



Did you ever wonder where "Trick-or-Treat" came from? Some say, a couple of thousand years ago the Celts who lived in western Europe celebrated the time of harvest. They worshipped many pagan gods and at this time of year they would pay homage to the fertility gods in order to make sure that they would have a fruitful harvest the following year. The priests of the Celts were called Druids and they would come to the homes of their people to collect their children to offer as human sacrifices which they would burn in bon fires. It is said that they could predict the following year's harvest by the screams of the dying children. Many parents did not want to give up their children to such a terrible fate and chose rather to try and pay off the Druids when they came to take their children with the fruit of their harvest. This is where we in America get our ritual of giving candy to the little ones who comes knocking on our door dressed up to scare us on Halloween.

If you think that's scary, there is one more thing that I would like to tell you about. It's a place where the fires burn forever; a place where people are eaten by worms but never consumed; a place where there is a continual wailing and gnashing of teeth, and whether you realize it or not, this place is real! That's right, this is the ETERNAL STATE of those who are not good enough to go to Heaven when they die. Have you ever wondered whether you were good enough? God has given us many commands in the Bible and many people try very hard to be "good"

But the Bible says that those commands weren't given to us to make us good, but to show us how bad we really are. Here is an example, everyone knows that the Bible says, "Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13) but Jesus Himself said that if you are angry at your brother without a good reason that you are deserving of murder and if you call someone a fool, you are deserving of Hell. (Matthew 5:22) The Bible also says that if you just, you've committed adultery, It says that all liars will have their part in the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. There are many commands, but the same consequence for breaking every one of

them. These commands are known as God's LAW, and just as when we break a human law, we must pay the consequences. The problem is that everyone has broken many of them. The Bible says that we are all confined under sin. That means we are already guilty and are simply awaiting judgement. "IT IS APPOINTED FOR MEN TO DIE ONCE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT."

The Bible does not teach that we will avoid Hell by being good, as a matter of fact it says, "FOR IF THERE HAD BEEN A LAW GIVEN WHICH COULD HAVE GIVEN LIFE, TRULY RIGHTEOUSNESS WOULD HAVE BEEN BY THE LAW. BUT THE SCRIPTURE HAS CONFINED ALL UNDER SIN, THAT THE PROMISE BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST MIGHT BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE." (Galatians 3:21-2)

The deal is that our debt to God is too great for any of us to pay ourselves, no matter how hard we try. The only way to avoid this terrible eternity is to understand that God took the form of a man in Jesus Christ and lived without sin. He then GAVE His life by being nailed to the cross, and when He died he said, "It is finished," the debt was paid through his shed blood! Three days later He rose from the dead as proof of who He was. Once we see that we are guilty of violating God's law and know that we are helpless to save ourselves, we must turn away from the sin in our lives and put our trust in Jesus to save us from the sure fate of Hell. If you would like to know that your sin won't be held against you and that your eternity will be one of joy in the presence of God, this is what you must do. God sent Jesus because He loves us and knew that the only way we could be good enough was for Him to give us His righteousness. "BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. MUCH MORE THEN, HAVING NOW BEEN JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM." (Romans 5:8-9)

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