

# **The Gospel: God's Escape Plan**

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# **Table of Contents**

Introduction

- 1) God
- 2) Man
- 3) Faith
- 4) Jesus
- 5) Eternity

Conclusion

## **Introduction**

### **The Gospel**

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. If you allow God to, He just might change your life.

Time is something we all have, and we each get twenty-four hours of it a day. We keep track of it on our calendars and count our birthdays, anniversaries, and other milestones. The only difference in our time is the length we each get. Some people make it to old age, while others, sadly, die young or in middle age.

But why do we keep track of time? What are we counting down to? The answer is the Day of Judgment. On that day, all of humankind will have to give an account to God for the way they lived. Some will go to heaven, while others will go to hell and experience God's wrath.

Some of us might say we don't believe in God or that Jesus was just a good man and not the Son of God. If that were true, why are so many people trying to prove God doesn't exist, that Jesus is not His Son, or that the Bible is irrelevant today? Deep down, we all know that the Day of Judgment is coming for us all.

So, is there a way to escape God's wrath and go to heaven? The answer is yes. It is found in the Gospel—God's escape plan from His wrath. Let's

explore a few scriptures to define the Gospel message. The Gospel contains five key elements: God, Jesus, Mankind, Faith, and Heaven. John 3:16 encapsulates all five parts:

*"For **God** so loved the **world** (mankind), that He gave His only **begotten Son** (Christ Jesus), that whoever **believes in Him** (faith) should not perish but have **everlasting life**." (Heaven or hell)*

## 1) God

How do you explain God? He is one God who reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and omnipresent. He confounds the wisest minds, yet His love and plan for salvation are simple enough for a child to understand. It will take an eternity to fully comprehend all that He is.

God said that one of His names is Jealous (Exodus 34:14). *God told Israel that He is a Jealous God (Exodus 20:5, 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24, 5:9, 6:15; Joshua 24:19; Nahum 1:2).* God's jealousy is not like human jealousy, which is often selfish and destructive. Instead, God's jealousy is holy and motivated by His love. He will not tolerate unfaithfulness from His people, who turn away from His word and righteous ways toward idolatry (the worship of idols or self). God's jealousy proves His love for us, as He desires nothing to come between us and Him.

In the Old Testament, the children of Israel often chased after false gods and comforts. God called them adulterous for seeking solace from wooden or stone idols that could neither see nor speak. Similarly, when we try to earn God's gift of eternal life and love through our own efforts and turn to false comforts, we commit spiritual adultery. But when we rest and accept God's gift of grace, we remain faithful.

Consider your favorite sports team or competition. Everyone plays to be the champion, and the winners never share their prize with the losers. Likewise, God will not share us with Satan, sin, and the world. Jesus overcame them, and the victor does not share the spoils with the defeated. God knows how destructive it can be if we allow other things or people to take precedence in our lives. He wants the best for us, just as we want the best for our children. We need to trust in Him.

Romans 5:8 says, *"But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* God showed His love for us before we were born, spoke our first word, or took our first step. He loves us for who we are, not for what we do. True love is never based on performance. Through His Son Jesus Christ, God has made the only way for us to experience His love, forgiveness, and grace. All we have to do is believe!

Think about that; let it sink into your being. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit devised a plan to save us, their enemies from God's wrath. This plan was conceived out of His love for us because God is love. He created the lake of fire for Satan, demons, the Beast, the Antichrist, Hades, and Death—not for people. God, like a father, grieves when His children disobey and hopes they will listen and obey. The last thing He wants to do is punish them. Ultimately, the decision is up to us: will we obey and face a loving Father, or continually disobey and face Him as a

judge? God wants to save us from the Day of His Wrath.

Whether you believe it or not, the day of God's wrath is coming. John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, and John have all warned us about it. Through His Son Jesus, God has made a way to escape His wrath because He loves us. He desires us to be His sons and daughters and to know Him as a Father, not as a judge.

For some, the word "father" may bring up painful memories of abuse, distance, perfectionism, judgment, or abandonment. But know that God the Father is love. He wants to heal your poor image of what a father is so that you may know the one true Father and His love for you because God is jealous for you.

