



## T H E   G O S P E L

You may have heard the word used before in reference to a style of music or some kind of church event, but there's more to it than that.

The word 'gospel' simply means "**good news**," and the Gospel message is so good that it should be shared with everyone. It's not like finding out you get to leave work early or grade your own homework. The Gospel is **life-altering** good news that speaks to issues of life and death, to heaven and hell, and ultimately to our relationship with the God who created all things.

The foundation of this message is the Bible. The Bible is God's word to mankind, and it reveals the truth about **who we are**, who God is, and **why we have been created**.

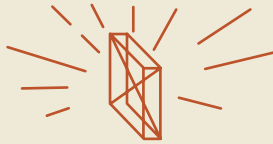
# G O D I S E T E R N A L . H E C R E A T E D E V E R Y T H I N G .

## G E N E S I S 1 : 1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

## A C T S 1 4 : 1 5 B

“We have come to bring you the Good News that you should turn from these worthless things and turn to the living God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them.”



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- God, our Creator, has always existed. He has no beginning and no end.
- God is alive. He isn't just an idea or theory. He simply spoke and created the world and the universe that we live in. He is all-powerful.
- Because God has created all things, He also owns all things and is the one who will judge the world.







# GOD REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH HIS WORD

## 1 PETER 1:15-16

“But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written,  
**“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”**”

## PSALM 11:7

“For the **Lord is righteous**, He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face.”

## PSALM 89:14

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before you.”

## 1 JOHN 4:8B

“For **God is love.**”





## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

### GOD IS UNCHANGING

God is timeless and unchanging. This means we cannot just decide who we want Him to be.

For example, if you said NBA star LeBron James was actually a five-foot-tall woman who likes to knit, you would be wrong. You could say that, but it wouldn't make it true.

In the same way, God is who He is apart from what we believe about Him, just like LeBron James is who he is apart from what we believe about him.

“For I, the Lord, do not change”  
*Malachi 3:6b*

### GOD IS LOVE

Everything God does is loving.

### GOD IS RIGHTEOUS

Everything God does is right. Unlike us, God never sins.

### GOD IS HOLY

God is set apart from evil.

### GOD IS PURE

He cannot tolerate sin.

“Your eyes are too pure to look on evil”  
*Habakkuk 1:13*

### GOD IS THE JUDGE OF THE WORLD

Most of us have heard someone say, “You shouldn't judge others,” and that is correct. The reason people should not pass judgment on others is that God is the ultimate judge—the one all of us must stand before when we die to give an account for our lives.

# ALL OF HUMANITY HAS SINNED

ROMANS 3:23

**“For all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.”

ISAIAH 53:6

“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. **We have left  
God’s paths to follow our own.**”



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

**If the Gospel is good news, then there must be bad news. Here it is:**

- God created Adam and Eve, and they rejected Him by choosing to sin.

“So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” *Genesis 1:27*

- We are also created in the image of God, but because of sin, we have been separated from Him. We have followed in the footsteps of Adam and Eve.

“Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all men, because all sinned” *Romans 5:12*

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- ❑ Have you ever lied or been dishonest?
- ❑ Have you ever taken something that wasn't yours? Big or small?
- ❑ Have you ever had lustful thoughts?
- ❑ Have you ever hated anyone?
- ❑ Have you ever been sexually involved with someone you weren't married to?
- ❑ Have you ever been selfish?



## REALITY CHECK

All of us have, at times, known what is right and done what is sinful. This sin separates us from God. Imagine that God is a huge forest fire and you are a tiny ice cube. The two are incompatible because of their nature. In the same way, our sin puts distance between God and humanity; meaning we cannot be in the presence of God.



