

The Good Man And his Self-Condensation

The good man is known for his altruism, kindness, generosity, amiability, and consideration of others. His decency, helpfulness, magnanimity, thoughtfulness, and unselfishness towards others is the character he is known by.

How could such a man or woman end up in Hell? Would not such life-long traits rather qualify him or her for entry into Heaven?

The good man is simply a good person in the eyes of those who pass in and out of his/her life. Most of us know such individuals. They make terrific neighbors and are a pleasure to work with.

He is a good family man, or a good wife, with well-behaved children who excel in school.

He is upright in conduct. He is a moral person. No lustful thoughts, no lustful touching, or lewd and suggestive jokes or stories.

He may well be a life-long member of his religious faith. He is known as a “practicing” Catholic, a good Mormon, a lifelong Presbyterian, an Episcopalian from birth, a third-generation Baptist, or whatever he can claim, with regular attendance at church services and events.

He has no enemies to speak of and his friends all speak highly of him.

He may even believe there is a God. He may even believe there is a Jesus Christ who is a good man, or even a prophet, a good teacher of the highest morals. He holds out that there are many ways to God and Jesus is just one of those options.

The good man has never committed a crime or been given a speeding ticket.

He is focused on his job, committed to support of his family, or occupied with his business enterprise and has given no thought to the end of life and judgment to come in the next life.

Jesus described this man.

“And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘this is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; *take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.*” ’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night *your soul is required of you*, and now who will own what you have prepared?’ So *is the man who stores up treasure for himself*, and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:16-21

The good man most often does not believe there is an eternity, a life hereafter. John 3:16

The good man does not believe there is a resurrection of all the dead, raised by God to stand individually before God in judgment. Hebrews 9:27

The good man does not believe there is a literal hell and a literal heaven. Matthew 25:46

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. *And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*” Revelation 20:11-15.

If the good man does believe there perhaps might be a heaven, he is confident he will end up in heaven for having done more good than bad in his lifetime. While he believes God must grade on the curve, God preferring good people to evil people, the good man cannot provide any text of the Bible that might support his hopeful view he should be welcome in heaven based on good behavior.

The good man can be found making funeral arrangements with the “Heaven’s Gate” funeral home. He joins the many who continue “putting up appearances.” He does not consider making arrangements at the funeral home across town known as “Hell’s Gate” funeral home.

Jesus made a comment on the reality of this choice when he stated... “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

The good man rejects all of the foundational truths taught by Jesus Christ. The religious man struggles with self-identifying as a “believer in Jesus” when he discovers he rejects most or all of the most foundational teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of John recounts this very response by many to the teachings of Jesus. “*As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.*”

“These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, “*This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?*” But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? *What* then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; *the flesh profits nothing*; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. But *there are some of you who do not believe.*” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that

would betray Him. And He was saying, “For this reason, I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.” *As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.* So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” John 6:59-69

Jesus was clear as He could be “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’” Matthew 7:21-23.

The thinking of the good man is faulty. He fails to understand his lost condition and he does not understand the requirements of redemption set by God.

“Even those who trust in their wealth and boast in the abundance of their riches? No man can by any means redeem *his* brother or give to God a ransom for him—for the redemption of his soul is costly, and he should cease *trying* forever—that he should live on eternally, that he should not undergo decay. For he sees *that even* wise men die; the stupid and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others. Their inner thought is *that* their houses are forever *and* their dwelling places to all generations; they have called their lands after their own names. But a man in *his* pomp will not endure; he is like the beasts that perish.” Psalm 49:6-12

The life philosophy of the good man is “eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.” This perspective of life and death has been around for thousands of years and referenced in Biblical and secular literature through the centuries. Isaiah 22:33; Ecclesiastes 8:15; I Corinthians 15:32; Luke 12:19. He is an annihilationist. He believes in annihilationism. They do not believe there is an afterlife. They believe that people die and cease to exist. There is no judgment to worry about in their view.

