



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#58)

More than just facts and commands.

The GOOD NEWS

CONTAINS FACTS AND COMMANDS.
Both require a response.



THE GOOD NEWS!
"Trust and obey."

I MUST RESPOND!

I MUST ACCEPT THE FACTS AND OBEY THE COMMANDS!

The FACTS and COMMANDS of the Good News.

Facts and events **confirmed** by many reliable witnesses.
Accurately **recorded** in God's Word, the Bible,
and **commanding** our response.


FACT...	✓ What GOD has done.
FACT...	✓ What GOD will do.
FACT...	✓ What WE have done.
COMMAND...	✓ What WE must do.

HOW WE RESPOND
will determine whether or not we are saved.

People **DO NOT** normally accept the Good News...

THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE GOOD NEWS...
... which remains true and binding, regardless of our response.

THE PROBLEM IS THE DEADNESS OF OUR HEARTS...
... which leaves us unable to recognize life for what it is.



DEAD

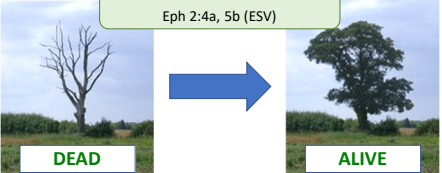
As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins, ...
Ephes. 2:1 (NIV)

When people **DO** accept the Good News...

THEY RECOGNIZE THE GOOD NEWS FOR WHAT IT IS...
... and choose to obey its commands.

THEY RECOGNIZE THAT GOD MADE IT POSSIBLE...
... *because he made them alive, able to recognize the Good News.*

But God... made us alive...
Eph 2:4a, 5b (ESV)



DEAD → **ALIVE**

God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility, working together in harmony.

GOD:
Making people alive and able to recognize the Good News.

Like a coin, both sides are there. But we tend to focus on just one side at a time.

PEOPLE:
Recognizing the Good News and choosing to obey its commands.

BOTH CONCEPTS ARE FOUND IN THE BOOK OF ACTS,
though the primary focus of the Good News is on our responsibility to accept and obey it.

WHAT SAVES US?

(Sovereignty and responsibility working together.)

JESUS saves us, through his death, burial and resurrection.

But salvation comes to us through:

- 1) His **SAVING GRACE** [= the sovereignty aspect], and...

Christ Jesus came into the world to **save** sinners, ...
 1 Tim. 1:15b (GW)

For by grace you have been **saved**...
 Ephes. 2:8a (NASB)
- 2) Our **ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOOD NEWS** [= the human responsibility aspect].

By this gospel [Good News] you are **saved**, ...
 1 Cor. 15:2a (NIV)

The GOOD NEWS

More than just facts and commands!

It's not merely our **KNOWLEDGE** of the Good News that saves us.

(We **need** the knowledge. We can't be saved without it.)

Our **RESPONSE** to that knowledge makes all the difference.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says.
 James 1:22 (NIV)

We must believe (accept) the facts.
We must also obey the commands.

THE FACTS **DEMAND A RESPONSE.**

... Christ died for our sins, ... He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, ...
 1 Cor. 15:3b-4a (NLT)

[God] commands all people everywhere to repent.
 Acts 17:30b (NIV)

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**NOT OBEYING HAS CONSEQUENCES**..... **THE SAVED OBEY.**

He will punish those who ... do not obey the gospel [= Good News] of our Lord Jesus.  
 2 Thes. 1:8 (NIV)

[You Corinthians] are **obedient** to the Good News of Christ.  
 2 Cor. 9:13b (NLT)

**Genuine FAITH will result in OBEDIENCE.**

... the **obedience** that comes from faith.  
 Romans 1:5b (NIV)

... the **obedience** that is associated with faith.  
 Romans 16:26b (GW)

**IT WILL AFFECT THE WAY A PERSON LIVES**

But my righteous one will **live** by faith...  
 Heb 10:38a (CSB)

**Don't be like the religious leaders of Jesus' day!**

But don't do what they do, because they don't practice what they teach.  
 Matthew 23:3b (CSB)

## The GOOD NEWS

*A totally different type of news!*

Like all Scripture, it comes from the **Living God**...

