

References in this leaflet are from the Bible:

1. Hebrews chapter 4 verse 13
2. Jeremiah chapter 31 verse 34
3. John chapter 14 verse 3

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a  
fresh  
start



We all do things we regret. We hurt our family and friends, and let down those who most depend on us. Sometimes we take out our frustrations and anxieties on those whose only fault is to be around us on a bad day. And God is offended when we reject His commandments and go our own way. Sometimes we try to put the blame somewhere else: "our parents brought us up badly" or "that person had it coming to them anyway"

But being honest, we know there's no one else to blame but ourselves. So it's tempting just to ignore the wrong we do and carry on as normal as if it never happened.

But ignoring our guilt is like hiding the gas bill in a drawer and hoping it will go away. One day that bill has to be paid, and one day the issue of our guilt has to be addressed by God.

Ignoring our guilt is like hiding the gas bill ...

The Bible says: "Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."<sup>1</sup>

Not resolving this issue then, has terrible eternal consequences. If they are not dealt with, our sins separate us forever from God, leading to deserved punishment in hell. We have to get it sorted out.

What can we do? Make a fresh start? Resolve to do better in the future? Sadly, we often find that despite our best efforts, we're never quite good enough. God's standard is perfection. The harder we try, the more we realise how far short of this we fall. We try a bit harder, but we always end up in the same old mess. This is the bad news - things seem pretty bleak.

**Well here's the good news! God has already settled the issue for us!**

Though He knows all our faults, He loved us so much that He sent His Son to do what we could not do for ourselves. In His life, Jesus Christ was perfect and holy, yet on the cross He took all our guilt on Himself, and died in our place. When we realise that there's nothing we can do to save ourselves and simply accept by faith what Jesus has done, God gives us the peace we long for.

God says: "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."<sup>2</sup> The slate is wiped clean - not only do we have a fresh start, but Jesus gives us eternal life.

Because Jesus rose from the dead, His resurrection is the guarantee of eternal life: we can live our present life the way it was meant to be lived and, when this life is done, spend eternity with Him in the place He has prepared for us!<sup>3</sup>

**Don't try to ignore your guilt - confess it to Jesus and make the fresh start only He can offer you.**