

# THE GOSPEL OF



# JESUS CHRIST

**A four-part Bible study on the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ**

# Introduction

*“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that 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.”*

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The purpose of this Bible study is to introduce you to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The message of the Gospel is the most important message you will ever hear. What you do with this message will have life-changing and eternal implications.

A man by the name of Paul, whom Christ chose to be a prophet and to write much of the New Testament, said this regarding the Gospel:

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

Romans 1:16

Will you commit yourself to a four-part study of the Gospel? If so, you are undertaking the most important journey that has the potential to change your life and your eternal destiny!

*“He who provides for this life but takes no care for eternity is wise for a moment but a fool forever.”*

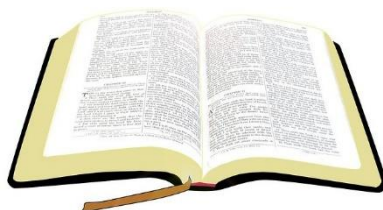
(John Tillotson)

# **Part 1- The Perfection of Scripture**

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 tells us that “*Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures:*”

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was not an accident. Rather, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was ‘*according to the scriptures*’. It was predicted many years before it happened and was in line with Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.

To understand the Gospel, we must understand what the Scriptures are and how they apply to the Gospel.



## **What are the Scriptures?**

The “Scriptures” are another name for the Bible which is made up of 66 individual books and is divided up into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The *Old Testament* paves the way for the New Testament and reveals the creation of the world, the origin of man, the fall of man into sin, and includes many prophecies that point forward to the Messiah.

The *New Testament* reveals the coming of the Messiah- the Lord Jesus Christ, His earthly ministry, His sufferings and death on the cross, His glorious resurrection, and His coming again in the future. The New Testament recounts the establishment of the first churches and gives instructions as to how churches are to operate in obedience to Christ.

## **Why did God give us the Scriptures?**

The Bible is unlike any other book. It is more than a history book, a book of ethics, or a ‘roadmap’ for life. Although it contains these things, the Bible is first and foremost a revelation of God. It is God’s self-revelation to humanity. It is the only reliable source to understand the one true and living God.

## **Is the Bible reliable? How is it unique compared to other religious literature?**

The Bible is completely reliable and exclusively unique. Consider the following...

**The Bible is the world's best-selling book.** This fact, in and of itself, does not prove that the Bible is of Divine origin. However, it should at least cause you to consider its contents. If any book is sold by the millions each year, then it is something that should at least draw your attention.

**The Bible claims to be authored by God.** Other religious texts claim to be written by men speaking for God. Only the Bible claims to have been written by God speaking to men. Many times in the Word of God, the phrase appears- "Thus saith the Lord". 2 Timothy 3:16 says- *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."* It is literally a "God-breathed" book.

**The Bible answers the 'big questions' of life.** It tells us where we came from. It tells us why we were created. It tells us about the God who created us. It tells us the origin of death, disease, and destruction. It tells us how to live this life and how to prepare for the afterlife. And it tells us, most importantly, who God is and how a man can be right with God.

**The Bible is supported by historical evidence.** The Bible speaks of historical details such as the rise and fall of great ancient empires like Greece and Rome (Daniel 2:39-40). It describes the destruction of major historical cities such as Tyre and Sidon (Isaiah 23). Both Roman and Jewish historians (such as Josephus and Tacitus) support the historical accuracy of the Bible. There are many external historical accounts of the crucifixion of Christ outside of the Bible.

**The Bible is supported by archaeological evidence.** There have been over 25,000 archaeological finds that support the historical events, cities, people that are mentioned in the Bible. One renowned Jewish archaeologist wrote- *"It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible."* (Nelson Glueck).

**The Bible is supported by scientific evidence.** There are many scientific truths supported by the Bible that were written thousands of years before being discovered by modern man. Consider the following...

