
“Look, Lord, I give half
of my goods to the
poor...” – Luke 19:4



Means of Forgiveness and Restoration

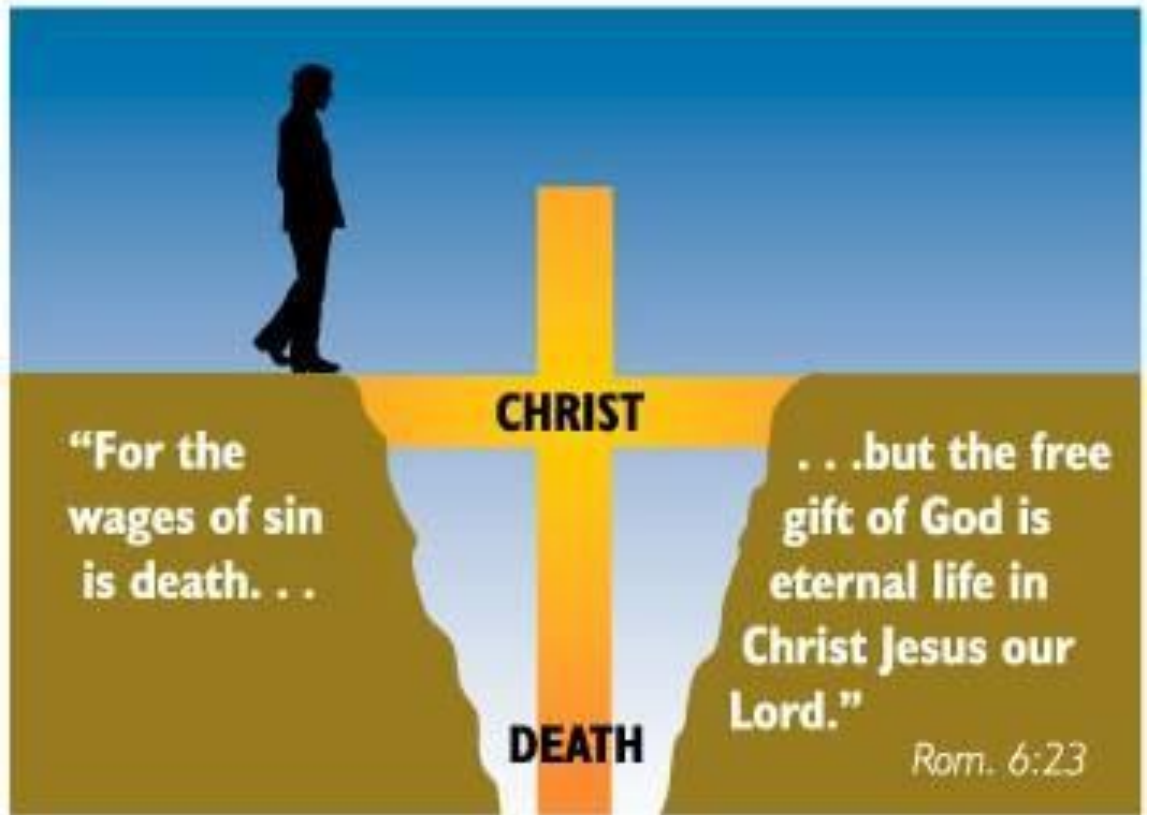
“Today salvation has
come to this house...”
(Lk. 19:9)

