

GOOD NEWS...GOD LOVES YOU

It can be a life-changing revelation when you come to know and believe that God loves you. God is a personal God and that means He has a real interest in you and wants to be involved in your life.

God is our Creator as the Bible states: "The Spirit of God hath made me and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life" (Job 33:4). Again the Scriptures state: "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being..." (Acts 17:28).

Our Creator has a plan for us and He has revealed that plan in the Scriptures. He has designed us to experience life in its fullest, but only in proper relationship to Him. Apart from God, life lacks meaning and purpose, and often seems empty. Without a relationship with our Creator, we wonder who we are and why we are here. Life seems senseless and hopeless if all we do is struggle for 60 or 70 years and then go into oblivion.

Why this sense of lostness and hopelessness? It is because we are designed to live life in relationship with our Creator. Only in relationship to Him are all the questions of life answered and we understand the meaning and design of our earthly existence.

When we come into a real relationship with God, we realize we are not merely accidents of nature without any real purpose. We are not just a higher form of animal on the evolutionary chain, but a special and unique creation of God. The Bible says, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him..." (Gen. 1:27). We have a unique place in the design of God. We are designed to reflect His image and to have a special relationship with Him forever!

Now, because we are special creations of God...He loves us and wants us to have a close and loving relationship with Him. But, we find that we do not by nature seek God or love Him. In fact, we feel awkward and uncomfortable about God. It is easier for us to avoid God and anything that has to do with Him. Why is that so? If God loves us...why do we find it so hard to seek and love Him? Let's look into the Bible and see if we can find the answer.

First, look at Romans 5:12..."Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

Sin and death entered into the human race through our forefather...Adam. Created in innocence to have an unblemished relationship with God, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and broke the law. When this happened Adam became a sinner...a transgressor of the law of God and his perfect relationship with God was broken. Adam also began to experience the effects of death. Yes, his body began to deteriorate and someday he would physically die. But even more important he suffered spiritual death...his spirit once alive and in union with God...was now separated from God and without the life of God. Ephesians 2:1 tells us we are naturally dead to God in trespasses and sins. Ephesians 4:18 tells us we are alienated from the life of God.

Well, this explains why we don't naturally love and seek God. We are born with Adam's sinful nature. We are born separated from God because of sin. This is why it is so hard for us to obey the laws of God. We have a sin nature and as we follow its inclinations...we sin.

We read in Romans 3:10..."There is none righteous, no not one" and in Romans 3:23..."For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Everyone of us has an adamic nature...a sin nature and we all sin. Sin means to miss the mark or to fall short. We all fall short of God's standard. None of us have perfectly kept His will and word. Some do not take sin very seriously because they don't feel they have done anything very bad. But, listen to what the Bible says in James 2:10..."For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." You see...you are a law breaker, a transgressor, a sinner, even if you break only one commandment. And the truth is...we have all broken the greatest commandment of all! One day Jesus was asked, "Master, which is the great commandment of the law? Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matt. 22:36-38). Now, how many of us can say we have kept that commandment spotlessly?

No...we are all sinners and by nature alienated from God. Because we have a spirit separated from God...we find it hard to understand and seek God. Because we sin and break God's law we feel guilty, ashamed and alienated from Him. And rightly so. **BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS...GOD STILL LOVES US!**

Yes, even though we are sinners and have broken the law of God and even though we haven't loved Him and honored Him as we

should...He still loves us and will forgive us. He still wants us to have a wonderful...eternal relationship with Him. Moreover, He has made provision for us to be brought back into relationship with Him. How? Let's continue looking at the Scriptures.

Read Romans 5:8..."But commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Now...how does Christ dying for us show God's love and what does His death do for us? Well, it shows how much God loves us because of who Jesus is to God the Father. Jesus is called the "only begotten Son of God". What does that mean? It means Jesus is the unique, one of a kind Son. Jesus is the eternal Son of God. He is of the very same nature as God the Father and so is God Himself. Until He came to earth through the miraculous virgin birth...Jesus had been with God the Father all of eternity. So, in sending His only Son to earth to die for us...God showed us how much He loves us and how valuable we are to Him. I John 4:9 says, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life." My, how God loves us! He would even send His Son to die for us.

Why did Christ have to die for us? What did that accomplish for us? NOTE what the Scriptures say...

John 3:18..."He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not, IS CONDEMNED ALREADY, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

BECAUSE WE ARE SINNERS...WE ARE ALREADY UNDER JUDGMENT AND CONDEMNATION. We are transgressors of God's law and are guilty! Because we are guilty...we are under judgment and condemnation.

John 3:36..."He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Sin places us under the just wrath of a Holy God. We are law breakers and as such under the just condemnation and wrath of an

offended God. You see, sin is primarily an offense against God. And He is just and righteous in placing us under condemnation and wrath.

Romans 2:5..."But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thy self wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."

Because we are sinners...law breakers...judgment and wrath awaits. God is holy and cannot overlook our sin. If we die in our sins...unforgiven...we must answer for our own sin. We will stand before Him guilty...under condemnation and under sentence of His just wrath. The Bible describes that awful day...

"And I saw the dead small and great stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:12,15)

Sinners...unsaved...unforgiven...names not recorded in the book of life...under just condemnation and wrath...cast into the lake of fire. Cast into hell. How awful. But there is good news...Christ died for us. Because God loves us and doesn't want us to go into the lake of fire...He sent his Son to die for us and pay our sin penalty.

Isaiah 53:6..."All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

We are the sinners, not Jesus, but God laid on Him our sin. Jesus died for our sins on the cross. Why? To pay our penalty...to satisfy the justice of a holy God so we wouldn't have to pay for our own sin. You see, Jesus was our substitute...suffering for sin in our place...so we wouldn't have to suffer!

