

# The Gospel or Good News of Jesus

(Verses Referenced On 1<sup>st</sup> Page Printed Out On 2<sup>nd</sup> Page – Find By Letter)

Many years ago, God created this earth (Genesis 1:1)<sup>A</sup>. He is powerful beyond our understanding and He is holy which means perfect in goodness.<sup>B</sup> He created us to love and obey Him (Deuteronomy 10:12)<sup>C</sup> and He gave us freedom to rule the earth (Genesis 1:26)<sup>D</sup>. The first people, Adam and Eve, had a wonderful relationship with God until they did not follow God's rules or sinned which damaged their relationship with God (Genesis 3)<sup>E</sup>.

Whether we like to admit it or think about it, we all do things we know we should not do (Romans 3:23)<sup>F</sup>. When we break a traffic or criminal law, there are punishments. When we do not follow God's rules – called sin, it damages our relationship with God and makes us His enemy (Colossians 1:21)<sup>G</sup>. Because of our sin, the punishment or what we earn is eternal separation from God or death (Romans 6:23)<sup>H</sup>.

Fortunately, because of God's love, He made a way for us to escape this eternal separation or death by sending His Son Jesus to earth to die on a cross in our place to endure the punishment we deserve or earned (1 Peter 3:18)<sup>I</sup>. He then rose from the dead which gives us hope and shows His power over sin and death (2 Corinthians 4:14)<sup>J</sup>. If we truly believe in Jesus and what He did, we are freed or saved from the guilt and punishment through Jesus taking our place (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)<sup>K</sup>. He paid the price we owed so we can be freed from guilt and have a special relationship with God here on earth and for eternity. This is the Gospel or Good News of Jesus or also described as amazing grace.

When we believe that we are sinners, believe that we deserve God's punishment and then turn from our ways to follow Jesus (Acts 3:19)<sup>L</sup>, He saves us from our sin and changes us from enemies to become His children (John 1:12)<sup>M</sup>. We are not saved by being good or by doing good things but by the sacrifice Jesus made for us by dying on the cross in our place - He paid the debt that we owed (Ephesians 2:8)<sup>N</sup>. To receive this wonderful gift, we must repent or turn from our ways and believe in who Jesus is and what He has done. Again, this is Good News and amazing grace.

As children of God, we can have a new life following Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17)<sup>O</sup>. God's Spirit actually comes and lives inside us to help us serve and love God (Romans 8:9)<sup>P</sup>. Our focus changes from doing only what pleases us to following and pleasing Jesus. This new relationship begins and will continue on earth and throughout eternity – forever! Following Jesus may not be easy or comfortable but He will be with us always to help us (John 16:33)<sup>Q</sup>. He will even use difficult times to help us change and grow. Bad things may happen that we may not understand but we can completely trust Him (James 1:2-4)<sup>R</sup>. He will be with us to help us and guide us to grow and become more like Him (Matthew 28:20b)<sup>S</sup>.

You have the opportunity to experience this Good News or amazing grace in your own life. This is a very serious and important decision that God can help you with. You must believe that you are a sinner and that Jesus died to suffer the punishment you deserved. You will then need to repent or turn from your way of living to wholeheartedly follow the ways and commands of Jesus. This will change your life completely here on earth and for eternity. It is a challenging life but also a life of joy and peace and a promise of heaven instead of eternal punishment. Why wouldn't you want a life following Jesus?

For more information or to discuss this further, please contact Marvin Vastbinder, 260-433-3049, [marvin@vastbinder.com](mailto:marvin@vastbinder.com). Marvin (and others) can share with you how Jesus has changed their lives. If you would like begin to explore this yourself, you can read in the Bible about Jesus and this Good News starting with the books Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. There is a lot more to learn and you will surely have questions you will want to discuss. Please contact Marvin or others for assistance. What you do with this Good News will affect the rest of your life here on earth and where you spend eternity after you die.

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**A - Genesis 1:1 (NLT2)** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**B - Psalm 77:13 (NLT2)** <sup>13</sup> O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you?

**C - Deuteronomy 10:12 (NLT2)** <sup>12</sup> “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.

**D - Genesis 1:26 (NLT2)** <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

**E – Genesis 3** – (Please find a Bible and read the complete Chapter 3 of the book of Genesis.)

**F - Romans 3:23 (NLT2)** <sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

**G - Colossians 1:21 (NLT2)** <sup>21</sup> This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.

**H - Romans 6:23 (NLT2)** <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**I - 1 Peter 3:18 (NLT2)** <sup>18</sup> Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

**J - 2 Corinthians 4:14 (NLT2)** <sup>14</sup> We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.

**K - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NLT2)** <sup>3</sup> I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>4</sup> He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

**L - Acts 3:19 (NLT2)** <sup>19</sup> Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

**M - John 1:12 (NLT2)** <sup>12</sup> But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

**N - Ephesians 2:8 (NLT2)** <sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

**O - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT2)** <sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

**P - Romans 8:9 (NLT2)** <sup>9</sup> But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

**Q - John 16:33 (NLT2)** <sup>33</sup> I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

**R - James 1:2-4 (NLT2)** <sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

**S - Matthew 28:20b (NLT2)** <sup>20</sup> And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”