

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

The Gospel in a *word* is: Jesus.

The Gospel in a *phrase* is: the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel in *brief* is explained below:

God created everything, including you. Therefore as God and creator He has all rights over you, including the right to tell you how to live. And He has done so in His Word, the Bible.

The bad news

The bad news is that you have broken God's law. You have done so countless times, both knowingly and unknowingly. As a result you are guilty before God. Despite your high opinion of yourself, your conscience confirms the objective truth of your sin and guilt. And the good things you do cannot erase your guilt.

The bad news gets worse. After death you will stand before God, the holy and perfect Judge. Based upon His standard of perfect holiness, you will stand guilty before God. As a guilty rebel against God you will be shut out of Heaven and condemned to an eternal Hell, an actual place where you will experience unending torment.

The good news!

But, there is good news, unimaginably good news! This holy God is not only perfectly just and righteous, He is also infinitely merciful and loving. In His love and mercy He has provided a way of escaping the wrath His perfect justice must exercise toward all sin and disobedience to His law. (For if He didn't judge sin and evil, He wouldn't be a *perfect* Judge.)

The person and work of Jesus Christ

The good news is Jesus; specifically the person and work of Jesus Christ. God sent His Son, Jesus, who lived a perfect life. By living a perfect, sinless life, Jesus did something we could never do: He earned the right to stand blameless before God and enter Heaven. Because of His great love, Jesus allowed Himself to be condemned and crucified as a substitute for those guilty of breaking God's law. On the cross *He* received the wrath of God that sinners like *you* deserved. And He did so that *you* might receive the Heaven *He* deserved.

God demonstrated His acceptance of the substitutionary death of Jesus as payment for the sins of others by raising Jesus from the dead. After appearing to hundreds of people over a forty-day period, God ascended Him to Heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father. At the end of this age Jesus will return to the earth. He will sit as Judge over you and every person who has ever lived. Those who in this life have put their faith in Jesus as their only hope of being right with God will enjoy and reign with Jesus forever.

Responding to the Gospel

In response to the good news of this glorious offer, God calls upon you to repent and believe in Jesus and what He has done. That is, He requires you to turn from your sin and from living for yourself and from trusting in your own wisdom and goodness. And He calls upon you to believe in Jesus and His righteousness as your way to God and Heaven.

Think of it: God offers Himself to you! In exchange for your guilt and condemnation He offers you Himself. The infinite Creator invites you to live in His presence and experience infinite joy. In the

indescribable beauty of a Heaven united with a perfectly renewed Earth, you can enjoy without limit and without end God's righteousness, God's glory, God's love, and all the unimaginable blessings that God alone can give.

Thank you!

Thank you for allowing me the great privilege of sharing this incomparably good news with you. I plead with you to pray as you finish these lines. Confess your sin to God; admit your need for Jesus and what He has done for sinners such as you and I. If you will believe that Jesus lived and died and was resurrected for you, He will gladly receive you. And from that moment He will replace your guilt with credit for all that Jesus has done, and give you the beginnings of eternal life.

Want to read more?

To read the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ directly from the Bible (which I highly recommend!), I'd suggest reading The Gospel of Mark in the New Testament (the second of the two divisions of the Bible). The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four books of the New Testament which records the life and words of Jesus.

After this I'd point you to The Gospel of John. This presents the life and words of Jesus as recorded by Jesus' disciple John, one of the three disciples closest to Jesus. John includes many eyewitness accounts of the miracles and words of Jesus not found in The Gospel of Mark.

Next I'd suggest you read The Letter (or "Epistle") to the Romans. This was written by the Apostle Paul. Unlike the narrative (or story) approach found in The Gospel of Mark or The Gospel of John, "Romans" is a God-inspired letter of truths based upon who Jesus is and what He did.

Finally, for an explanation of the Gospel more along the style of my presentation above, read the recent, short book by Greg Gilbert called [*What Is the Gospel?*](#)