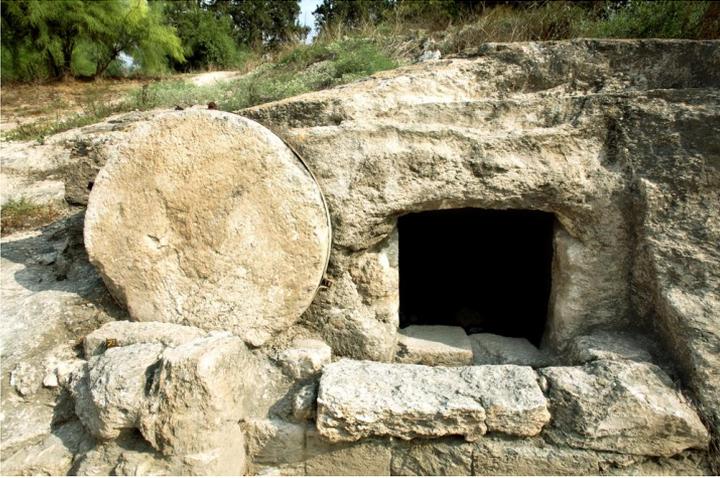


He Is Risen



***Understanding How the Gospel
Message of Jesus Christ
Changes Lives***

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Dedicated to the members of Highland Missionary Baptist Church Gainesville, Florida

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Christ established His church during His earthly ministry and commissioned His church to carry the Gospel message of Christ to a lost and dying world. We believe this is the first and foremost responsibility of Christ's church in order to carry out the great commission given by Christ to His church. *Matthew 28:18 - 20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:45-49; Act 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18 -20;*

Christ has called born-again believers, His children, to minister to the suffering of others, both individually and collectively. *Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39; Luke 10:30 -37; Matthew 25:31-40; Acts 11:27-30; 1 Corinthians 12:26; 1 John 3:16-18; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Proverbs 23:22; Leviticus 19:32; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; 1 Timothy 5:3-5, 8-10, 16; Genesis 2:24; Galatians 6:1-2.*

This free informative booklet was written from a lay responder's perspective. That others might understand the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Creation of Man

In order that we can truly grasp and understand how the gospel message of Jesus Christ changes lives, I feel it is necessary that we first discuss the creation of man.

Have you ever stopped to consider God and His image, His likeness? As we search the Bible, we see how the Old Testament is filled with God's experiences, as He spoke and revealed His sovereign will to His people.

There are many metaphors in Scripture that refer to God as having human characteristics. *His mighty hand, and his stretched out arm* **Deuteronomy 11:2**, *Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him* **Psalm 33:18**, *By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed* **Job 4:9**.

In **Exodus 33:9-11**, the people witnessed a cloudy pillar descend and stand at the door of the Tabernacle, and the LORD communed with Moses face to face, that is figuratively, as one would speak with his friend.

The Bible is very clear how *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.* **John 1:18** and *Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live* **Exodus 33:20**.

There are other metaphors in the Bible that refer to God as having *feathers and wings* **Psalm 91:4**, and as *a consuming fire* **Hebrews 12:29**.

You might be asking yourself, "What does all this have to do with the creation of man?" It is important because mankind was created in God's image, His likeness.

Genesis 1:26-27

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

When God created man, He chose to create him after His own image or likeness. So then, what is God's image? God is essentially Spirit. **John 4:24** says *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

God created man and woman alike, not possessing all of His attributes, but in His holy image or likeness, with a rational mind, intelligence, and possessing an immortal spirit.

Genesis chapter two gives us a little more detail on the creation of man. It tells us how God actually formed man from the dust of the ground, and then breathed into his nostrils the vital breath of life. Man, at that moment, became alive, a living soul and a physical being.

Genesis 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:8 -9

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord, after the creation of man, planted a garden in Eden. This garden would soon become home for Adam and Eve. In this garden there were trees that were for the purpose of food. There was one tree known as the Tree of Life in the midst of the garden. **The fruit eaten of this tree would enable man to live forever.** There was one other tree called Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Genesis 2:15-17

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

God placed Adam in his new home with a **free will**. God had given Adam some responsibility as he was to be the caretaker of God's creation, the garden. God had given Adam the freedom to eat of all the trees of the garden but one. The forbidden tree was called the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God informed Adam that if he were to eat of the fruit from the forbidden tree, **he would die**.