(All other "gods" are human inventions... and **dead**.)

The LORD is the only true God.  
 He is the **living** God and the everlasting King.  
 Jeremiah 10:10a (NET)

... **who has given his very words to people.** (In a way that people can understand them.)

First of all, they have been entrusted with **the very words of God.**  
 Romans 3:2b (NIV)

[Here, referring to Israel being given the Old Testament.]

**IT'S MORE THAN JUST "GOOD" NEWS...**

It is **ETERNAL NEWS!** (Like all of Scripture.)

Your word, O Lord, is **eternal**; it stands firm in the heavens.  
 Psalm 119:89 (NIV)

"... but the word of the Lord **remains forever.**"  
 And this word is the **good news** that was preached to you.  
 1 Peter 1:25 (ESV)

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the **eternal gospel** to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people.  
 Rev. 14:6 (NIV)

**MORE THAN THAT... It is LIVING NEWS!**  
 (Like the rest of the Bible, its words are LIFE ITSELF.)

Stephen: "[Moses] received **living words** to pass on to us."  
 Acts 7:38b (NIV)

Moses: "These **instructions** are not mere **words**—they are your **life!**"  
 Deut. 32:47b (NLT)

Jesus: "And the very **words** I have spoken to you are spirit and **life.**"  
 John 6:63b (NLT)

For the **word of God** is **living** and active...  
 Hebrews 4:12a (NASB)

**THE GOOD NEWS (LIKE ALL OF THE BIBLE) IS THE LIVING WORD FROM THE LIVING GOD!**

NOT a dry theological outline.

NOT mushy emotional sentimentality.

A THEOLOGICAL TREATISE ON THE DOCTRINE OF SIN

FLOWERY POEMS TO MAKE YOU FEEL HAPPY!

**BUT words of LIFE, expressed in LIFE experiences.**

In a sinful world, it points out the conflict between the way of life (which comes from God) and the way of death (which people normally choose).

**People who are DEAD in sin often distort these words.**

... every man's own word becomes his oracle and so you **distort** the **words of the living God**, the Lord Almighty, our God.  
 Jeremiah 23:36b (NIV)

[Paul's] **letters** ... which ignorant and unstable people **distort**, as they do the other **Scriptures**, to their own destruction.  
 2 Peter 3:16b (NIV)

**Even religious leaders do this.**

Indeed, some of your own men will arise and **distort the truth** in order to lure the disciples into following them.  
 Act 20:30 (ISV)

>> No wonder the FALSE "good news" is so popular today! <<

**The LIVING Good News: What God uses to give people LIFE!**

For you have been born again, ... through the **living** and enduring **word of God**.  
 1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)

By his own choice, he gave us birth by the **word of truth**, ...  
 James 1:18a (CSB)

**GOD DOES THIS**  
 Grace, new birth, etc.

**WE ARE TO DO THIS**  
 Believe (trust, accept) and obey.

... humbly accept the **word** planted in you, which can save you.  
 James 1:21b (NIV)

Do not merely listen to the **word**, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.  
 James 1:22 (NIV)

**This LIVING Good News is the POWER God uses to save those who are DEAD in sin!**

I'm not ashamed of the Good News. It is **God's power** to **save** everyone who believes, Jews first and Greeks as well.  
 Romans 1:16 (GW)

**THIS IS WHY DISTORTING IT IS SUCH A HELL-DESERVING ACT.**

But even if we (or an angel from heaven) should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, **let him be condemned to hell!**  
 Galatians 1:8 (NET)

**DON'T DISTORT WHAT GOD HAS MADE PERFECT!**

As we have said before, and now I say again, if any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received [from the apostles], **let him be condemned to hell!**  
 Galatians 1:9 (NET)

**YOUR MISSION:  
CONSIDER YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE  
LIVING GOOD NEWS!**

ONLY 2  
OPTIONS

Do you **FAIL TO RECOGNIZE** it  
for what it is?

Do you **RECOGNIZE** it  
for what it is?

Either way, it  
will influence the  
way you live.

**THE GOOD NEWS: LIVING Words, given by the LIVING God,  
to bring LIFE to those who are DEAD.  
★ ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES! ★**

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