

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

History meets Eternity ...

... and gives us the Good News!

He was delivered over to death for our sins ...

By dying on the cross and coming back to life, Jesus has accomplished something that no other human will ever be capable of doing.

It is finished!

He is risen!

... and was raised to life for our justification.

Romans 4:25 (NIV)

?? WHO will PAY ??

Because of our sin, we have placed ourselves under God's wrath. We have *earned* the judgment of death – which either we must pay, or *someone who is without sin* must pay. (A sinner cannot pay for another sinner.) Either way, it is a debt that must be paid.

Since our sin is against an *infinitely-righteous* God, there are two options for paying our debt:

- 1) We sinners, as *finite* beings, can pay; but it will take an *infinite* amount of time (i.e., for all eternity).
- 2) A sinless *infinite* being can pay in a *finite* amount of time.

Jesus, who is God in human form, is the *only one* who qualifies for this second option.

↳ He accomplished this on the cross, and the sufficiency of his payment was demonstrated by his resurrection.

!! JESUS offers to PAY !!

But we have to decide: Do we want to do the paying ourselves? Or do we want to trust him to do the paying?

↳ Bear in mind that, along with his payment comes changes in our values and priorities. *It's impossible for it to be otherwise; for the Spirit that accomplishes the one also accomplishes the other.*

↳ So if you don't like this idea of change, then you won't like this second option.
(You might still want to "get out of hell"; but * you love your sin too much * for it to happen.)

NO Scripture passage tells us that the reason God saves people is to keep them from going to hell!

THE "GOOD NEWS" IS ALSO CALLED THE "GOSPEL."

It's *more* than a set of facts (like a newspaper might contain). Rather, it's an announcing of God's saving power through Jesus Christ, accomplished through Christ's death and resurrection.

This news is dynamic, fulfilling ancient prophecy, challenging earthly powers, and ultimately accomplishing a complete restoration of the universe to what God intended it to be.

The power of the Good News – God's Spirit at work – is already transforming people and moving all things toward God's final goal.

This transformation is offered to all whom God calls – all who are willing to recognize and repent of their sin, and trust Jesus Christ to accomplish these things in their lives.

WHEN I AM TOLD THE GOOD NEWS...

I learn that God requires complete righteousness in us. This standard is based on his holy nature, which cannot allow sin to be in its presence.

I have failed and (through Scripture) I become convinced that I am a sinner, under God's wrath.

Jesus lived with complete righteousness, and he died on the cross to pay for sin. He also rose from the grave, proving that his sacrifice was accepted – the sin debt was "paid in full."

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO ME?

Jesus offers to pay for my sins and to change me into someone who wants to become righteous, if I am willing to trust him to do so. There is nothing that I personally can do to accomplish this.

This trust involves acknowledging that his ways are right, he is my master (Lord), and (in his power) I want to follow his example, pursuing a righteous life.

He makes this change possible, by means of the same power that enabled him to come back to life from the dead.

WHERE WE STARTED – BACK WITH ADAM AND EVE.

- **God created humans to have fellowship with him.**
 - ✓ This is one of the reasons we were created in his "image" or "likeness" – Genesis 1:26-27. This is what makes fellowship possible.
 - ✓ Adam and Eve apparently had such fellowship with God, on a *daily* basis, in the cool (evening breeze) of the day – until sin destroyed this fellowship – Genesis 3:8-9.
- **Because of our sin, this fellowship with God has been destroyed.**
 - ✓ **By nature.** The whole human race was in Adam and Eve (though not as separate entities). What happened in the garden affected us. By their actions, they became sinners by nature; and in doing so, we also became sinners by nature.
 - ✓ **By choice.** Every time we personally *choose* to sin, we are affirming their decision in the garden. It's like saying, "I approve of what they did."

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FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!



- **Fellowship with God.**
 - ✓ Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 3:8-9 describe the original situation with Adam and Eve. Most passages focus the *restoration* of this fellowship – since we, as a human race, have already lost this fellowship.
 - ✓ 1 John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Revelation 3:20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 17:3; Psalm 16:11; 42:1-2; John 15:15; 1 John 1:6-7; Colossians 1:21-22; Romans 5:10-11.
- **Sinful by nature.**
 - ✓ Romans 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 3:23; Psalm 58:3; Genesis 8:21; Job 14:4; Romans 5:15-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Romans 3:10-12.
- **Sinful by choice.**
 - ✓ Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ezekiel 18:20; James 1:14-15; Romans 1:18-32; John 3:19-20; Deuteronomy 30:19; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 4:17.

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"WHEN I AM TOLD THE GOOD NEWS..."

