



There is a cure!

It might seem a bit odd to start an article about hope by referring to the disastrous outbreak of Ebola in West Africa. Although the total number of deaths has not yet been huge at a few thousand (in 2012 malaria caused an estimated 627,000 deaths, with one African child dying every minute), Ebola is causing widespread panic. Firstly, the mortality rate, at 70% of those infected, is terrifyingly high (only 0.3% of malaria cases die) and secondly, doctors are struggling to find an effective antidote, even though the disease was discovered over 40 years ago. We look on in anguish and pray for a cure to be found.

The Bible tells us we are **all** afflicted by another disease called **sin**. It is defined as failing to follow the commandments which God has given us ("*sin is lawlessness*" says the Apostle John in 1 John 3:4) and it is endemic amongst humans everywhere. It brings in its wake suffering, disease and death. Its origin is described in Genesis 3.

The Bible tells us that there is a cure!

It is God's grace and forgiveness, which are offered through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - but to benefit from this cure we have to do something about it! The people in Jesus' day thought that disasters like Ebola showed that the victims were especially sinful, but Jesus put them right saying: "*Unless you repent you will all likewise perish!*" (Luke 13:3). Repentance is the first step to being cured; it involves doing something about this disease.



"He who believes and is baptised will be saved" said Jesus in Mark 16:16. The details of the cure for sin are freely available in the Bible. The promise it gives is of a world free from sin, suffering and death when God's Kingdom is established. The choice is ours as to whether we do anything about it; but if we want to live to see that Kingdom, we have to act now!

Interested in finding out more? Join us for **Bible Hour** - every Sunday at 10am.

November Bible Hour Topics:

Sun 2nd *Our Work in God's Kingdom*

Sun 9th *Five Things to do before You Die*

Sun 16th *Light & Darkness: God's Daily Parable*

Sun 23rd *The Devil of the Bible*

Sun 30th *What Must I do to be Saved?*

For more details about Bible Hour and our other weekly activities please visit our website:

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