

FRIEND, HAVE YOU HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?

News which can heal your affliction of sin
News which can alter your eternal destiny
News which can fill the God-shaped hole in your heart!

The living God who created the heaven and the earth reveals Himself and the good news of salvation most clearly in the word of God, the Bible. God's word articulates the good news by saying, "I declare unto you the gospel [literally "good news"]...how that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; and that He was seen...and so ye believed" (1 Corinthians 15:1, 2-5, 11).

THREE TRUTHS YOU MUST UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE

Truth #1: The Problem of Sin – "Christ died for our sins." Before you can fully comprehend this good news, you must understand the bad news. God, who is absolutely holy, cannot tolerate sin. God's standard is perfection. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). God is perfect, and He, therefore, demands perfection.

Yet we all know that we are not perfect. The Ten Commandments alone reveal how grossly imperfect we are (e.g. taking God's name in vain, dishonoring parents, adultery, stealing, lying, coveting). This is why the Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We all fall short of God's standard of perfection. Therefore, sin disqualifies us from getting to heaven by our own ability.

Now, the good news is coming, but consider this first. Since God's standard is absolute perfection, and yet no one is perfect, how many will make it to heaven on their own merits? Obviously none. This is the problem of sin.

Truth #2: The Penalty of Sin – "Christ died for our sins." God, who is perfectly just, must judge sin. God is one Judge who always administers perfect justice. The Bible says, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25). So, can God overlook your sin? Would that be fair? No, justice demands that sin be judged. This is why the Bible says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17). Jesus, who cannot lie, described hell as "everlasting fire" (Matthew 18:8), "a furnace of fire" (Matthew 12:50), and "everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:46). Remember, friend, before you can benefit from the good news you must understand the bad news. So, if you died right now, where would you go? You see, sin not only disqualifies us from heaven it means we deserve hell. Once we understand and believe the bad news, we are ready for the good news!

Truth #3: The Payment for Sin – "Christ died for our sins." God, who is perfect love, did something that did not violate His holiness and justice, and yet it satisfied it. The Bible says, "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:8-9). What amazing love! The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the "Son of God" (Matthew 14:33), and yet being born miraculously of a virgin into the human race, He is "God with us" (Matthew 1:23), who came "to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). As we saw earlier, "Christ died for our sins", and "He rose again." Here we find the greatness of the good news.

Jesus Christ, as God, paid the penalty we deserve to pay. The Bible says, "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree [cross]" (1 Peter 2:24). His payment is in full. The Bible says, "When He had by Himself purged our sins" (Hebrews 1:3). It is not Jesus plus my efforts. Remember, what is God's standard? Perfection. If salvation is based on what you do, can you meet the standard? No. Thankfully, Jesus paid it all! Also, Jesus' perfect righteousness can be credited to your account so that God's standard of perfection is met. The Bible says, "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5). So Christ died for our sins, and when Jesus rose from the dead, He conquered sin, death, and hell. This is good news!

ONE DECISION YOU MUST MAKE

How can this good news be applied to you? The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). Notice it does not say believe about the Lord Jesus. It says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus." This is the difference between acknowledging Jesus as the Saviour and depending on Jesus as your Saviour. This is also the difference between hell and heaven. Jesus said, "He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47). It is not depending on Jesus plus yourself, good works, or baptism. It is a simple choice to depend only on Jesus to save you from sin and hell. Like a child simply trusting his father by jumping into his arms, jump into the open arms of Jesus, and trust Him to save you. He will give you His very own eternal life.

Friend, will you transfer your dependence to Jesus alone today, and receive the payment for all your sins (past, present, and future), credited righteousness, and eternal life which is forever, and, therefore, cannot be lost? Jesus wants to save you now. He will save you if you depend on Him. So will you decide to depend on Him as your personal Saviour right now and become a recipient of the good news? If so sincerely pray:

"Lord Jesus, I admit my problem of sin. I admit I deserve the penalty of sin, which is hell. But I also realize that You are my full payment for sin. I repent of my sins and I trust You alone to save me from sin and hell right now. Thank you for forgiving all my sins, crediting Your righteousness to my account, and giving me eternal life. Help me to live for You, Amen."

If you just made this choice to accept the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Bible says heaven is rejoicing over this good news about you. Let us rejoice with you, too. Contact us and we will send you free information on living this new life in Christ



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