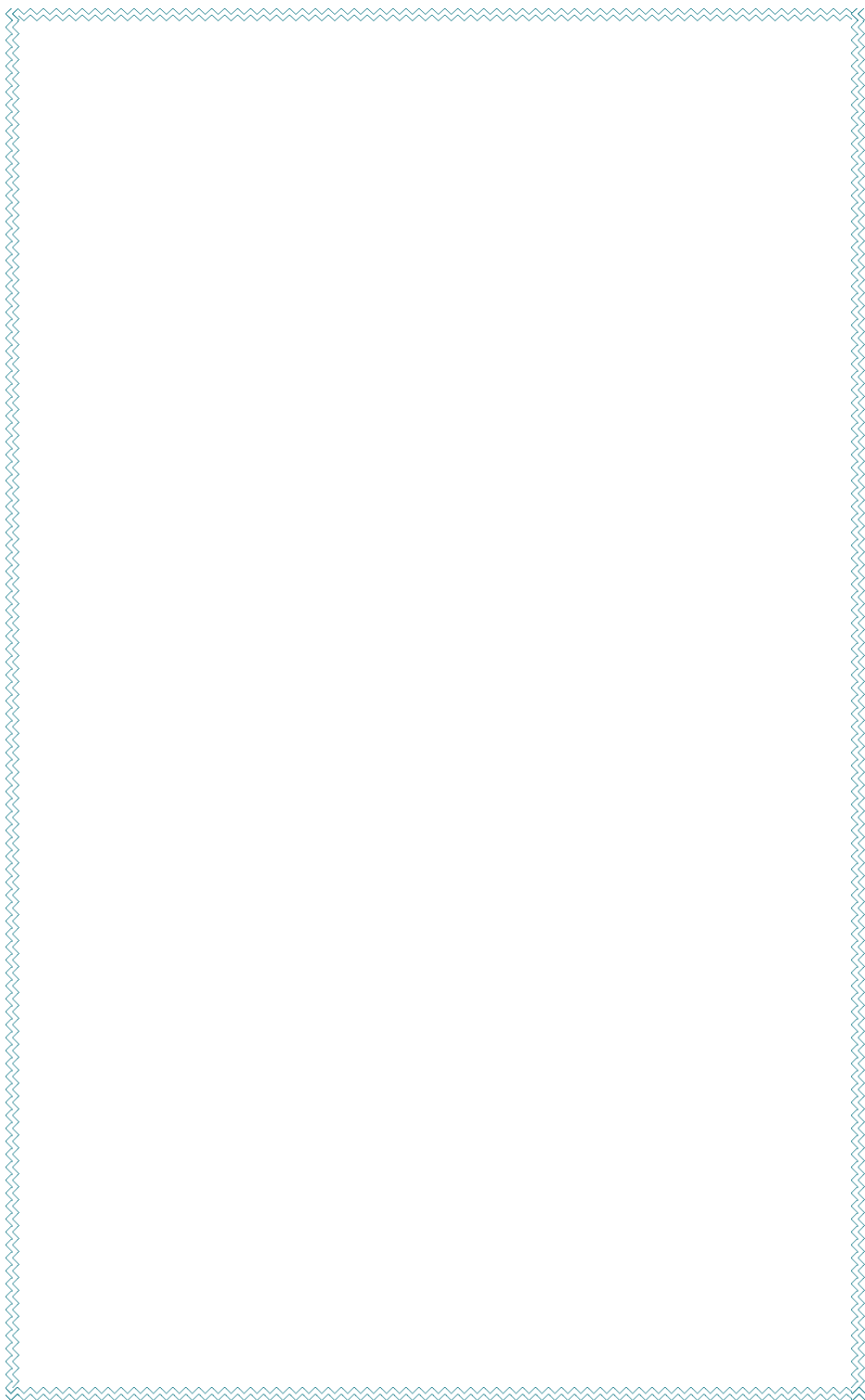




HAVE YOU HEARD...

THE GOOD NEWS?





Have you ever found yourself wondering about any of the following questions?

Who am I?

Why am I here?

Where did I come from?

Where am I going?

The Bible has real answers to these questions. Would you be willing to consider four basic truths that the Bible teaches?

If so, please keep reading!

## **1. We were created by God.**

The Bible begins with this statement.

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen.1:1)*

We are a part of God’s creation.

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Gen.1:27)*

Have you ever considered what it means to be created in the image of God?

*a. It means that we are valuable to God.*

We often define our value or our self worth by what we can do. God, on the other hand, wants us to define our value based on the fact that He made us. If we are made in His image then we are very special. We are the crown of His creative work. (Psalm 8)

*b. It means that we are accountable to God.*

This is why many people deny the existence of God. They realize that if God exists, then we are His creation. If we are His creation, then we belong to him and need to answer to Him for how we live. This is a position many people do not want to be in. They do not want

to have to answer to anyone. So they claim that there is no God. (Psalm 14)

The first people God created were Adam and Eve. God loved them and provided a wonderful garden for them to live in. They were instructed to take care of it. God also told them how He wanted them to live. He warned them to avoid a specific tree in the garden. (Gen 2:16 & 17) If they would eat from this tree they would die. God did not want this to happen. Would Adam and Eve heed God's warning?