⇒ Scientists once taught that there were around 1,100 stars in the sky. But in modern times, images taken by the Hubble Deep Space Telescope reveal an uncountable number of stars in the universe which agrees with what the prophet Jeremiah said- *"...the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of sea measured..."* (Jeremiah 33:22).

- ⇒ Scientists once taught that the world sat on the back of a large animal. With current space exploration, scientists have found that this is completely false and that the earth hangs in space just as the Bible says in Job 26:7- *“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.”*
- ⇒ Scientists once believed the earth was flat. However, later it was discovered that the earth is round just as the Bible says in Isaiah 40:22- *“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth...”*
- ⇒ Medical doctors up until about 120 years ago practiced ‘bloodletting’ (purposefully cutting the human body to release blood) in order to prevent or cure illness and disease. Tragically, many people died from this dangerous procedure. Today, we know, however, that blood is the source of life in the human body. If you lose your blood, you will eventually lose your life. This agrees with the Bible in Leviticus 17:11 that *“...the life of the flesh is in the blood...”*
- ⇒ Up until about 100 years ago, it was common practice amongst medical doctors to wash their hands in a bowl of stagnant water, which led to the further spread of disease. It wasn’t until 1845, that a doctor by the name of Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis discovered the importance of washing hands under running water. Many years before this, the Bible taught the importance of washing under running water in Leviticus 15:13- *“And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean.”*
- ⇒ For more scientific discoveries that support the Bible, check out the free online ebook- “Scientists who Believe the Bible”- [https://www.wayoflife.org/free\\_ebooks/downloads/Scientists\\_Who\\_Believe\\_the\\_Bible.pdf](https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/downloads/Scientists_Who_Believe_the_Bible.pdf).
- ⇒ Also view the video “Ten of the Top Scientific Facts in the Bible”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2sMJMXDiH4&t=1s>

**The Bible is supported by fulfilled prophecy.** The Bible is unlike any other book in that it foretells prophecy with 100% accuracy. There are over 2,000 detailed prophecies in the Old Testament alone. Much of the Bible contains prophecy (at least 25%). And except for future, yet-to-be fulfilled prophecies regarding the End Times Return of Christ (and events associated with His return), every other single prophecy has been fulfilled in detail. The Old Testament is filled with prophecies about the first coming of the Messiah. These prophecies predicted where the Messiah would be born, His miraculous virgin birth, many events surrounding His birth, His miracles, His betrayal by Judas, the exact price of His betrayal, the events surrounding His death, the way He would be put to death, and the fact that He would rise again from the dead.

Consider the following:

“Jesus Christ fulfilled more than 300 prophecies in his life. Here’s something that can help you appreciate the odds of this happening:

If only eight of those 300 prophecies came true in any one person, it would be comparable to this:

- ⇒ Build a small fence around the state of Texas,
- ⇒ Fill it two feet deep in silver dollars,
- ⇒ Paint one of them red,
- ⇒ Mix them all up,
- ⇒ Then- starting at the Louisiana border- walk blindfolded as far into Texas as you want to go,
- ⇒ Then lean over, still blindfolded,
- ⇒ And pick up the red silver dollar.

What do you think the chances are that you would pick up the red one?...Would you bet your eternal life on odds like that? All of us do, because those are only the odds for eight prophecies coming true in one person. But Jesus had more than 300 prophecies about Him come true.” (Cahill- “One Heartbeat Away”)

### **The Bible is supported by its miraculous origin.**

- ⇒ The Bible was written by over 40 writers (from a variety of backgrounds- kings, herdsmen, fishermen, soldiers, poets, statesmen, scholars, priests, prophets)
- ⇒ Over a period of 1,600 years (over 60 generations)
- ⇒ On three different continents (Africa, Asia, Europe)
- ⇒ In three different languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic)
- ⇒ Yet every part of the Bible fits together harmoniously and presents one singular theme of redemption from beginning to end.

It is abundantly clear that the Bible is the Word of God. It is of Divine origin, and it is completely reliable and exclusively unique.

