understanding THE GOSPEL

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what is this?

This small booklet you are about to read contains a priceless message. It's called the Gospel -- which literally means "good news". It tells the fact that the God of creation has acted on behalf of humanity- that God cares about our crisis and pain and offers us help, both now and in eternity.

Once you grasp the truth of these words, they will alter your life and destiny.

Our world continues to languish due to the impact of human evil and injustice. Hurricanes and storms may damage our property and at times threaten our lives, but human evil destroys our souls.

The Gospel reveals the ultimate cure for this problem- a transformed heart.

That's why it is your ultimate human right to hear this. Whether you believe it or not - you have a right to know.



Anyone who understands the staggering implications of the Gospel will be overwhelmed with gratitude. There are a million reasons to be thankful to God for all He has done.

Perhaps the best way to show that gratitude is to tell others about that moment in history 2000 years ago when Jesus Christ offered the supreme sacrifice for humanity.



THE GOSPEL

IS THE GOOD NEWS THAT GOD

BECAME MAN IN JESUS CHRIST. HE

LIVED THE LIFE WE SHOULD HAVE

LIVED AND DIED THE DEATH WE

SHOULD HAVE DIED...IN OUR PLACE.

THREE DAYS LATER HE ROSE
FROM THE DEAD, PROVING HE IS
THE SON OF GOD AND OFFERING
THE GIFT OF SALVATION AND
FORGIVENESS OF SINS TO
EVERYONE WHO REPENTS AND
BELIEVES IN HIM.

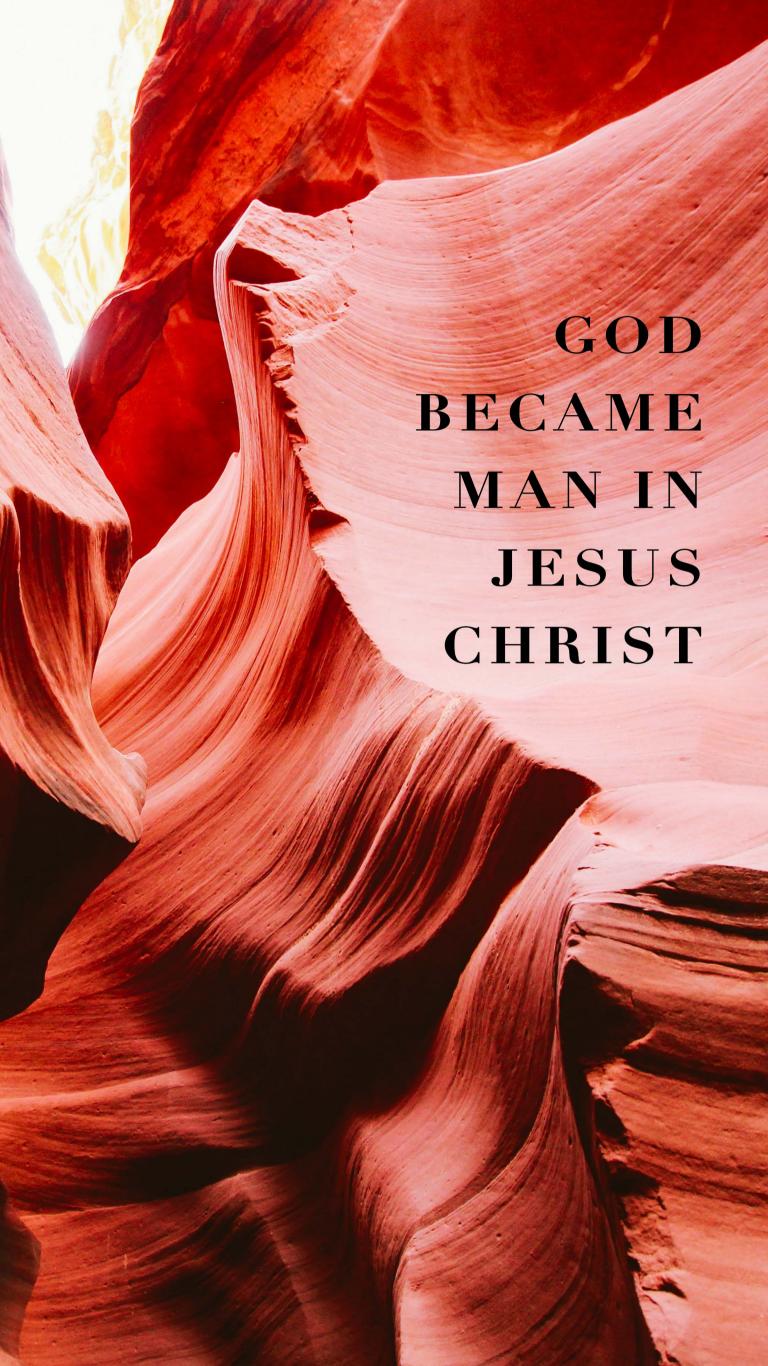




The Gospel tells the true story of the most consequential and monumental event in human history. Once you understand what the Creator has done on behalf of the healing of the human soul, this message is far and away the best news anyone could hear.

