



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#67)
Good News – Facts about Jesus (1)

TWO Ways:

Way #1 – Controlled by the sinful nature (or "flesh")

Jesus responded, "Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a **slave of sin**."
John 8:34 (CSB)

... foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. ... [living] in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.
Titus 3:3 (NIV)

As the Scriptures say, "No one is good— not even one. No one has real understanding; no one is seeking God. All have turned away from God; all have gone wrong. No one does good, not even one."
Romans 3:10-12 (NLT)

We have all strayed like sheep. Each one of us has turned to go his own way, ...
Isaiah 53:6a (GW)

All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a polluted garment; ...
Isaiah 64:6a (CSB)



THE GOOD NEWS

is about **CHANGING** to "Way #2"!

FACT #1 ✓ Made possible by the God of the Bible.
FACT #2 ✓ Through Jesus the Messiah (Christ).

TWO Ways:

Way #2 – Controlled by the Spirit, under the New Covenant

So if the Son sets you free, **you really will be free**.
John 8:36 (CSB)

... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
2 Corinthians 3:17b (CSB)

I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.
Psalm 119:45 (NIV)

Those who have been born from God don't live sinful lives. ...they can't live sinful lives. They have been born from God.
1 John 3:9 (GW)

He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit.
Titus 3:5 (NLT)

I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds, ...
Hebrews 10:16b (CSB)

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.
Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)


On the "ROAD TO SALVATION," you start with the **FACTS!**

The #1 FACT is the **GOD of the Bible.**

And the #2 FACT is:

JESUS!

✓ Who he is.
✓ What he did.
✓ What he's going to do.




JESUS!

There are **FIVE "Jesus facts."**

1. His life on earth.
2. His death.
3. His resurrection.
4. His ascension into heaven.
5. His future coming.

It's not that difficult...
Anyone who has read the New Testament already knows these things!

No need to memorize an extensive list...
Salvation is a growing process. If we begin to tell them about Jesus, and if they choose to follow Jesus, they will want to keep learning about him!



HOW DO WE KNOW
that these things are true?

The FIVE "Jesus facts":

1. His life on earth.
2. His death.
3. His resurrection.
4. His ascension into heaven.
5. His future coming.

1) **EYEWITNESS accounts** – We have the reports of *many* eyewitnesses, telling us about Jesus and what he did. These are written down in what we call the New Testament.

THE APOSTLES

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **we were eyewitnesses** of his majesty.

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV)

JOHN

The one who saw this is an **eyewitness**. What he says is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth so that you, too, will believe.

This disciple was an **eyewitness** of these things and wrote them down. We know that what he says is true.

John 19:35; 21:24 (GW)

PETER (AND OTHERS)

✓ **There were eyewitnesses of his life and death.**

We ourselves are witnesses of everything [Jesus] did in both the Judean country and in Jerusalem, and yet they killed him by hanging him on a tree.

Acts 10:39 (CSB)

LUKE (AND OTHERS)

Quite often in the book of Acts, the apostles affirm that they were eyewitnesses.

Many have attempted to write about what had taken place among us. They received their information from **those who had been eyewitnesses** and servants of God's word from the beginning, and they passed it on to us.

I, too, have followed everything closely from the beginning. So I thought it would be a good idea to write an orderly account for Your Excellency, Theophilus.

In this way you will know that what you've been told is true.

Luke 1:1-4 (GW)

✓ **Many eyewitnesses saw Jesus after he came back to life.**

HUNDREDS OF EYEWITNESSES

[Christ] was seen by Peter and then by the twelve apostles. After that, **he was seen** by more than five hundred of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died by now. Then **he was seen** by James and later by all the apostles.

1 Cor. 15:5-7 (NLT)

When Paul wrote this, most of the eyewitnesses were still alive. People could still cross-examine them, to find out if their testimony was true and accurate.

PETER (AND OTHERS)

God raised up this man [Jesus] on the third day and caused him to be **seen**, not by all the people, but by **us whom God appointed as witnesses**, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Ac 10:40-41 (CSB)

✓ **There were even eyewitnesses who saw Jesus after he ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9).**

STEPHEN

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven. **He saw** the glory of God, and **Jesus** standing at the right hand of God. He said, "Look, **I see** the heavens opened and **the Son of Man** standing at the right hand of God!"

Ac 7:55-56 (CSB)

PAUL

Last of all, **I saw him**, too, long after the others, as though I had been born at the wrong time.

1 Cor. 15:8 (NLT)

JOHN

I saw ... one like the Son of Man [allusion to Daniel 7:13], ... When **I saw** him, I fell at his feet like a dead man.

He laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades."

Revelation 1:12b, 13a, 17-18 (CSB)

2) **PROPHETIC accounts** – Centuries before Jesus was born, the "Jesus Facts" were already written about, in what we call the Old Testament. The prophets described the Messiah (Christ) and what he would do, so he could be recognized when he came.

** The New Testament witnesses tell us that these things were fulfilled in the life of Jesus. (They saw it happen.)

** **This prophetic testimony could not be faked!** It was written down many centuries before Jesus came (not afterwards, in an attempt to support human-invented claims).

[Paul] reasoned with them from the [Old Testament] Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said.

Acts 17:2b-3 (NIV)

AS JESUS SAID...

"Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Luke 24:44b (NIV)

Even as Jesus was being betrayed, he said it was a fulfillment of Scripture – Matthew 26:54, 56.

AS PAUL SAID...

Christ died to take away our sins **as the Scriptures predicted**. He was placed in a tomb. He was brought back to life on the third day **as the Scriptures predicted**.

1 Cor. 15:3b-4 (GW)

Throughout the New Testament, we see statements like these, referring to the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy:

... so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

John 17:12b (NIV)

... as it is written, ...

John 12:14b (NIV)

So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet...

Matthew 13:35a (NIV)

3) **FURTHER evidence or proof** – Other "witnesses" or evidence to the truthfulness of the "Jesus facts":

- ✓ Miracles and signs by the apostles (Hebrews 2:4).
- ✓ The coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), and his life-changing effects in the lives of those who accept the Good News (a proof that keeps happening, even to this day*).

ALL of these evidences affirm the factual, truthful nature of the Good News "Jesus Facts."

FACTS #1-4 are now **HISTORICAL** facts, affirmed by many witnesses.

FACT #5 is currently a **PROPHETIC** fact, guaranteed by Old Testament prophecy, by the fact that Jesus has already fulfilled Facts 1-4, and by Jesus' own promise that he is going to do it.

* (This change does not occur in fakes. For those who are genuine: If they fall into sin, the relapse is temporary; they repent and go back to following Jesus.)

★ **What do these "Jesus facts" prove?** ★
(Since they are GUARANTEED to be true.)

- **The Good News is true.**
- **We must respond to the Good News.**
 - ✓ We must change our *thinking*, so that it agrees with Scripture.
 - ✓ We must change our *actions*, so that they reflect God's moral character.
- **Judgment is coming (= Fact #5).**

"For [God] has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man [= Jesus] he has appointed. He has given **proof** of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:31 (NIV)

★ **If all these things are true, then WHY don't more people accept them?** ★

- It's not a **fact** problem... it's a **moral** problem.
 - ✓ The facts demand a response: a **change** in how we think and live. This change **goes against** everything the "flesh" (sinful nature) lives for.
 - ✓ People are **not willing** to do this, unless God's grace is at work in their hearts.

... people who **suppress** the truth by their unrighteousness, ...
Romans 1:18b (NET)

They perish because they **refused** to love the truth and so be saved.
2 Thes. 2:10b (NIV)

... scoffers will come, **scoffing** and **following** their own evil desires. ... they **deliberately forget** [the historic facts of Scripture].
2 Peter 3:3b, 5a (NIV)

★ **We have an obligation to accept these facts.** ★

- They are the basis of the Good News.
- We cannot be saved without accepting them.

Don't → ✓ Go after false teachers, who say what you want to hear.
✗ Ignore God's word or distort its message.

They will **follow their own desires** and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear.
2 Tim. 4:3b (NLT)

... they are **blind** guides. If a **blind** man leads a **blind** man, both will fall into a pit."
Matthew 15:14b (NIV)

... things the **ignorant and unstable** twist to their own destruction, as they also do to the rest of the scriptures.
2 Pe 3:16b (NET)

... **deceiving** and being **deceived**.
2 Tim. 3:13b (CSB)

These people have become **close-minded**...
Acts 28:27a (GW)

Instead → **Embrace the truth!**

① Pursue it, ② make sure about it, and ③ accept it for what it is!
④ Then let it do its work in you!

① They were **very willing to receive** God's message, and every day they **carefully examined** the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was true.
Acts 17:11b (GW)

③ When you received God's word from us, you realized it wasn't the word of humans. Instead, you **accepted it for what it really is—the word of God**. This word is **at work in you** believers.
④ 1 Thes. 2:13b (GW)

★ **Make this YOUR MISSION this week!** ★

Credits

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