**What questions do you have about God?**

## **2) Man**

If I were to ask you, "Do you think you will go to heaven when you die?" What would your answer be? Perhaps something like, "I'm a good person, I've never hurt anyone, and I've never killed anyone. Or maybe, "I'm not as bad as others; I do good things and give to charity." But what if I told you that according to the Bible, none of these answers are correct?

Before we can become a son or daughter of God and enter His Heaven, we need to recognize that we are sinners and have broken His Holy Law. We need to understand that there is nothing we can do on our own to save ourselves. The law demands justice, not grace or mercy. Since we have all been rebellious against God, justice has sentenced us to death. There are no appeals, loopholes, or last-minute phone calls that will save us from our death sentence.

This truth is harder to accept than one might think—that we are rebellious towards God and under a death sentence. We are all born into sin and think it is normal to be rebellious and do whatever makes us happy. But it is crucial to see that we are sinners, prideful and selfish, and there is nothing we can do to save ourselves.

We will all stand before God and give an account of our lives. He will be either a Father or a Judge to us, depending on our decision to believe we are sinners

in need of a Savior or to trust in our good works. When we stand before God, we will stand alone. We cannot compare ourselves to others. It will be just God and us.

It is extremely important to see ourselves as sinners. We need to be honest with ourselves and answer difficult questions. God cares not only about how we live but also about how we will die. After death, we will be judged, and what or who we put our trust in will determine our future—heaven or hell.

Now, a quick history lesson: God made a covenant (a contract) with the people of Israel. If they obeyed His commandments, He would bless them. They would be His people, and He would be their God. He gave them the Ten Commandments, and they failed. No matter how hard they tried, they could not obey all of the Ten Commandments. How about you? Could you obey all Ten Commandments day after day?

### **The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17)**

1. *You shall have no other gods before Me.*  
(verse 3)
2. *You shall not make idols.* (verses 4-6)
3. *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.* (verse 7)
4. *Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.*  
(verses 8-11)
5. *Honor your father and your mother.* (verse 12)
6. *You shall not murder.* (verse 13)

7. *You shall not commit adultery. (verse 14)*
8. *You shall not steal. (verse 15)*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (verse 16)*
10. *You shall not covet. (verse 17)*

Now let me ask you, when you're going through a hard time, do you turn to God or something else like alcohol, drugs, sex, entertainment, or yourself to get you out of your hard time? If your answer is not God but something else, then that is your idol.

Have you ever taken the Lord God's name in vain? This means making a false promise by it or using it as a swear word.

Whatever day you consider to be the Sabbath, have you ever had to work on that day and not rested?

Have you ever disrespected your parents?

Have you ever been so mad at someone that you desired they were dead?

Treated someone like they're dead to you? Had contempt for someone, or called them a fool? Then you're in danger of hellfire because, in your heart, you've committed murder.

Have you ever looked at a person with lust? Taken pleasure in pornography, or liked a movie with nudity? Then you have committed adultery in your heart.

Have you ever stolen anything?

Have you ever lied about someone or to get yourself out of trouble?

Have you ever coveted someone's possessions? For example, their spouse, home, vehicle, money, or children, or anything else they may own.

Remember, we only need to break one of these commandments to be a sinner and unrighteous. Not only do we need to break one commandment, but we only need to do it one time to be a lawbreaker! There is no three-strike rule—it's one and done. From the time we reach the age of accountability until we die, there are no second chances. If we are honest with ourselves, then we must agree with God and His Bible. It says in Romans 3:23, ***"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."***

Sin is defined as missing the mark. None of us have kept God's Law. Therefore, we are all sinners. Every one of us has missed the mark. Romans 6:23 says, ***"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life."*** We all deserve death and to be sent to hell. Romans 3:10 says, ***"There is none righteous, no, not one."*** Romans 3:20 says, ***"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight."*** That means our good works or deeds, money, or looks are not going to get us into God's heaven. Galatians 3:10 says, ***"For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is***

**written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.'**" So, if you are trusting in the Law to save you, you are cursed to fail.