The good man has placed himself in a precarious position. He is most often unaware of his pending peril.

“...in whose case the god of this world (Satan himself) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
II Corinthians 4:4

How could such a good and upright person qualify himself/herself for eternal condemnation and punishment away from the presence of God for all of eternity in the next life?

To be clear, we are referring to the “good man” as a man or woman who does not believe in Jesus Christ as God come in the flesh and that Jesus spoke the very words of God. The good man/person does not believe they are a sinner and under the wrath of God and on a path to “perish.” He does not comprehend that he condemns himself, “if we say that we have not sinned we make God a liar and His word is not in us.” I John 1:10.

“If we receive the testimony of people, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has the life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” I John 5:9-12

The good man must turn his stiff neck and in humility believe in the offer of God’s free gift of grace and the payment for the death penalty he/she owes which Jesus Christ paid for by His suffering and death on the Cross in his stead, in his place. The good man we are discussing does not believe any of that.

How does the “good man” end up under the condemnation and the wrath of God and is delivered to Hell?

The simple answer is clear, from Jesus Christ Himself... “I am the way, the truth, and the life, no person comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6. The exclusiveness of Jesus Christ for man’s only salvation is repeated in Acts 4:12, “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

The Scriptures are all very clear, “By grace you are saved, through faith (believing), and that not of yourselves, it is a free gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9. If the good man has any basis in proven character and life-long traits to claim some merit for qualification to enter Heaven, he by his very own claims of having something he has achieved to boast about has thereby disqualified himself from entering Heaven.

When God saves a person and makes them whole, God’s process and outcome are entirely different as described in I Corinthians 6:9-11...

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

The sins of the Good Man

What are the sins of the good man that self-qualify him for condemnation and eternal torment in Hell?

Is a sinner, stands condemned

Idolater

Calls God and Jesus Christ a liar, rejects the specific teachings of Jesus Christ

Rejects Christ's exclusivity for salvation

Rejects God's description of his fallen, sinful state

Holds his own views as superior to God's truths, the height of arrogance

Does not worship God daily or ever in spirit and in truth

Chooses the world's foolishness over the wisdom of God

Fears man

No fear of God

Disregard of God's Word, God's revelation

Has not sought to know God

Has hidden the Gospel from his own family

Pursues the establishment of his self-righteousness

1. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. The good man is still a sinner and still comes "short of the glory of God." Jesus taught us to "be perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48. Can the good man make that claim, of being perfect just like God in Heaven is perfect? No, the good man comes short of the glory of God and is still in his original sin.
2. The good man is engulfed in his idolatry, placing his trust and reliance on his own achievements, enjoying the comforts of his life. His trust is in select people he can control, in programs, his accumulation of assets and provisions, and protections of insurance and investments. His reliance is on his earned independence from needing other people or needing God's provisions. He is truly a self-made man.

Jesus said, "That which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God." Luke 16:15. Why does God detest these things that man esteems so highly? In each case, what man places his trust in is the gift or provision of the Giver (Romans 1) and he does not recognize the Giver or prompt a daily response that "all of life is from God" (I Timothy 6:13; John 1:1-5, Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-3). He does not default to the view that God is the creator of all things and brings life to all things/people.

The good man stands in violation of the very first of the Ten Commandments, "You shall have no other gods before Me...you shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me..." Exodus 20:3-6

The good man has pursued his dreams and objectives, following his greed for the better life, which the Scriptures define as idolatry. Colossians 3:5. The good man does not “seek first the kingdom of God and does not seek first the righteousness of God...” Matthew 6:33.

Jesus described it this way. “It is harder for a camel to walk through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man (accomplished, secure) to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.” Matthew 19:23-25. When Jesus’s disciples heard this, they asked “How then can a man be saved?”