You might be asking the question that others have, why God would have even planted this forbidden tree within the garden. God did not create man to be a puppet on strings; God gave Adam **free will**.

God's desire is that man would unconditionally love Him, that man would be obedient to Him and His Word, totally trusting in His sovereignty.

The fall of Man

Instead of enjoying the fruit from the many trees within the garden that God had so graciously provided for them, instead of choosing to be obedient to God's word, instead of totally trusting in God's sovereignty,....Adam and Eve, both of their own free will, chose to doubt the word of God, they chose to disobey God's word, and they both ate of the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? - And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

So what were the consequences of man's disobedience to the word of God? As we read in Scripture, they did not die a physical death at the moment they ate of the forbidden fruit. But the sin curse upon all mankind, for both men and women, was set into motion.

From this point forward in time, all mankind is now facing the death sentence, both spiritual and physical death.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Because of Adam's disobedience, all mankind is now born with a rebellious spirit, a sin nature within each of us.

Consider this for a moment. Prior to them eating of the forbidden fruit, they had no knowledge of what sin was. They had no ability to determine or know what was good and what was not. The very moment that Adam and Eve disobeyed and ate of the forbidden fruit, Scripture tells us how their eyes were opened, and they immediately became aware of their sin.

Genesis 3:7-10

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Eating the forbidden fruit truly did give Adam and Eve the knowledge of good and evil. They became very much aware of their sin in that they immediately knew they were naked. They chose to sew together fig leaves that would act as an apron or girdle in order to cover themselves.

Their relationship with God had now changed. Instead of fellowshiping with God, they were now hiding in fear, guilt, shame, and embarrassment because of their sins.

We read that when they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden, Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. The LORD God called unto Adam and said, "Where are you?" Adam replied, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Adam and Eve witnessed the shedding of innocent blood, which they had never seen before. They must have been horrified.

Genesis 3:21

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

What is Death?

Death. Most of us don't like to think about death or the consequences of death. There are two kinds of death spoken of within the Scripture. There is what is referred to as spiritual death. There is also what is known as physical death. Death in reality simply means separation.

Most of us tend to think of death as a physical experience. This is when our immortal spirits are separated from our earthly bodies. The body is then buried. It decays and returns to the dust from which it was made.

There is another death spoken of in God's Word which is spiritual death. This death has to do with man's fellowship with God. In spiritual death, man has been alienated or separated from God. When we speak of spiritual death, this is referring to an individual who is dead while they are still alive.

Genesis 3:22 -23

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Before Adam and Eve chose to disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit, they enjoyed perfect fellowship and intimacy with God. Can you imagine what that must have been like? But the consequences of their sin had now brought **spiritual death** upon all mankind as they were separated from the presence of a Holy God. The ultimate payment and penalty for sin is eternal separation from God.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As mentioned earlier, there was another tree in the midst of the garden. This tree was called the Tree of Life. **The fruit eaten of this tree would enable man to live forever.** Access to the Tree of Life was based upon a proper relationship with God, which no longer existed because of man's sin nature.

Because they were expelled from the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve no longer had access to the fruit of this tree. Their access to the Tree of Life was taken away and guarded by Cherubims.

Because mankind now lives under the sin curse of the fall, physical death entered into the world.

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

The fact is that each one of us one day will die. We will take our last breath in these sin-cursed bodies in which we now live. For some, unfortunately, they will have to endure the unpleasant experience of watching their loved ones pass on before them. The Bible tells us our physical life, as we know it, is like a *vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away James 4:14*. It is here today, and then it is gone tomorrow, like a puff of smoke.



What Happens When We Die, a Sinner, Spiritually Separated from God?

As we have already discussed, each one of us one day will die. Most people don't give much thought to what happens when life as they once knew it no longer exists. Most people go through life without even considering or thinking about what will happen to them when they take their last breath. Well the Bible is clear that physical death is not the end of life, it is only the end of life as we know it now. The Bible tells us that when we die a physical death, our physical bodies are buried and return to the dust of the ground, from whence man was created by God. Our immortal spirit, our undying spirit, returns unto God. It returns to the one who gave it, into His sovereign hand.