- **This requires us to be willing to pay attention to Scripture.**
 - ✓ We have to learn the Good News, either directly from Scripture, or through one of God's people sharing it with us.
 - ✓ If we say "NO" to Scripture, we have already said "NO" to the salvation that Jesus offers us.
- **The first part of the Good News sounds like "Bad News."**
 - ✓ We must understand our *actual condition* before God, before we can understand the magnitude of what Jesus did for us, and respond properly.
 - ✓ The Good News *cannot* accomplish its purpose without acceptance of these facts. These facts are the foundation on which the good news is built; and unless we are willing to admit our condition, we *cannot* be saved.

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FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!



- **The need to pay attention to Scripture.**
 - ✓ Some of these verses focus not only on the need to *hear* what Scripture says, but also the need to *apply* it to our lives.
 - ✓ Hebrews 2:1; Luke 8:15; 11:28; James 1:22-25; Psalm 119:11; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 10:17; Luke 8:18; Matthew 7:24-27.
- **The first part of the Good News sounds like "Bad News."**
 - ✓ Because it tells us about our sinful condition and our alienation from God.
 - ✓ Many of the verses that fit here will be listed on the next few pages.
 - ✓ Isaiah 59:2; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 8:7-8; Colossians 1:21; Romans 7:18; Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 4:18; Psalm 14:1-3; John 8:34; Titus 3:3; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ecclesiastes 7:20.

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THE BAD NEWS – THE PART THAT'S ABOUT US.

(The "bad news" part is about our sin, not God's righteousness.)

I learn that God requires complete righteousness in us. This standard is based on his holy nature, which cannot allow sin to be in its presence.

- **Fellowship with God requires complete righteousness on our part.**
 - ✓ Nothing sinful – not even the tiniest amount of sinfulness – can stay in the presence of the holy, righteous and just God.
 - ✓ For God to permit it would be a denial of his very nature.

On our own, what can we look forward to?

... only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

Hebrews 10:27 (NIV)

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FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!



- **God requires complete righteousness in us. This standard is based on his holy nature.**
 - ✓ Leviticus 19:2; Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Deuteronomy 18:13; Habakkuk 1:13; 1 John 3:7; Psalm 11:7; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 John 1:5; Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 145:17; 1 Samuel 2:2.
- **God cannot allow sin to be in his presence.**
 - ✓ Some of the following passages mention people who became righteous. They accepted the Good News (or the Old Testament equivalent) in its entirety. That's the only what that *any* of us can qualify; and if we *do* qualify, we will give God (not ourselves) the credit for it.
 - ✓ Habakkuk 1:13; Isaiah 59:2; Psalm 5:4-6; Revelation 21:27; Joshua 24:19; Isaiah 6:3-5; 33:14-15; Psalm 11:4-7; Nahum 1:2-3; Job 15:15-16; Psalm 15; Hebrews 12:14.

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I have failed
and (through Scripture) I become convinced that
I am a sinner, under God's wrath.

- We have all sinned. Because of this, we have become God's enemies and are under his wrath. We have *earned* this.
 - ✓ Recognizing this is the first step toward salvation. If we don't reach this point, we *cannot* be saved.
- Our sin *prevents* us from attaining the righteousness that we must have, in order to have peace with God.
 - ✓ Even if we were able to permanently *stop* sinning, from this day forward, the sin we have *already* committed would prevent us from becoming righteous.

If this were the end of the story, we would have no hope.
Jesus' death and resurrection changes all this!

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FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!



- We have all sinned, and become God's enemies, and have now earned his wrath.
 - ✓ Some of these verses also mention what God has done to resolve this issue – the "good" part of the Good News.
 - ✓ Romans 3:23; 5:8, 10, 12; 6: 23; Isaiah 59:2; Colossians 1:21; Romans 1:18; John 3:36; Ephesians 2:1-3; Genesis 6:5; Galatians 3:10; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 2:5; Nahum 1:2; Psalm 5:5; Romans 1:32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelation 21:8.
- Our sin *prevents* us from attaining the righteousness that we must have, in order to have peace with God.
 - ✓ Many of the verses listed above also belong here.
 - ✓ Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16; Romans 8:7-8; 10:3; Job 25:4; James 4:4; Romans 3:10-18; 1 Corinthians 2:14; John 8:44; Job 14:4.

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THE GOOD NEWS! – THE PART THAT'S ABOUT JESUS!

Jesus lived with complete righteousness, and he died on the cross to pay for sin. He also rose from the grave, proving that his sacrifice was accepted – the sin debt was "paid in full."