The good man determines for himself what are his objectives and the efforts he will pursue to conduct his business affairs, which Scripture describes as “boasting in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.” James 4:13-17. This is how a good man moves into the category of an evil man. The good man is unable to boast only about God’s work and purposes in his life.

3. The good man rejects and has not agreed with the teachings of Jesus Christ. Christ’s most basic teachings include the sin nature of all men, all men stand condemned and under the wrath of God, there is an eternity for all persons whether in Hell or in the presence of God, and there will be a resurrection of all of the dead to the Judgment of God, and all men and women will be judged based on whether or not they believed in faith Jesus Christ as the only Savior from sin and eternal condemnation. Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; John 3:18.

In practical terms, and in all reality, the good man is calling God a liar and calling Jesus Christ a deceiver and a liar. I John 1:1:6, 8, 10; I John 5:10; Romans 3:3-4. When the good man does not believe and embrace the truths presented by Jesus Christ, the good man is maintaining that Jesus is not presenting the truth, with the good man maintaining his own views on all such topics as superior to God’s declarations and superior to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The only solution for the good man is to agree with God, “...let God be true and every man a liar.” Romans 3:4. The good man will need to come to this 180-degree new perspective and understanding of his own deception in which he lives and that he is living inside of a lie and the views he represents to himself, his family, and friends and peers makes him a liar to them. He does not represent the truth as presented by God and holds to his own views as the superior truth. This can only be described or defined as the ultimate achievement in arrogance!

This good man has represented to 100s of other family, friends, peers, and neighbors that his life is successful and his views are correct and can be relied upon. In reality, he has participated in deceiving all of the people in his life and has prevented them from learning the truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has participated in their continuing their own condemnation and remaining under the eternal wrath of God.

4. The good man continues to reject the claim of Jesus Christ to be “the only way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6. Jesus said plainly “Whoever is not with Me is against Me.” Luke 11:23. The good man is unaware or unclear as to why he will be judged by God and on what basis he will be judged.

“I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.” John 12:46-48.

And again it is made clear...

“But I tell you, on the Day of Judgment people will have to give an accounting for every careless *or* useless word they speak. For by your words [reflecting your spiritual condition] you will be justified *and* acquitted of the guilt of sin; and by your words [rejecting Me] you will be condemned *and* sentenced.” Matthew 12:36-37 (Amplified)

5. The good man does not realize his condition, or rejects the description of his condition as described throughout the Scriptures including...

- Was born into sin and therefore am a sinner by nature. Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23; Psalm 51:5
- A natural man. Cannot discern spiritual truths. Cannot accept the things of the Spirit of God. I Corinthians 2:14
- Spiritually dead. He is a dead man walking. Has not yet been made alive by an act of God, “born of God.” “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5
- Remains a sinner and remains under the death penalty for their sins. Romans 3:23; 6:23.
- Stands in a condemned state in relationship with God. John 3:17-18
- Is on schedule to perish. John 3:16. Is under the wrath of God. John 3:36; Romans 2:5
- “...being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart” Ephesians 4:18
- Does not have faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 4:1-2; 11:6 “That which is not of faith is sin.” Romans 14:23; James 4:17
- The good man is living and walking according to the flesh (not in or by the Spirit of God). “...those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8:8; Hebrews 11:6.

- Loves staying in spiritual darkness rather than in the Light; does not come to the Light because his private deeds are evil, and does not practice the truth (believe it, do it, obey the truth). John 3:19-21.

- Has accepted the deception of Satan who has persuaded him that he is correct and God's truths are not to be believed or obeyed. Luke 8:12; Matthew 13:19; Mark 4:15; II Corinthians 4:4.

- All of our own, self-righteousness is like the soiled feminine hygiene rags (the Hebrew for "filthy rags") as described by God...Isaiah 64:6

"You welcome those who gladly do right, who remember Your ways. Surely You were angry, for we sinned. How can we be saved if we remain in our sins? Each of us has become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind. No one calls on Your name or strives to take hold of You." Isaiah 64:5-7

The good man's pride in himself and his achievements and the good life he leads, prevents him from humbling himself under the mighty hand of God. He does not understand "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (into God's judgment). Micah 10:30-31. "God resists the proud and gives grace (only) to the humble." James 4:6. The good man is stuck/frozen spiritually by his own pride.

