

The Message of Christianity (With Bible Verses You Can Search)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son [Jesus Christ], that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)

“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.... For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4 NIV)

Christianity is different from other religions, because it is not a religion. Religions teach that we follow rules to earn some form of salvation. Christianity teaches we are all sinners, and we could never earn salvation through our works (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23). The Bible teaches that we are saved from Hell and let into Heaven, because God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins to be received by faith (Romans 5:6-11).

Faith is believing you are made right with God because Jesus paid for all your sins, so you wouldn't have to pay for them yourself (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 5:1). This includes future sins (Colossians 2:13-14). Jesus chose to pay for our sins, and faith is seeing that reality (John 10:11-18). There is nothing you offered Jesus that made Him do this (John 6:27-29). He did it for you. We also believe that Jesus rose from the dead, as the above Bible passage says.

However, the turning point of your eternal destiny comes with a decision. When you discover faith, you act on that faith by confessing Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9-13). Jesus is the Lord, and He suffered greatly to forgive our sins and give us Heaven as a gift. If we wish to receive His forgiveness, He certainly deserves that honor (Philippians 2:5-11). When you act on your faith by confessing Jesus is Lord, your conversion is complete, and you enter into grace. Grace is the unmerited favor of God that makes us righteous, brings us into relationship with God, and gives us Heaven as a gift.

While salvation is an experience that happens at conversion, faith is a lifelong journey (Ephesians 1:13-14, John 11:25-26). You continue to believe. When a person discovers faith, it lasts the rest of a person's life (1 John 2:19). God sees to that (Philippians 1:3-6, John 10:27-29). That is why a person can receive the gift of salvation at conversion, instead of at the end of a lifetime of faith. This means your salvation remains stable as you experience doubts along the way, which God accepts as a natural struggle of faith (2 Timothy 2:13).

A relationship with Jesus will make you grow as a person, but you will still sin (2 Corinthians 3:18, Matthew 6:9-13). One of the biggest struggles of receiving mercy is the awareness that you don't deserve it. But we are promised faith frees us from all condemnation (John 3:18, Romans 8:1). If you believe, I encourage you to get baptized (Matthew 28:19), and check out this ministry's free resources at www.CharisEvangelisticMinistry.com