We are bombarded with a 24-hour cycle of "breaking news", time and time again we assume the events being reported are a matter of grave importance. While indeed many events are newsworthy and deserve our attention, nothing compares to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

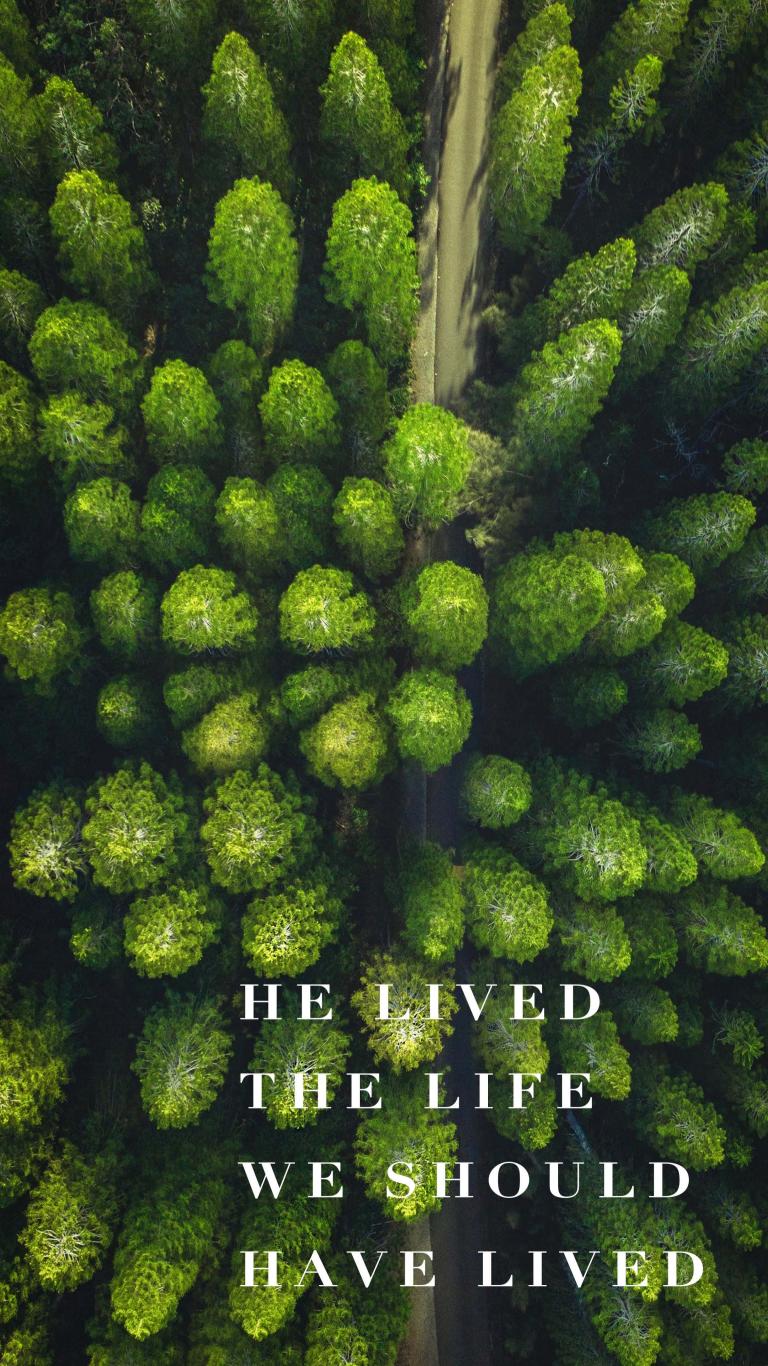
The Gospel tell us about an event that affects us in this life and in eternity. It gives us the real hope that there is life after death. It also gives us real hope that our lives can be different now. This message is so vital that it must be grasped clearly. That is why it is vital that you think about each statement that is given and seek to comprehend its value and impact on your life.