- Jesus Christ lived a 100% righteous (sinless) life. He was tempted, like us; but he *never* sinned.
 - ✓ He accomplished what we *need*, but *cannot* accomplish.
 - ✓ This fact points to Jesus' unique nature. But there's so much more we can learn, as we look further into Scripture!
- Jesus Christ died on the cross – not because of any sin he had done, but because of *our* sin.
 - ✓ He *chose* to suffer the *wrath* of God, in order to provide us with an opportunity to have *peace* with God.

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FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!



- Jesus Christ lived a totally righteous life. He was tempted, like us; but he *never* sinned.
 - ✓ Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19; 2:22; 1 John 3:5; Isaiah 53:9; Hebrews 2:18; Matthew 4:1-11; 1 Peter 3:18; Colossians 1:22.
- Jesus Christ died on the cross – not because of any sin he had done, but because of *our* sin.
 - ✓ Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12; 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 5:6-8; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 4:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:8; John 3:16.
- The resurrection proves that Christ's sacrifice was accepted by God. The penalty was paid, so it was impossible for him to stay dead.
 - ✓ Acts 2:24; 17:31; Philippians 2:8-9; Hebrews 7:27; 10:10, 18; 1 Peter 3:18; John 19:30.

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HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO ME (US)?

Jesus offers to pay for my sins and to change me into someone who wants to become righteous, if I am willing to trust him to do so.

- He offers to *exchange* his 100% righteous life for our sinful lives... and to bear the punishment that we deserve – the punishment we have *earned*.
 - ✓ This is called the "great exchange."
- In doing this, he restores the relationship with God that we fractured.
 - ✓ He recovers for us what humans were originally *designed* to experience.

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FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!



- He offers to *exchange* his righteous life for our sinful lives... and to bear the punishment that we deserve.
 - ✓ 2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 3:23-26; 5:8; Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 9:28; Romans 4:25; 8:3-4; 6:23; Colossians 1:13-14; Titus 2:14; Galatians 1:4; Colossians 2:13-14.
- We need to be willing to *trust* him to do this.
 - ✓ Verses that fit here will be found in a later section, since this issue focuses on *our* responsibility. But we need to realize that our trust is in what he did, not on our ability to trust!
- In doing this, Jesus restores the relationship with God that we have fractured.
 - ✓ Romans 5:1-2, 10-11; Colossians 1:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Galatians 3:13-14; Romans 8:1-4; John 1:12; Romans 8:33-34; 1 John 4:10; Titus 3:5-7.

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WHAT WE MUST DO.

There is nothing that I personally can do to accomplish this.

- We must be willing to trust him to do these things.
 - ✓ We must trust him – not only to ① pay for our sins, but also to ② make us willing to follow him – to pursue the righteousness that we need, and he faithfully lived.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

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FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!



- We cannot accomplish our own salvation.
 - ✓ Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Romans 4:4-5; 11:6; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Romans 5:6-8; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 3:20; Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:4-5.
- We must trust Jesus to pay for our sins, and deliver (save) us from them.
 - ✓ See the above verses.
 - ✓ Acts 16:31; John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Peter 2:24; Galatians 2:16; Romans 6:23.
- We must trust Jesus to make us willing to follow him, and to pursue the righteousness that he requires.
 - ✓ Philippians 2:13; John 6:44; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Hebrews 13:20-21; John 15:5; Psalm 51:10-12; Jeremiah 32:39-40; Romans 8:13-14; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 1:3.

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This trust involves acknowledging that his ways are right, he is my master (Lord), and (in his power) I want to follow his example, pursuing a righteous life.

- What does this trust include?
 - ✓ We must *acknowledge* that his ways are right and be willing to turn away from what is evil.
 - ✓ We must *confess* him as our "Lord" – which means "master" – and learn to obey him.
 - ✓ We must *follow* his example, pursuing a righteous life.
- Words used to describe these things are: *repentance*, *trust*, *acknowledging who Jesus is*,* and *obedience* – and we *trust* him for the ability to do these things.

* (This is also called "confession" – but it refers to "openly admitting who Jesus is," not to a religious activity that people often call "confession.")

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FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!



- Admitting that God's ways are right, and willing to turn away from what is evil.
 - ✓ Psalm 51:3-4; Job 34:10-12; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 119:128; Isaiah 55:7; Acts 3:19; James 4:7-10; Ezekiel 33:11; Romans 2:4-5; 2 Timothy 2:19.
- Confessing that Jesus is Lord (Master) and willing to obey him.
 - ✓ Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 7:21; John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:3; James 1:22; Luke 9:23; Acts 2:36; Colossians 2:6; Romans 6:16-18; John 13:13-17; Matthew 10:32-33; 1 Samuel 15:22.
- Following Jesus' example, pursuing a righteous life.
 - ✓ 1 Peter 2:21-23; 1 John 2:6; Philippians 2:5-8; 3:12-14; Matthew 16:24; John 13:15; Matthew 11:29; Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1-2; Romans 6:1-2, 6-7.

