

The Gospel or Good News of Jesus

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Many years ago, God created this earth (Genesis 1:1)^A. He is creative and powerful beyond our understanding and He is holy which means perfect in goodness (Psalm 77:13)^B. He created us to love and obey Him (Deuteronomy 10:12)^C and He gave us freedom to rule the earth (Genesis 1:26)^D. The first people, Adam and Eve, had a wonderful relationship with God until they did not follow God's rules or sinned which damaged their relationship with God and significantly changed their lives and everyone else's lives since then (Genesis 3)^E.

Whether we like to admit it or think about it, we all do things we know we should not do (Romans 3:23)^F. When we break a traffic or criminal law, there are punishments. When we do not follow God's rules – called sin, it damages our relationship with God and makes us His enemy (Colossians 1:21)^G. Because of our sin, the punishment or what we earn is eternal separation from God or death (Romans 6:23)^H. We often feel guilty for our sin.

Fortunately, because God loves us so much, He made a way for us to escape this eternal separation or death by sending His Son Jesus to earth to die on a cross in our place to endure the punishment we deserve or earned (1 Peter 3:18)^I. This demonstrates clearly His love for us to sacrifice His beloved Son even when we were His enemy (Romans 5:8)^J. He then rose from the dead which gives us hope and shows His power over sin and death (2 Corinthians 4:14)^K. If we truly believe in Jesus and what He did, we are freed or saved from the guilt and punishment through Jesus taking our place (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)^L. He paid the price we owed so we can be freed from guilt and have a special relationship with God here on earth and for eternity. This is the Gospel or Good News of Jesus or also described as amazing grace.

When we believe that we are sinners, believe that we deserve God's punishment and then turn from our ways to follow Jesus (Acts 3:19)^M, He saves us from our sin and changes us from enemies to become His children (John 1:12)^N. We are not saved by being good or by doing good things but by the sacrifice Jesus made for us by dying on the cross in our place - He paid the debt that we owed (Ephesians 2:8)^O. This grace, this amazing grace, is given to us freely – not based on what we do but on what Jesus did on the cross. To receive this wonderful gift, we must repent or turn from our ways and believe in who Jesus is and what He has done. Again, this is Good News and amazing grace.

As children of God, we can have a new life following Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17)^P. God's Spirit actually comes and lives inside us to help us serve and love God (Romans 8:9)^Q. Our focus changes from doing only what pleases us to following and pleasing Jesus - we surrender our will to wholeheartedly follow Jesus (Luke 9:23)^R. This new relationship begins here on earth and will continue throughout eternity – forever! Following Jesus may not be easy or comfortable but He will be with us always to help us (John 16:33)^S. He will even use difficult times to help us change and grow. Bad things may happen that we may not understand but we can completely trust Him (James 1:2-4)^T. He will be with us to help us and guide us to grow and become more like Him (Matthew 28:20b)^U.

This is a very important and serious decision that should not be made lightly. It is often easy to make a decision without taking important things in consideration. After this decision, your life will change forever. Jesus tells us that we must count the cost and be ready for the challenges of the future if and when we make this decision – you must give up everything (Luke 14:28-33)^V. It won't always be easy. There is an enemy that will be fighting against you (1 Peter 5:8)^W. It is the best decision you can ever make but one that should never be made lightly.

You have the opportunity to experience this Good News or amazing grace in your own life. You must believe that you are a sinner and that Jesus died to suffer the punishment you deserved. You will then need to repent or turn from your way of living to wholeheartedly follow the ways and commands of Jesus. This will change your life completely here on earth and for eternity. It is a challenging life but also a life of joy and peace and a promise of heaven instead of eternal punishment. Why wouldn't you want a life following Jesus?

For more information and to discuss this further, please find someone you respect as a Christian and sit down with them. They can share with you how Jesus has changed their lives. They can help you get started to learn more by reading the Bible, growing your relationship with God, becoming part of a Christian community and other important steps on this new journey. What you do with this Good News will affect the rest of your life here on earth and where you spend eternity after you die. Don't miss this opportunity!

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- A - Genesis 1:1 (NLT2)** ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- B - Psalm 77:13 (NLT2)** ¹³ O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you?
- C - Deuteronomy 10:12 (NLT2)** ¹² “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.
- D - Genesis 1:26 (NLT2)** ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”
- E - Genesis 3** – (Please find a Bible and read the complete Chapter 3 of the book of Genesis.)
- F - Romans 3:23 (NLT2)** ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.
- G - Colossians 1:21 (NLT2)** ²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.
- H - Romans 6:23 (NLT2)** ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.
- I - 1 Peter 3:18 (NLT2)** ¹⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.
- J - Romans 5:8 (NLT)** ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.
- K - 2 Corinthians 4:14 (NLT2)** ¹⁴ We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.
- L - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NLT2)** ³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.
- M - Acts 3:19 (NLT2)** ¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.
- N - John 1:12 (NLT2)** ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.
- O - Ephesians 2:8 (NLT2)** ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.
- P - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT2)** ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
- Q - Romans 8:9 (NLT2)** ⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)
- R - Luke 9:23 (NLT)** ²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.
- S - John 16:33 (NLT2)** ³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”
- T - James 1:2-4 (NLT2)** ² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.
- U - Matthew 28:20b (NLT2)** ²⁰ And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- V - Luke 14:28–33 (NLT)** ²⁸ “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’ ³¹ “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³² And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. ³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.
- W - 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)** ⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.