Ecclesiastes 3:20

All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

You might be thinking to yourself at this point in the reading of this pamphlet, "Okay, the Bible tells us that God has created all mankind with an immortal spirit, that we are all living under the sin curse of the fall of man, and that we are all born with a sin nature. The Bible tells us how death is not the end, only the end of life as we know it. The Bible tells us how our immortal spirit returns into God's sovereign hand. You might even be thinking, "Well, what happens to my immortal spirit that is in God's sovereign hand from this point and time forward, after my physical death?"

The Bible is clear that if man dies a sinner, spiritually separated from God, his immortal spirit will go to a place called Hades, otherwise known as Hell.

There are those who might not believe that man was created with an immortal spirit. They believe that when we die, we are just in a state of unconsciousness. There are those who might not even believe in Hell.

There are those who might believe that Hell is spirit prison, a temporary holding place for our immortal spirits, "purgatory".

This is what Satan would like for us to believe.

Have you ever read Luke 19:19-31 in the Bible? I want to assure you that Hell is real, and the text below is not a parable, as we can see how the Bible describes these events using real names "Lazarus" and "Father Abraham". We can also see how that the rich man was not allowed to pass over to where "Lazarus" and "Father Abraham" were. His destination was now final.

Here we see there was a certain man of wealth, who possessed fine clothing and lived a life of luxury. He died one day, and his fleshly body was buried. But that was only the end of life as he knew it. His immortal spirit went to a place called Hell, also known as "Hades". We read how he was fully conscious with the ability to still exercise all of his mental faculties. He could see, talk, hear, touch, taste, remember, desire (as he wished for himself and his five brothers), and he could experience pain. We read how he was in torment, and pleading for Father Abraham to have mercy on him, and allow Lazarus to dip his finger into water and cool his tongue, for he was in torment.

Luke 16:19-28

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you

there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

I don't know about you, but this does not sound like soul sleep to me. Rather it sounds like life as we know it now, but without a body. Do you realize that the rich man is still there today?

The Bible is also clear how there is coming a time when all of mankind that have died and been buried in the grave will experience a physical, bodily resurrection. This means all those who have died from the beginning of time to the end of time. Those who died spiritually separated from God will experience the resurrection of damnation; their immortal spirits will be reunited with their sin-cursed bodies, and they will face God's final judgment.

John 5:28-29

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

At the sinners' judgment seat, also known as the great white throne judgment, Hades will surrender the wicked. Those who died as sinners, spiritually separated from God, will be tried and be judged according to their works.

They will face the wrath of God as they are judged, sentenced, and condemned into everlasting punishment; being cast into the lake of fire, with a corrupt body subject to the pains and torments of the second death.

Revelation 20:11-15

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

I think the Bible is very clear that there is no such place as purgatory. There is no such place where souls remain until they have paid for their sins. You cannot work your way out of Hell.

As you read this information, you might be saying to yourself, "I am a good person, I am a good husband or wife, I am a good father or mother, I am a hard worker with a steady job, I provide for my family, I treat other people with respect, I reach out and help others in our society that are in need." This type of character is great and much needed in our society, but the truth of it is, God's Word is clear; all men and women alike miss the mark, they don't measure up to God's standards. All are sinners.

Ecclesiastes 7:20

For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Romans 3:10

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Have you ever taken something without permission that did not belong to you, maybe something as simple as an ink pen from work? God calls this sin. **Exodus 20:15** says *Thou shalt not steal.*

Have you ever had bad feelings or felt any hostility or hatred toward another? Have you ever experienced strife or conflict between yourself and someone else? Have you had feelings of jealousy or envy toward another? Have you ever experienced violent outbursts of rage and anger toward another? Have you ever thought about harming another individual? Have you ever thought about being unfaithful to your spouse? Have you been involved in any sexual relation outside of marriage? The Bible calls this type of character *the works of the flesh*; **Galatians 5:19-26**. This type of character is sin in the eyes of God. **This type of character is because of mankind's sin nature, the result of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. All are sinners!**

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

The Gospel Message of Jesus Christ



All that you have read up to this point may have you feeling a little depressed. But let me tell you that you don't have to experience death, being eternally separated from God. You don't have to experience a sinner's death in torment and pain, condemned into everlasting punishment. There is a hope for all mankind, and that hope is in Jesus Christ.

