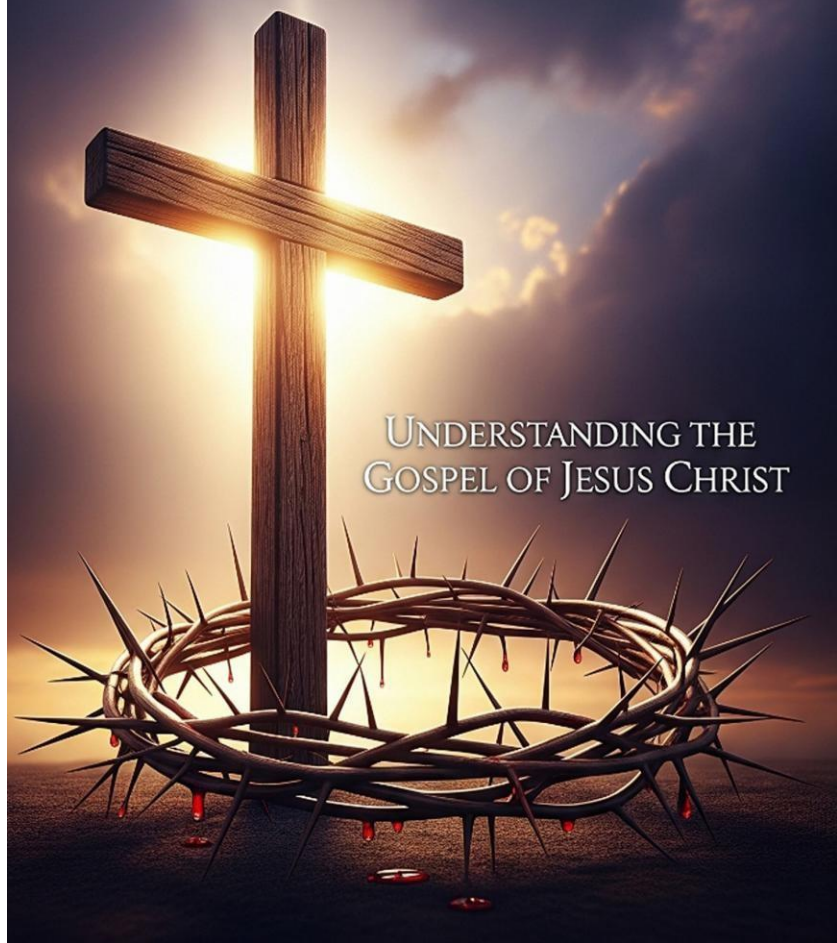


TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

UNDERSTANDING THE
GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST



Today is the Day of Salvation

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Today is the Day of Salvation

Today is the Day of Salvation: Understanding The Gospel of Jesus Christ

What is the Gospel?

In its simplest form, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news that God the Son, Jesus Christ, was born into His creation and lived a sinless life. He died on a cross to pay the price for the sins of humanity. Jesus was buried and resurrected. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus Christ now offers the free gift of salvation and eternal security from the penalty of sin for anyone who places their faith in His finished work on the cross.

To receive this gift of salvation, a person must:

- Acknowledge their sin and their inability to save themselves.
- Believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins and rose again.
- Place their trust and faith in Him alone as their Lord and Savior.

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ: the good news of salvation by grace through faith.

Understanding the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Now that you know the Gospel, we will answer the common questions that naturally follow.

Why does humanity need the Gospel?

The intention: In the book of Genesis, we are told that God created the heavens and earth, intending to engage and interact with us in a loving relationship. God made Adam and Eve and walked with them in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were able to live in a world that was at peace. There was no sickness, no pain, no anxiety, no depression, and most importantly, no death. Adam and Eve were free with only one restriction from God. Do not eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Genesis 2:16-17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Where it went wrong: Adam and Eve were not the only ones in the garden. Satan, which means “the adversary,” was also in the garden. He tempted Eve by telling her to eat from the one tree in the garden that was forbidden by God. Satan told her that if she had the knowledge of good and evil, she would be just like God. The desire to become like God led Eve to eat from the tree, and afterward, she decided to share the fruit with her husband. Adam knew that this tree was forbidden because God had warned him that if he ate it, he would die. (Genesis 2:8-24)

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Once they ate from the tree, their conscience was awakened, and they could now know good from evil. Satan had tricked them into thinking that God was withholding something good from them. But in actuality, God was protecting them from this knowledge. Imagine living in the world without being depressed or anxious. Imagine not encountering endless stories of the world's wickedness when you turn on the TV or scroll through social media. That is what God wanted for His creation. We were never meant to know and carry all the evil of this world.