Unfortunately, they did not. This leads us to the second truth that the Bible teaches.

## **2. We have been separated from God.**

If God created us, then, what separated us?

*a. We have been separated from God because of the choice Adam made.*

The Bible teaches that the Serpent tempted Eve to eat from the tree that God had told them to avoid. She had a choice to make. Would she obey God or would she eat that fruit? She chose to disobey God.

After Eve ate, she wanted to share the fruit with Adam. This time Adam had a choice to make. Would he obey God or would he eat that fruit? He chose to disobey God just like Eve did. (Gen.3)

Adam and Eve's choices brought both spiritual and physical death on themselves and on all their children until this day.

The Apostle Paul put it this way.

*"...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all have sinned.."* (Rom.5:12)

- b. *We have been separated from God because of our own choice.*

Just like our first parents, all of us have made bad choices. Many times we have chosen to do what is wrong. We may have told a lie. We may have stolen something. We may have disobeyed our parents. Or, we may have broken any one of God's commandments. (Ex.20)

We cannot pretend that we would not have done the same thing Adam and Eve did if we had been in their situation. We are just like them. Sooner or later we would have made the same mistake. These bad choices are called sin. Our sins separate us from God.

The prophet Isaiah wrote...

*"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that he will not hear."* Isaiah 59:2.

### 3. We can be reconciled to God!

If we have been separated from God, can we ever be reconciled with Him?

a. *We can be reconciled to God because of the choice Jesus made.*

Just like Adam made a bad choice that would affect everyone, so Jesus made a good choice that would affect everyone.

The Apostle Paul wrote...

*“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous...”* (Rom.5:19)

When Jesus was tempted by the Devil, He did not give in. He made the right choice. (Luke 4)

Then, God took the sins of the whole world and placed them on Jesus. Again, Jesus chose to obey His Father’s will. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of all people.

The Apostle Paul wrote...

*“God made him [Jesus] to be sin [a sin offering] for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God”* (2 Cor.5:21)

- b. *We can be reconciled to God because of the choice we make.*

The penalty of sin was automatic. We all got it from Adam. We all chose to follow his example. The payment for sin is not automatic. Even though Christ died for all people, we must choose whether or not we want to receive the gift He offers us.

The Apostle Paul wrote...

*“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will **those who receive** God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ” (Rom.5:17)*

#### **4. We have an invitation from God.**

In order for a gift to be effective it must not only be offered, it must also be received. Jesus died on the cross for you. He paid the penalty for your sin. Now He invites you to receive His gift of forgiveness from sin and reconciliation with God. You have a choice to make. What will you do with this invitation? There are two options.

- a. *You can reject the gift.*

If you reject this gift, then your sins will not be forgiven. You will not be reconciled with God.



You will continue to be separated from Him both in this life and for eternity.

The Apostle John wrote...

*“Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only son.”*  
(John 3:18)

b. *You can receive the gift.*

If you receive this gift, then your sins will be forgiven. You will be reconciled with God. You will never be separated from Him again and you will receive eternal life.

The Apostle John wrote...

*“He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God...”*  
John 1:11&12

The choice is up to you but because we are Christians and we love you, we really want you to make the right choice.

The Apostle Paul wrote...

*“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.*

*We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Cor.5:20)*

You may be wondering...

*"How do I receive God's gift?"*

The Bible outlines three basic steps.

**1. Repent:** Turn away from your sins.

The Apostle Paul told the people...

*"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent."*

(Acts 17:30+31)

**2. Believe:** Put your trust in Jesus Christ.

The jailor asked Paul and Silas...

*"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"  
They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and your household ...'"* (Acts 16:30+31)

**3. Confess:** Say that Jesus is your Lord.

The Apostle Paul wrote...

*"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Rom.10:9)*

One of the best ways to take these three steps is through a prayer. Here is a prayer you may want to use.

**Dear God,**

I know that I am a sinner. I am willing to turn away from my sin but I need your help. Give me the spirit of repentance.

I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins. I am willing to receive the gift of forgiveness and reconciliation. Thank you for this wonderful gift!

I want Jesus to be in control of my life. I am willing to confess that, 'Jesus is Lord!' Help me to live out this confession.

**In Jesus name, Amen!**

**Now you have heard the Good News. If you have prayed this prayer sincerely, you have just become a Christian. Welcome into God's family!**

**Here are five recommendations on...  
how to grow as a new Christian.**

1. Read your Bible every day.
2. Talk to God in prayer all the time.
3. Find a Church and go every Sunday.
4. Tell someone about your decision.
5. Ask your Pastor about baptism.

This booklet was written by *Pastor Tim Rempel* of the **First Baptist Church of Newman**.



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**Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00am.**