

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

WHO IS GOD?

God is eternal, having always existed. He is also independent, lacking nothing in Himself. God is holy, so pure that nothing imperfect can stand in His presence, and He is just, always doing what is right—as He Himself is the final standard for what is right. (See Genesis 1:1; Habakkuk 1:13; Isaiah 5:16, 59:2; Psalm 7:11-12; Acts 17:24-25)

WHO IS MAN?

Humans are created beings, made in the image and likeness of God and therefore unique among all other creatures. We are dependent upon God for our existence and purpose, which is to worship and enjoy Him forever. Although created in His image, all mankind has rebelled against God, refusing to acknowledge and honour Him as He deserves. (See Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 1:1-3:23.)

WHAT IS OUR DILEMMA?

Because we have all rejected God, we are all guilty of what the Bible calls sin. We have violated God's Law (the Ten Commandments) and stand condemned under His judgment of our disobedience. He cannot and will not leave sin unpunished—and just one violation of His Law is sufficient for judgment. God's eternal judgment of all liars, thieves, blasphemers, adulterers, and all other sinners is the second death in the Lake of Fire. (See Romans 3:23; Proverbs 17:15, 1 John 3:4; Revelation 20:9-15.)

WHAT IS GOD'S SOLUTION?

Because God is just, sin cannot go unpunished. But the Bible tells us that He is also compassionate & merciful. So, He made a way to save condemned humanity in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And it's on the cross of Christ, God satisfied His justice and demonstrated His love for sinners. (See Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 4:8-10.)

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Jesus Christ, who is both God and man, came into the world to live a life perfectly obedient to all of God's commands, and to die the death required for the payment of sin. On the cross, Jesus became a sacrifice for mankind, taking our punishment by giving His perfect life as a perfect payment to set sinners free.

Three days after His crucifixion, Jesus Christ rose from the dead, defeating sin and death and earning eternal life for those who trust Him. His resurrection is God the Father's approval of Christ's redeeming work. (See Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-10.)

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

The only way to respond to the Gospel is with repentance and faith. In **repentance**, we recognize that we have sinned against God; we begin to realize that we have no hope in ourselves of standing before God. Repentance leads us to turn away from our sins and toward God in faith. (See Romans 7:15, 24; Isaiah 55:6-7; Acts 3:19; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10.)

Faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” In other words, faith trusts in the promise of God that our sins are

forgiven in Jesus Christ, and that because of Christ's death on the cross, we can have eternal life if we put our faith in Him. (See Hebrews 11:1, John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9.)

A PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

(PSALM 51:1-12, ESV)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

A Christian who has been truly born again of the Holy Spirit is a new creation who will live a life that reflects God's radical work of re-creation. Assurance of salvation is based upon self-examination in the light of what the Bible says to be true about those who have eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Practically, this means he or she continually grows in love for God and others, wants to share the truth of the Gospel with those who don't know Jesus, holds fast to sound doctrine, hate sin, and increasingly displays the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (See Matthew 7:16, 22:37-40, 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 13:15; 1 John 1:5-10, 2:3-4, 9-11, 15-17, 24-25, 3:10, 4:13, 5:13; Galatians 5:22-23; Hebrews 12:50b.)

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