To be born of God and experience salvation, the good man will need to come to a place of humility (from his lofty pride) and come to full agreement with God about his lost state and his spiritual condition of being dead and under the wrath of God and in need of redemption by the only Savior Jesus Christ.

6. The good man holds to his life philosophy as the view of life he relies upon. If and when challenged, he holds to and defends his view as superior to any and all of the claims of God and the declarations of truth from God which would challenge his own philosophy and values he holds dear. The good man is unwilling to test the foundations of his own philosophy and beliefs against the declared truths of God's Word. He maintains his own view as all he needs. He ignores the warnings of Scripture which are clear. "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." Colossians 2:8

The good man does not understand or believe the Scriptures, "It is appointed unto man to die once and then the Judgment." Hebrews 9:17

7. The good man who does not daily worship the Lord God Almighty, which worship is due to Him as Creator of the world and maker of the good man, that good man reverts to being himself the center of the Universe. The world he lives in revolves around himself.

“Ascribe the Lord, O sons of the mighty, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in holy array.” Psalm 29:1-2.

The good man who does not worship the Lord daily is by nature ungrateful. He is described in Romans 1:18-25.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes, that is*, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood and worshiped and served the creature (the created) rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.”

8. The good man does not realize “the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God.” I Corinthians 3:18-23. The good man must come to realize he must gladly exchange the wisdom of this world for the wisdom of God. A very large change indeed. The proud good man will not do it.
9. The good man, many of these good men and women, fear and resist the idea of becoming true believers in Jesus Christ because of the suspected ostracization they expect from their good friends when such a commitment to Jesus Christ and His claims on the life of the good man become known. They are willing to maintain their good reputation among friends and peers and postpone or reject the idea of becoming a believer and follower of Jesus Christ. Many good men already have observed how the community he lives in has mocked those who have made life-changing commitments to Jesus Christ. The idea of acknowledging one is a sinner and beginning the process of confessing sins to God and to those they may have hurt is an appalling prospect that they are willing to avoid at all costs.
10. The good man has “no fear of God.” He may acknowledge that God exists, but does not believe that God will hold a judgment of the good man and God will determine his eternal destiny, either torment in Hell forever in the next life, or living in the presence of God because of the man’s decision to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation for eternal life and living in the presence of God forever in the next life. Because the good man does not believe there is a life hereafter, there is no resurrection of the dead, there is no pending judgment of God, and he goes through life with absolutely no fear of God. Having no fear of God, he is left void of wisdom and true knowledge. Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10.

11. The good man disregards the Word of God, the revelation to man by God Almighty. He ignores it as inconsequential. The good man has made no diligent search of the Scriptures to determine the truths of God's revelation to man through the Bible writings and by the revelation of Jesus Christ. He has made no genuine effort to learn and understand the purposes of Jesus Christ who came to earth to live among us and introduce us to God the Father for salvation. He has ignored the Bible and has no appetite for searching it out to determine the validity of its declared truths. He has in practical terms rejected the Word of God provided to us by God. Hebrews 11:6. He is most likely to own a very large copy of a "family Bible" that has been passed down to him from previous generations. It remains unopened and never has been used for making a personal inquiry to God.
12. The good man has not sought to know God. He has ignored the instructions of God's Word and the promises of God "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8. See also Hebrews 11:6.

"Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD..." Jeremiah 29:12-14
13. The good man has hidden the truths of the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ from his children and grandchildren, leaving them exposed to die in their sins and suffer the same eternal torment as he will. He has not carefully explained the salvation which God has offered to each and all through Jesus Christ. Nor is he able to do so.
14. The good man is most often a part of a religious community where he pursues doing good and appears righteous in the view of others, and demonstrates to others observing his life his "own pursuit of righteousness;" but "not knowing about the righteousness of God" which is a gift through a relationship with Jesus Christ he defaults to attempting to establish his own righteousness. Romans 10:1-4 His own pursuit of his "own righteousness" leaves the highly respected religious man spiritually bankrupt and left without the free gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 1:27; Philippians 3:9-10; Romans 8:1-5.

Once these sins and crimes are tallied, this good man can now be seen and defined as evil and wicked at his core. The sin nature he was born with has adapted to the natural man optimizing his opportunities, becoming successful and the center of his universe, and has excluded God from his considerations and his daily worship. His life has put the created gifts of God provided to the world ahead of the Creator Himself, making all into idolatry and entering into spiritual darkness where he can no longer see the eternal truths presented by nature and Creation, by God's Word, by the witness and life demonstration of true believers that come and go through his life experience. He may have further adapted to living inside of a religious community where his peers further confirm his "goodness" without inquiring of him as to his submission to the Savior and Lord for redemption, embracing Jesus Christ as the only Savior from sin by Christ's death on the cross for those who would believe and accept the free gift of God's salvation. He has created a set of lies and an unreality in which he lives. He exists inside of his view of the

world in which he is quite happy with his achievements and comforts and the praise he receives from others around him.

Mac Davis made this country music song famous, with large crowds singing along with great gusto and without any shame. This song describes the person who strives to get the universe to revolve around themselves based on their own fabricated deceptions.

Hard to Be Humble
[Mac Davis](#)

Oh Lord it's hard to be humble
When you're perfect in every way.
I can't wait to look in the mirror.
Cause I get better looking each day.
To know me is to love me.
I must be a hell of a man.
Oh Lord It's hard to be humble,
But I'm doing the best that I can.

I used to have a girlfriend,
but I guess she just couldn't compete,
With all of these love-starved women,
Who keep clamoring at my feet.
Well I probably could find me another,
But I guess they're all in awe of me.
Who cares?
I never get lonesome.
Cause I treasure my own company.

Oh Lord it's hard to be humble
When you're perfect in every way.
I can't wait to look in the mirror.
Cause I get better looking each day.
To know me is to love me.
I must be a hell of a man.
Oh Lord It's hard to be humble,
But I'm doing the best that I can.

I guess you could say I'm a loner.
A cowboy outlaw, tough, and proud.
I could have lots of friends
If I wanted.
But then I wouldn't stand out from the crowd.
Some folks say that I'm egotistical.
Hell I don't even know what that means.
I guess it has something to do

With the way that I fill out my skin-tight blue jeans.

Oh Lord it's hard to be humble
When you're perfect in every way.
I can't wait to look in the mirror.
Cause I get better looking each day.
To know me is to love me.
I must be a hell of a man.
Oh Lord, It's hard to be humble,
But I'm doing the best that I can.
I'm doing the best that I can.

Salvation for the Good Man and Good Woman

Salvation is possible for the good man. He will need to come into full agreement with God regarding...

1. His spiritually dead, condemned sinful state and condition.
2. His need for redemption from the death penalty he earned (the wages of sin is death).
Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1
3. His acceptance of God's free gift of grace through Jesus Christ, which can be his only by faith, by believing that this promise of God is for him and for his benefit. That believing this promise of God, God agrees in advance to cause him to be born again, to be made spiritually alive, and to make him a child of God and the residence of the Holy Spirit of God who will guide and teach him as he grows spiritually in Christ.

Though once self-identified as a good man, he can now see he has sinned against God and against people, and by his self-deception has rejected God's truths throughout his entire life and has placed himself under the wrath of God for eternal judgment of torment in Hell forever. He is now able to seek God in true humility and communicate directly with God the Father, acknowledging his condition and his need for God's offered salvation.

