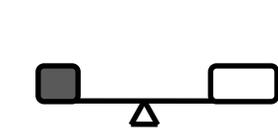
**Romans 6:23a** For the wages of sin is death... \_\_\_\_\_ 

Written...that  
you may  
have life.

Problem & Promise	I
The One Eternal God	2
In the Very Beginning	3
Called-Enlightened-Preserved	4



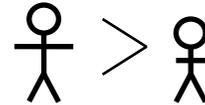
*If a sinner wants God's love and to go to heaven, what would he try to do to earn God's love?*



Counter-balance sins  
with "good deeds"



"I'll try harder  
from now on"



"At least I'm not as  
evil as \_\_\_\_\_"

*Do any of these satisfy God's JUSTICE? (And thereby earn God's love & heaven?)*

Written...

**Leviticus 19:2b** Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

**James 2:10** For whoever keeps the whole law, yet stumbles *at just one point* is guilty of breaking all of it.

**Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**Isaiah 59:2** Your iniquities have separated you from your God.

>

What is our status by nature?



"Furthermore, it is taught among us that since the fall of Adam, all human beings who are born in the natural way are conceived and born in sin. This means that from birth they are full of evil lust and inclination and cannot by nature possess true fear of God and true faith in God. Moreover, this same innate disease and original sin is truly sin and condemns to God's eternal wrath all who are not in turn born anew through baptism and the Holy Spirit."

Augsburg Confession Article II: 1,2

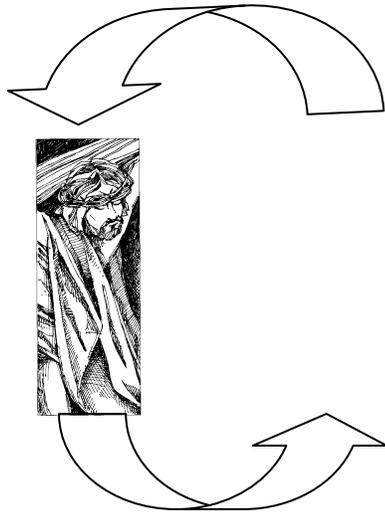
Written...

**John 3:16** 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.

**Isaiah 53:5-6** But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; & the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**KEY WORD:**

**2Corinthians 5:19** God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.



**2 Corinthians 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved... For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.

Read **Romans 3:21-26**

**Redemption/redeem =**

**Grace =**

**Atone/Atonement =**



**Justification =** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

Thought Question: *If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven? (WHY or WHY NOT?)*

***For Further Learning:***

**Read Genesis 3.**

1. How did the devil (the serpent) try to get Eve to doubt God and his Word? *How does he do that to each of us daily?*
2. In verse 4, the devil tells a blatant lie about what God had said. *In what ways does he continue to lie to us about what God says?*
3. How did Adam and Eve try to handle their sin & guilt at first? (verse 8) *How do some people today "hide from God?"*
4. By what means did both Adam and Eve try to take the blame for sin off of themselves? *How do people do that still?*

**True or False:**

- 1. Since Adam and Eve fell into sin, all people have inherited sin from them.
- 2. Some people's lives are good enough for them to get to heaven.
- 3. Babies are not sinful until they are old enough to do sinful things.
- 4. God is not angry if we sin accidentally.
- 5. Jesus lived without sinning even one time.
- 6. By faith in him, I get credit for the perfect life Jesus lived.
- 7. When Jesus suffered and died, he was being punished by God for my sins.
- 8. All I have to do now to go to heaven is to keep God's commandments as best I can.
- 9. God *has to* let me into heaven when I die.
- 10. God made Jesus guilty of our sins.

**Read Luke 10:25-37**

People are sometimes unclear on God's "standards."

- 1) How high are the standards God sets in order for people to be close to him?
- 2) Have we met those standards?
- 3) Who has?