So why did God give the Law if He knew no one could keep it? The law simply shows us how sinful we are. But because of us comparing ourselves to others or unbelief, we think that we are not that bad. The Law is wrong, there has to be an exception to the law and I am it. But we will never be saved or made righteous until we believe what God says. The law was given so that all people can see how sinful we are!

It's like a parent watching their small child trying to tie their shoes or zip up their coat. They're too small to do the task. When the parent offers to help and moves toward the child to help, the child moves back and, stubbornly, says, "I can do it." The parent will sit back and, with a broken heart, watch the child become more and more frustrated until finally, the child learns they cannot do it, and they need help.

God wanted them to learn through their experience that they could not keep the Law. The Law could not clean their conscience of sin. He wants us to know the same. No matter how much willpower someone has, they just cannot keep the Law. We are all destined to fail. Yes, going to church or giving to charity may make us feel good for a while, but it does not clean our conscience.

Now that we understand that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves and that we are still under the **wrath of God** (Romans 3:20, ***"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men"***), what can we do to escape God's wrath?

**What questions do you have about mankind or sin?**

### 3) Faith

So, what do you do when you realize that your performance and good deeds will not get you into heaven and that you're still under God's wrath? Do you try to avoid it and hope it will go away by running away from God? Or do you face the facts, agree with God, and repent? Repentance means turning away from your sins and toward God.

Romans 10:4, 9-11, 13 says, *"For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.* (Jesus has fulfilled the Law perfectly in our place for those who have put their faith in Him). *That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; For with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth, he confesses resulting in salvation.* Scripture says, *'Whoever Believes In Him Will Not Be Disappointed'* for *'Whomever will Call Upon The Name Of The Lord Will Be Saved.'*" As we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and receive His forgiveness, we are saved. God the Father removes His wrath from us, puts His **grace** upon us, and we become God's children, sealed with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Adoption.

The Holy Spirit is our seal of proof, bearing witness that we are God's children. The greatest New Testament revelation is that we are God's children. John 1:12-13 states, *"But as many as received Him,*

*to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." It is God's desire that you will repent and become His child.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*

*John 6:29 says, "Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.'"*

*Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."*

*Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."*

*Romans 1:16 says, "The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."*

*Romans 1:17 says, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."*

*Mankind says, "Show me, and then I'll believe." That is not faith. When you stand before God, and He says, "You're a Sinner," you will wish that you had*

agreed. You will also wish you had repented and been saved.

So, what is faith? Simply put, it is placing all of our hope in Jesus. Not in "the force," yin-yang, some unknown mystic being or thing, karma, or more importantly, our good works. It's putting all your hope in a person—a person you can get to know and have a relationship with. That person is Jesus! As you read the next section, you will discover what Jesus did for the whole world and specifically for you. Why, you may ask? It is because Jesus loves His Father, and He loves us.

God the Father and Jesus have allowed us to escape God's wrath by putting our faith in Jesus. Do you want to see the power of God in your life, feel His joy and presence? Then put your faith in Jesus. Trust in His sacrifice and not your good works. For that is what faith is—trusting Jesus' finished work on the cross and not our good works.

Jesus faithfully fulfilled the whole Law for us—the Ten Commandments, the Ceremonial Laws, the Civil Laws—all of them, one hundred percent perfect for us.

Now, I know some of you might say, "I don't have faith." The truth is that we all have a measure of faith. For example, there are two popular theories on how mankind came to be on planet Earth: the theory of Creation and the theory of Evolution. For

something to go from being a theory to a fact, science must be able to reproduce it. Therefore, for science to prove creation versus evolution, they must find a place in the universe where nothing at all exists. Since science cannot find such a place, they will never be able to prove either theory. Therefore, to believe in either creation or evolution, you have to believe it by faith. Since God's kingdom is based on faith, He'll never allow either theory to be proven as a fact. So ask God to give you the faith to believe in Him and believe He loves you.

Know that your faith in Jesus touches Father God's heart, because our righteousness is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law."

