

GOSPEL

HELPS

"...as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

"Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death..."

James 5:20

GOSPEL HELPS

A. WHY DO WE NEED CHRIST?

1. We are sinners and alienated from God. Rom. 3:10; 3:23; Rom. 5:12; Ecc. 7:20; Isa. 59:2; Col. 1:21; Eph. 4:18
Sin means to miss the mark or fall short of the standard.
Matt. 22:37-38
2. As sinners we are naturally under the wrath and condemnation of a holy God. Eph. 2:1-3; John 3:36; John 3:18; Rom. 2:8-9; 5:12; 6:23; Rev. 20:14
The penalty of sin is not only physical death...but spiritual and eternal ruin in the lake of fire if we die outside of Christ. See Matthew 10:28.
3. God is our Creator and we need Him to make us complete and whole. Life remains a mystery and meaningless apart from Him. Acts 17:26-29; Job 33:4; Gen. 1:27; 2:7

B. WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

1. He is God, the eternal Creator. John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-17; Isa. 9:6; Eph. 3:9; Heb 1:8-12
2. He is the Son of God...John 20:31. This means He is of the same nature and order as God the Father and is therefore equal to the Father. John 5:17-23
3. He became enfleshed for us...He was God in flesh. I Tim. 3:16; John 1:1,14; Matt 1:23; Phil 2:5-10
4. He is the Lord and Master of all things. John 13:13; Matt. 28:18
5. He is the ONLY Savior. Acts 4:12; John 14:6

C. WHAT HAS CHRIST DONE FOR US?

1. He died for our sins. Rom. 5:8; I Peter 2:24; Col. 1:20; Isa. 53:6
2. He rose again from the dead. Rom. 1:4; 6:9; 10:9; I Cor. 15:20
See I Cor. 15:1-5 for a full declaration of the Gospel.
3. He lives forevermore to save those that come to God by Him.
Heb. 7:25; I John 2:1-2
In rising from the dead Christ proved He is the Son of God and He did pay for our sins.

D. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR?

1. We are "born again". We are spiritually born into God's family

- and become His children. I John 5:1; Gal. 3:26
- 2. We are forgiven of all our sins and pardoned from all guilt. Rom.5:1; 8:1; Acts 10:43; 13:38-39; Isa. 55:6-7
- 3. We are given eternal life and will never come into condemnation. John 10:28; I John 5:11-13; Eph. 2:4-7
- 4. The Holy Spirit comes to live within our hearts and we become one spirit with the Lord. I Cor. 6:17,19-20; Eph. 1:13-14

E. HOW DO WE RECEIVE CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR

- 1. We must come to a place of sincere repentance and faith. Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19,20-21; Rom. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9 Repentance is a sincere change of heart and mind that results in faith in Christ. True repentance and faith are inseparable. In repentance, you see yourself as a lost sinner and Christ as the only Savior. You come into agreement with God about yourself and Christ.
- 2. We place our faith, trust, confidence and hope in Christ alone for salvation. Acts 16:31; John 3:16,18,36
Works of any sort have no part in our salvation. Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Rom. 3:20; 10:4; 11:6
WE MUST, BY FAITH, TRUST WHO CHRIST IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US AND RECEIVE HIM INTO OUR LIFE AS LORD AND SAVIOR. John 1:12; I John 5:11-13
- 3. We express this initial faith by confessing Christ openly and calling upon Him in prayer. Rom. 10:9,13 We are saved by faith, but that faith expresses itself openly in confession of Christ. We confess to Him and others that we are believing upon Him and receiving Him.

F. WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE CHRIST AS SAVIOR?

- 1. There is no other way to be saved. Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Pro. 14:12
- 2. You will die in your sins and be lost forever. John 8:24; John 3:18; I John 5:11-12; Rev. 20:14; Mark 8:36-38

DEALING WITH OBJECTIONS

A. OBJECTIONS CONCERNING GOD.

- 1. I don't believe in God.
 - a. Reply: We are in a spiritual conflict. Satan doesn't want you to believe. II Cor. 4:3-4; II Tim 2:25-26

- b. You can also use...I Cor. 2:14; 1:18; Psa. 19:1; 14:1; Rom. 1:18-32; 3:3-4
- 2. God is unknowable.
 - a. Reply: God has revealed Himself in:
 - 1. Nature...Psa. 19:1-3; Rom. 1:18-20
 - 2. Christ...Heb. 1:1-3; Col. 1:15
 - 3. Scriptures...II Tim. 3:16
 - b. He is not far from us and if we seek Him we may find Him. Acts 17:27; Jer. 29:13; Isa 55:6-7; I Chron. 28:9; Matt 7:7; Amos 5:8
 - c. It is unbelief that keeps us from knowing God. Heb. 11:6; I John 5:10
- 3. God is uninvolved with mankind.
 - a. Reply: God is in control and vitally involved with all of His creation. Acts 17:24-31; Matt. 5:44-45; 6:24-33; Dan. 4:25; Psa. 44:21
- 4. God is in us all.
 - a. Reply: The Bible refutes that idea. II John verse 9; John 8:42-47; Matt. 25:31-34,41,46; Rev. 20:10,15
- 5. We are all gods or divine.
 - a. Reply: Men are flesh and not God. There is only one true God. Isa. 31:3; Ezk. 28:2; I Tim. 1:17; 2:5; 6:15-16
 - b. We have no innate divinity. We are by nature earthy and fleshly, not spiritual or divine. John 3:6; 3:31; I Cor. 15:46-49; 2:14; Eph. 2:1-3
- 6. Everything is God.
 - a. Reply: If you deify the creation you become an idolater. Rom. 1:18-25; Dt. 32:21; Hos. 8:6
- 7. God is an impersonal force or power.
 - a. Reply: God is a living person with all the attributes of personality. Rev. 4:8-11; Isa. chapter 1 (many Scriptures)
- 8. God seems cruel and unjust at times.
 - a. Reply: We cannot always understand His ways. Isa. 55:8-9
 - b. God is holy and much of human suffering is because of our sin and rebellion against Him. Isa. 59:1-2,12
 - c. God is loving and kind and has manifested His love and kindness toward us. I John 4:7-11; Matt 5:45; Titus 3:3-5; Jam. 1:17
- 9. Why doesn't God do something about wrong and suffering?
 - a. Reply: When the time is right...He will. II Pet. 3:7-13; Rev. 21:3-5

B. OBJECTIONS CONCERNING THE BIBLE.

- 1. I don't believe the Bible.

- a. Reply: Have you seriously and carefully read the Bible? Why don't you believe the Bible? Is it honest, researched skepticism that keeps you from believing the Bible or is it that you don't like the Bible because it doesn't agree with your opinions or lifestyle.
 - b. Many great men and women from all walks of life have believed the Bible. Statesmen, scientists, educators and many highly educated reputable people have and do believe the Bible as the literal Word of God.
 - c. Jesus, the Son of God, believed the Bible (Luke 24:27,44-45), also Paul (II Tim 3:16) and Peter (I Pet. 1:20-21).
 - d. The Bible has been highly researched and investigated and proves to be the Word of God. (1) Written by over 40 men over a period of 1600 years, yet one book without error or contradictions. (2) Its amazing preservation. It is the most attacked and hated book in history, yet it has survived and has the greatest reach of any book. (3) Fulfilled prophecy. (Example: Israel, Ezk:36:19-24) (4) Historical and Archeological accuracy. (5) Scientific accuracy. Lev. 17:11; Ecc. 1:6-7 (wind circuits & evaporation cycle); Isa 40:22 (round earth). (6) Life changing power. II Cor. 5:17
 - e. Satan blinds to the truth...natural man does not receive spiritual truth. II Cor. 4:3-4; I Cor. 1:18,25; 2:14; Rom. 3:3-4
2. There are things in the Bible I cannot believe or accept.
 - a. Reply: What are the things in the Bible you cannot believe or accept?
 - b. Jesus believed in the literal creation (Mark 10:6-7) and the literal account of Jonah (Matt. 12:40), as well as the accounts of the flood and Sodom and Gomorrah (Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 17:28-32).
 - c. The Bible is primarily the record of Jesus, God's Son. The main thrust of the Bible is to tell us who He is and what He has done for us. John 20:30-31; 5:39-40. The record is clear and believable. Millions have believed in Christ through the Biblical record.
 - d. I John 5:9-13...by rejecting the record that God has given us concerning His Son...you make God a liar. Rom 3:3-4
 3. The Bible is just the word of men.
 - a. Reply: It claims and proves to be the Word of God. II Tim. 3:16; I Thess. 2:13; II Pet. 1:21 (See objection #1)
 4. The Bible is full of errors and contradictions.
 - a. Reply: Can you show me the errors and contradictions you