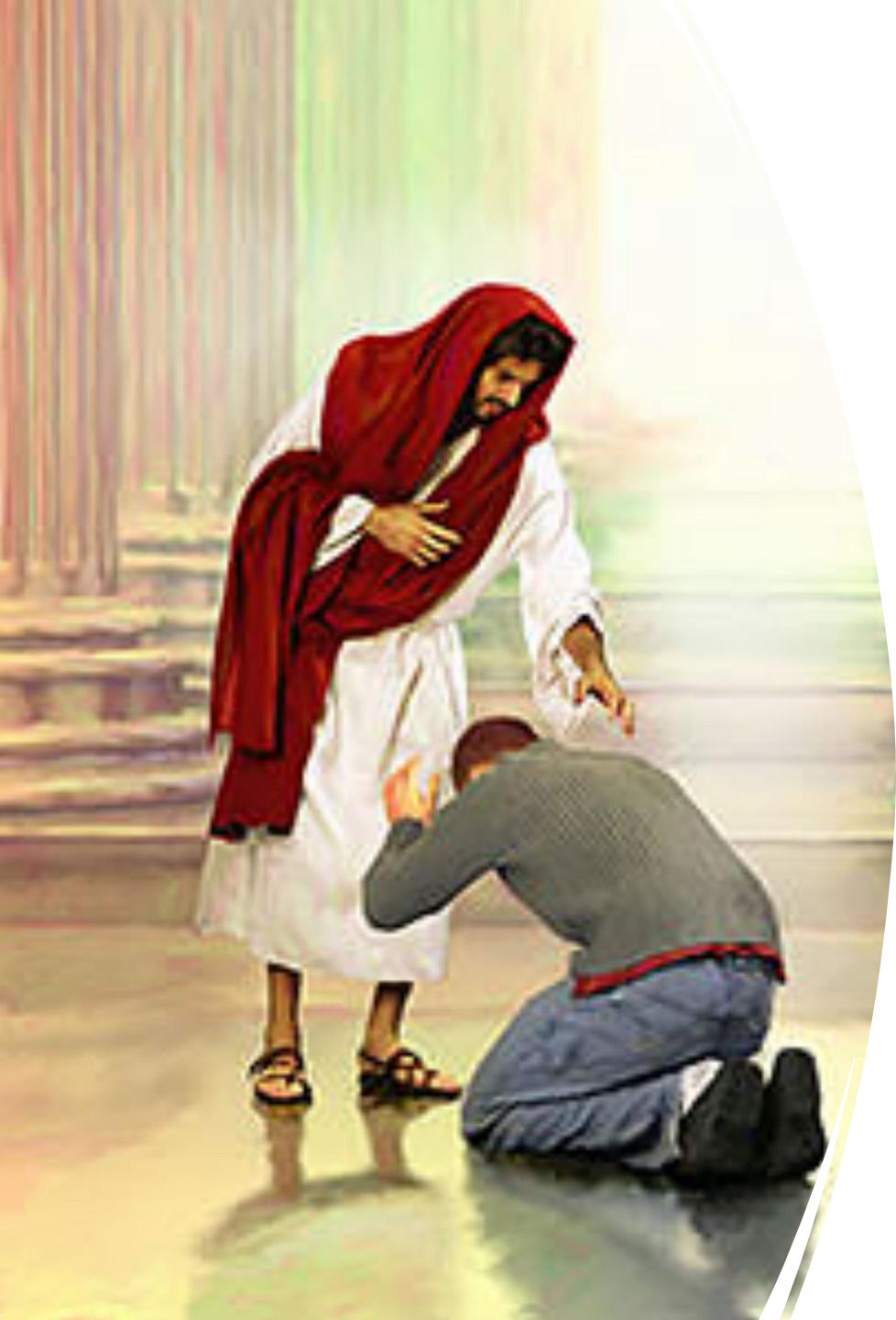
What is sin?

- Man was created in the image and likeness of God
- "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Gen. 1:26,27)
- "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Gen. 2:16,17)

What is sin?

- Falling from grace
- A debt
 - “And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.”
(Matt. 6:12)
- Missing the mark





What is forgiveness?

- Forgiveness is the release of a debt
- Forgiveness is a free gift
- “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 Jn. 1:9)

Means of Forgiveness and Restoration

- Baptism
 - “John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.” (Mk. 1:4)
- Accepting Martyrdom
 - “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matt. 16:24-25)
 - “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.” (Jn. 15:13)



Means of Forgiveness and Restoration

- Almsgiving or charity
 - “But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you.” (Lk. 11:41)
 - “For almsgiving liberates from every sin and from death, and it will not suffer the soul to go into darkness.” (Tobit 4:11)
- Forgiving
 - “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matt. 6:14-15)
 - “And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.” (Matt. 6:12)



Means of Forgiveness and Restoration

- Restoring a sinner
 - “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.” (Jam. 5:19-20)
- Plentiful love
 - “Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much...” (Lk. 7:47)
 - And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” (1 Pet. 4:8)



Means of Forgiveness and Restoration



- Partaking of the Eucharist
 - Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt. 26:27-28)
- Confession before a priest
 - And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (Jn. 20:22-23)

Summary



Means of restoring communion

1. Baptism
2. Accepting Martyrdom
3. Almsgiving or charity
4. Forgiving
5. Restoring a sinner
6. Plentiful love
7. Partaking of the Eucharist
8. Confession before a priest