OUR PROBLEM, GOD'S SOLUTION

By Randy Alcorn

1. *"God created mankind in His own image … God saw all that He had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:27, 31).*
God made human beings with personal and relational qualities like His own (Genesis 1:26). But something went terribly wrong.

2. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*
Our sins against a good and holy God have broken our relationship with Him (Isaiah 59:2).

3. *"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).*
When humankind chose to rebel against God, sin poisoned the world. People lost their relationship with God, and with it their happiness. But God loved us so much He sent us Jesus, fully God and fully man, to deliver us from death and give us life (John 3:16).

4. *"God demonstrates His own love toward us … while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).*
Jesus went to the cross to pay the price for our sins. He rose from the grave, conquering sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

5. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).*
God's greatest gift is a restored relationship with Himself, delivering us from hell and granting us entry into Heaven (John 3:36). This gift depends not on our merit but solely on Christ's work of grace for us on the cross (Titus 3:5).

6. *"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).*
We must admit our wrongdoing, and ask God's forgiveness: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Then we are to affirm to others that the resurrected Jesus is our Lord.

7. *"Whoever hears My Word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24).*
The life we long for is freely offered to us in Christ. We can believe His promise and call on Him to save us, humbly accepting His gift of eternal life: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

"I think it's really important for people to understand who God is, what He says about us, and what He says about our sin. You have to turn from your old ways, from your old self. It's not going to be perfect, but you have to turn and focus your eyes back on Him."

– Matthew Slater, New England Patriots

YOU CAN KNOW CHRIST PERSONALLY

If you believe Jesus Christ loves you, and would like to ask Him to forgive you and receive salvation, pray this prayer with me. It's as simple as A-B-C: Admit, Believe, Confess.

"Dear God, I ADMIT that I'm a sinner and the penalty of my sin is death. I BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that He died and rose from the dead for my sin. And I CONFESS Jesus as my Savior. Please forgive me. I repent of my sin and surrender my life to You. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen."

– Miles McPherson, senior pastor and former NFL player

If you've said this prayer text "Surrender" to 52525 to receive the next steps in your walk with God.