The result: As a result of their sin, Adam and Eve both recognized the shame of their nakedness before God, so they tried to solve the problem themselves. They took fig leaves and made clothing for themselves in hopes of covering their shame with their own hands. (Genesis 3:1-7)

In the same way, we try to cover all the evil and wrong we have done in our lives with “good works,” but that isn’t the way things work. Our “good works” outside of faith are filthy rags and worthless in the sight of God. (Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:19-23)

God’s response: Adam and Eve stood guilty, and God would have been completely justified to condemn them to death and hell immediately. But that isn’t what God does. Neither then nor now does God act in such a manner. Instead, God shed the blood of an innocent animal to temporarily cover the debt that Adam and Eve owed, and He then made clothes for them and covered them both by his own hands. This demonstrates to us that God is not only a God of justice and wrath but also a God of love and mercy. (Genesis 3:21-24)

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God showed them the gravity and weight of their sin by showing them that blood is required as a payment for breaking His law (Hebrews 9:22). He was also showing them that they could never cleanse themselves by trying to cover their own shame, but instead that they could only be forgiven by his mercy and grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:1-9)

Why does this issue matter to me?

It matters because the Bible explains that without accepting Christ's gift of salvation, the standard for us to enter into heaven is God's perfection. There is no way we can meet this standard because we have all inherited two things from our father, Adam. (Romans 5:12-14)

The first thing we inherited is the debt of death that Adam brought into humanity because of his disobedience to God. Since our forefather, Adam, brought death into the world, we all have inherited a debt of death that we owe too. (Romans 5:18-19)

The second thing we inherited from Adam is the knowledge of good and evil, which is the law of conscience. This provides all people with an understanding of good and evil when they reach an age of understanding. The Bible doesn't give a number of years, so I would tend to think God bases his judgment on an individual basis. Once we become aware of what is right and wrong, we are then held accountable. (Romans 5:12-13, Romans 7:9-12)

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“But I’m a good person!”

The Bible says no man is good, no, not one (Romans 3:10-12, Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 53:1-3). Unfortunately, we have all fallen short of God’s perfect requirement (Romans 3:23). From the moment we are aware of our conscience, it convicts us, and we stand condemned (Romans 2:14-16).

Other religions falsely teach that we are good as long as we sway the balance of right and wrong towards the right side. But that is a lie from the pit of hell.

Since we are the ones who broke the law of conscience, we now stand before the courts of heaven with a guilty verdict hanging over us. And the punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23).

We now owe God two debts: The death we inherited from Adam and the one we earned through our sin. That leaves every person with the same choice to make.

Who will pay my debt?

Christ offers to pay our penalty. He calls us all to repent and believe the Gospel. To accept His free gift of salvation.

If all humans are condemned by the debt of death and sin, why are we here? Why did God even create us?

Understanding the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Did God create us merely as a cosmic joke to observe our suffering in this world and subsequently condemn us to hell?

The answer to that question is emphatically no!

God's choice to create us, despite knowing we would fail, does not indicate that he is cruel or wants to see us suffer. Instead, the answer is the complete opposite of that.

God knew how He would address the problem of death and sin we would create even before creation began. God knew that the only solution to the problem would be for Jesus to be born into his own creation through a virgin birth, which would avoid him having the debt of death that is inherited through the seed of Adam (Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6). He knew that by being born as a man and becoming the unique, one-of-a-kind son of God, he would be able to live the perfect life we couldn't. This also made him our "kinsman redeemer," or as the Bible also calls him, the second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45).

