

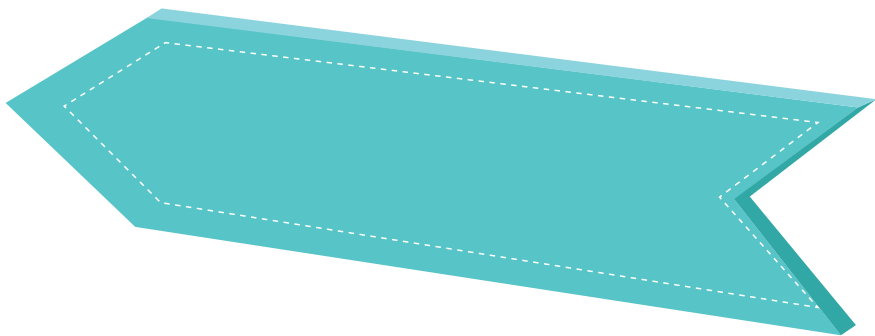


FINDING PEACE IN A TIME OF CHAOS

**WE ARE LIVING AT A POINT IN
HISTORY THE LIKES OF WHICH
NONE OF US HAVE EVER EXPE-
RIENCED. BUSINESS CLO-
SURES, SCHOOL SHUTDOWNS,
COMMUNITIES IN TURMOIL,
ECONOMIC MELTDOWNS... THE
SCHEDULES AND PLANS THAT
MARKED OUR DAYS HAVE NOW
TURNED US ON TO PATHS
LEADING TO UNCERTAINTY,**

**FEAR AND RESTLESSNESS. WE
ARE LONGING FOR A PLACE WE
CAN GO FOR COMFORT. OUR
HEARTS CRY OUT FOR PEACE IN
THE MIDST OF ENDLESS CON-
FUSION. WE NEED SOMEONE TO
HELP CARRY OUR BURDENS
WHEN WE ARE FACED WITH ISO-
LATION. DOES ANYONE HAVE
ANSWERS? WHERE CAN WE GO?**

**LET'S START
AT THE VERY
BEGINNING...**



“In the beginning, God...”

Seems everyone has their own opinion about God. How can we even be sure there *is* a God? If God *does* exist, what kind of god is he? Does he even know *I* exist? Is he out to get me? What’s going to happen to me when I die?

Well, we can be sure of God and who he is. He hasn’t left us here on earth to play an eternal guessing game. He has given us real proof about him, who he is, what he’s like, and how to live our lives.

Where can you find these answers? In God’s Word, the Bible.

The Bible contains praise, direction, instruction, words about future events, and God’s unfailing love for all people. By reading His word, we can come to know God better and learn about His love for all mankind, including **you**. God’s character is revealed to us in the Bible.

SO, WHAT IS GOD'S CHARACTER LIKE?

GOD IS LOVE.

Lamentations 3:22; 1 John 4:16

GOD IS LIGHT.

John 8:12; 1 John 1:5

GOD IS JUST.

Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 111:7

GOD IS RIGHTEOUS.

Psalm 9:8; Psalm 89:14

GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY.

Psalm 9:10; Psalm 111: 7

GOD CANNOT LIE.

Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2

GOD IS FAITHFUL.

Exodus 34:6; Psalm 33:4

GOD IS HOLY.

Hebrews 12:10; 1 Peter 1:15-16

GOD IS PERFECT.

2 Samuel 22:31; Psalm 19:7

GOD LOVES THE WORLD.

John 3:16

**GOD WANTS ALL MEN TO BE
SAVED.**

1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9

The pages of Scripture reveal to us a loving God who had a plan for the redemption for the world before the world ever began. The entire Bible, from beginning to end, points toward the coming of Jesus Christ, God's Son, to draw all men into a relationship with God and save them from judgment and eternal punishment.

Jesus was born to point people to God the Father. He lived his life by example to show us what God is really like. Jesus told his disciples, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," (John 14:9-11).

HOW DID JESUS POINT PEOPLE TO GOD?

Jesus taught people God's *right way* to live.

**HE FORGAVE PEOPLE
THEIR SINS.**

Mark 2

**HE TAUGHT THEM TO
FORGIVE EACH OTHER.**

Matthew 18:21-35

**HE HEALED THOSE
WHO WERE SICK.**

Luke 8:40-48 & 13:10-17 & 14:1-6; John 4:46-54

HE HEALED THE BLIND.

Mark 8:22-30 & 10:46-52; John 9

**HE HEALED THOSE WHO
COULDN'T WALK.**

John 5:1-18

HE TAUGHT US HOW TO PRAY.

Luke 11:1-13

HE TAUGHT US NOT TO WORRY.