For more further reading regarding the Bible’s proofs that point to its infallibility, please check out the following link:

[http://www.kathmandutraveler.com/downloads/bibles\\_proof.pdf](http://www.kathmandutraveler.com/downloads/bibles_proof.pdf)

For further reading regarding commonly asked questions about Christianity (such as- *What is the Bible? Who wrote it? Hasn’t science disproved the Bible? Do any scientists believe the Bible? How could all of the animals fit on Noah’s Ark? Why does God allow suffering? Is there evidence that Jesus rose from the dead? Does the Bible say that women are inferior? Aren’t Hindu scriptures older than the Bible? Why have Christians done bad things such as cause wars? What is the Trinity?*) please see:

[http://www.kathmandutraveler.com/downloads/questions\\_answered.pdf](http://www.kathmandutraveler.com/downloads/questions_answered.pdf)

Consider the following timeless quote about the Bible:

*The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.*

*Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.*

*It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here too, Heaven is opened and the gates of Hell disclosed.*

*Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.*

*It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.*

**Digging Deeper- The following will help you apply and retain what you have learned...**

Memorize the following verses:

2 Timothy 3:16- "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

John 5:39- "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

Answer the following questions:

What is the Bible first and foremost?

Who is the 'author' of the Bible?

What is one scientific truth validated by the Bible?

What is one prophecy that was fulfilled when Christ first came into the world?

How is the Bible of miraculous origin?

Further Reading: Psalm 1; Psalm 119:7-12; Psalm 119:130; Luke 21:33; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:24-25; 2 Peter 1:1-4; Revelation 22:18-20

# Part 2- The Problem of Sin

The 'good news' of the Gospel will never make sense until the 'bad news' of sin's prevalence, power, and penalty is understood. The Gospel says that "*Christ died for our sins*" (1 Corinthians 15:3). In order to understand why Christ died, we must first understand the sin for which He died.

## The Prevalence of Sin

Why is the world the way it is? Why is there so much disease, destruction, and death? Why is there so much hatred, greed, and deceit amongst men?

Tragically, some resort to blaming God as if He is the source of all that is wrong in the world.

However, if we allow our minds to be informed by a Biblical worldview, then we will see that God is not responsible for the prevalence of death, disease, and destruction that we see in this world.

At the beginning of Creation, the Bible makes it clear that after God made the 'heaven and the earth' (Genesis 1:1), "*God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good*" (Genesis 1:31). God's original creation was perfect. There was no sin, disease, heartache, loss, pain, or death.



When God made the first man and women, He placed them in a perfect environment known as the "Garden of Eden" (Genesis 2:15). It was in this garden that mankind enjoyed perfect, uninterrupted fellowship with his Creator as God intended it to be. Mankind was made by God and for God. Mankind was made to worship and glorify God. Revelation 4:11 says- "*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*" This was the purpose for which mankind was made.

Tragically, this perfect environment and this perfect fellowship was lost when mankind chose to disobey his Creator. Romans 5:12 says, "*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.*"



The perfect world and the perfect fellowship with God was ruined by the sin of mankind. Mankind's sin brought death into this world so that we now live in a 'fallen creation' that is marred by the effects of sin's curse. The reality of death, disease, and destruction are merely evidences that we live in a world that has been plunged into sin through the rebellion of mankind.



### **The Power of Sin**

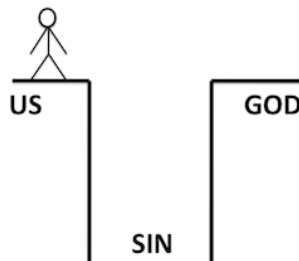
Sin's grip holds the mass of humanity in its clutches. Every person in every era of history and in every part of the world has been infected by sin.

In Psalm 51:5, the Psalmist recognized that sin is woven into the very fabric of our being- *"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."* Sin is more ingrained into who we are than our DNA.

Because we are all descendants of Adam (the first man), we are all infected by sin. It corrupts our hearts, perverts our thoughts, destroys our lives, separates us from God, and condemns us to Hell.

