

After The Cross: Good News For Bad People

Understanding Salvation - Secure In Christ

Luke 5:27-32

Westland Baptist Church
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27 *After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, **28** and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. **29** Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. **30** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” **31** Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **32** I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

We do not enjoy telling people they are going to Hell in the same way an oncologist does not enjoy telling a patient they have cancer. How will they know if they do not hear?

This is good news for bad people and bad news for good people.

Jesus came to save “bad” people. People who think they are “good enough” without Jesus or with Jesus as an “add-on” to their life will not receive the salvation that God offers to the humble.

The Cross was not an attempt by God to make us cuter, shinier, and more acceptable in our culture.

Jesus came to rescue us from deserved, eternal judgment in Hell AND to rescue us to everlasting life!

You become aware of your need for forgiveness of your sin

John 16:8

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment...

You realize you cannot save yourself

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.*

In “childlike” faith you respond to the “Good News” that Jesus saves

Matthew 18:2-5

² *He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them.* ³ *And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.* ⁴ *Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* ⁵ *And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*

You learn that your salvation is initiated and completed by God

Philippians 1:3-6

³ *I thank my God every time I remember you.* ⁴ *In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy* ⁵ *because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,* ⁶ *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

You learn God has a personal stake in you

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

You learn that God “keeps” you saved - Biblical word pictures: adoption, born again

John 10:27-30

27 *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. **30** I and the Father are one.”*

1 John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Romans 8:37-39

37 *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

THE GOOD NEWS: THE SALVATION THAT YOU NEED IS INITIATED BY, KEPT BY AND FULFILLED BY GOD, THROUGH CHRIST, WHO IS MOTIVATED BY LOVE FOR YOU!

Romans 5:6-8

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.