Matthew 6; Luke 12:22-34

**HE TAUGHT US NOT
TO BE AFRAID.**

John 14:27

**HE TAUGHT AND
DEMONSTRATED THAT
LOVE IS THE FULFILLMENT
OF GOD'S LAW.**

Romans 13:8-10

**HE EXERCISED HIS
AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS.**

Mark 1: 21-28 & 9:14-29; Luke 8:26-39 & 9:37-43

HE EVEN RAISED THE DEAD!

Luke 7:11-17 & 8:49-56; John 11:1-45

Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,” (John 1:29). God, being the loving God he is, knew he had to create the perfect way to reconcile the world to himself because sinful people cannot come to him on their own. This is because sin cannot exist in the presence of God. Jesus, being born without sin, became the perfect sacrifice needed by all sinners to make amends for their sins and allow them to enter into God’s presence. In other words, ***every sin of the entire world was placed on Jesus when he was crucified on a cross.***

But Jesus rose again on the third day, showing that he alone has victory over sin, death and hell and that all people will ultimately answer to him.

SIMPLY SAID, JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS.

(1 TIMOTHY 1:15)

So, who are the sinners? Sadly, we all are. See, God will one day judge the entire world. Everyone who has ever lived will stand before God's throne and give an account for their life. God is righteous and must judge sin. He takes sin seriously, so seriously he sent his son to die and atone for it.

Jesus chose to go to the cross and die for the sins of everyone (Luke 22:42-44) because God loves the world. Jesus did this so that if anyone would believe that he paid the penalty for their own sins, they would be saved (John 3:16). Salvation from Jesus grants us victory over sin, death and hell and ushers us into a right relationship with God the Father, all while guaranteeing us the promise of eternal life.

God wants everyone to be saved and spend eternity with him in heaven (1 Timothy 2:3-4). That's why Jesus came to die, so

that no one would have to perish and be eternally separated from God (2 Peter 3:9).

Hell is a real place, and Jesus confirmed its existence as he taught the people (Matthew 5:21-22, 29-30; 10:8; 13:36-42, 47-50, 25:41; Mark 9:42-48; Luke 16:19-31). Hell is not symbolic, nor is Satan, the one who will live there eternally (Revelation 20:10). Satan, the devil, has come to “steal, kill, and destroy,” (John 10:10). Jesus taught that Satan “was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for the truth is not in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies,” (John 8:44). He is against God and God’s people, and he wants nothing more than to stop people from believing Jesus and be saved. Sin originated with Satan, so as long as people refuse Jesus, they are slaves to sin and have no reward for their lives but eternal separation from God.

Eternal separation from God is a terrifying thought. Imagine being in constant turmoil and not being able to call on God for help. Imagine being tortured every moment for eternity with no response to your pleas for relief. Imagine your first moment as you enter into eternal hell knowing you had a chance to respond to God’s love, but didn’t.



THERE IS A SOLUTION!

Cry out to Jesus now. How can you become a believer in Jesus and have victory over sin and the promise of eternal life with God in heaven? Be willing to commit your life to Jesus and follow him.

How do you do that? Pray and...

- 1. CONFESS TO JESUS THAT YOU ARE A SINNER AND NEED HIM IN YOUR LIFE.**
- 2. BE WILLING TO TURN FROM YOUR SINS AND ASK JESUS FOR FORGIVENESS.**
- 3. ASK JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR HEART TO BE YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR.**

You have Jesus' assurance that whoever comes to him he will never drive away (John 6:37)! As the Bible states in Romans 10:9-13:

That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, 'Anyone who trusts in him will

never be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’.

If you have just prayed and invited Jesus into your life, **CONGRATULATIONS!** You now have a new life in Christ and have become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)!

What do you do now?

1. Read the Bible and pray daily. Reading the Bible allows God to speak to you, and praying allows you to speak to God. To learn more about Jesus, start at the beginning of the New Testament.
2. Find a Bible-teaching church and become an involved member. A church is ‘Bible-teaching’ if what they teach lines up with the Bible and God’s character. Find some accountability partners and help each other grow in Christ (Sunday School and small-group Bible studies are great places to meet new people).
3. Follow Jesus in the ordinance of believers’ baptism. Baptism is a public acknowledgment of an inward change (Matthew 3:13-17).
4. As a believer, you can partake in the Lord’s Supper (also known as Communion or Eucharist). The Lord’s Supper is a time to remember and proclaim what Christ did for us on the cross (1 Corinthians 11:23-32).
5. Use every available opportunity to tell people about Jesus and what He’s done for you (Matthew 28:16-20)!

**“COME TO ME,
ALL YOU WHO
ARE WEARY AND
BURDENED, AND
I WILL GIVE YOU
REST.” - JESUS**

MATTHEW 11:28



**"...AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE
WEST, SO FAR HAS HE REMOVED OUR
TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US."**

PSALM 103:12

Copyright © 2020 Lisa Marchant. All rights reserved.

Design by Etch Creative, LLC (www.etch-creative.com)

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ®.

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

f Find us on Facebook: Compass 173