Its power enslaves us and holds us in bondage until it finally escorts in chains to our eternal ruin.

The Bible makes it clear that we are born *"servants of sin"* (Romans 6:17, 20).



### **The Penalty of Sin**

Because God is holy and just, He cannot turn a blind eye to sin but must rather punish those who have violated His Law.

Romans 6:23- *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

The wages (payment) for our sin is death.

- ⇒ **Physical Death**- Sin guarantees that we will physically die. The Bible states that “...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Death is the ultimate statistic. It is the great leveler of mankind as it strikes all men regardless of ethnicity, financial status, age, or position.
- ⇒ **Spiritual Death**- Sin also brought spiritual death into the world. Ephesians 2:5 makes it clear that all men are born “*dead in sins*” and spiritually dead to God. We are born separated from God and ‘enemies’ (Romans 5:10) of God.
- ⇒ **Eternal Death**- Sin also brings eternal death. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 says- “*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*” Revelation 21:8 says- “*But the fearful, and the unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death.*” Although many mock the idea of Hell, the Bible is clear that it is literal place of conscious, eternal torment.

The penalty of sin is death. Though many try to ignore or deny this reality, it is the ultimate reality we must all face.

The Bible helps us to understand what sin is. 1 John 3:4 says “...*sin is the transgression of the law.*” Sin is the ‘transgression’ (the violation) of God’s Law.

If you take the time to look at God’s Moral Law as contained in the Ten Commandments, you will find that we all “...*come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23).

Take the ‘good person test’ and see how you have done in the mirror of God’s law (Exodus 20):

1. “*Thou shall have no other gods before me*”- Has God always been first in all your relationships? Has He always had first priority in your life?
2. “*Thou shalt no make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them...*”- Have you ever made a ‘god’ to suit your sins? Have you ever adored and worshipped anything above God such as sports, money, a career, food, drugs, thrills, relationships?

3. *"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."*- Have you ever used God's name as a swear word? Have you ever used God's name in a flippant or careless or joking way?
4. *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."*- Have you always honored the Lord's Day?
5. *Honour thy father and thy mother..."*- Have you always perfectly obeyed and honored your parents?
6. *"Thou shalt not kill"*- Jesus said- *"That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment"* (Matthew 5:22).
7. *"Thou shalt not commit adultery."*- Jesus said- *"That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart"* (Matthew 5:28)
8. *"Thou shalt not steal"*- Have you ever taken something that didn't belong to you (irrespective of its value)?
9. *"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."*- Have you ever told a lie?
10. *"Thou shalt not covet..."*- Have you ever desired something that didn't belong to you?

God's Law was given so that *"...every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."* (Romans 3:19)

God's Law was given so that we would recognize that we have sinned against God and deserving of eternal condemnation. It was given so that our mouths would be 'stopped' from boasting of our own self-righteousness and so that we would see our need for a Savior!

**Digging Deeper- The following will help you apply and retain what you have learned...**

Memorize the following verses:

Romans 3:23- "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

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:"

Answer the following questions:

What must we first understand before we will understand why Christ died?

Is God to blame for the sin and death in the world?

How was God's original creation different than what we observe today?

How many people are affected by sin?

What is the wages (payment) of sin?

Why is the purpose for which God's Law was given?

Read the following passages:

Genesis 3:1-6; Psalm 14:2-3; Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 59:2; Jeremiah 17:9;  
Romans 3:10-11; Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Revelation 21:8

# Part 3- The Promise of the Savior

Who is Jesus Christ? Why did He come into the world? Is He the Son of God? Why did He die on the cross?

Even secular (non-religious) historians admit that a man by the name of Jesus Christ walked on the earth in Israel about 2,000 years ago. Many will even recognize the vast influence He has had on the course of worldwide history. The influence of Jesus Christ has been felt on every inhabited continent on planet earth. Many major religions recognize Jesus as a prophet or a good moral teacher. The Bible teaches, however, that Jesus Christ was much more than a prophet or a good moral teacher.

