

The Gospel in a nutshell.

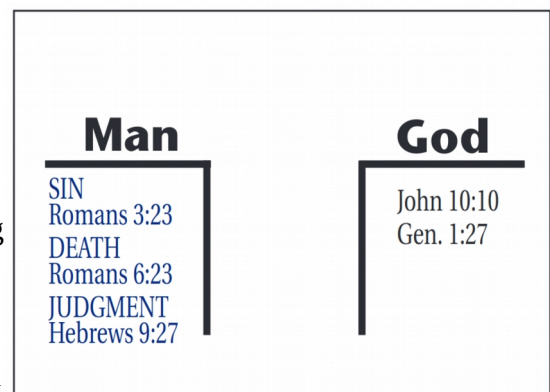
God created us in His own image (Genesis 1:27), to live a full life, in relationship with Him, and to be assured of life eternal. Jesus said: "I came so they would have life, and have it abundantly", to have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

The problem of man

God gave us a free will and therefore the freedom to choose, because God wanted a real loving relationship with us (love cannot be forced, but implies total freedom; even for an almighty God). However, we chose not to obey God and went our own way. It is like the Bible says: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). By this disobedience to God, a separation arose, and from that moment on man was basically 'spiritually dead'. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). God is a holy God and cannot condone sins.

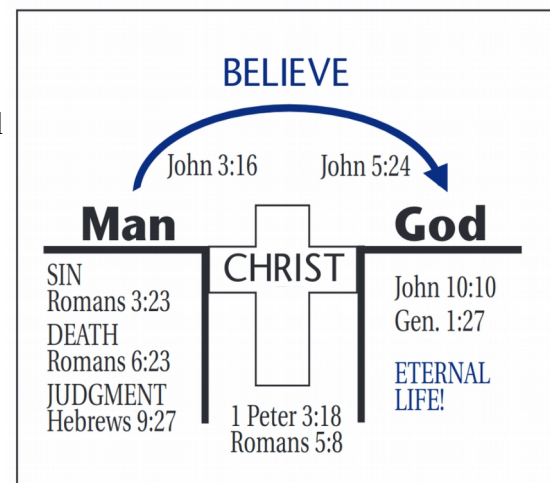
So, the sin of man has created a huge gap between God and man. "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2).

We cannot bridge the gap on our own, although many have tried it. Doing good deeds won't help with, including efforts done by religion, money, moral or philosophy. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). We all are under condemnation of God, through sin. "through one offense the result was condemnation to all mankind (Romans 5:18) and the judgement of God over man will eventually follow: "And just as it is destined for people to die once, and after this comes judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).



God's solution

Jesus Christ is the only solution to the problem. He died for us on the cross and stood up from the grave and paid the price for our sins with His life and with His blood, and that way he bridged the gap between God and man. "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). John 5:24 says: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life".



Resposns

We should simply believe this and make it our own. Believing means trusting, dedicating and acknowledging one's sinful state before God, and trusting on the forgiveness which is in Christ Jesus and accept Him and handing one's life over to Him. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God". (John 3:16-18). So, what we have to do is simply believe and accept; trust and obey.