Dear God,

I now agree fully with you. I stand condemned, judged as a sinner, as guilty before God (John 3:18), and am on schedule to perish (John 3:16) and have been excluded from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18).

I have been living in the flesh as a natural man, unable to be pleasing to God.

I have not been living or walking by faith / trusting in God, and by living according to the flesh, I have been in conflict with the Spirit of God.

I am, I have come short of the glory of God. I am a sinner, deserving of the death penalty. I believe and embrace the fact that "He (God) made Him (Jesus Christ) who knew no sin to be sin

on my behalf, so that I may become the righteousness of God in Him (in Jesus Christ).”

II Corinthians 5:21

Today, I agree with God about my lost condition and agree with God regarding my complete need for the Savior Jesus Christ for redemption from the death penalty and by believing in these promises of God, I will be born again and receive eternal life and will live forever in the presence of God. “For God so loved the world that He gave us only Son so that whoever believes shall not perish but have/receive everlasting life.” John 3:16.

The good man and Idolatry

If the good man is associated with a “Christian” religion, he is likely to at least have some association with Easter celebrations and Christmas celebrations.

I wonder if the good man spends any money on the purchase of chocolate bunny rabbits, or hosts the hiding and finding of “Easter” eggs.

Easter is only second to Halloween in the sale of candies and especially chocolate bunnies to celebrate Easter weekend.

Chocolate bunnies

The observance of Easter includes some elements adapted from pagan traditions celebrating cycles of new life in the springtime, and one of those is the rabbit, an animal known for its crazy-high fertility. “Although adopted in many Christian cultures, the Easter bunny has never received any specific Christian interpretation,” says the *Encyclopedia of Religion*.

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/62597/why-do-we-eat-chocolate-bunnies-easter>

Easter egg hunts

Easter is a religious holiday, but some of its customs, such as Easter eggs, are likely linked to pagan traditions. The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring.

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/easter-symbols>

Eating chocolate bunny rabbits and hiding and hunting for colored eggs in the grass on Easter Sunday is NOT the problem. The problem is the hiding of the good news of the Gospel, failing to introduce Jesus Christ as Savior to children and grandchildren as well as to the on-looking world of lost people around us.

Do you believe the good man makes sure that he takes the time with his children and grandchildren, at the Sunday afternoon Easter egg hunt, to explain carefully the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross, and His being raised from the dead by God the Father to demonstrate His power over death and the grave? That the death of Christ on the cross was to make a single, full payment for all the sins of the world, for each child, each youth, and each adult who would believe and receive that free gift of salvation from God so they can live in all of eternity in the presence of God? Does the good man invite his children and grandchildren to

consider receiving the gift of salvation from God and assist them in knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior?

Or are the children and grandchildren left with a focus on chocolate bunnies and Easter egg hunts and never hear the good news of the Gospel from their Dads, Moms, or Grandparents? Are these good families focused on the gifts and not the Giver of life as described in Romans 1?

Christmas gifts or the Arrival of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Does the good man and good woman make sure their children and grandchildren hear the story of the birth of Jesus Christ read to them at Christmas time? Does the good man take the time to introduce his family to the history of Jesus Christ's birth being prophesied in great detail 1000 years in advance? Do the children and grandchildren of the good man learn and come to understand that Jesus Christ came to earth from Heaven to introduce us to God the Father, to teach us the most basic truths about life, eternity, the judgment to come, and the invitation by God the Father to receive His gift of salvation to those who would believe?

Or are the gifts and exchanges of gifts the focus of Christmas and the real story and details of God's salvation skipped altogether?

It would seem the tally of the Christmas season retail sale tickets expose this form of idolatry where we have learned to adore, prize highly, wait with great expectation for the gifts of this world's goods being given, and miss the Giver of life altogether.

Last year, Americans spent over \$707 billion in retail sales for Christmas between November 1 and December 31, a nearly 3 percent increase in spending from the prior year.