I Peter 2:24..."Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree..." He was dying for our sins...as our substitute...to pay our penalty.

II Cor. 5:21..."For he hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the

righteousness of God in Him." The sinless Son of God paid the penalty for our sins...that we might be forgiven and made righteous before a holy God.

Col. 1:14..."In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

Christ died and shed His blood to pay the price...the redemption price for our sins so that a holy and just God might forgive us.

YES...CHRIST'S DEATH SHOWS GOD LOVES US AND OUR SINS HAVE BEEN PAID FOR THROUGH HIS DEATH.

Jesus not only died for us.. but He arose from the dead and is alive today. He is the Son of God...alive...eternal...Lord and Savior!

Romans 1:4 says..."And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

Paul says in I Cor. 15:3-4..."Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

Jesus rose from the dead the third day...never to die again. He arose immortal, victorious, gloriously and He is at the right hand of the Father in heaven today. What does his resurrection tell us?

1. He really was and is the living Son of God. He is who he claimed to be and who the Bible tells us He is.
2. He really did die for our sins. He did on the cross just exactly what the Bible says He did. Therefore, we know we can be forgiven because of what He did.
3. We know the grave does not end all. Jesus rose from the dead conquering death and the grave. If He lives...we know we shall also live through Him.

Here is the Good News...Through Christ, we can be forgiven of all our sins, made a child of God and live forever with Him! And, moreover, we can enjoy a wonderful relationship with God now! Our lives can be forever changed because God loves us and through Christ

we can come back into a relationship with Him. The Bible says we can become new creatures...new creations in Christ. II Cor. 5:17 says, "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation), old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

He gives us a new start...with new power and possibilities for living. Life at its fullest...with real meaning and purpose is ours as we walk in our new relationship with our Lord. What must we do to enter this new and exciting relationship?

First, we must see ourselves as sinners who need a Savior.

Acts 17:30..."God...commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

See yourself as a sinner...turn from your sins and turn to Christ. Have a change of mind and heart about yourself and Christ. You are the sinner, Christ is the Savior.

Romans 2:4 tell us it is the "goodness of God that leadeth us to repentance".

God's grace and goodness is prompting you to see yourself as a sinner who needs a Savior, and that Savior is Jesus Christ, the one who loved you and died for you.

Then, we must believe upon Jesus Christ...as to who He is and what He has done for us.

John 6:47..."Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

Believe from your heart that Jesus is the eternal son of God and that He died for you and rose again from the dead. He is the Lord and Savior.

John 3:15..."Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:18..."He that believeth on him is not condemned..."

John 3:36..."He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."

Acts 16:31..."Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Trust Him...Put your faith and confidence in Him as your Lord and Savior. He loves you, He died for you, He is alive today and He will receive you and forgive you if you will open up your heart to Him today.

Lastly, will you receive Him into your life and heart as your Lord and Savior?

John 1:12..."but as many as received Him...to them gave He power to become the sons of God."

Romans 10:13..."For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Will you, as a sinner needing a Savior, turn to Him today? Will you believe on Him and receive Him now? He will receive you...He will forgive you. If you would like to receive Him now...I will be glad to help you pray and invite Christ into your life. If you are sincere and can pray from your heart...join me now.

Heavenly Father, I know I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask your forgiveness. I believe with my heart that Jesus, your Son, died for my sins and rose from the dead. I now receive Him as my Lord and Savior. Come into my heart Lord Jesus and save me, I pray. Be my Lord and make my life to please you. Thank you for loving and saving me. In Jesus Name...I pray, Amen.

If you, from your heart, have prayed and accepted Christ, you have been forgiven of all your sins and made a member of God's family! The Spirit of God has entered your life and you are a new creation in Christ. What should you do now?

First, thank God for saving you and making you His child. Then, get your Bible and look up the following verses...John 10:28 and Romans 8:37-39. Read them carefully for they tell you of God's everlasting love for you and that God will never forsake you. You can be sure that you are a child of God...now and forever.

Now, you need the fellowship and help of other Christians. This is where the church comes into play. The church is designed by God to be a place where you can grow in spiritual strength and serve the Lord. You need a church where the Bible is believed and taught and

where other Christians will love you and help you. You need a church that is patterned after the New Testament. Find that kind of a church and begin to attend every week. The church that publishes this booklet is that kind of a church and we would be thrilled if you made this church your church home.

You need to read your Bible and pray everyday. A good place to begin is with the Gospel of John. Read slowly and try to understand what you are reading. Ask God to help you in understanding His Word. Begin each day by asking God for strength and guidance. You can pray at any time about anything. He is your heavenly Father and He delights in hearing your prayers. Pray when troubles or temptations come your way.

You need to get into a serious study of the Bible. We would be glad to help you. If you attend services, write or call, we will be glad to see that you get studies you can do at home at your convenience. We have Bible classes here at the church you can attend. The Bible is God's Word and we need to learn it and let it speak to our heart.

Don't be afraid to share your faith. Tell others you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior. Some will be glad, while others may not understand or even ridicule you. But, take a stand for the Lord, tell others how they can be saved and as you do God will bless you and strengthen you in your faith.

Expect opposition from the devil, the world and your own sin nature. Yes, opposition will come. Testings and temptations will come your way, but God will give you strength to overcome if you look to Him. Pray and ask Him for help. He will give it to you. If you falter and fail, then, simply ask His forgiveness and keep on going! He doesn't kick you out of the family...you are His forever!

We want to help you. We are glad you have accepted Christ and we want you to have a full and abundant Christian life. Come to the services...we want to meet you and be of help to you. God bless you!

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