# EVERYONE WILL STAND BEFORE GOD

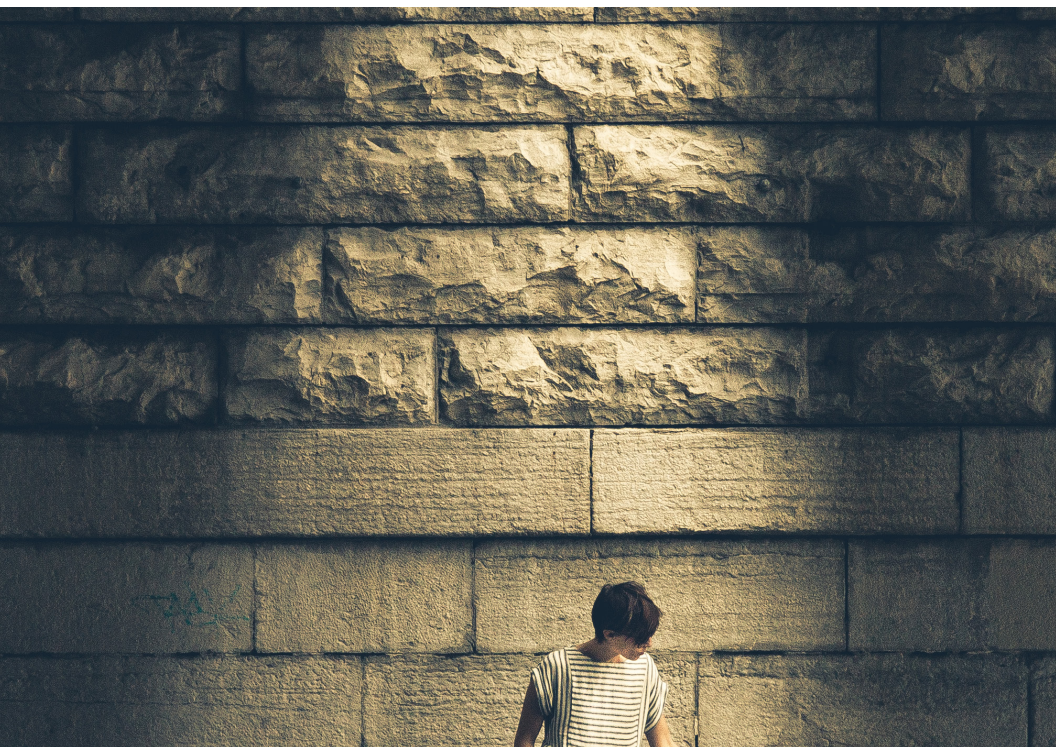
## REVELATION 20:12

“I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life.

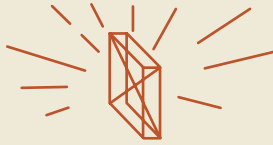
And **the dead were judged according to what they had done**, as recorded in the books.”

## HEBREWS 4:13

“**Nothing in all creation is hidden from God.** Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.”







## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Death is something everyone must deal with. We know everyone is going to die, but we tend not to think seriously about it. As a result, we spend the majority of our time, money, and energy setting up our lives just the way we want them without giving significant thought to what actually happens when we die.

“Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.” *Psalm 39:4*

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

There is coming a day when you will stand before God and give an account for **everything** you have done. **Every** thought, every deed, every word, every hidden thing, and every motivation will be exposed in the presence of a holy God and judged by God’s law. Those who are right with God will spend eternity in heaven. Those who die in their sin will spend eternity in a place called hell.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

If God were to judge you according to what you have done, would you be innocent or guilty?

If you are guilty before a just God, should you go to heaven or hell?

# WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO FIX OUR SIN

ISAIAH 64:6

**“We are all infected and impure with sin.** When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.”

ROMANS 3:10

“There is **no one righteous**, not even one.”

JAMES 2:10

“For whoever keeps the entire law, yet fails in one point, is **guilty of breaking it all.**”



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

**There are many myths about how to be made right with God:**

- I just need to be a good person.
- I need to start going to church.
- I am a good person; I just need to be a little better.
- I need to believe in God, feel sorry for my sins, and read my Bible.
- I need to stop drinking or sleeping around.