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 - a. Reply: Can you show me the errors and contradictions you are referring to?
 - b. At times, on the surface, there seems to be a contradiction, but under closer examination the supposed contradiction is answered. Volumes have been written by Bible scholars answering the supposed errors and contradictions of the Bible.
 - c. Psa. 12:6-7...The words of God are pure and have been preserved for us.
 5. There are too many interpretations of the Bible...who knows which is right?
 - a. Reply: There are some things hard to understand. There are some who twist and pervert the Scriptures to fit their own notions. II Pet. 3:16; II Cor.2:17
 - b. The Bible is designed to give us a clear testimony as to who Christ is and what He has done for us. It does do this if we take the Bible literally and at face value. John 20:30-31; John 5:39-40
 - c. If you will honestly and sincerely seek the truth and knowledge of God...you can find it. Pro. 2:1-9; John 7:17; Acts 17:11; II Tim. 2:15
 6. The Bible has been copied and translated so many times...how can we be sure we have what it originally said?
 - a. God promised the preservation of His Word. Isa. 40:8; Psa. 12:6-7; Matt. 24:35
 - b. Ancient manuscript evidence proves the text of our Bible is essentially the same as it was in apostolic time. There is more manuscript evidence for the Bible than for any other ancient writing (there are about 6000 extant manuscripts testifying to the Bible).
 - c. All of the major Bible translations today teach the same things concerning the truths of the Bible. They may use different words to translate the original language, but they all teach the same truth.
 7. I cannot understand the Bible.
 - a. Reply: The natural man cannot understand spiritual truth... I Cor. 2:14. You need the Holy Spirit to give understanding...I John 5:20; I Cor. 2:12. You need to Study the Word sincerely and diligently...II Tim. 2:15.
 8. The Bible is out of date and is not relevant to today's world.
 - a. Reply: The Word of the eternal, all-knowing, all-wise Creator cannot become obsolete...we are the ones out of step. II Tim. 3:16-17; Pro. 3:1-10; Rom. 1:28-32; 3:10-11

C. OBJECTIONS CONCERNING CHRISTIANS AND THE

CHURCH

1. Christians are hypocrites.
 - a. Reply: Do you always live up to what you believe? Do you always measure up to your ideals? All of us are a bit hypocritical at times.
 - b. Matt. 7:1-3...Judge not...get your own life right first! Rom. 2:1-10...God is no respecter of persons, you cannot fool Him. We are all without excuse and accountable before Him.
 - d. It takes someone smaller than the hypocrite to hide behind one and we cannot excuse ourselves because of someone else.
2. I was once hurt badly by something a Christian did to me.
 - a. We have all offended Christ by our hardness and lack of love toward Him. Yet, He will forgive us if we trust Him. We should also forgive each other. Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13
 - b. Christ died for us even when we didn't care and lived our lives contrary to God's will. Rom. 5:8
3. What about the corrupt lives of those TV evangelists, etc.
 - a. Not all appearing to be Christian are really Christ's. Matt. 7:15,21-23; II Pet. 2:1-3
 - b. We are all sinners and can fail. Ecc. 7:20; Rom. 3:23
 - c. What about your life? I Cor. 6:9-11; II Cor. 5:17
4. I am as good or better than most Christians I know.
 - a. We are all sinners. Rom 3:10,23; Ecc. 7:20
 - b. We are not saved by our own goodness or works. Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5
 - c. Example: If there was a contest to jump across a river, some would jump farther than others... but all would fall short.
5. Churches and preachers are only out for money.
 - a. Churches must pay expenses and preachers must live. I Cor. 9:11, 13-14; II Cor. 9:7
 - b. Giving of material things is a part of the worship of God. To please God we must first give ourselves to Him. Rom 12:1
6. I had a bad experience with church and I've never been back.
 - a. We've all had bad experiences...at school, the mall, a ball game, etc., but we don't usually quit because of it.
 - b. The church is God's institution and we need to see it's importance. Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:25; I Tim. 3:15; Heb. 10:25
 - c. Church cannot take the place of Christ and does not save. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; I John 5:11-13; John 3:18, etc.
7. There are so many churches...who knows which is right?
 - a. We must compare the teachings and practices of a church to the Bible to see if they are Scriptural.

