

The (Really) Good News

the unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ, in brief

Do you know that the greatest possession in life is free? You can be guaranteed a free trip to heaven to live with God forever after you depart from this earth. It doesn't require religious deeds or good works, or any resource you might find on this earth. You might ask, "Well, what do I have to do?" The answer is nothing.

You don't need to do anything, you don't need to *stop* doing anything. You don't need to try to be good or attend a church to be saved; contrarily, you don't need to stop drinking or swearing, or even fornicating or any other sin. A gift is a gift, and a gift is free – no strings attached!

"For by grace you have been saved through faith and this [salvation] is not from yourselves; it is a gift from God, not from works lest any man should boast."

(Ephesians 2:8, 9)

It is free for all members of the human race since Christ paid the price for all your sins, even the *really* bad ones. 1 Peter 2:24 states:

"And he himself carried [all of] our sins on his body [during the time of judgment on the cross]."

How can one receive this gift? Do you have to go to the nearest Christian church to receive it? No, it is much closer than that. Salvation is in your thinking. If you truly believe that Christ is the Savior, just use your soul to express your faith in him: "Heavenly Father, I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior." After praying that simple prayer, God imputes his very own righteousness to you, and gives you eternal life. This means you are now qualified to have a relationship with God, and to live with him forever.

"I am the resurrection and the life [Jesus was resurrected 3 days after his physical death on the cross], he who believes in me will live even if he dies." (John 11:25)

The Lord Jesus Christ was always God and became the God-man in circa 4 BC. Infinite God united with true humanity. Therefore Jesus Christ is equal with both God and humanity. This makes him the only mediator between God and mankind.

"For there is only one God and one person, a mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself as a ransom for all mankind [he received your punishment in order to propitiate the righteousness of God, paying the penalty for your freedom]."

(1 Timothy 2:5,6a)

Only a mediator between God and man can resolve the sin problem of mankind. So, as the only mediator, Jesus could say:

"I am the way, the truth, and eternal life; no one comes to the Father [in heaven] except through me." (John 14:6b)

Jesus received the punishment for the sins of every person in history, regardless of race, status or religion:

“And he himself is the propitiation for our sins [believers]; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

God the Father punished the perfect humanity of Jesus for our sins so that he could offer eternal life to all people, regardless of how sinful they might be. God has infinite, unconditional love toward each and all, and does all he can to save you personally from eternal judgment.

“But God demonstrates his love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

“For God so loved the world [humankind] that he gave his uniquely born son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

So why are we told to believe in Jesus Christ for our salvation? We are told this because this is a way of doing nothing. Nothing is what God wants us to do since he has done all of the work. He does not need our help, and besides, there is nothing a sinner can do to attain the perfect righteousness required to have an eternal relationship with God in heaven.

“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteousnesses (any act we think will provide brownie points for heaven) are like menstrual rags.” (Isaiah 64:6)

Faith is a system of learning and applying knowledge. Faith excludes any kind of work on your behalf, and only requires that you believe that knowledge to be true.

Much of what you know was acquired by faith perception. When you were a small child maybe your teacher taught you that the people in Thailand eat lots of rice. Now, when you believed your teacher, you did no work. Through the ability and the work of your teacher, you came to know that Thai people eat lots of rice. All you needed to do was believe him.

The same is true with the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus Christ did all of the work, receiving the punishment for every sin that you will commit throughout your life. We merely believe in him; we put our trust in him for our salvation.

“He saved us not on the basis of deeds which we have done in (human) righteousness, but according to his loving kindness.” (Titus 3:5a)

When you believe in Jesus Christ, you are making a decision which does not require any effort on your part. If you choose to believe that God sent Jesus Christ into the world to die for your sins, you can then express your free-will decision of faith by saying to God the Father: ‘I believe in Jesus Christ, the one who was punished for my sins.’ After praying that simple prayer, you will become a child of God forever.

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but he who does not believe the Son will not see life [in heaven], but the wrath of God remains on him [he is condemned to the lake of fire forever].” (John 3:36)

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:31a)