You might be saying, "Why should I put my faith in Jesus? What did He really do for me?"

**What questions do you have about faith?**

#### 4) Jesus Christ

In the Old Testament, God made a covenant with the nation of Israel: if they obeyed His commandments, they would be blessed. However, like us, they failed to keep the Law or the Ten Commandments. So, God the Father established a new covenant, the New Testament, with His Son Jesus. Jesus fulfilled this new covenant perfectly, down to the smallest detail. As Jesus said in Matthew 5:17-18, *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."* When Jesus hung on the cross, He declared, *"It is finished!"* (John 19:30), meaning He had fulfilled the new covenant He made with the Father by fulfilling the Law for us. God the Father allows those who believe in Jesus to reap the benefits of this new covenant. Why, you may ask?

Because we are the object of God's love, He sent Jesus Christ on a mission to earth, born of a virgin, not only to reveal the Father to us but also to seek and save the lost. As Jesus said in Luke 5:32, *"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."* Matthew 1:21 reads, *"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."* When mankind fell, God did not lose slaves but sons and daughters. You are one of God's lost children.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7 states, *"that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. And that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, He appeared to Paul."*

It is through Jesus' sacrifice that we can experience God's forgiveness. Hebrews 4:15 says, *"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."* Jesus knows what it is like to be tempted, and He doesn't condemn us or make excuses but sympathizes with our weaknesses. Therefore, *"When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason, He is the Mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the*

transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance. And according to the Law, one may almost say all things are cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And in as much as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. By this will (God's will), we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. But He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, Sat Down At The Right Hand Of God, waiting from that time onward Until His Enemies Be Made A Footstool For His Feet. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This Is The Covenant That I Will Make With Them After Those Days, Says The Lord: I Will Put My Laws Upon Their Heart, And In Their Mind I Will Write Them." He then says, "And Their Sins And Their Lawless Deeds I Will Remember No More." Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer an offering for sin. Since, therefore, brethren, we have the confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience,

*and our bodies washed with pure water."* (Hebrews 9:11-15, 22, 26-28; 10:10, 12-19, 22).

For those who fear that God does not desire to forgive them or believe the enemy's lie that their sins are too great for God to forgive us, Jesus proved His willingness to forgive with the paralytic. "And behold, they were bringing to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed; and Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, 'Take courage, My son, your sins are forgiven you.' *And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, 'This fellow blasphemes.'* And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, 'Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? **But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**'—then He said to the paralytic, 'Rise, take up your bed, and go home.' And he arose and went home." (Matthew 9:2-7). Just like the paralytic, Jesus' forgiveness heals us so we can have a truly healthy relationship with God the Father based on faith and love, not on performance.

As we experience God's forgiveness, we can rest in His finished work and not fear that we have out-sinned God's grace. We can also know, "*For He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins*" (Colossians 1:13-14). "*And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having*

*forgiven us all our transgressions" (Colossians 2:13). We are alive in Christ, and "In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7). It is because of God's grace and not because of our works that we are forgiven and alive in Christ.*

When Jesus finished His work on the cross, the Father accepted His offering—a complete and perfect offering. Jesus then sat down next to His Father, who is now our Father. We know this because when Jesus rose from the dead and Mary grabbed Him, He said, *"Mary, do not cling to me, but go to my brothers and tell them I go to my God and your God, my Father, and your Father"* (John 20:17). We get to have a relationship with God the Father. It was His idea and plan for you and me to be His children and escape His wrath. *"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons or daughters. And because you are sons or daughters, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"* (Galatians 4:4-6).

So when God looks at us, He sees us as His children, loved and accepted. Like Paul, we can say, *"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live*

*in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).*

When we understand Jesus' finished work on the cross for us and that He was our sacrifice reconciling us with the Father, we will no longer work to earn God's love. Instead, we will rest in His love.

Through Jesus, we are **Acceptable** to God our Father.

Through Jesus, we receive **Justification**,

knowing that we will never pay for our sins. Paul wrote through the Holy Spirit in Romans 8:33-34, *"Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns?"* The correct answer is no one.

