

Through his death, Jesus gained victory for God!

Within three days after He died, Jesus rose from the dead (not just His Spirit, but His body too). During the next forty days, He appeared to over five hundred people. Then God raised Him up to sit at His right hand as Lord and Judge over all. Before He left, Jesus promised He would come back to raise all the dead (bodily) and judge all people. He will re-create the heavens and the earth where His people will live with Him forever, and all who do not know Him will be cast into hell forever.

God's loving invitation to you:

If you believe you are a sinner condemned by God and unable to save yourself, then God invites you to receive His gift of eternal life by believing in Jesus, His Son. Jesus said, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”* (Matthew 11:28-30).

To receive Jesus, you must stop relying on your own righteousness and begin depending on Him alone. After you begin believing these things from your heart, you will be willing to let go of your life completely and let Him have control. Jesus said, *“Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it”* (Luke 17:33). You must believe that God is good and that He knows what is best for you. If you truly wish to follow Jesus, show your allegiance to Him by being baptized.

The joy of following Jesus!

Because of Jesus, you can begin enjoying a personal relationship with God, your creator. Your life will be

changed forever! *“To all who received Jesus, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”* (John 1:12). In response to God's free offer of forgiveness in Christ, I urge you to surrender yourself to Him today! If you have decided to surrender your life to Jesus, start reading the Bible to learn about God and His promises to us. (Perhaps start with John, the fourth book of the New Testament.) To be strengthened in your faith, you should begin spending time each week with other believers.

If you persist in viewing yourself as “okay” and reject the viewpoint of God, then heed His warning: *“No sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?”* (Hebrews 10:26-29).

This gospel message is provided by:

Who runs your life?

If you are like most people, you live each day seeking satisfaction and pleasure your own way, independent of God.¹ When you woke up this morning, it did not occur to you to consider what God might want you to do today. Generally, God is not in your thoughts unless something bad happens to you or someone you love. Perhaps you attend a church, mosque or synagogue and even pray repetitive prayers. But you do so out of habit or because your religion, culture or family expects you to do so. Perhaps you do so because your friends are all there. Though you may have friends and family, your life revolves around you. You might show concern for those close to you and even occasionally do something good for others, but you pursue your own comfort, pleasure and satisfaction most of your waking moments. Is this the way you live? Are you the one running your life this way? If so, you are living as king over your own life. The Bible says that as Creator, God is the only One who has the right to rule our lives. As Creator, He owns everything, including us. He is the One who gave us life and He has the right to take it away any time.² God is the King with absolute authority over us. He has declared that those

¹ *“All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each one of us has turned to our own way”* (Isaiah 53:6).

² *“I hold the keys of death and Hell”* (Revelation 1:18).

who rule over their own lives are His enemies³ because they are living lives in rebellion against His rule over them. Those who are not a part of His Kingdom are not on “His side.” They are a part of the “kingdom of darkness” (Colossians 1:13). According to the Bible, all those who are not in God’s Kingdom will be cast into hell away from His presence and the glory of His power forever.⁴ While alive on earth, you may experience a certain degree of love and happiness. In hell, there is no love or happiness, only torment. The Bible says that God is just and the eternal punishment of hell fits the crime of rebellion against Him. If you are the one running your life, then you stand justly condemned to spend eternity in hell for your rebellion.⁵ You might think your life is not that bad.⁶ You may falsely think that the good things

you do will make up for your crime of rebellion.⁷ You may think that God is not offended even though you have disobeyed Him continually. **You are guilty** of breaking God’s commandments.⁸ You may falsely think that God will ignore all of your sins⁹ or that eternal hell is too severe a punishment. If you think any of these things, then your hope is not based upon anything trustworthy. It is based upon your own imagination¹⁰ and is in direct contradiction to the Bible. Perhaps you hope that the Bible is incorrect and not really God’s revealed word to mankind. Perhaps you will just put your head in the sand and pretend you did not read this. If you are concerned, however, I

would like to tell you how you can be reconciled to God and enjoy peace with Him as a part of His Kingdom rather than continue living as His enemy. Do you want to be on “God’s side?” Or do you insist on living life your way?

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18)

God has made a way for you to be reconciled to Him. All your sins will be completely forgiven and you will receive eternal life. But you must come to God His way. Even though God is merciful, He still cannot simply excuse sin. His perfect righteousness will not allow Him to simply “sweep your sins under the carpet.” God’s perfect righteousness demands that each and every sin you ever committed be punished.

The good news:

God made a way for someone else to take that punishment instead of you! He sent His own Son (Jesus) into the world to take your punishment for you! Two-thousand years ago, Jesus was whipped, beaten and then hung on a cross to die even though He had never sinned. Though He was completely innocent, He willingly hung there and took the punishment that you deserve. He absorbed the wrath of God as your substitute. This voluntary sacrifice He made for you satisfied the righteous demands of God. Now, all who place their trust in Jesus as their only way to God receive forgiveness of sins once and for all. **“Of Him (Jesus) all the prophets bear witness that through His name, everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins” (Acts 10:43).**

³ *All of our righteous deeds are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).*

⁸ *“You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself an idol...You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God... “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.” Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. “Honor your father and your mother. “You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery. “You shall not steal. “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house...or anything that belongs to your neighbor” (Exodus 20:3-17)*

⁹ *The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; **the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished”** (Nahum 1:2-3)*

¹⁰ *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death” (Proverbs 14:12).*

³ *Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. ‘Let us break their chains,’ they say, ‘and throw off their fetters.’ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath” (Psalm 2:1-5).*

⁴ *“When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord (II Thessalonians 1:7-9)*

⁵ *“Whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him” (John 3:36).*

⁶ *“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one” (Romans 3:10-12).*