



For more information or help, please contact:

To:

*Please send me more details on finding
a personal relationship with God*

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Off the Hook!



Off the Hook!

Fishing – the contest between us and the fish!

There we are,
by the riverside
and suddenly
we feel a jolt
on the line...
it's a nibble.

We try so
carefully not
to lose him...
and yes, we're
sure he's ours.
But just as
suddenly he's
gone...
off the hook!

Of course, it's not only the fish that can
be 'off the hook'... so can we!

Deception

We may succeed in our attempt to outwit the fish... we
may even manage to outwit one another... but we'll
never outwit God...



*For the wisdom
of this world is
foolishness in
God's sight...
He catches the
wise in their
craftiness...*

1 Corinthians 3:19

**Even when we feel
we're well on top
of daily living, God
challenges our
assumptions...**

*There is a way
that seems right
to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*

Proverbs 14:12

And it gets worse...

Hooked

We may believe we're well in control, but whether it's alcohol or money... sex or shopping, we can be well and truly 'hooked' without realising it...

...everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

John 8:34

...a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

2 Peter 2:19

And in case we don't think this applies to us...

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

1 John 1:8

...with everlasting consequences...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

Thankfully, there is a way by which we can find ourselves... off the hook!

Escape

Once properly hooked, the barb usually means that there's no escape for the fish. Yet for us there is... though not through our own efforts...

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18

Of course, this isn't forced upon us. We must be willing to turn away from all we know to be wrong...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness...

1 Peter 2:24

We might throw the fish back into the water to give it a second chance. And in the same way, by asking the risen Lord Jesus into our lives, we not only receive forgiveness, but a brand new start...

...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Struggle

It's an awe-inspiring sight to watch salmon swimming upstream against the flow. And it's a bit like that living as a real Christian. The Lord Jesus makes that clear... but promises His special help...

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Nevertheless, He calls all who would be His true followers to count the cost of commitment...

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

Luke 9:23-24

Freedom

Once hooked, the fate of the fish is in the hands of the fisherman. And although each one of us is already 'hooked' simply through our human nature, God offers us true freedom right now... from guilt and future judgment...

...if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:36

He is reaching out to us in love...

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 3:16

But the risk of simply 'hoping for the best', is surely unthinkable...

...whoever does not believe stands condemned already...

John 3:18

How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation.

Hebrews 2:3