

to forgive them of their sins. Since God gave His only Son as the payment for our sins when He died on the cross, the penalty for those who reject God's gift is spiritual death⁵, being sent to the Lake of Fire for all eternity.⁶

Though things are nice to have, it is only peace with God which really gives one joy. Do you want true satisfaction? If so, then simply ask God by faith to forgive you of your sins, and He will do so based upon Jesus' death, giving you His joy and peace. He will do this because He loves you so much!

Randall Hillebrand

¹John 3:16; ²Romans 10:13; ³John 3:18; ⁴Ephesians 2:8-9;

⁵Romans 6:23; ⁶Revelation 20:11-15



I was born into a Roman Catholic family. I attended Catholic grade school and was an altar boy – one who assisted the priest during the Catholic mass. But the more I saw and the older I got, the more I rejected the idea of a God, first referring to myself as an agnostic and then later as an atheist. The idea of God made me cringe, so I denied His existence and lived my life as I wanted.

Living life as I desired meant that I stopped attending church. I involved myself in all types of immoral behavior, and I lived the way I wanted to in spite of my parents' wishes. I purchased an expensive customized van and motor-cycle. I enjoyed such things as SCUBA diving, skydiving, Tae Kwon Do, and later bought myself a sports car. Of course I purchased all this on credit, but at least I had the things which were important to me. I thought my life was good because I did and had a lot of things.

After taking a job as a Quality Assurance Engineer and getting married, it was my desire to become a millionaire. Being rich and having a lot of things will make any person happy, right?

I thought so. But I have learned that things break, get old, damaged, and eventually need to be replaced with better things to keep one happy. It is a cycle. Then our whole life would be spent chasing money and things until that day when we finally get old, break down, and eventually die. We cannot be replaced.

A key turning point came into my life after I finished reading the New Testament. There I learned that God so loved the world that He sent His Son Jesus to die on a cross for my sins and the sins of the whole world.¹ But how could God forgive and accept someone like myself who was an atheist and who even tried to convince others that God did not exist? Because the Bible says, "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved"², therefore, "He who believes in Him is not judged."³ This was good news! But I also learned that those who do not believe in Jesus have been judged already.³ This was bad news! There is forgiveness for all who desire it and ask for it by faith⁴, but there is also a penalty for all who do not humble themselves before God, asking Him