

What Is the Gospel Message?

“Gospel” is a Greek word that means “good news.”
The Gospel is quite literally a message of good news for us!



1Corinthians 15:1-11 cf. Romans 1:15-21



Don't be a fool...

★ Psalm 14:1-2 ★

THE PROBLEM:

GOD IS LAWFUL AND JUST.

If God gives us justice, He cannot forgive us!

Example: *If you are in a court of law for stealing a car and tell the judge, “I’m sorry, Judge. I’ll never do it again. Plus, now I attend church and even give to the homeless!” The judge is going to say something like, “You shouldn’t have done it in the first place! However, you’re not on trial for the good things you may now be doing in life. You’re on trial for the laws that you have broken. You’re still guilty, and you’re still going to jail.”*

We cannot bribe God with good deeds to forgive our crimes against His laws.

1. THE 10 COMMANDMENTS REVEAL OUR SINS ➤ Exodus 20:1-20 cf. Romans 7:7 & 1John 3:4

These commandments were given to mankind by God. They sum up God’s moral laws for all humanity. Breaking these laws is called “sin,” and sinning will put us on trial in God’s courtroom upon our death.

- ★ Romans 3:23 – We have all broken at least one of God’s moral laws. Nobody is perfect like God.
- ★ Isaiah 59:1-3 – Our sins are so offensive to God that they cause separation between us and Him.
- ★ James 2:10-11 – If we have only broken one of the laws, we are no less guilty than a person who has broken all of the laws. Breaking even one of these laws causes us to be labeled as a “sinner.”
- ★ Romans 2:12-15 – Ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking it (**God gave us a conscience**).

2. GOD IS AT WAR WITH EVIL & SIN ➤ Romans 7:21-24 cf. Romans 8:6-8 & Ecclesiastes 7:20

When we sin, we’re misrepresenting God and rebelling against His moral authority. Therefore, we have all actively engaged in God’s war against evil and unintentionally aided the enemy! Without a solution to fix this problem, we’re all like criminals on the run from God’s justice system and trying to avoid jail.

- ★ Jeremiah 17:9-10 – Because of sin, our hearts deceive us into believing we aren’t wicked people.
- ★ Mark 10:17-19 – We may refer to somebody as a “good” person, but that’s because we compare them to our own standard of goodness. By God’s standard, no one is “good” except for Himself.
- ★ Romans 7:14-20 – The unfortunate truth is that sin has corrupted our ability to be a good person.

3. OUR SINS HAVE CONDEMNED US ALL ➤ Romans 3:19-20 cf. Romans 2:1-4 & Galatians 3:21-22

We have a problem. For God to do justice, He must judge sins as evil and crimes to be punished. We’re all guilty of breaking one of the moral laws He gave to humanity. Eventually, we’ll stand trial in God’s courtroom. Death is the arresting officer that brings us to our trial. Hell is God’s prison without parole.

- ★ Matthew 10:28 – God alone has the power and authority to judge the eternal destiny of our souls.
- ★ Ezekiel 18:20-24 – The condemnation of our guilty verdict is a death sentence. Everyone will be judged individually and by their actions. God must punish our evil, yet He doesn’t take pleasure in destroying wicked people. Instead, He desires that we stop sinning and [somehow] stay alive.

THE SOLUTION:

JESUS SATISFIED GOD'S JUSTICE.

Jesus received our punishment so that we could be forgiven by God!

Example: *If you are guilty of a crime like speeding but don't have the means to pay for the fine, the judge will sentence you to jail. However, if someone graciously pays the fine on your behalf, then the judge can legally declare you guilty of the crime but also allow you to go free. Justice was still served but your debt was forgiven! Another person graciously paid the penalty for your broken laws because they desired for you to receive mercy.*

Jesus willingly paid our death penalty!

- 1. GOD'S LOVE MET HIS WRATH ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST** ➤ Romans 5:8-10 cf. Acts 4:12
Jesus (the Christ, Son of God, and 2nd Person of the Trinity) came to bring us salvation from the wrath of God's punishment through His death. He was miraculously born as a human, lived a sinless life, and was crucified to atone for the sins of humanity. Representing us, His sacrificial death fulfilled the punishment that God's justice demanded. Having paid our penalty for us, Jesus provided the way for God to extinguish His wrath and forgive us. **Jesus created the pathway for people to become "saved."**
 - ★ Isaiah 53:1-12 – In this prophecy [written about 700 years before Jesus lived] God revealed that Christ would receive the punishment for our sins, thereby providing atonement for His people.
 - ★ 1John 4:7-11 – God's love for us was embodied in Jesus and demonstrated through His sacrifice.
 - ★ 1John 4:17-19 – Knowing what God accomplished through Jesus produces confidence about the future. We should no longer be fearful of God because He lovingly orchestrated our salvation!

- 2. WE HAVE A PEACE TREATY WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS** ➤ Romans 5:1-2 cf. Titus 3:3-7
Jesus provided the *only* way for us to avoid the wrath of God's punishment. Like a peace treaty, we can sign our names to the reconciliation agreement that God has offered to us all by placing our faith in Jesus. However, those choosing to reject God's offer are also choosing to condemn themselves to hell.
 - ★ Colossians 1:13-23 – Through Jesus, we can restore our relationship with God and be forgiven.
 - ★ Ephesians 2:4-9 – In trusting Jesus, we will be saved from hell by the mercy and grace of God.
 - ★ Romans 2:5 – Refusing to trust in Jesus results in receiving God's wrath on the day of judgment.

- 3. THOSE WHO BELIEVE ARE NO LONGER CONDEMNED** ➤ Romans 8:1-3 cf. John 3:16-18
God condemned sin, *not the sinner*. When you choose to sign God's peace treaty by placing your faith in Jesus, you are no longer condemned by God! Instead, thanks to what Jesus did for us on the cross, you will be spared from your punishment. This makes Jesus even more deserving of our love and obedience.
 - ★ Matthew 22:35-40 – Jesus instructs us to love others, love God, and follow His commandments.
 - ★ Romans 10:9-13 – If you declare Jesus as Savior and believe God raised Him, ***you will be saved!***
 - ★ 1John 2:1-2 – We should sin no more, but if we slip, Jesus advocates for our forgiveness to God.

- 4. WE WILL BE RESURRECTED LIKE JESUS WAS** ➤ Acts 2:22-24 cf. 1Corinthians 15:55-58
Jesus is alive! But how?!? Well, since God is not a corrupt judge, Jesus must have a legal reason to be raised from death...and He does! Death is the price for sinfulness, and although He paid the price for our sins, *Jesus did not deserve to die because He was sinless!* Unlike us, Jesus never committed the crime of sinning. Therefore, there is no legal reason for Jesus to remain dead. God's very own justice system now requires that Jesus be resurrected back to life. Now, Jesus is alive and able to give eternal life to anyone who trusts Him as Savior and follows Him as Lord. **That's the good news of the Gospel!**
 - ★ Matthew 25:31-34 – Jesus is returning to earth in glory to reward those who have obeyed Him.
 - ★ 1John 5:11-12 – Eternal life is *only* found within Jesus, the Son of God and Savior of the world.