A thorough reading of God's Word reveals who Jesus Christ is:

## He is Eternal

*"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been of old, from everlasting."*  
(Micah 5:2)

Compare: *"And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."* (Matthew 2:6)

*"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."*  
(Psalm 90:2)

*"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."* (John 17:5)

## He is God

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6)

*"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."* (Isaiah 40:3)

Compare with: *“He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.”* (John 1:23)

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* (John 1:1)

*“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”* (John 5:18)

*“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.”* (John 20:28)

*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on the in the world, received up into glory.”* (1 Timothy 3:16)

*“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”* (1 John 5:20)

### **He is the Creator**

*“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earthy by myself.”* (Isaiah 44:24)

*“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”* (John 1:3)

*“For by him [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”* (Colossians 1:16)

*“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds...And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the work of thine hands.”* (Hebrews 1:1-2, 10)

### **He became 'Flesh'(took on a human body)**

*“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)*

*“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:7)*

*“...God was manifest in the flesh...” (1 Timothy 3:16)*

### **He is the Second Person of the Trinity**

*“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” (1 John 5:7)*

### **He is Absolutely Sinless**

*“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)*

Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah of the Old Testament Scripture. It is in Jesus Christ that the Old Testament prophecies found their fulfillment.

The Old Testament Scripture's prophecies regarding the first coming of Jesus Christ and His death upon the Cross were completely fulfilled.

Consider the following fulfilled prophecies:

- ⇒ That Jesus would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
- ⇒ That Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1-2)
- ⇒ That Jesus would descend from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
- ⇒ That Jesus would be a descendent of King David (Jeremiah 23:5)
- ⇒ That Jesus would be preceded by a messenger (i.e., John the Baptist) (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9)
- ⇒ That Jesus would perform miracles (Isaiah 35:4-6)
- ⇒ That Jesus would enter Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9)
- ⇒ That Jesus would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13)
- ⇒ That Jesus would be spat upon, beaten, and would die for the sins of mankind (Isaiah 50:6, 53:4-6)
- ⇒ That Jesus would die by crucifixion (Psalm 22:16)
- ⇒ That Jesus would rise again from the dead (Psalm 16:10)

These are a sampling of the fulfilled prophecies regarding Jesus Christ's first coming and death on the Cross.

The Gospel says that “*Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture...*” (1 Corinthians 15:3).

Before we look at the reason for which He came into this world, we must make sure that we understand who Jesus Christ is. The Bible warns against “*false Christs*” (Matthew 24:24). Religious groups that deny that Jesus Christ is God, that He is eternal, that He was born of virgin, that He is the Creator of all things, that He performed miracles, that He is sinless, that He shed His blood on the Cross for our sins, or that He rose again bodily from the dead are preaching a ‘false Christ’ and have a ‘false hope’ of salvation.

Jesus Christ came to die for our sins! Luke 19:10 says that “*...the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost.*”

When Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, paradise was lost. Perfect fellowship with God was replaced by separation from God due to sin. The perfect world became plagued with death and disease.

Yet even in the book of Genesis, God had already provided the promise of a Messiah who would come and would crush the head of Satan. In Genesis 3:15, God promised- “*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*” This was the first promise that God would send a Messiah to restore the hope of salvation to the fallen race of humanity.

God had planned that Jesus would come into the world as the sinless Lamb of God to take the punishment for the sins of mankind.

The Bible teaches that one day Christ will return to the earth a second time and will establish His kingdom. This is a prophecy yet to be fulfilled. Yet it is just as sure as the prophecies already fulfilled.

Jesus Christ came the first time as the suffering Servant who died for men who were bound in sin. Jesus Christ is coming back a second time as the conquering King to rule and to reign with a rod of iron and to judge the world.

Revelation 19:11-16 describe His second coming- “*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*”



Christ will come back one day to judge those who have refused to receive the Gospel.

Yet, those who have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will be spared God's wrath and will enter God's eternal bliss.