History tells us that Jesus existed. With that being said He was not just a man. He spoke with divine authority and performed signs and wonders that pointed to His Divinity. Some religions say that He was just a prophet. When prophets spoke, they would preface their words with the phrase "Thus says the Lord." When Jesus spoke, He didn't say this. He said, "Truly I say to you." He said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

Jesus was revealing that He was indeed Emmanuel (God with us). He calmed storms with His words, walked on water, raised the dead and healed the sick. He demonstrated that God had taken human form in Jesus Christ.

This means that God knows firsthand about human suffering and pain. He didn't remain at a distance but humbled Himself to live among us. Jesus gives us the confidence that God is not a mysterious force or angry capricious deity. He helped the helpless, reached out to the lonely and befriended the outcast. This means that He truly cares about you and me.

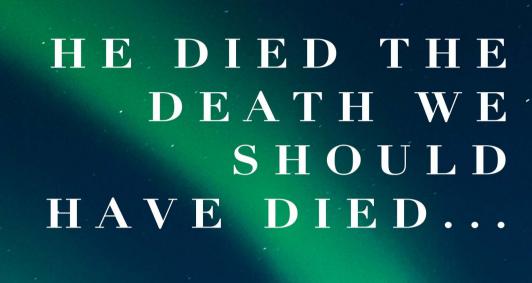


"Nobody's perfect."

This is one of the most frequently used expressions in virtually every culture. The fact that humanity is morally flawed is beyond debate. Even the best person has violated God's laws at some point in their life. The Scripture says "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

Jesus Christ is the one this didn't apply to. He lived perfectly during His life on earth. He violated many religious traditions of His day, but never broke God's moral law. His sinless life was as important as His death on the cross. It was written "For God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God."

To be righteousness means to be in right standing with God. This means that we are able to enter God's presence without fear, shame or condemnation. He lived the perfect life that we should have lived. Through faith we receive the merits Christ earned through this perfect obedience.



IN OUR PLACE



Everyone cries out for justice when evil impacts their lives. If there is no consequence for breaking a law, then the law ceases to be a law. Since we have all broken God's law, we all deserve judgment. However, Christ bore our punishment by taking our place through His death on a Roman cross. The harshness and torture of Christ's death was the payment for all injustice and the provision to set us free from the slavery of sin.

There is no comparison to Christ's death to any other form of execution in human history. This was done in this manner to remove any doubt that His death was real. The events that preceded His death would have killed most people. He was brutally scourged by the Roman soldiers with thirty-nine lashes using a whip that tore the skin off His body. He then walked over 600 yards, much of the way carrying a 100 pound wooden beam to the place of His death.

The Bible says "for the joy set before Him, He endured the cross." What was that joy? It was the knowledge that His suffering would free humanity- that we would be rescued from darkness and despair. He did something for us that we could not have done for ourselves.

