

The Bad News

The Bible shows us that God is a holy God. Consider Isaiah, a messenger of God who wrote the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. He was a very godly man. However, when he was exposed to the holiness of Jesus Christ he said,

“Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”
- **Isaiah 6:5**

Also consider the apostle John. When he saw Jesus glorified in heaven he lost all strength and fell to the ground as if he were dead.

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

- **Revelations 1:17-18**

Now for the bad news. Jesus, the Son of God, will return in judgment upon those who sin (are not perfect),

when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed..

- **2nd Thessalonians 1:7-10**

Everyone Is Guilty

You may think that God will accept you when he returns because you are basically a good person inside. But what do the 10 commandments say about how good we are? Answer these questions from an honest heart.

1. Have you ever stretched the truth to appear better than you are? Ever stolen something (even time from your employer)? Then the ten commandments say you're a lying thief. (Read Exodus 20)

2. Have you ever looked at someone (other than your spouse) lustfully? Have you ever hated someone? Then Jesus would say that you are a fornicating murderer. (Read Matthew 5:17-28)
3. Have you ever put your own interests above the needs of others? Then, according to Jesus, you have disobeyed the 2nd greatest commandment, to love others. (Read Matthew 22:35-40)
4. Have you ever spent a moment not doing something for God's glory? Then, you have disobeyed the greatest commandment, to love God with all your heart soul and mind.

So it is clear that we have all disobeyed God's law.

As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

- **Romans 3:10-12**

What excuse will you have when Jesus comes to judge the world? Do you think He will overlook the fact that you are a lying, thieving, fornicating murderer who loves himself, and still let you into His kingdom? The Bible is clear about our eternal destiny apart from Jesus Christ.

*For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. - **Ephesians 5:5-6***

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,
- **Hebrews 9:27**

The Good News

The Bible shows us how we can be made blameless, without any sin, on the the day of His coming. The good news is that the Son of God came to save those whom the Father had given Him (God's elect).

1. Jesus is God the Son (fully God)
I and My Father are one!
- **John 10:30**
2. God's Son came in the likeness of man (fully man).
Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid,

for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

- **Luke 2:10-12**

3. Jesus lived a perfect life.
*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. - **Hebrews 4:15***
4. Jesus suffered God's wrath in place of God's elect by dyeing on the cross.
*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. - **Rom. 5:8-9***
5. Jesus rose from the grave and is now glorified in heaven.
*which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. - **Ephesians 1:20-21***

This is the message of the gospel (or good news), by which we are saved, if we have been called by God. What we could not do (save ourselves), God did for us through Jesus Christ.

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- **Romans 8:3-4**

Jesus Christ satisfied God's law perfectly in our place. He also satisfied (or propitiated) God's wrath in our place. Only through Jesus can anyone be found righteous (free from guilt or sin) enough to be saved on the day of judgement.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- **Romans 10:3-4**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- **John 14:6**

Escaping God's Wrath

The righteousness of God is credited to us through **faith alone**. It can not be earned by doing good, by participating in religious sacraments or ceremonies, by praying to saints, by suffering in purgatory, by fighting in a holy war, nor by praying a prayer. Faith is simply believing the truth about the good news as explained in the scriptures.

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

- **Galatians 2:16**

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

- **Romans 3:19-23**

But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

- **Romans 4:5**

We are saved from God's wrath by **grace alone**. It is not we who choose God. He chooses us.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- **John 1:12-13**

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- **John 3:5-6**

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

- **John 6:44**

For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

- **Romans 9:15-18**

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- **Ephesians 1:4-6**

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9**

not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

- **Titus 3:5**

If you know you are a sinner, repent (turn from your sin) and believe in the good news of Jesus Christ, trusting Him for your righteousness before God. Remember, Jesus came to save lost sinners like you and me. You do not have to say a prayer. You do not have to come forward at a church service and make a decision. If you believe in the good news of the Jesus Christ, then you have already been born again and are saved by God's grace.

If you are still not sure about this "good news", or if you have just believed and want to know more, read the Bible (especially the book of John). In it you will learn more about Jesus Christ, the Son of God and how he fulfilled His mission to save His people.

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The Good News
of Jesus Christ