We must make sure that we have a Biblically informed understanding of who Jesus Christ is before we can believe the message of salvation as found in the Gospel.

**Digging Deeper- The following will help you apply and retain what you have learned...**

Memorize the following verses:

Isaiah 53:5- "But he was wounded for our transgression, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

John 1:1-3- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Answer the following questions:

How long has Jesus Christ existed?

What verse(s) prove the deity of Jesus Christ (that He is God)?

Who is the Messiah prophesied about in the Old Testament?

What is one of the fulfilled prophecies concerning Christ's first coming and death on the Cross?

Why is it important that we understand Christ as revealed in the Bible?

When was the first promise made that God would send Jesus as the Savior of the world?

Read the following passages: Go back and read the verses dealing with the fulfilled prophecies about Christ's first coming and death on the Cross.



# Part 4 – The Plan of Salvation

When John the Baptist (the forerunner of Christ) saw Jesus Christ, he exclaimed “...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29).

In the Old Testament, it was prophesied that the Messiah would come as a sacrifice for sins. He would become the substitute for the sinner.

The Gospel states that “*Christ died for our sins*” (1 Corinthians 15:3).

As we have seen so far, God’s inspired Word makes it clear that our greatest problem is sin. Sin brings death (physically, spiritually, and eternally). Sin destroys and sin condemns to Hell. We all fall short of God’s standard of righteousness and are in desperate of a Savior from sin.

The good news of the Gospel message is the greatest news for a sinner.

Romans 5:6 says, “*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*”

When we were lost in sins, when we were blinded to truth, when we were gone astray, Christ died for us.

Jesus Christ died in our place. Jesus took our punishment that we deserved and took it upon Himself.

Romans 5:8 says, “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”

When we stood before God guilty as charged due to our breaking of His Law, Christ stepped in and took our due punishment upon Himself.

1 Peter 3:18 says, “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*”

The ‘just’ One died for the ‘unjust’ ones. The sinless Lamb of God died in the place of sinful humanity.

He has “once suffered for sins”. Why? As Peter 3:18 says, “*that he might bring us to God*”.

All men are born in rebellion to God. We are born going “*our own way*” (Isaiah 53:6). We are born as “*children of disobedience*” (Ephesians 2:2) deserving “*the wrath of God*” (Colossians 3:6). The longer you wait to receive God’s gift of salvation, the more you treasure “*...up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God*” (Romans 2:5).

But the Bible tells us that God is “*rich in mercy*” (Ephesians 2:4) and is “*not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9).

Jesus Christ paid the sin debt that we owed against God in order to reconcile sinners back to God. Because of what Christ did on the Cross, we can have “*peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Romans 5:1).

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ was “*wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...*” (Isaiah 53:5). Jesus was ‘wounded’ and ‘bruised’ and crucified for us. He was put to death so that we could have eternal life.

Galatians 1:4 says that Christ “*...gave himself for our sins.*”

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “*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.*” Christ bore our sin, so we could be brought into a right relationship with God.

Because Christ has died and rose again, God offers to all men the ‘gift of eternal life’. God offers mercy and grace to the sinner. God offers the gift of salvation.

Romans 6:23 says, “*The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

God offers the gift of eternal life to all of mankind.

Ephesians 2:8-9 explains that it is a ‘free’ gift- “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*”

The 19<sup>th</sup> century evangelist D.L. Moody said, “Salvation is worth working for. It is worth a man’s going round the world on his hands and knees, climbing its mountains, crossing its valleys, swimming its rivers, going through all manner of hardship in order to attain it. But we do not get it that way. It is to him who believes.”

Salvation does not come by my works, my church membership, my charitable deeds, my ancestry, or anything that I have to offer.

