

The Two Ways To Get Saved

September 6, 2026

1 John 1:5–7

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

1. Bible says here that
 - a. God is light
 - b. and in him there is **no** darkness at all
2. Many if not most, people think of God
 - a. as this Jolly old superhuman
 - b. living in the clouds
 - c. who takes such pleasure in all of mankind.
3. But that is not what God is like at all.
 - a. Let’s get some perspective on what and who God is.
 - b. Consider an ant (common, tiny insect)

Proverbs 6:6

*“Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!”*

For an ant to travel from Sarasota to Los Angeles:

If the ant only managed to make about **100 feet (30 m) of net progress per day** (which is actually generous for a wild ant leaving its colony), then:

- 2,500 miles = **13.2 million feet**
- 13.2 million feet ÷ 100 feet/day = **132,000 days**
- **≈ 360 years**

For an ant to circle the earth:

Using the numbers:

- 131,477,280 feet (24,901 miles) ÷ 100 feet/day = 1,314,772.8 days

Converting that to years:

- 1,314,772.8 ÷ 365.25 ≈ 3,600.3 years

Answer:

- 1,314,772.8 days
- ≈ 3,600 years

In reality

A typical worker ant lives only **a few months to about a year** (depending on the species), so **no individual ant could ever make the journey**. It would die long before getting very far.

CONCLUSION

1. An ant could never understand just how large the United States is
 2. Nor could it conceive traveling from Sarasota to even Bradenton
 3. The entire earth exists outside their ability to understand within their world.
 4. We must be like gods to them
 5. We are able to create through technology things an ant cannot do
 - a. Modes of transportation
 - b. Innovations for health
 - c. Structures to house individuals and very large groups of people
 - d. Weapons that are highly destructive
-
1. Now consider humans in relationship to the universe
 2. We can't even conceive how to travel to known planets in our galaxy
 3. The universe exists outside our ability to understand given the world we live in.
-
1. Our God exists outside our ability to understand
 2. He is able to create our world which extends beyond our comprehension
 3. We are like the ants in all His creation
 4. That is how big and powerful our God is!
-
5. Our God, who is eternal lives outside our understanding of time and space
 6. We are like the ant in His created universe
 7. Beyond our realm of understanding
-
4. But this passage gives us a different picture of God
 - a. Where there is no darkness at all!
 5. So what does that mean
 - a. Anything that is morally wrong
 - b. Bad
 - c. Evil
 - d. Impure
 - e. Unholy

6. Not even the tiniest morsel known to man.
 - a. A single grain of sand
 - b. A tiny paramecium
7. God can have no part of sin/darkness whatsoever.
 - a. He is:
 - i. Holy
 - ii. Pure
 - iii. And absolute
8. Sin is darkness

2 Corinthians 5:21

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

- a. Jesus was made sin for us,
 - b. Therefore, God turned his back
 - i. on His one and only Son
 - c. because Jesus became darkness
 - d. It’s why Jesus cried out while on the cross
 - i. *“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”*
 - ii. which means, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*
9. That is why darkness covered the entire earth
 - a. when Jesus was on the cross
 - b. and the sins of all mankind
 - c. were absorbed by him

10. **Verse 6** states that:

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

11. Now if we claim to be a Christian and yet are living in constant deliberate sin
 - a. We are living a lie
 - b. Might fool ourselves
 - i. But not fooling God

Hebrews 4:13

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

- ii. There will be a day of accountability
- iii. It will all come out – full exposure

iv. No hiding on that day

12. **1 John 1:7** gives us the solution to the problem

- a. all men are answerable for – **SIN**
- b. A choice must be made
- c. Walking in the light
 - i. Is a choice
 - ii. A decision
- d. It doesn't just automatically happen

1 John 1:8

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

- a. The hardest part is owning up to our sin
- b. Recognizing that "denial"
 - i. is simply deceiving ourselves
 - ii. Makes us out to be liars

13. So how do we deal with the horrific nature of sin?

Romans 4:7–8

"Blessed are they

whose transgressions are forgiven,

whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man

whose sin the Lord will never count against him."

- a. Forgiveness is not based on
 - i. our merit
 - ii. but on **His** character.

14. There are two kinds of forgiveness available to man

- a. One for the non-Christian
- b. The other for the Christian

1) IF YOU ARE "NOT" A CHRISTIAN

Bible says :

Acts 2:38–39

"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

- a. The first thing a non-Christian must do

- i. is to repent
 - ii. before sins can be forgiven by God.
 - b. Most people deem repentance
 - i. to just feel sorry
 - ii. for doing something wrong
 - c. The bible refers to that as **“Worldly Sorrow”**
 - i. Feeling guilty or ashamed
 - i. after being caught
 - ii. doing something wrong
 - ii. Or your conscience is
 - i. pushing you to feel guilty
 - iii. Maybe, just hoping nobody
 - i. saw what you did.
 - d. Counterfeit Confessions – “Worldly Sorrow”
15. Let’s look and see how the Bible discriminates
- a. the difference between
 - b. Worldly Sorrow and Godly Sorrow.
 - c. There is a difference between
 - i. regret and repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:10–11

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.”

16. Repentance (metanoia) means a change of mind and direction.

ILLUSTRATION

A driver who realizes they are going the wrong way doesn’t just acknowledge it; they turn around.

