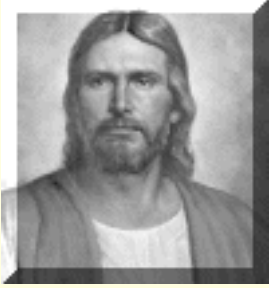


GOOD NEWS FOR ALL MEN

- The Message That's Changing The World



The Gospel is **the good news telling what God has accomplished for you, for me, and for all people by the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.**

Many people know the biographical details of Jesus' life - that He came to this earth 2,000 years ago, that He was born in Bethlehem grew up in Nazareth and died in Jerusalem but they do not realize what His death, and resurrection for HAS ACCOMPLISHED for us.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)

When Jesus died on Calvary in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago He bore the guilt and shame and the sin of the whole world and of the Adam man.

When He arose three days later, He overcame sin, sickness and death demonstrating His victory over Satan and the failure and sinfulness of our adamic nature.

It Is Finished

The prophets - especially the prophet Isaiah - foretold this event.

- They saw this work of Jesus, the Messiah **before it happened.** *(All we like sheep have gone astray have turned everyone to His own and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.)* (Isaiah 53:6-7))
- The gospels describe it **as it happened.**
- *The proclamation of the Gospel in the Book of Acts and the apostles' letters explains exactly what was been accomplished for each one of us.*

"God was in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

This means that God has only two sorts of people on the earth: those whose sins He has Atoned for (paid for) and those who KNOW IT & put their faith in it.

We Receive A New Spirit

The gospel not only announces that Jesus has borne our guilt on the Cross but it also announces that He came to give us a New Spirit and a New Life. He came to extract the corrupt part of our nature (the adamic man) and replace it with His Spirit. - His Life.

Inside every person there is a corrupt element (our fallen adamic nature) that produces envy, lust, jealousy, greed etc. This corrupt part of our nature has come down to us through our genetic inheritance all the way back to Adam through whom sin came into the world.

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ^{thefts}, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man." (Mark 7:21-23)

God promised to remedy this problem: *"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you*

and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them." (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

Jesus went further than paying the price of our sin. He also came to give everyone who comes to Him a new heart and a new spirit. (New life) - if we turn to Him, admit our need of Him and receive. He takes out our heart of stone (the corrupt side of our nature) and replaces it with His own Spirit.

God wants everyone to be "born from above" and to receive the Spirit of God as our 'new engine for living.' Our spirit comes alive and joined with His Spirit and our 'antennae' for communication with heaven is reconnected.

That's why Jesus on the day of the resurrection to His said to His followers, "Receive the Holy Spirit" and His followers in turn invite all men to do likewise.

Receive A New Nature (Life) And A New Spirit.

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ³²not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, [a] says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jer. 31:31-34)

One Thing More Is Needed - Our Response

Jesus has paid the penalty of our sin so that we can return to the care and love of our Heavenly Father. However one more thing is needed: We must hear this good news, put our faith in it and receive it as a gift - not earn it.

The work of God for us on the Cross of Jesus does us no good unless we BELIEVE IT, RETURN TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER and RECEIVE its benefits.

Our Part: Believe And Repent.

"Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15)

"But those things, which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has fulfilled. Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:18)

It is not a matter of religion or ritual - it is a matter of believing in the greatest FACT of history and responding to its message. God wants all men to come to Him and be restored to right standing with Him.

To believe the Gospel we must hear it. For the gospel to be believed we must first hear and then believe the message and receive. That it is why it so important for believers to proclaim this message to every nation so that everyone- Jew Gentile can come home to God's loving care and blessing.

Heaven & Hell

When the believer accepts the gift of reconciliation he simultaneously receives eternal life. He can know that he will spend all eternity in the presence of God in Heaven. *"The wages of sin BUT THE FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE. "* (Rom. 6:23)

Jesus paid the wages of our sin so that we can receive eternal life as a free gift.

Heaven is a REAL place where the righteous, who have received the gift of righteousness from God, live for all eternity. God wants everyone to join Him in heaven to live with him as a part of His extended family.

If we refuse His help we are like the people on the Titanic who refuse to jump into the life raft. We are like drowning people who don't accept the lifeline that God offers us.

Never condemn people for their sins - but throw them the lifeline of the truth of the gospel so that they too can be reconciled to God.

Formally Accepting God's Gift Of Forgiveness, Reconciliation & Eternal Life

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:17:21-22)

Just as a marriage is formalized when the couple says: "I do", we receive the salvation that Jesus offers us by a formal declaration of acceptance and acknowledgment of God's great salvation.

'If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' (Rom. 10:9-13)

Prayer To Formally Accept God's Gift Of Eternal Life

Father, God I come to You just as I am. I acknowledge I am a sinner and have sinned and cannot save myself. I believe, with all my heart, that on the Cross Your Son, Jesus, took the blame,

shame, judgment and condemnation for these sins, and rose for my justification, so that I can be forgiven, reconciled to you and receive a new nature.

I accept Your forgiveness, and I in return forgive all others whatever wrong they have done against me. Take bitterness, anger and selfishness out of my heart. I lay down on the Cross the sinful, selfish side of my nature and I ask You, Jesus, to come into my heart as my new 'engine' for living and replace the sinful part of my nature with Your life. Empower me by Your Spirit to live a life of love, righteousness, peace and joy. Live in me and love through me. I give myself to You, Lord Jesus, and I put my life under Your loving care and protection.

(You have made the most important decision of your life, by putting your faith in the fact that God has paid for your sins & personally accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord.)