This is what differentiates Biblical Christianity from every other religious system in the world. All other religions say that a man must ‘do’ something in order to earn or keep his salvation. Whereas the Bible teaches that we cannot do any ‘good work’ to earn a right standing before God. Rather, we rely solely on what has been ‘done’ for us through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

Salvation is ‘not of works’. Rather, it is by ‘grace through faith’. It is God’s gift of grace. A gift is something that is purchased by someone and is offered for free. It is the same with the gift of eternal life. It has been purchased by Christ and is offered to all men for free.

In order to receive this gift of salvation, one must receive it by faith alone and in Christ alone.

Salvation is NOT Jesus+baptism, Jesus+good works, Jesus+church sacraments. It is 'all of grace' or it is not the Gospel of Grace.

Romans 11:6 says- *"And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."*

Believing the Gospel message means trusting in Christ alone for salvation.

Again the Gospel message is that *"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."* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

So how does one receive this Gospel message? How does one inherit eternal life? How does one come into a right relationship with God? How does one enter God's family? How does one attain peace with God?

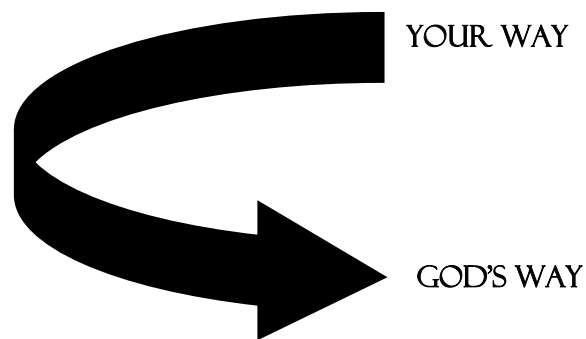
Jesus said, *"...repent ye, and believe the gospel"* (Mark 1:15).

Repentance and faith are the proper response to the Gospel message.

Repentance is admitting that God is right and I am wrong. It is this change of mind toward God and sin and results in a turning from sin.

Isaiah 55:7 expresses this truth- *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."*

Repentance is 'forsaking your way and turning to God's way'.



Faith is 'believing the Gospel'. It is trusting in Christ alone to be your personal Savior from sin. Repentance is 'turning from' while faith is 'turning to Christ' and trusting in His finished work as your only hope of salvation.

Isaiah 55:7 includes both repentance and faith. This verse pictures you as a rebel against God going your own way (which is away from God). When you 'repent' you are 'forsaking your way'. When you 'believe' (faith), you are 'returning' to

God's way. In order to be saved, you must turn to God from your rebellion against God.

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

If you have never received God's gift of eternal life, will you call upon Christ today to save you from your sins?



Jesus said, *"...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"* (John 6:37). Christ has never turned away a repentant sinner.

Won't you come to Him today? Admit you sin against God. Turn from your rebellion. And turn to Christ in faith alone to save you.

**Digging Deeper- The following will help you apply and retain what you have learned...**

Memorize the following verses:

John 3:16- "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."

1 John 5:11-12- "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Answer the following questions:

What is the 'good news' of the Gospel?

What differentiates Biblical Christianity from every other religious belief system?

How does one receive the gift of eternal life?

Have you ever turned from your sin and trusted alone in Jesus Christ to save you from your sins?

Read the following passages:

Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 53:4-6; Isaiah 55:6-7; John 1:12; John 3:1-21, 36; Acts 17:30; Romans 10:9-13

**If you have any questions about God's Word, Jesus Christ, or the offer of salvation then please reach out to us at Legacy Baptist Church and we would love to answer any questions you may have. If you have received God's free gift of salvation, we would love to hear of your decision!**

**You can contact us in the following ways:**

- ⇒ Give us a call at- (712) 986- 6272
- ⇒ Send an email at- [legacybaptistiowa@gmail.com](mailto:legacybaptistiowa@gmail.com)

**Come visit us at:** 302 Oakland Ave., Oakland, IA 51560

Our service times are as follows-

Sundays

- ⇒ Sunday School- 9am
- ⇒ Morning Worship Service- 10am
- ⇒ Afternoon Worship Service- 1pm

Wednesday

- ⇒ Bible Study & Prayer Meeting- 7pm