There was a time in my life when I did not understand this hope that is spoken of in Christ. If I would have experienced a physical death, I would have spent an eternity in a devil's hell.

I am so thankful for my grandfather, Hunter Thompson. I used to enjoy spending my summer vacations with my grandparents. Every night about 9 o'clock, my grandfather would turn the TV off for the night, open up his Bible and read to us from the Scripture. Then we would all go to bed. There was Bro. Bob Gallups who was the pastor of Highland Missionary Baptist Church for many years, and Bro. Clyde Hughey, and many others who played a significant part in my coming to the knowledge of the saving grace of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am so thankful for those who God has put in my path and shared the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ with me.

I would as well like to now introduce you to Jesus Christ, “the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.”

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

The first thing I would like to share with you is that God loves you, and sent forth His only begotten Son, made of a woman, to suffer a horrific death on the cross at Calvary for the sins of all mankind. I believe that when God stated, “*whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*”, He includes all mankind and excludes none.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Bible tells us that Jesus, *the Son of God*, was born of a virgin, conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost ***Luke 1:31-35***, and that He would save His people from their sins ***Matthew 1:21***.

The Bible tells us how He died for you and me, who are sinners, and that He alone bore the sins of all mankind. It is by His stripes and His suffering that the penalty for sin was paid.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

The blood which Jesus shed on the cross at Calvary is the propitiation, the atonement, for the sins of all mankind. The penalty for sin has been paid in full. Jesus satisfied all demands of justice and paid the full price of sin by His death on the cross.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Resurrection

After Jesus Christ died on the cross at Calvary, they took His body and wrapped Him in linen and laid His body in a sepulchre. They buried Him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rocks, and then they rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre and departed.

On the third day, Jesus Christ experienced a physical, bodily resurrection. He rose from the dead. Jesus is alive! He lives! Praise God!

He Is Risen



The Bible tells us how Jesus was seen by His disciples and later the Apostle Paul; that He was seen by as many as five hundred others at one time. All these were eye witnesses of His physical, bodily resurrection from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

This is why we, as born-again believers in Christ, can have hope in Christ, not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus has done on the behalf of all mankind.

There is nothing we could have done in the past, there is nothing we can do in the present or in the future, that will ever bring about our salvation.

I believe salvation is totally by God's grace through faith, being void of any and all human works, the basis of which is redemption through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

I believe salvation becomes effectual when the sinner, upon hearing the Word of God and through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, repents of his sins and believes the gospel, at which time he stands *justified* before God, Who grants him a full pardon for sin and also grants the promise of eternal life.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Psalm 34:18

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

There was a time in my life when the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit burdened my heart with the knowledge of how I was a sinner headed for a devil's hell.

With a broken spirit, in my own words, I confessed to God that I was a sinner, and that I knew if I were to die at that moment, I would have spent an eternity in a devil's hell.

I confessed to God the fact that I understood and believed within my heart that Jesus alone had died on the cross at Calvary for my sins, and that He rose from the dead on the third day.

I asked the Lord Jesus to save me, a sinner, from a devil's hell. I am trusting in Him alone to save me, a sinner, from a devil's hell.

Romans 10:9-13

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

I witnessed one day a young man stand up and make the statement of how he did not believe that a God who claimed to love the world as He does would send anyone to a devil's hell.

He was right. God does not send His creation to Hell. But God, Who is Holy and Righteous, will never be unfaithful to Himself or His Word.

2 Timothy 2:13

If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

As discussed earlier in this pamphlet, **God created man with a free will.**

God's desire is that man would unconditionally love Him; that man would be obedient to Him and His word, totally trusting in His sovereignty.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

John 12:32

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Jesus Himself declared how He would draw all men unto Him. It is by one's choice of rejecting Jesus as his personal Saviour that one goes to hell.

