

The Good News: Read All About It!

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DATELINE: EARTH/NOW - Did you know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the answer to every situation you are facing in your life at this moment?

God loves us very much. It's amazing: He's the most powerful, all knowing, all seeing being in the Universe, but he made each of us and desires to have a personal relationship with every man and woman He has made.

But He has a very cut and dried situation he has to face with every man and woman. You see, He is a holy and perfect God and He cannot allow anything unholy, sinful, or corrupt to come near His presence. If He did, He would be compromising His holiness and by associating Himself with sin and corruption. Such a God that would compromise Himself is one on whom we could not depend or place our trust.

Because of this character trait of God, you and I may not come to God and have a relationship with Him on our own. This is because we have 'sinned.' 'Sin' means that we have been and are by nature disobedient to Almighty God's commands. God's perfect and holy word says that all who sin will receive the judgment of Go. That judgment is that they must die and be sent to Hell and forever separated from God.

Many people believe that they are good people. They think that being good will earn them a place in Heaven and allow them to be acceptable to God and have a relationship with Him. They try to 'act good' or 'do good works' in their lives. They find it easy to compare themselves and their behavior to other people who seem to behave much worse. This allows them to justify their 'goodness.' But if you compared what you think is 'goodness' in yourself to the perfect standard of God's own goodness, you would find yourself sadly lacking.

Choosing to believe that your good behavior makes you good in God's eyes will not work. God Himself said in His Word, the Bible, that to be considered good and to have a relationship with Him, we must be perfect, just as He is perfect. So if we ever break one of His holy laws, even just one, then no matter how 'good' we may think we are, we are not good, much less perfect in the eyes of God. We are incapable of making ourselves good enough to come before His holy and perfect Presence.

Here's what God says we would have to do perfectly to be considered 'good' by His standards.

These are His Commands as recorded in the Bible book of Exodus, Chapter 20:

- *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not 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: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

Have you ever put anything in your life ahead of God in priority? If you have, then you've not kept these commands.

- *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 cursed anyone by using God's name to damn them? If you have, then you've not kept this command.

- *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Have you ever failed to set aside even just one day of the week to worship God? If you have, then you've not kept this command.

- *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

Have you ever shown disrespect to your parents, even if they were disrespectful to you? If you have, then you've not kept this command.

- *Thou shalt not kill*

Have you ever killed anyone or even so much as wished that harm would come to them? If you have, then God Himself says that you've not kept this command.

- *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

Have you ever had sex outside of marriage or fantasized about having sex with someone outside of a marriage commitment? If you have, then you've not kept this command.

- *Thou shalt not steal.*

Did you ever take something that did not belong to you? If you have, then you've not kept this command.

- *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

Did you ever tell a lie about anyone or anything? If you have, then you've not kept this command.

- *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that [is] thy neighbour's.*

Did you ever seriously desire or try to get something that was not yours? If you have, then you've not kept this command.

God says that anyone who has failed any of these commands deserves to die, endure punishment, and be eternally separated from his Holy Presence for disobeying Him. How does a Holy God remain true to His word and at the same time show love to us who have sinned against Him?

Well, Here's GOOD NEWS!

God so loved the world, that he sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to live as a perfect and blameless man and to take upon himself the penalty for our sins. Jesus was perfect, and so God accepted his choice to sacrifice himself as a substitute to bear the penalty of our sins.

To accomplish this, Jesus allowed himself to fall into the hands of cruel and wicked men who were under the influence of the Devil, God's enemy. These men put Jesus to death by nailing him to a cross, a slow horrible form of execution used in the times of the Roman Empire. Jesus died on the cross and was buried. But an amazing thing happened. Three days after his death, God raised Jesus from death to reign triumphant over death and the curse of sin! God loved us so much that he will now save anyone from the horrible curse of sin if they will call upon the name of Jesus Christ to be saved.

Few people would give their life for an honest man, but God's Son Jesus, a perfect man, showed God's love for us by dying for us wicked unholy imperfect sinners. What an amazing example of God's Love! Still it's amazing that most people want to do things their own way without Jesus. This is sad, because God's word is very clear that all who die without calling upon Jesus to be saved will die and burn first in Hell, and then in an eternal Lake of Fire, separated from His love and grace forever.

Like it or not, you can't have a proper relationship with God any other way than through Jesus Christ. But the Good News is that Jesus is alive and well, raised from death by God's Power. He is waiting right now, even though you can't see Him, to accept you as his own. All you have to do is to call on His name. All it takes is a choice of your will to believe that what He did, he did for you.

So what do you really have to lose? Just your right to burn in Hell and a Lake of Fire forever?! What's really stopping you from calling on Jesus to save you and turning your life over to his keeping? He was perfect and yet He proved His love for you by paying the terrible price to save you from your sin and from God's righteous judgment.

Won't you call on Him right now? Won't you just say to Jesus,

'Jesus, when I look at myself in the light of God's commands, I have to admit that I am a sinner. I have seen the commands that God made for us to keep and there's at least one, maybe several, I have not kept. Let's face it Jesus, I couldn't keep God's commands if I tried, because I am a sinner and I am bound to make mistakes. Will you be my Savior? I call upon your Name and ask you to save me from sin so I can have a right relationship with God Almighty. I choose to trust that you have paid the price by your death and resurrection to save me from sin. Thank you Jesus for doing this. Help me to serve you now as My Lord and Savior.'

Congratulations! If you said that simple prayer and believed it, then Jesus has accepted you as His own and you are saved from Hell. It's that simple, Jesus has done all that is required.

Now you'll want to find a place to grow in your relationship with your new friend Jesus.

DO YOU NEED HELP LEARNING HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS?

We'd Love to Help Because We Love Jesus! In the Greater Houston Texas Area, why not call us at New Wine Christian Fellowship, 713-910-3330. You can find us on the Web at <http://www.newwineonline.com>. If you live somewhere else, check in your local phone book for a list of churches. Make sure that you ask any church you call to make sure that:

- They claim Jesus as Lord and the only way to a relationship with God
- That they believe that discipleship and accountability are the Bible ordained ways towards personal spiritual growth
- That they believe the Bible promises us the power of God's Holy Spirit as a gift given to all believers to help them and others walk with God.

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