This shows us the selfless love of our God. He, being allknowing and all-powerful, willingly created us, and Satan, knowing how we would rebel against Him and that He Himself would have to face the pain and wrath that we deserved. By this, we know His eternal love for us.

John 3:16-21 (LSB): "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. [17] For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. [18] He who

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believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The Bible defines love as the selfless action of another. The Bible shows us clearly that God demonstrated the most selfless action of anyone.

Philippians 2:5-11 (LSB): “Have this way of thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, [6] who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. [8] Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

We could never have comprehended God's love for us without experiencing it through the death of Jesus. And it's only by accepting God's love by His Grace through Faith in Christ that we can genuinely reciprocate that love to God and also show that love to others (1 John 4:19, Romans 5:8).

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Why was Jesus qualified to pay for all of our sins?

Jesus was born without the debt of death because he was born from a virgin by the Holy Spirit, not from the “seed” of Adam. He also had no debt of sin, because he, being fully God and fully Human, was able to live the perfect life that we couldn’t (1 Peter 2:22, Hebrews 4:15, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 3:5, Romans 8:3). His willingness to offer his blood as a satisfactory payment for our debt enabled us to receive forgiveness. But Jesus didn’t only die for us; on the third day, he rose from the grave, proving to the world that He is God and that he had truly conquered sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:2-8, John 11:25-26, 1 Peter 1:3, 1 Corinthians 15:21, Romans 6:5-6). Therefore, we can confirm the truthfulness and reliability of his words and teachings, and we can now confidently see the salvation he offers by placing our trust solely in Jesus (Colossians 1:14-15).

What does the Gospel offer me?

Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection give us the opportunity to be “born again.” This means that, through the unmerited favor (grace) of God, He offers to us the opportunity to be forgiven in the courts of Heaven. The Bible explains that the reason God has set up salvation this way is to remove any opportunity for anyone to boast in their salvation before God (Romans 4:1-8, Romans 5:18-21). If we are able to earn righteousness, we would be able to tell God we deserve something. However, the reality is that we only deserve God's wrath and judgment (Ephesians 2:3).

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There is nothing you can do to earn salvation, and once you accept it in faith, you are “born again.” By faith, you die spiritually to your old self with Jesus on the cross and are raised from the dead spiritually with him in his resurrection (Romans 6:4-11).

After we are born again, the old us is gone, and we have been forgiven for our past, present, and future sins. And since we are a new creation, we have been given a new heart and a new mind (John 3:3-15, 1 Peter 1:23, 2 Corinthians 5:17). We will have a natural desire to love God with all our heart, mind, and body as a result of accepting and experiencing his love through faith in Christ. The way we love God is by first believing in Jesus Christ and secondly by offering selfless love to others (1 John 3:21-24). We have now become one with Christ and are declared righteous and forgiven in the sight of God (Galatians 2:16). Because we are wearing Christ’s righteousness, just like Adam and Eve were covered by God in the garden with the skins of the animal (Galatians 3:27).

When we are born again, we are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of God who dwells within those who have placed their faith in Jesus. This is not a temporary seal but a guarantee of our future bodily resurrection into eternal life. Salvation is a gift of God received in faith, and we cannot lose or return the gift of salvation (Ephesians 1:13-15, Romans 11:29).

God offers gifting and purpose for those who are members of the Body of Christ. We are each gifted by God with different abilities to use selflessly for building up the body of Christ as a whole. Our gifts are not chosen by us, and they are not commanded by us. But instead it is the Holy

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Spirit, who is fully God, dwelling in us, that gifts us and directs the usage of these gifts for the will and purposes of God the Father (1 Corinthians 12).

A warning about false gospels

The Bible is clear that there will be some who have a false faith (Matthew 7:21-23). Unfortunately, some people will become excited to hear the Gospel, but they will leave quickly because they never had true faith (Matthew 13:20-21). Others will stick around for a long time but will never have true fruit, which is the selfless love that we talked about. These people are trying to love the world and their sin while professing faith in Jesus (Matthew 13:22).