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GOD AT WORK IN OUR LIVES.

We don't necessarily realize all these things until later, as we begin to learn what Scripture says about salvation.

He makes this change possible, by means of the same power that enabled him to come back to life from the dead.

- Our natures change.
 - ✓ We were once sinners *by nature*. Now we have become children of God *by nature*, and want to live in a way that pleases God.
 - ✓ It is not natural for a sinner to reject a life of sin. When we do so, it is because God is at work in our lives.
 - ✓ However, our bodies are still connected to our old "self," and we need to fight its desires.

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FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!



- God makes possible the changes that are necessary for godly living.
 - ✓ 2 Peter 1:3-4; Philippians 2:13; 1:6; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 13:20-21; Romans 8:13; John 15:4-5.
- A saved person has a new nature. He wants to pursue righteousness and reject a life of sin; yet he still has to fight the ways of his old (former) nature.
 - ✓ Romans 7:14-25; Galatians 5:16-17, 24; Colossians 3:5-10; Romans 8:5-13; 1 Peter 2:11; Romans 6:6-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 3:9; Ephesians 4:17-24; Romans 12:2; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 2:15-17; James 1:14-15; Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 12:1-2.
- The power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that empowers us.
 - ✓ Romans 8:11; Ephesians 1:19-20; 3:20; Philippians 3:10.

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WHEN WE START FOLLOWING JESUS, AND START TO LEARN WHAT SCRIPTURE TELLS US, WE DISCOVER MANY THINGS!

- For instance, we discover ...
 - ✓ God had plans for us, *even before creation came into existence!*
Ephesians 1:4-5; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 25:34; Titus 1:2.
 - ✓ God gives us both the *desire* and the *ability* to repent, trust and obey him. The longer we are saved, the *greater* our appreciation of this fact!
Philippians 2:13; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Jeremiah 31:33; John 15:5; 2 Corinthians 3:5; Hebrews 13:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.
 - ✓ We also learn that, if God has *begun* a good work within us, he will carry it to *completion*.
Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 12:2; Jude 1:24-25; also many of the verses listed above.

MORE RELATED ISSUES WE COULD CONSIDER ...

- All this is possible because of our *union with Christ*.
 - ✓ This union is accomplished by the Holy Spirit, who brings him and us together.
 - ✓ When this happens, God sees us *in Christ*. His crucifixion becomes ours; his resurrection becomes ours.
 - ✓ Being in Christ means that ① our sins are paid for (through Jesus' death on the cross), and ② we are raised to new life (through Jesus' resurrection from the dead).
 - ✓ Because of this, we are declared righteous (justified), and are adopted into the family of God.
- Union with Christ includes sharing in his sufferings ... as well as in his glory.
 - ✓ We suffer for his sake, because we have rejected the world's values... and the world hates us because of it.

- The Holy Spirit, who unites us with Christ, doesn't stop there. He is also at work, transforming our lives. We call this "sanctification."
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit enables us to *want* to acknowledge Jesus as Lord (master) and to follow him, growing in holiness. He uses the life-changing Word of God to accomplish this.
- The fact that God has *begun* this good work in us is a guarantee that he will complete it. We call this "glorification."
 - ✓ This will occur at our resurrection from the dead, when we will receive perfected physical bodies.
 - ✓ This includes complete freedom from sin and all its effects. Morally, we will be like Christ in righteousness.
 - ✓ Knowing this ↑ will make us want to be that way *now* (John 3:3) – even though we may have a constant fight with the impulses of our bodies.

BEWARE OF FALSE PRESENTATIONS OF THE GOOD NEWS – "FALSE GOSPELS."



- Many "Good News" presentations OMIT the main issues: Our need to be righteous, our sin, and God's wrath.
 - ✓ They prefer to preach a self-centered message.
 - ✓ They choose rather to talk about topics such as, "What I can get out of it."
 - ✓ It is a false gospel – a fake "good news" – that ignores the main issue!

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

Galatians 1:8-9 (NIV)

Our Mission!

The Good News focuses on GOD and what HE has accomplished in our lives!

Trust God!

Cling to the Good News, and pursue the life that flows from it!



If we are saved, we will *want* to learn *more* about our Savior, as well as how we are to live.



Credits

SCRIPTURE

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