Through Jesus, we are now **Sanctified**; the power of sin is broken in our lives.

Jesus has **Redeemed** us from Satan and his kingdom of darkness, the power of sin, and this world.

Jesus has **Saved** us from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:9-11 says, *"Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only*

*this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation."*

Through the **Blood of Jesus**, we have a clear conscience to serve God and have a relationship with Him. We have **Peace** with God. We can know that God is for us and not against us.

Jesus sympathizes with us and understands our weaknesses. He is also our

**Intercessor (praying for us who believe in Him), King, Lord, co-heir (He allows us to share in His rewards of defeating Satan), and Friend.** Why, you may ask? Because when Jesus hung on the cross, He became sin. It was the first time that Jesus called His Father "God." He cried out to His Father, but the Father did not answer. Jesus was forsaken. By calling His Father "God," He was hoping to get His attention. When He couldn't, He said, "It is finished," bowed His head, and died. Jesus was forsaken by His Father and died of a broken heart. "For He (God) made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus is our **Righteousness**.

Jesus is our **Savior**.

Jesus is our **Holiness**.

Jesus is the only **Way** to God the Father.

Jesus is **Truth**. Truth is not some abstract thought; truth is a person, and His name is Jesus.

Jesus is **Life**. Jesus died our death so that we could live His life.

And if all that Jesus has done for us wasn't enough. He sent us the gift of the Holy Spirit—our conviction of sins, comforter, intercessor (also praying for us), guide, and teacher into all truth of what Jesus has done for us and who we are by faith in Him.

Jesus has given us His **Bible**, and He has given us His **Church** so that we may get to know Him better, be encouraged, and also be an encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ, so that we may grow in our faith. So get a Bible that you will enjoy reading and build a relationship with God as you study it to know your Savior. The disciple John wrote in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Jesus is the Word of God, and if we want to know Jesus, we need to know His Word—the Bible. So when you get a Bible, make sure it is one that you can read and understand.

One day we will go through **Glorification**—when we see Jesus and the presence of sin will be gone. Hallelujah!

Finally, Jesus died for us so we can know that we are the object of God's love! Think about it for a moment. Say it out loud, "I am the object of God's love." How do you feel? Doesn't it make you feel good to know that you are loved? Do you find yourself full of joy, peace, and acceptance, knowing that God loves you and that you are the object of His love? To know He cares for you and not only how you live but how you will die?

Please know that Jesus is a lot more than what is written here. It will take all of eternity to get to know all that He is and what He did for us. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, is why we get our self-worth and identity in the blood of Jesus and not in our good works.

**What questions do you have about Jesus?**

## **5) Eternity**

### **Heaven**

What do you do when someone offers you a gift? You accept it, right? You don't try to pay for it or earn it; you simply accept it. Imagine a day after your child or children have grown up and moved out. If they came home and told you that they appreciate you for raising them and would like to pay you back, asking you to add up the costs of adoption or birth, food, heat, clothing, doctor visits, dentist appointments, trips, sports, piano, dance lessons, and any other expenses over the years so they could write you a check to pay you back.

Would you be delighted? No, of course not. You would be tremendously hurt. We adopted or gave birth to them because we love them. A parent's greatest treasure is their children, the fruit of their love, the object of their affection.

We are God the Father's treasured children, the object of His love and affection. We are gifts of His love toward Jesus. So how much more hurt do you think God the Father and Jesus feel when we try to pay for His gift and love towards us by not trusting in Jesus' sacrifice but in our good works instead? God the Father is offering us the gift of Heaven through Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, and this is called grace.

Grace is God's unearned favor towards us, a state of sanctification enjoyed through His divine assistance.

Jesus promised, *"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"* (John 14:2-3).

Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life shall enter into heaven (Luke 10:20, Revelation 21:27).

Heaven is our home; it is a place where we belong. We belong to God the Father, and He desires that one day, in His time, we will all be with Him. We will see Him face to face, and He will smile upon us and welcome us home, letting us know that we belong.