Satan has brought many false teachings into the Church to deceive and pervert the Truth (2 Peter 2:1, 1 Timothy 4:15). Many false teachers promote teachings of health, wealth, and physical prosperity (2 Timothy 4:3). But the Bible is clear that God's focus is on our eternal health, wealth, and prosperity, not treasures of this world (Matthew 6:19-21). If God chooses to bless people in this world to use it for his glory, well, he is God, and he can do as he pleases. But the Bible shows us that our treasures are to be stored in heaven, not on earth.

You will also run into people who will pervert the nature of Jesus, calling him only a man or a "good teacher." However, the Bible calls them liars and condemns the teachings that pervert who Jesus is or how we are saved. We are saved by the grace of God through faith in Christ

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alone. Not by our works, so no man can boast before God or men (Ephesians 2:8-9).

People often say we must obey the "commandments of God" and return to the Torah, or the Old Testament. However, the Bible teaches that the law of Moses doesn't save us. It also tells us that if we follow that law, it will condemn us the same way the law of conscience does. The Bible clearly explains the commandments that Jesus commanded us to follow, exposing these people as liars. Here are those commandments: to love God by believing in Jesus and love others with the selfless love of Christ (1 John 3:19-24).

Another type of person you will run into are those who teach that once you become a Christian, you never sin again. This is a false teaching that breeds hypocrisy, shame, guilt, and self-righteousness. The sinlessness they refer to actually signifies the ongoing sin of rejecting Jesus Christ (1 John 5:13-21). In that regard, we no longer sin. But unfortunately, we still stumble even though we try to please God in all we do. But thank God Jesus is our intercessor, and he advocates for us when we stumble (1 John 2:1).

When you sin, confess it quickly and do not let it take root in your heart. God will forgive you, and your confession removes the accusation that Satan (the accuser of the brethren, Revelation 12:10) can make against you in the courts of heaven (Ephesians 4:25-27).

Thankfully, you get to make your own choice!

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The invitation is clear and open to everyone. It doesn't matter what race, ethnicity, or social status you are part of, or whether you are free, a prisoner, or even a slave; the salvation of Christ is offered freely and without partiality. The moment a person calls upon the name of the Lord in genuine faith, they will be saved.

To receive this gift of salvation, a person must:

- Acknowledge their sin and their inability to save themselves.
- Believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins and rose again.
- Place their trust and faith in Him alone as their Lord and Savior.

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ: the good news of salvation by grace through faith.

We truly hope and pray that you will give your life to Christ in faith so you too can be adopted as a Child of God and have hope for deliverance from the darkness of this world.

If your heart has been changed by this message, and you desire to give your life to Jesus. Follow the footsteps of King David and pray this Prayer of Repentance based on Psalm 51 from your heart, remembering the truth you have learned about Jesus.

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Prayer of Repentance based on Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, because
of your unfailing love.

Because of your great compassion, blot
out the stain of my sins.

Wash me clean by the blood of Jesus from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.

I recognize my rebellion against you; it
haunts me day and night.

Against you, and you alone, have I
sinned; I have done what is evil in your
sight. You will be proved right in what
you say, and your judgment against me is
just.

For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother
conceived me.

But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching
me wisdom even there.

Purify me from my sins, by your mercy and grace, and I will
be clean;

Wash me with the blood of Jesus, and I will be whiter than
snow.

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Give me back my joy
again; you have broken
me— now let me rejoice.

Don't keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Do not banish me from your presence, and
don't withhold your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your salvation, and
make me willing to obey you.

Then I will teach your ways to rebels like me, and
they will return to you.

Forgive me for all the wickedness that I have done, O God
who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.
Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you.

Since you have offered the sacrifice for me through the
blood of Jesus.

The only sacrifice you desire from me is my broken spirit.
So I give you my broken and repentant heart, O God.

I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,
that he came in the flesh and died for my sins. I believe
that he rose from the dead on the third day and is now
seated at the right hand of God the Father. I confess Jesus

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as my Lord and Savior, and I know that by his wounds I
have been healed. Amen.

**Scan the QR code for more information about
Jesus**

