

4 S's of Salvation

1. The Sinner

All are sinners. Some are good sinners some are bad sinners but all are sinners. A sinner is someone who has committed a crime, small or large, against God's holiness and commandments.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23

"For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." Ecclesiastes 7:20

Illustration: If a person sins just 3 times a day that would be about 1000 times a year. Multiply 1000 x your age = _____. Even "good" people have sinned a lot! How would you like to stand before a judge accused of this many crimes?

2. The Sentence

"For the wages of sin *is* death..." Romans 6:23

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12

Illustration: Even though a Judge might not want to, he must punish those who are guilty. He would not be just if he just let guilty people go. Even if a person says, "I'm sorry" or "I didn't mean it", a judge is subject to the law and must enforce the penalty. Even saying, "I've been good" doesn't take away our crimes. The Bible speaks of the "second death" in Revelations 20:14,15; Revelation 21:8

3. The Substitute

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Romans 5:8-9

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" I Peter 3:18

Illustration: An identical twin once surrendered to the police in San Francisco for the crime of murder his brother committed. He never defended himself, was tried, convicted and hung (early 1900's). When his brother turned himself in as the real criminal he was told that his "crime had been paid for in full, he could go free".

4. The Salvation

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:9,10,13

Illustration: Believe - means to put your complete confidence, trust and faith in someone else's word and abilities. Like putting your life in a pilot's hand when you get on an airplane.

Receive - accept God's free gift by calling on the Lord Jesus Christ in faith to save you.

"...but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23