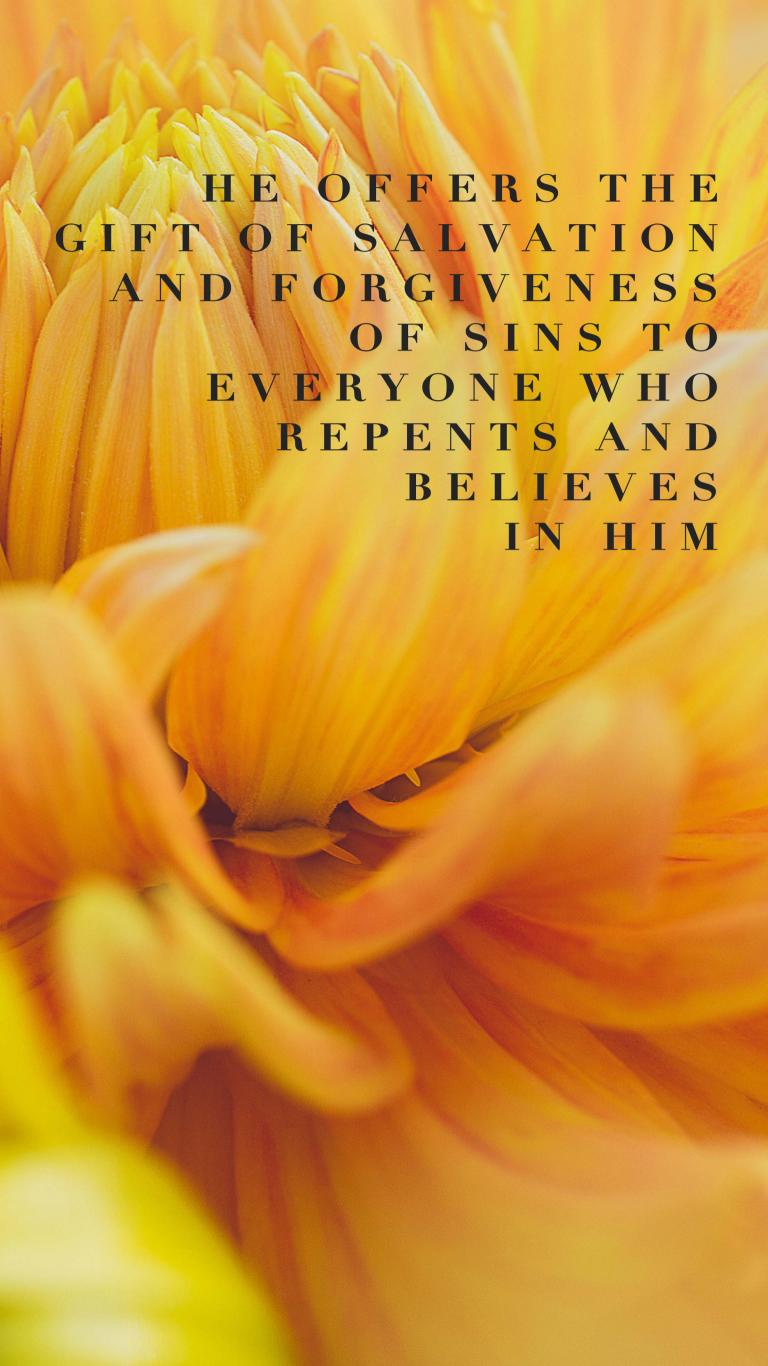
THREE DAYS
LATER HE ROSE
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After such a decisive death on the cross, it's no wonder that the followers of Christ would be astonished to hear that He was alive. Many of them refused to believe the report from a group of women that claimed His tomb was empty. And then He appeared to them all. The Scripture says "they worshipped Him." No human should ever be worshipped. This demonstrated their belief that He was the Son of God. His resurrection from the dead verified that identity and proved that His authority was real.

Christianity is the only religion that bases the entire weight of its truth on one historical event—the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. "If Christ has not been raised your faith is futile- you are still in your sins." Regardless of the claims of skeptics, the historical record points to the reality of this event. Prophets foretold His death and resurrection and its power is still experienced today in those that believe.

Having faith in the resurrection of Christ is not only reasonable, it is necessary for salvation. To ignore God's remedy and cure for our sins and to seek another solution is a grave mistake. If there had been any other way for mankind to be released from the judgment for our sins, then Christ's death was in vain.



His death and resurrection provided the magnificent gifts of salvation and the forgiveness of sins. We not only receive forgiveness of sins, but are also delivered from the power of injustice and its consequences—both in this life and the next. To repent means to turn from injustice and from trusting in our own efforts to earn our own salvation. In turning from evil, we turn to Christ and believe.

The promise is staggering: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV). Jesus would describe this as being "born again." This doesn't mean we aren't able to sin or act unjustly. It does mean Christ has taken His rightful place in our hearts and made us new people. We now have a new power at work from within us that is empowering us to live holy lives.

If we believe the good news and are transformed we are now His disciples. In the Bible, the early followers of Jesus were called "Christians." This meant they were attempting to live out Christ's teaching and obey His commandments. If you believe, then you are now a Christian too. It's your turn to tell this message to others.

FOR GOD SO LOVED
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now what ...?

Here is a prayer that will help you make this step of faith to become His follower. The Bible says "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Father in Heaven, thank You for Your love for me. I am staggered by the reality of what You did for me through Jesus death on the Cross. I'm truly sorry for my sins and deeply acknowledge that I don't deserve Your mercy. I put the weight of my trust in Christ alone for my salvation. I confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. You are the Lord of creation and now my Lord and Savior. I believe that You have been raised from the dead. Your resurrection means that my faith is anchored in truth. I want to live my life now based in the truth and the light of Your Word. In Jesus' name.

We want to help you follow Christ and discover your God—given destiny. There are many encouraging books and materials available that will help you grow in your new faith. There are so many people with whom you can build relationships who are following Christ as you are.

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