

To be forgiven we must admit that we are sinners and deeply regret our sins, trying not to repeat them in the future. We must believe that Jesus died for sinners and we must pray to Him to have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

What are you going to do?

- Ignore the salvation God has provided through Jesus, carry your own sins and face eternal punishment?
- Or will you believe in Jesus who has already paid for the sins of all the people who trust in him?

If we trust in Jesus and accept him as our Saviour, he can heal us from the guilt of our past sins. The Bible says that our sins are then removed from us 'as far as the east is from the west' – infinitely far, never to be seen or heard of again. To God we will then be 100% perfect - thanks to Jesus.

Being prepared for financial uncertainty is important, but being ready for the after-life is a thousand times more important. Both need adjustments; preparing for the after-life needs a change of heart as well. **Invest some of your time in your soul!**

If you would like to hear more about God's message to us please join us at our services in **Pembury Road Baptist Chapel**.

We meet for worship at **11:00am** and **6:00pm** on **Sundays**. We also have a **Sunday School** for five to fourteen year olds from **9:45 to 10:30am**.

We also would like to offer you a free copy of **'Christianity Explored'** which explains the basics of Christianity in an easy read, down to earth manner.

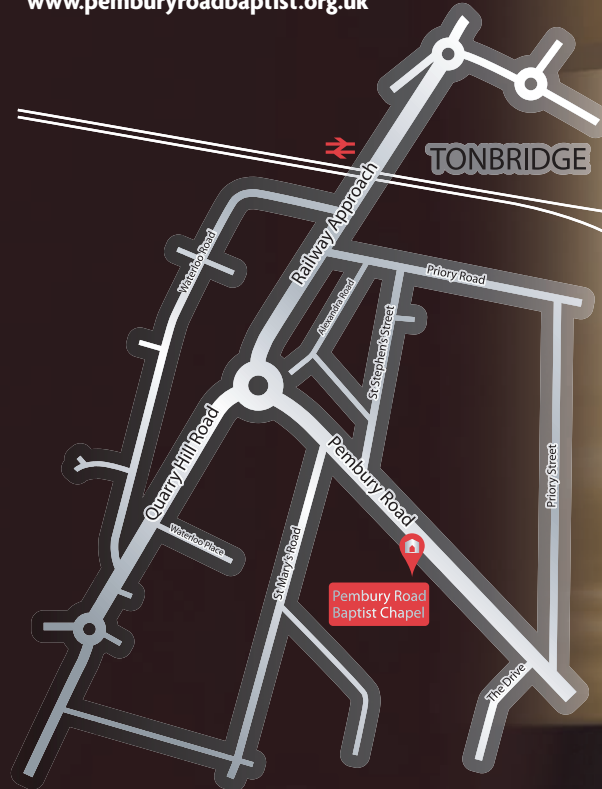


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What are you worth?





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What is your most valuable possession? For many people it is their house, for some it is their investments, shares, or savings accounts. In today's financial climate how can we possibly predict what is safe and will give us a good return in years to come? Everyday in the media we hear different experts giving their opinions on the state of the economy and the housing market. Many of them seem to contradict each other. No-one can accurately predict the value of property or the price of petrol or potatoes in the next 12 months.

'What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?'

What is most valuable to you?

Your most valuable possession is your soul. The soul is the part of you that will go on living forever – long after your body has died. The Bible's evaluation of the soul is 'What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?' [MARK 8:36]. The soul is priceless and to be valued more than the whole world. The value of a soul does not fluctuate with the money market.

So what happens to souls in the afterlife?

There are many opinions and many contradicting theories – just like the forecasts for the economy. Surely it is wise to look into them because eternity is

'It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement'

going to last far longer than any economic event and far longer than your earthly life. People suggest reincarnation, annihilation, paradise, Heaven, Hell, becoming ghosts, sitting on clouds with harps. Who knows?

God tells us clearly in the Bible: 'It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement' [Hebrews 9:27]. God will be our judge. After the judgement there are two destinations – Heaven or Hell.

'There is no-one who does good, not even one'

The Bible is completely honest with us about **how God sees us** – 'There is no-one who does good, not even one' [Romans 3:12]. 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' [Romans 3:23].

(By the way, 'Sin' in this context is rebellion against God and His commands. This can be in thought, word or action).

Nothing less than 100% perfection is acceptable in His judgement court and if we are all honest with ourselves, who of us has been perfect, 100% of the time? One sin is enough to make the verdict, 'Guilty'. We all have failed and no-one will be able to apply for a second opinion or re-trial when God judges them.

His verdict is final. No perfection = no Heaven

'For God so loved the world, that He sent his one and only son, that whoever believes on him should not perish but have eternal life.'

This puts us into a very serious situation: if we can't get into Heaven, Hell is the only other destiny for us. There is no alternative. Not even purgatory until we are a bit better.

But there is good news

God has devised an amazing and loving rescue plan for us. He couldn't just forgive us and pretend we had done nothing wrong. Who wants a God who doesn't care about justice? That would make Him less fair than we are.



Instead, God sent a substitute to take the punishment for those who turn to him. This was no less than His Son – Jesus Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that He gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'. [John 3 v 16]

'Not guilty'

Jesus lived a life that was 100% perfect. He did not deserve death or

punishment, like we do, but willingly died by cruel crucifixion, after a sham trial and awful mockery. Even his corrupt judge had to admit he was 'not guilty'. Jesus took on the punishment that sinners like you and me deserve. After three days in the tomb Jesus came alive again. This showed that God had accepted his death as a payment for sin and that there was nothing left to pay.

Whether we have committed great sins or seemingly little ones, **we all need forgiveness.**

What are you worth?