<https://consumerdecisions.org/christmas-spending-statistics/>

When parents introduce the idolatries of our culture to their children and reinforce the worship and prizing of gifts and fail to introduce the Giver of all of Life, the idolatry of the parents is visited to the third and fourth generations of that family, leaving them ignorant about the Giver of life, through Jesus Christ, the Savior and Lord.

What if....

What if we ceased conducting Easter egg hunts? And instead told the details of the raising of Jesus' friend Lazarus and later the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb by God the Father.

What if we ceased all consumption of chocolate bunnies at Easter time? What if we displaced that part of the common celebration and had a clear conversation with our children and youth about God's promise to raise all of the dead from their graves to stand before God and Christ on Judgment Day? Start with a reading of Matthew 27:50-54 so that your youth can visualize some of what God was doing on the day of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Then finish reading Matthew 27 and 28 so they get a clear view of God raising Jesus from the grave.

What if we limited our gift-giving at Christmas time and spent the remaining funds on purchasing copies of the Bible for those who do not own one, and plan carefully to provide food and clothing for the poor in our community and invest our time and treasure in addressing serious needs in our communities? What if we taught our children to become givers in the example of Jesus Christ being the giver of life by giving up His life on the cross for us?

What would be the outcome of focusing on the Giver rather than the gift?

“Not to us, Lord, not to us,
But to Your name give glory,
Because of Your mercy, because of Your truth.
Why should the nations say,
“Where, then, is their God?”
But our God is in the heavens;
He does whatever He pleases.
Their idols are silver and gold,
The work of human hands.
They have mouths, but they cannot speak;
They have eyes, but they cannot see;
They have ears, but they cannot hear;
They have noses, but they cannot smell;
They have hands, but they cannot feel;
They have feet, but they cannot walk;
They cannot make a sound with their throat.
*Those who make them will become like them,
Everyone who trusts in them.*” Psalm 115:1-8

“Those who fashion an idol are all futile, and their treasured things are of no benefit; even their own witnesses fail to see or know, so that they will be put to shame. Who has fashioned a god or cast an idol to no benefit? Behold, all his companions will be put to shame, for the craftsmen themselves are mere men. Let them all assemble themselves, let them stand up, let them tremble, let them be put to shame together.

The craftsman of iron *shapes* a cutting tool and does his work over the coals, fashioning it with hammers and working it with his strong arm. He also gets hungry and his strength fails; he drinks no water and becomes weary. The craftsman of wood extends a measuring line; he outlines it with a marker. He works it with carving knives and outlines it with a compass, and makes it like the form of a man, like the beauty of mankind, so that it may sit in a house. He will cut cedars for himself, and he takes a holm oak or *another* oak and lets *it* grow strong for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a laurel tree, and the rain makes it grow. Then it becomes *something* for a person to burn, so he takes one of them and gets warm; he also makes a fire and bakes bread. He also makes a god and worships it; he makes it a carved image and bows down before it. Half of it he burns in the fire; over *this* half, he eats meat, roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He also warms himself and says, “Aha! I am warm, I have seen the fire.” *Yet the rest of it he*

makes into a god, his carved image. He bows down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, "Save me, for you are my god."

They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see, and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend. No one remembers, nor is there knowledge or understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in the fire and also have baked bread over its coals. I roast meat and eat *it*. Then I make the rest of it into an abomination, I bow down before a block of wood!" He feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has misled him. And he cannot save himself, nor say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?" Isaiah 44:9-20

Do you know what God thinks about all of this?
Then God spoke all these words, saying,

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before Me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, inflicting the punishment of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing favor to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. Exodus 20:1-6

Therefore, treat the parts of your earthly body as dead to sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. Colossians 3:5

God desires that all persons turn and come to Him for salvation through Jesus Christ.

"This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." I Timothy 2:3-4

"Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways!'" Ezekiel 33:11

"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him." John 3:17

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16