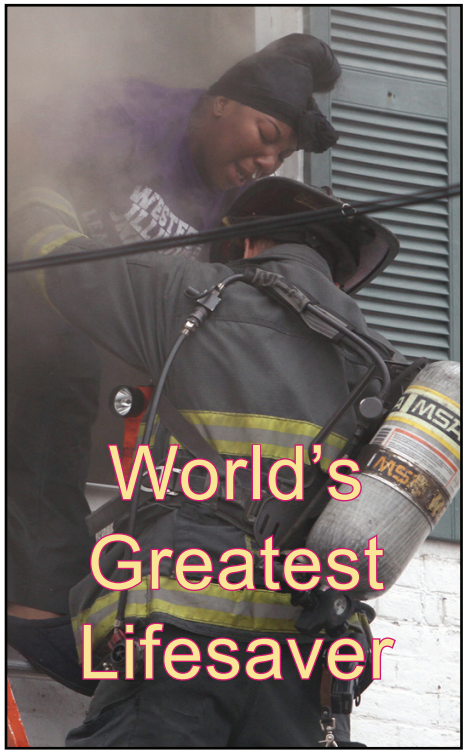

Without the aid of a fireman, this woman had no way to escape and save herself from the consuming fire.

The cover picture is a great illustration of the Bible principle that, without the aid of a Savior sent from God, we are headed for a day of reckoning in which we stand before the Creator of the Universe, who has been keeping records of all we do while here on earth. **Who will save us then?**

Revelation 20:11-13 And I saw a great white throne and the one who sat upon it, from whose face the earth and the sky fled away, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, great and small, standing before God; and The Books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to the things written in The Books, each according to the deeds he had done. The oceans surrendered the bodies buried in them; and the earth and the underworld gave up the dead in them. Each was judged according to his deeds.

Trying to save or excuse ourselves will be useless. God loves us, and wants us to do good; but He dwells in absolute perfection.

Habakkuk 1:11-13 O Lord my God, my Holy One...who cannot allow sin in any form.

According to the Word of God, we have all sinned and disobeyed the Ten Commandments, God's standard of conduct for us.

1 John 3:4 But those who keep on sinning are against God, for every sin is done against the will of God.

If we only disobey one commandment, it is as if we had broken them all.

James 2:10 And the person who keeps every law of God, but makes one little slip, is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is.

God's Laws showed us that we can never be right with God, and deserving of heaven for eternity, by any human goodness on our part.

Romans 3:20,23 Now do you see it? No one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what the law commands. For the more we know of God's laws, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying them; his law serves only to make us see that we are sinners.

A further complication is that being sinners means more than missing heaven. Our deeds, good or bad, have eternal consequences - like employment, our moral conduct earns wages.

Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death...

In the Bible, there are two deaths - the separation of the spirit and soul from the physical body, and eternal conscious suffering in "the unquenchable fires of hell" (Mark 9:43).

Like the trapped lady in the cover photo, we are all, spiritually speaking, doomed for eternity, unless we find a Rescuer or Lifesaver, a Divine Savior.

Your Help is on the Way!

In His foresight, before the world began, God devised a plan to solve man's dilemma (Revelation 13:8). God became a Man, who totally identified with what we go through (Hebrews 2:14-18). This God/Man is Jesus Christ. He became the perfect mediator or advocate between us and God. What made Jesus different was the fact that He never once sinned or disobeyed God.

Hebrews 4:15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, since he had the same temptations we do, though he never once gave way to them and sinned.

Jesus was the only person who could ever make heaven by His own goodness or merit. God allowed Jesus to die by crucifixion in our place as payment to God for all our wrong doing. God, in His love for us (John 3:16-17), even went a step beyond declaring us "not guilty" (Romans 8:1). Now, for our eternity, He wants to give us eternal life in heaven with Him as a **free gift**.

Romans 6:23b ...but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our part is to Pray this ***World's Most Important Prayer***, aloud and from our hearts:

Dear Jesus, come into my heart. Forgive all my sins. Wash me in your blood. Write my name in the Book of Life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit so I can serve and obey you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Bible promises are your assurance that He is now living in you, you are His child, and you will spend eternity with Him.

"My eternal destination of heaven for my eternity rests on God's ability to keep His Word."

I John 2:25 And he himself has promised us this: *eternal life*.

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them all up to sin so that he could have mercy upon all alike. Oh, what a wonderful God we have!

Like the analogy of the firefighter on the ladder saving someone who had no other means of escaping a fire, The Man Jesus Christ was provided by God as **our only escape** from the eternal flames and torments of a burning hell.

John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the Way–yes, and the Truth, and the Life. No one can get to the Father except by means of me."

Peter, one of the first to follow Jesus, boldly told the religious leaders of his day:

Acts 4:12 There is salvation in no one else! Under all heaven there is no other name for men to call upon to save them.

Jesus' rescue operation to save us from eternal doom is for everyone, but it is not automatic. **Our acceptance is required.**

Romans 10:13 **Anyone who calls** upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Even better, God offers to give us a change of heart and put the nature or goodness of Jesus in us.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18,21 When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun! All these new things are from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ Jesus did. For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!

The bottom line is, In God's justice system, no one deserves to go to heaven, but by Jesus dying in our place, God can now show mercy on everyone.

Isaiah 53:6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on Him the sins of us all.

God have mercy on us!

Romans 11:32-33 For God has given