John 3:18

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Maybe the Lord is burdening your heart with the fact that you are a sinner headed to a devil's hell as you read this pamphlet. I want you to know you have hope, and that hope is in Jesus Christ.

I want to encourage you to stop, lay down this pamphlet, and take a moment to commune with Jesus. In your own words, share with Him the burden that is on your heart. You don't have to say a fancy prayer. Talk to Him from your heart.

Salvation is available for all mankind.



I want to encourage you to seek out an active, Bible-teaching New Testament church.

I believe Jesus Christ established His church during His earthly ministry, and that it was empowered by the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost; that it is always a local, visible, independent congregation of scripturally baptized believers who are covenanted together to faithfully carry out the Lord's commands.

I believe God intends for every born-again believer to be baptized by, join with, and faithfully assemble with one of His churches *Acts 2:41-47*.

A Child of the King

You might be asking the question, “Well what happens when one receives Jesus as his Saviour?” Well, unfortunately, we still possess our sin nature. But the good news is that our identity has changed.

We have been redeemed, washed by the blood of Jesus *Revelation 1:5*. Our name has been *written in Heaven*, in the Lamb's Book of Life *Luke 10:20*.

We are now children of God, we now have an inheritance in the Kingdom of God, and we are *joint-heirs with Christ* **Romans 8:16-17**. Nothing can or will ever *separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord* **Romans 8:39**.

We are a new creation in Christ Jesus **2 Corinthians 5:17**. We have a new spirit nature, as the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, dwells within us **1 Corinthians 3:16**. This enables us to experience all of God's graces, as the Spirit of God produces within us our new regenerate nature **Galatians 5:22-23**; as the Spirit of God guides us into the truths of God's Word **John 14:26**; as the Spirit of God uplifts, strengthens, and encourages us in the midst of all our trials in life **John 14:16**.

We are *sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption* **Ephesians 4:30**, we are eternally secured in the hands of Jesus, and no one can ever pluck us out of His hands **John 10:28-30**.

Our lives have been drastically changed by the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. We now have a new **hope** for the here and now, as well as for our future in all **eternity**.

What Happens When We Die, A Child of the King?

You might be asking yourself the question, "What happens when I die, now that I have received Jesus as my Saviour?"

The Bible tells us that when we die a physical death, our physical bodies are buried and return to the dust of the ground, from whence man was created by God. Our immortal spirit, our undying spirit, returns unto God. Our spirit returns to the one Who gave it, into His sovereign hand. But, the destiny of our immortal spirit has changed; we have a new address in heaven.

The Bible tells us that we will go to be with Jesus in heaven. That is, our immortal spirit goes to be with Jesus in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:8

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

As we had previously said, the Bible is clear that there is coming a time when all that have died and been buried in the grave will experience a physical, bodily resurrection; all those who have died from the beginning of time to the end of time.

Those who have received Jesus as their personal Saviour will experience the resurrection of life.

John 5:28-29

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

For those of us who have trusted in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, our immortal spirit and our bodies will be reunited one day, but not with our old sin-cursed bodies. Instead, we will have brand new bodies.

Our bodies will be refashioned by our Lord. We will have a Christ-like body, a glorified body, an incorruptible body, a body of flesh and bone. **Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:43, 53; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:50.**

Can you imagine? The Gospel message of Jesus Christ has not just changed my life for the here and now, but for eternity.

When I die, in a twinkling of an eye, my immortal spirit will enter into the presence of my Lord, and in God's timing, He is going to give me a new body, free from the sin curse of the fall of man. Praise God!

But there is more. My hope in Christ provides me with an even greater reward in the future.

Revelation 21:1-4

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

As children of God, we have a hope that some in this world do not have.

You see, there is coming a time when this universe we live in will ultimately be transformed by God Himself. He will create a new heaven and new earth, a place that is free from the curse of the fall. This will be a place where we will no longer remember or even think about the things of the past. There will be no more death, no more sorrow, and no more crying, no more pain. Can you imagine? Amen Praise the LORD!



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Sunday School 9:45 AM

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Baptist Training Course 5:00 PM

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday Midweek Service 7:00 PM