

The Gospel

Created For and By Him

God desires us to have a life-giving relationship with Himself, the original intention for His creation

SCRIPTURE

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith with one another? - Malachi 2:10

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. - Psalm 100:3

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' - Acts 17:24-28

Genesis Chapters 1-2

QUESTIONS

- Where were you seeking life/value/purpose before you met Christ?
- What are some key truths in these verses?
- Where do you see these truths either accepted or rejected in the world, or in the lives of your friends?
- Why are these truths good news?

All Have Sinned

Every one of us is born in enmity towards God, we have rebelled and chose to live according to our own ways

SCRIPTURE

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. - Psalm 51:5

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

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? - Jeremiah 17:9

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. - Isaiah 53:6

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. - James 2:10

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. - 1 John 1:8

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. - Romans 5:12-14

(The Ten Commandments) In Sum: God's standard for holiness is perfection, we have not kept all of His commands, nor loved Him fully. - Exodus 20:1-17

QUESTIONS

- How did you seek satisfaction, or live out your rebellion, in your life before Jesus?
- What are some key truths in these verses?
- Where do you see these truths either accepted or rejected in the world, or in the lives of your friends?
- Why are these truths good news?

Sin's Penalty

The result of sin is death physically, eternal separation from God, and the brokenness of our world

SCRIPTURE

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

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. " - Revelation 21:8

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return. - Genesis 3:19

QUESTIONS

- What consequences did you experience in seeking life outside of a relationship with God?
- What are some key truths in these verses?
- Where do you see these truths either accepted or rejected in the world, or in the lives of your friends?
- Why are these truths good news?

Christ Paid the Wage

Jesus's death is a sacrificial substitute for us, both as a payment for our sin and in the gift of His perfect obedience to us

SCRIPTURE

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. - Ephesians 2:4-7

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. - Mark 10:45

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. - 1 Peter 3:18

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. - 1 Peter 1:18-19

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - Romans 5:8

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:21

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. - Titus 3:5

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. - Colossians 1:19-20

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning/propitiating sacrifice for our sins. - 1 John 4:10 (see Romans 3:21-26)

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, by His wounds we are healed. - Isaiah 53:5

QUESTIONS

- How would you explain the idea and impact of Jesus being your substitute?
- What are some key truths in these verses?
- Where do you see these truths either accepted or rejected in the world, or in the lives of your friends?
- Why are these truths good news?

We Must Believe

Receive what the resurrected Jesus has done for you, placing your trust in Him rather than yourself

SCRIPTURE

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. - John 1:12

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. - John 3:36

Truly truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. - John 5:24

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. - Ephesians 2:8-10

QUESTIONS

- How did Jesus open your eyes to Himself and what He did for you? Who told you? How did you hear? What most made sense to you?
- What are some key truths in these verses?
- Where do you see these truths either accepted or rejected in the world, or in the lives of your friends?
- Why are these truths good news?

Assurance/Restoration

Live as a response to the grace of God who has called you as His own and is making all things new

SCRIPTURE

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. - Ephesians 1:3-8

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. - 1 John 5:11-13

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. - John 5:24

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. - Ephesians 1:13-14

That he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve...But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Corinthians 15:4-5, 57

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. - 1 John 3:2

Then I saw a new heaven and new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." - Revelation 21: 1-5

QUESTIONS

- What are you most looking forward to when all things are made right?
- What are some key truths in these verses?
- Where do you see these truths either accepted or rejected in the world, or in the lives of your friends?
- Why are these truths good news?