Why is Jesus preparing a place for us? He is showing that He chose us and wants us. It is wonderful to know that we are chosen, loved, and belong, not just by anyone but by our God the Father, creator of the universe. *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you*

*had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Peter 2:9-10).*

We are just pilgrims here, and this world is not our home. The Gospel message is not just a message about our salvation; it is a message of our eternity where we will live in heaven with not only the saints of God but God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as well. We will all enjoy each other's company, and for the first time, we will know love, joy, and peace as we have never known before. We will have rest from sin and the enemy of our souls. We will know worship in the purest form, and mostly, we will be welcomed home, a place where we belong.

Why, you may wonder? Because God cares, not just about our life on this earth, but He wants us in Heaven with Him as well. Where will we spend eternity? Heaven or Hell—we must decide.

For Christians, we choose by accepting Christ. We want to spend eternity in heaven. The lost choose hell by rejecting Christ. Why would anyone choose hell? Because the enemy of our souls (Satan) has blinded their minds to the truth that they are loved and that God wants them. Satan is known as the Father of Lies, and he knows that we will believe any lie he tells us.

Before I continue, if you have read this and know that you are a sinner and desire to be saved and become God's child, will you pray in faith to

Jesus? Ask for His forgiveness, to cleanse you from your sins, to heal your soul, and to make Himself real to you. And whatever else you need, such as peace, hope, faith, or love. It's better for you to talk to Jesus straight from your heart. But if you're still not sure how or what to say, you can pray to Jesus something like this:

**Lord Jesus Christ, I see that I'm a sinner and have broken your Holy Law. I am sorry for my sins, and I desire to repent of my sins. Lord Jesus, wash me in your precious blood and thank you for dying on the cross for me. I welcome your Holy Spirit, and as best as I can, I give you my life, and I desire to live by faith. Amen!**

Congratulations, the sinner's prayer was your first step in acknowledging that you're a sinner who needs salvation. The next step is to follow Jesus step by step. You do that by getting to know Jesus.

By becoming a disciple of Jesus (a learner). You will get to know Jesus by walking with Him in humility, baptism, reading the Bible, prayer, and witnessing, as well as obedience. Now remember you don't do these things to work for your salvation, but to know Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to a church where you can grow in your faith and your new relationship with God.

God Bless!

## 5) Eternity

### Hell

Ezekiel 18:23 says, *"Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?"*

So, you decided not to put your trust in Jesus and don't believe in this religious stuff. You believe there is no eternity and that when you die, there's no afterlife—you're just worm food. Or you believe in reincarnation or some other paradise. Please let me try to persuade you one more time.

Imagine the world is at war, and you know how to end the war. But the problem is it's going to cost you your child. Do you allow the war to continue, or do you sacrifice your child? It's not an easy decision, and it will cost you everything. You deliberate over the pros and cons and somehow make the decision to sacrifice your child, and the war ends. You never really get over the pain of your lost child.

But you start to notice people coming up to you every time you go outside for a walk, shopping, or any errand. They come up to thank you for your sacrifice. They tell you how they married this person, and they're doing this job. Some show you pictures of their children and grandchildren. They tell you how your sacrifice has changed their lives. No, this will not bring

your child back, but it makes the pain almost bearable.

But then there are people who tell you how foolish you were for sacrificing your child. They claim they could have ended the war with their own strength. They mock and disrespect you, not just in private but in public as well. How would you feel towards those who reject and mock you for your sacrifice?

That is what people are doing all over the world every day by rejecting Jesus, God the Father's only begotten Son. You're acting just like those people in the story who rejected the Father's sacrifice. What is waiting for those who reject Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord? God's wrath, which looks like hell.

Actually, Jesus talked more about hell than He did about heaven. His descriptions of hell are quite terrifying. Contrary to popular belief, hell is not one big party.

Jesus said that *"hell is a place of outer darkness; in that place, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth"* (Matthew 25:30).

*"Sinners will go away into **eternal punishment**"* (Matthew 25:46).

Jesus said, *"So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and cast them into the*

***furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth"*** (Matthew 13:49-50).

He also said, ***"Hell is a place where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched"*** (Mark 9:46, 48).