## PICTURE THIS:

Picture that you are a police officer who pulls someone over for clearly running a red light. And then imagine that the driver does these four things:

1. Admits his guilt.
2. Says he is really sorry for running the red light.
3. Explains that he stopped at the previous 10 red lights.
4. Claims that, on the basis of doing the right thing at the previous 10 red lights, he should not get a ticket for this one.

What would you do if you wanted to uphold the law? You would tell the driver that stopping at the previous 10 red lights was good but irrelevant. It does not change the fact that he should get a ticket. In the same way, God cannot overlook our sin. Sin must be punished in order for God to be just. If a judge always lets criminals go free without paying any penalty, the judge would be removed because they would not be executing justice.

Likewise, if God just swept our sin under the rug, then He would cease to be just.



# JESUS MADE A WAY TO HAVE PEACE WITH GOD

## JOHN 14:6

“Jesus told him, “**I am the way**, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

## 1 JOHN 3:5

“You know that **He appeared in order to take away sins**; and in Him there is no sin.”



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

**This is the Good News!**  
**God sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins.**

## JOHN 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

Motivated by love, God sent Jesus, who was fully God and became fully man, to the world. Jesus lived a perfect life and never sinned. Then Jesus voluntarily took on the sin of the world by dying on a cross.

### **Took the sin of the world?**

Here's the idea: God says whenever there is sin, it must be punished by death. In the Old Testament, God set up a substitutionary system where the innocent could pay for the guilty. God had his people kill an innocent lamb as if the lamb had committed their sin. The innocent would die for the guilty.

Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and voluntarily died as our substitute to pay the penalty for our sins, fully satisfying God's justice.

It may seem brutal to kill an innocent person, but sin is very serious in the eyes of a holy God. He sees all the pain and devastation that comes from sin. All the evil in the world—broken homes, adultery, lying, stealing, pornography, human trafficking, greed, jealousy, selfishness—is due to sin. God sees it all and says, "Justice must be done."

### **God's justice is wonderful.**

As humans, we love justice. When we are wronged, we demand justice. But when the tables are turned and we wrong others, we want mercy. Unlike ours, God's justice is impartial, meaning He doesn't play favorites. He gives us exactly what we deserve.

"For God does not show favoritism."  
*Romans 2:11*



# SALVATION IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU

## 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

## EPHESIANS 2:8-9

“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.”



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We know life isn’t found in money, pleasure, sex, or fame. When we try to find life there, we are disappointed because we have been designed to experience life primarily through relationship. God’s desire is that we would have a genuine relationship with Him. But to enter into a relationship with God, our sin must be dealt with first.

Jesus dealt with our sin at the cross. God the Father treated Jesus, His Son, as if he had committed **your sin**. He lived, He died, and He rose again. Jesus was a totally innocent man who voluntarily died so we could go free! Because Jesus dealt with our sin, salvation is now available for you.



## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

### 1. Repent of your sin

Repentance is a change of mind leading to a change of heart. Acknowledge that your sin separates you from God and turn from your sinful ways.

### 2. Reject your own righteousness as a means of salvation

Reject the myths about being made right with God by your own efforts and embrace God's undeserved grace toward you. You can't save yourself.

### 3. Believe in Jesus and declare Him as your Lord and Savior

God sees when someone transfers their faith from themselves to Christ. He sees their faith and saves them by His grace.

“If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” *Romans 10:9-10*

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I BELIEVE?

1. Your sins are forgiven — *Colossians 2:14-15*
2. You become a child of God — *John 1:12-13*
3. You are at peace with God — *Romans 5:1*
4. You receive the Holy Spirit — *Ephesians 1:13-14*
5. You pass from death to life — *John 5:24*
6. You have the hope of heaven — *Colossians 1:4-5*

## NOW WHAT?

1. **Tell** a faithful Christian you know that you have repented of your sin and put your faith in Jesus.
2. Read the **Bible**. Start with the Book of John.
3. Get involved with a **local church** that teaches the Bible.