17. Then and only then:

- a. Can a person be baptized
- b. Which washes away one’s sin

Acts 22:16

“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”

- c. Clean as “A WHISTLE”

2) THE SECOND WAY TO BE SAVED PERTAINS TO THE CHRISTIAN

18. When a Christian sins, he too must also demonstrate repentance.

1 John 1:9–10

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”

- a. How does a Christian show his repentance?
 - i. It’s through the act of confession
- b. How serious do you take this?

Proverbs 28:13

“People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.”

- c. Confession is a fundamental part of our relationship with God.
- d. It is an act of
 - i. humility,
 - ii. repentance,
 - iii. and trust.

19. Today, we will explore

- a. what it means to confess,
- b. why it matters,
- c. and how it leads us
- d. into a deeper walk with Christ.

20. The Greek word for "confess" is **homologeō**,

- a. which means "to say the same thing as."
- b. Confession is agreeing with God about our sin
- c. acknowledging it without excuse.

James 5:16

“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

21. James gives us some clarity on how we should confess

- a. Surely, we need to confess our sins before God
 - i. But He already knows
 - ii. how, when and why we sinned

Hebrews 4:13

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

- b. We are to confess to one another
- c. Who you confess your sins to
 - i. is a reflection of how serious
 - ii. you take your sin.
 - iii. The hardest person to expose yourself
 - 1. is the exact person
 - 2. you need to share your confession with.

ILLUSTRATION

- A. Priests behind an enclosed room
 - B. is easy person to confess to
 - C. and that is why it’s the Catholic way.
 - D. You don’t have to look someone
 - i. directly in their eyes.
 - E. And you don’t have anyone
 - i. who will hold you accountable
 - ii. for changing
 - iii. and not repeating the sin.
 - F. That’s why a Catholic priest are easy to confess to,
 - i. because they’re not involved in your life
 - ii. and probably don’t even know
 - iii. who you are.
22. There is healing in confession
- a. not just with God
 - b. but also with trusted believers.
 - c. Accountability with fellow believers
 - i. **strengthens** our walk with Christ.
 - ii. Keeps us living in honesty and integrity.
 - d. Cleansing (katharizo) refers to purification,
 - i. making us clean before God.
23. Covering sin leads to spiritual stagnation,
- a. while confession brings mercy and restoration.

24. Confession is not about informing God;

- a. He already knows.
- b. It is about restoring
 - i. our fellowship with Him
 - ii. and experiencing His mercy.

ILLUSTRATION

- A child spills juice on the carpet and tries to hide it under a rug.
- The stain remains until it is cleaned.
- Our sin, when hidden, still affects us.
- But when confessed, God cleanses us completely.

25. There is a Power in Forgiveness

- a. Understanding God's Forgiveness

Psalm 103:12

"He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."

26. God's forgiveness is complete.

- a. He does not hold our past against us.

Micah 7:18–19

*"Who is a God like you,
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?
You do not stay angry forever
but delight to show mercy.
You will again have compassion on us;
you will tread our sins underfoot
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea."*

- b. God delights in forgiveness.
 - i. He is not reluctant;
 - ii. He is eager to forgive.

27. Many believers struggle with guilt

- a. even after confessing.
- b. True faith accepts God's promise of forgiveness.
- c. We must let go of past sins and walk in freedom.

ILLUSTRATION

It's like a prisoner who has been pardoned but refuses to leave the cell.

- i. God's forgiveness sets us free
- ii. we must walk in it.

ILLUSTRATION

I read on the internet a story many years ago about a lady who confessed to her preacher that many years earlier she had committed adultery. He asked, "Is this the first time you've confessed this sin?" She said, "Oh no, I've confessed it every night for the last six years." He said, "What made you decide that God is a liar? Your sin is not adultery. Your sin is unbelief. You don't believe God's Word."

She wasn't trusting God for her forgiveness,
which is a problem many of us have.

We have to make a decision:

Do we believe the Bible or NOT?

28. I DON'T mind getting sweaty,

- a. Golfing,
- b. Cleaning the garage,
- c. Picking up all the branches in the yard,
- d. working on my boat

29. but I sure **like** getting clean

- a. in that shower
- b. or sometimes the pool!
- c. It is sooo refreshing.
- d. I PREFER BEING CLEAN, DON'T YOU?

30. I also love the fact that **I've been cleansed by God.**

- a. That is especially comforting,
- b. knowing that all is well with God.
- c. **I've made peace with Him**
 - i. through Jesus
 - ii. and He's cleansed me from my sins
 - iii. it's like I **don't** have any **sins**.
 - iv. And it's all because of Jesus.

31. **We need to confess that we are sinners.**

- a. We need to confess our sin
- b. and ask for forgiveness

- c. and then get on with life.

32. A cracked foundation left unattended

- a. will lead to the collapse of a house.
- b. Confession repairs the cracks
 - i. in our spiritual life.

33. I **don't** know of anyone in their **right mind**

- a. who would want to go hell
- b. if they knew what was there.
- c. **And sin is the very thing**
 - i. that will send people to hell.
- d. Our **only hope** is in the Lord!
 - i. and He has plainly told us
 - ii. that we need to do something about our sin.
 - iii. Christian and Non-Christian alike