In the book of Revelation, John the Apostle wrote, ***"and the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."*** ***"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which was in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which was in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire"*** (Revelation 20:10-15).

To sum it up, hell is a dark place with weeping and gnashing of teeth. It is eternal punishment, a place where the worm does not die, the second

death, and a lake of fire. It is for eternity. It is a place where sinners will feel the wrath of God.

Why will they feel the wrath of God? Because they rejected His Son, Jesus Christ. They mocked and disrespected His Son's sacrifice, and they chose to go their own way, trusting in themselves and their good works to save them. They did not believe God when He said, "That no one is righteous and seeks to do good." Pride is a terrible thing.

We were created for eternity. We are immortal. Yes, when we die, our bodies return to the earth. But our souls will not die. Death did not enter the world until after man sinned. That's why when we go to a funeral, we feel awkward and don't know what to say. For the Christian, we have the hope of seeing them again in Heaven. But for the unsaved, we have no hope of seeing them again. From the time we reach the age of accountability until the time we die, we are deciding heaven or hell.

So, are you willing to trust in yourself, your good deeds, or the belief that you're a good person to be saved? Rejecting the finished work of Jesus seems to be a big gamble. Remember—those who are in hell chose to trust in their good works.

**What questions do you have about eternity?**

## Conclusion

I have studied the five points of the Gospel for two reasons:

- 1) As the object of God's love, I believe that God cares deeply about how we will die and where we will spend eternity—Heaven or Hell. I believe that everyone has the right to hear the Gospel and make an informed decision. However, I am also concerned about the false gospels being taught as the True Gospel in our day.

Jesus is the focus of the only True Gospel.

John 3:16 says, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*

Romans 6:23 states, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 10:9 declares, *"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

After reading these scriptures, notice that Christ Jesus is the focus of the scriptures and the True Gospel.

False gospels focus on yourself, your happiness, your greed, your good works, and your

lack of faith. Or they have you focus on other people or false saviors.

Paul wrote in Galatians 1:6-9, *"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!"*

Accursed is defined as a person who will be damned forever with no hope of redemption.

Hopefully, that will motivate us to know Jesus and the True Gospel, as well as to walk in the fear of God.

2. For some reason, people think that when they become a Christian, they will never again have any problems in this life and that everyone in God's kingdom is supposed to be rich, healthy, married, and have children. If you struggle with believing that you don't have enough faith or, worse yet, that God is not pleased with you for some reason and that He is getting even with you, you are incorrect. As Doctor R.T. Kendall says, "God got even with us at the cross."

When Jesus took our place on the cross and died for us, He took the wrath of God for us.

Jesus said, *"In the world, you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33).

And Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, *"Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure"* (2 Corinthians 11:24-27).

Can you imagine anyone telling Paul that he lacked faith? There is a whole ministry devoted to the persecuted church—brothers and sisters worldwide who are suffering for Jesus Christ.

The point is that just because we are Christians, it doesn't mean that we are not going to have hard times. We will have family problems, money problems, health problems, and problems with co-workers, our church family, and other human beings. That is part of life, and the Holy Spirit will

teach us how to deal with them. As long as Satan and his demons are not in the lake of fire, we are in a spiritual war. They give us a hard time because Satan wants to discourage us from sharing the Gospel.

What does the True Gospel promise? It promises forgiveness. It promises a relationship with Jesus and God the Father through their Holy Spirit. It promises peace with God, to be His child, and that He will take care of our needs. It promises deliverance from Satan's kingdom and that Heaven is our home. It promises that Jesus will always be with us to the end of the age. It promises difficult times and that those who overcome will be saved. So pray and ask Jesus to give you an overcoming or persistent faith.

Remember, it is not unusual if you're going through hard times. That is life. And Jesus promises to always be with us. Therefore, we are never alone. Keep the faith, and let us pray for those brothers and sisters who are being persecuted for their faith because they share the Gospel.

If you enjoyed this booklet, pass it on to someone who may need it. Or use it as a tool to witness. You could use each point individually to help share the Gospel.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. God Bless!

John F. Bonnell