II Tim. 2:15; Isa. 8:20; Jude 3

- b. We should avoid apostate churches. Rom 16:17; II Cor. 6:17

D. PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND OBJECTIONS

1. I am as good as the next person...I keep the commandments, etc.
 - a. Reply: All are sinners, etc. Rom. 3:23; Ecc. 7:20
 - b. Not saved by law. Rom. 3:28; Rom. 10:4; Acts 13:38
 - c. Offend in one point of law...guilty of all. Jam. 2:10
2. I have my own church and beliefs.
 - a. Reply: Jesus alone saves. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31
 - b. Not all of mans ideas are right. Pro. 14:12; Matt. 15:3,8-9
3. I am not interested in religious things.
 - a. Reply: The natural state of man is alienation and disinterest in God. I Cor. 2:14; 1:18,21; II Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 4:17-19
 - b. You must be born again. John 3:3-6; II Cor. 5:17; I Cor. 2:9-12; Heb. 10:16-17
Illustration of hating turnips. You cannot love turnips unless you are given a new nature enabling you to love turnips. When you are born again you receive a new nature enabling you to love and serve God.
4. I cannot change...too old...too set in my ways, etc.
 - a. Reply: The power of Christ is powerful enough to change anyone. II Cor. 5:17; Phil. 4:13; Titus 3:3-7; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:16-20; Heb. 10:16-17; I Cor. 6:9-11
5. I tried Christianity and church and it didn't work for me.
 - a. Reply: If you are truly born again...it will work! (II Cor. 13:5) If you are saved Christ is in you! If Christ isn't in you, you are not saved (Rom. 8:9) and you are still in the flesh. John 3:3-6; II Cor. 5:17; Luke 8:11-15
6. There is too much to give up if I become a Christian.
 - a. Reply: You only have to give up that which you should give up anyway. Sin, unrighteousness and harmful things should be given up!
 - b. What good is all the wealth and pleasures of the world if in the end you lose your soul? Luke 12:13-21; Matt. 16:26-27
 - c. Point out everything you gain through Christ. Rom. 8:17-18
7. The Christian life is too hard...I couldn't hold out.
 - a. Reply: Sometimes it is hard, but Christ is with us. Phil. 1:6; 4:13; I Cor. 10:13; II Cor. 12:9-10; Heb. 7:25; Eph. 3:16-20
8. I have been baptized...I am a Christian.

- a. Reply: Faith in Christ saves, not baptism. You must believe before you are baptized. Acts 8:36-38; Rom 5:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9; etc.
- 9. I am a church member.
 - a. Reply: Church membership doesn't save...only Christ. Acts 2:41,47; 4:12; 16:31; Eph. 2:8-9; etc.
- 10. I believe in Christ.
 - a. Reply: How has your life been changed since you believed? II Cor. 13:5...if you're saved, Christ is your life. II Cor. 5:17; I John 2:3-6; 3:23-24; 4:13; Matt. 7:17-23
- 11. I am too great a sinner...too far gone, it's too late for me.
 - a. Reply: God's grace can save any sinner who will come to Christ. I Tim. 1:15-16; I Cor. 6:9-11; John 3:16-18
 - b. Only rejection of Christ cannot be forgiven. John 3:18,36
- 12. I will accept Christ someday...not now.
 - a. Reply: Today is the day of salvation. If God is speaking to you, you need to come now, while you may. II Cor. 6:2; Isa. 55:6; Pro. 27:1; 29:1; Gen. 6:3; Matt. 24:44; Luke 12:19-20
- 13. I don't need Christ...I am doing just fine.
 - a. Reply: Everyone is by nature blind to spiritual truth and alienated from God. We all need Christ. Eph. 2:1-3; II Cor. 4:3-4; Acts 26:18
 - b. We are all sinners. Ecc. 7:20; Rom. 3:23; Isa. 53:6
 - c. We need Christ to overcome in this world. I John 5:4-5
 - d. Hell is a reality. Matt. 10:28; Rev. 20:15
- 14. I have to be able to prove something before I can believe it.
 - a. Reply: The Scriptures are the proof and basis of the Christian faith. God has revealed Himself and His plan in them. Rom. 16:25-26; II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:19-21; I Cor. 2:9-12
 - b. Faith comes as we study and prove these things by the Word of God. Without faith in God and His Word, we are unacceptable to Him. Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6; II Tim. 2:15; I John 5:9-13

E. THEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

- 1. What about those who have never heard of Jesus? Will they be lost?
 - a. Reply: Jesus is the only way to heaven. All without Him are lost. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 3:18,36
 - b. Read Romans 1:18-2:16. God has given every man a natural

- revelation of Himself in nature and in conscience. However, mankind in general has hardened and defiled his conscience and has worshiped the creation instead of the Creator. Man is without excuse before God.
- c. If man honestly follows the light that God has given and seeks the true God with all His heart...God will give further light, leading to the truth. Acts 17:24-31; Acts 10:1-6,34-35
- d. He calls Christians to the world-wide proclamation of the Gospel. (Acts 1:8) This is taking place, but most refuse the truth.
- 2. I cannot understand the Trinity.
 - a. Reply: No one can fully understand the nature and person of God. However, we can believe what God tells us about Himself.
 - 1. There is only one God. Isa. 45:5,22
 - 2. The Father is God. Gal. 1:1
 - 3. Jesus is God. John 1:1; 20:28
 - 4. The Holy Spirit is God. Acts 5:3-4
 Therefore, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are the one God. (Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14) There is one God who has eternally existed in three persons...one nature ...three distinctions within the one nature. Hard to understand...yes...but, we can believe it and receive it.
- 3. I cannot accept hell.
 - a. Reply: Eternal punishment is a clear teaching of the Bible. We cannot accept only the parts of the Bible we like and reject the rest. If we reject hell, we must also reject heaven for Jesus spoke of both places. Matt. 6:20; 10:28; Matt. 7:21; 5:29-30; 25:41,46; Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:10-15; Rom. 2:8-9
 - b. Unbelief will not make hell go away. The only thing that will save us from hell is faith in Jesus. John 3:18,36
- 4. What about babies and children? If they die do they go to heaven?
 - a. Reply: Yes...Matt 19:13-14; II Sam 12:15-23; Luke 8:41-42,49-56...He would not call back her spirit from hell! Children are safe until they reach an age at which they are accountable for their own decisions and actions concerning right and wrong.
- 5. I have a hard time believing that all I have to do is believe on Christ to be saved. I must need to do something else!
 - a. Reply: You can do nothing to justify yourself before God. It is by His grace and mercy alone that He saves people based upon what His Son, Jesus Christ, has done. Eph. 2:8-9; Tit.

3:5; John 6:28-29; Rom. 5:1-2; 4:1-7; Acts 13:38-39

6. Evolution contradicts the Bible. Science has proven evolution to be true, etc.
 - a. Reply: Science has not proven evolution to be true, no matter how badly many would like you to believe it. Evolution is an unproven and unprovable theory. If you reject God, then you have no other alternative except some form of evolutionary theory for the origination of all things. It is true that you cannot believe the Bible and evolution. The Bible teaches God is the Creator of all things, including all forms of life. It takes as much or more faith to believe in evolution as it does to believe the Bible. Romans 1:18-32 tells us why man would rather believe he came from apes, instead of God.
 - b. There are many good books available, written by Christians who are scientists, refuting the evolutionary theory and giving good evidence for creation. Are you willing to examine the creation viewpoint before rejecting it?