

# The Good News

## A Matter of Death and Life

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**I** The word "Gospel" literally means "good news"... So, what's the "good news"?

The "good news" is simply this... God Loves You!!!  
The "good news" is that God longs to have a personal, everlasting, eternal relationship with you. The "good news" is that God is willing to do (and has already done) everything necessary to make this personal relationship a possibility.

**John 3:16**, "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*"

**Rom 5:8**, "*But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

**II** The "good news" is that God solved the one problem that "the only true God" could solve.

All of mankind is born into a problem that leaves us unable, on our own merits, to approach and have a relationship with the only living God. What problem is that?

**Death**—"spiritual death" is the result of Adam's, and our own sin. If left unresolved, this death leaves us unable to share a life with God. Our sins, while appalling to God and in need of forgiveness, are not the primary

issue at all... our spiritually dead condition is the real root of the problem.

To look at it another way... Our sins (the acts themselves) are only the effect, mere symptoms of who we are, "spiritually dead sinners" indwelt with this disease called "the sinful nature." This disease, "the sinful nature" inherited from Adam, has been passed down through the generations (through the male parent) to each and every one of us. The disease itself is terminal, spiritually that is, but instead of dying at the end of its term you are born into this disease already spiritually dead from the moment of your physical birth.

**Rom 5:12**, *"Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin (the sinful nature) entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."*

**Rom 3:23**, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*

**Rom 3:10**, *"There is none righteous, no, not one."*

Whether you realize it or not, according to God's Word, we all start our lives physically alive but spiritually dead. And there will come a point in each of our lives

when we sense that something just is not quite right. There is a void we just can't seem to fill. Oh, we may fill it temporarily but the emptiness always returns. That void is our spiritually dead condition.

### **III** The Divine Solution...

**Rom 6:23**, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

If our problem and the void in our lives is spiritual death, then the only way to resolve the problem must be with spiritual life. God's solution to our dilemma...send His only Son to provide for us what we could never provide for ourselves...**His very life**. However, before God could give us this "spiritual life" He had to completely deal with the thing that killed us in the first place...sin. Therefore, God through His Son first offers us...**forgiveness** for sins.

**Eph 1:7**, "*In Whom (Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*"

With this sin now completely dealt with at the Cross, God, through His Son Jesus Christ, can now offer us...

**Life.** He offers us an eternal resurrection life, which regenerates mankind from who we were, spiritually dead, and makes us alive with Him.

**Eph 2:4-5**, *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened (made us alive) together with Christ."*

Jesus Christ Himself stated this is the very reason why He came...

**John 10:10**, *"I came that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

**IV** All that is left for you to do is simply to accept through faith this tremendous act of love.

**Acts 16:31**, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." ... believe in what exactly?*

## **A**

### **Believe in His Person**

Jesus Christ is God, True God... and He is the Creator of all things.

**John 1:1-3,14**, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the*

Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. The same was in the beginning with God. **All things were made by Him**; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men... And **the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Col 1:15-17**, "Who (Jesus Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by Him were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth... And He is before all things and by Him all things consist."

Jesus Christ, as true God, lowered Himself and became a man.

**Phil 2:5b-8**, "Christ Jesus: Who, being **in the form of God**, thought it not robbery to be **equal with God**: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was **made in the likeness of men**. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

It is only through the person of Jesus Christ and by His name alone that this free gift of life is offered.

**John 14:6**, "Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.'"

**Acts 4:12**, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

## **B**

### Believe in His Work

The death He died upon the cross offers us reconciliation, "paying in full" the penalty of sin, which is death.

**Col 1:21-22a**, "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind... yet now hath **He reconciled** in the body of His flesh through (His own) death."

The blood He shed offers us redemption and the forgiveness of all our sins...past, present, and future.

**Mat 26:28**, "for this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission (forgiveness) of sins."

**Col 1:14**, "In whom (Jesus Christ) we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

Through His Resurrection He now offers us His very Life!!!

**Rom 5:10**, *"For if, when we enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."*

**John 11:25-26**, *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?'"*

To make our Lord's completed work "real" in our own experience, we simply need to make the decision to receive what He is offering. As Christ Himself has put it, we need to do just one thing...turn from darkness to the light, and by faith receive this gift of life.

**Acts 26:18**, *"to turn them from darkness (unbelief) to light (belief), from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance (which is spiritual life) among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me."*

This two-fold gift of forgiveness and spiritual life is offered to us all in one convenient package, all nicely wrapped up and held out for us to embrace. And you



can accept this tremendous gift by simple faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.

And aside from Jesus, there is no one else qualified to offer you such a gift as this... Mohammed cannot offer you forgiveness, nor can he give you life; neither can Buddha, Gandhi, the pope nor any pastor. None of these men paid the sin debt that you could not pay, and none of them has a resurrected life to offer you. There is only one empty grave, only One who has been resurrected to life. And He alone is qualified to offer you life in Himself.

Therefore, the "good news"—even "the best news of all"—is that **Jesus Christ is alive!!!**... and He wants to make you alive as well.

What happens if we reject the gift He is offering?

**John 3:36**, *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and **he that believeth not the Son shall not see life**; but the wrath of God (which is death) abideth (remains) on him."*

**John 8:24**, *"If ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins."*

It should be noted that God does not send anyone to

hell. Mankind through their own free will can reject God's only solution and the gift that it represents, choosing instead to remain under the penalty of sin, spiritually dead and thus eternally separated from God. God is a perfect gentleman and He will honor whatever man chooses to do with the solution He has provided.

The fact is that all of mankind exercises faith in one thing or another. It is either faith in what God says to be true, or faith in what the world says to be true. Therefore we all have "faith." It's what that faith rests in that matters when it comes your eternal condition.

**V** The conditions of salvation...

**Eph 2:8-9**, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast."*

By Grace...a non-meritorious gift. We can do nothing to earn or deserve it. Through Faith...putting trust and truly relying upon what you say you believe. Faith must have an object, and the object for your faith must be Jesus Christ, His Person and His work.

## **VI** His work is Guaranteed...forever!!!

The "good news"... Once saved by faith there is nothing you can do to lose your inheritance. God's promises are guaranteed and sealed by His Spirit.

**Eph 1:13-14**, *"In Whom (Christ), ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest (guarantee) of our inheritance (which is eternal life)."*

**1 John 5:13**, *"These things I have written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*

## **VII** So now what?...the post-salvation life.

Learn about Him...through His Word grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**1 Tim 2:3-4**, *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, Who will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."*

**John 8:31-32**, *"If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."*

Allow Christ, who now lives in you, to live His life in and through you.

**Gal 2:20**, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."*

## The "Good News"...

Jesus Christ is alive!!! He loves you personally...and longs for an everlasting relationship with you. He died for you, in order to give His life to you, so that He may live His life in and through you. All that is left for you to do is accept by faith who He is and what He has already accomplished.

Therefore...

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31)