

Why is the Gospel Good News?

Series: Roadmap For Christian Living

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Most people in this world, regardless of their religion, believe they get to heaven by being good.

What Does The Bible Say?

8 Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. 9 The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2:8–9 NLT)

22 Then the Lord God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” 23 So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of

Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:22–24 NLT)

Sin hinders us from being in the presence of God.

How could we have that direct relationship with God again?

16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. (Romans 1:16 NLT)

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. 2 It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.

3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. (1 Corinthians 15:1–4 NLT)

The Gospel is a specific message we need to know, and place our hope in, in order to be saved.

Jesus died for us so we could have a relationship with God.

Many Christians believe that Jesus is just a role model for how we should live.

6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. (John 14:6 NLT)

Jesus did not come to show us the way to heaven on our merits, but be the way to heaven based on His merits.

Jesus is not just our model, but He is our Messiah.

What about babies, mental retardation, and aborted babies who do not understand?

21 His advisers were amazed. “We don’t understand you,” they told him. “While the child was still living, you wept and refused to eat. But now that the child is dead, you have stopped your mourning and are eating again.”

22 David replied, “I fasted and wept while the child was alive, for I said, ‘Perhaps the Lord will be gracious to me and let the child live.’ 23 But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me.” (2 Samuel 12:21–23 NLT)

16 Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children.

17 I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." (Luke 18:16–17 NLT)

They are not saved, but are safe.

What about people that have never heard about Christ?

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "There will always be temptations to sin, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting! 2 It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around your neck than to cause one of these little ones to fall into sin. 3 So watch yourselves! (Luke 17:1–3 NLT)

There seems to be degrees to hell.

Here is what we know about hell, even though the Bible speaks in metaphors:

Eternal separation from God.

Heaven is way better.

How Can You Obey?

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. (Isaiah 53:4–6 NLT)

Jesus died for every one of us. Have you given your life to Christ?

Will you follow His example on how to live, not to be forgiven, but because you have repented and are forgiven?

Additional Notes:

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Notes:

Insights to The Biblical World comes from Heiser, M. S. (2018). Brief insights on mastering the bible: 80 expert insights on the bible, explained in a single minute (p. 36). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Explore:

The story is told that a certain M. Lepeau complained to Talleyrand that a new religion of his—one he considered a great improvement over Christianity—had failed to catch on with the people. He asked Talleyrand for some suggestions. Talleyrand

dryly said, “M. Lepeau, to insure success for your new religion, all you need do is have yourself crucified and then rise from the dead on the third day!” The resurrection “declared” that Jesus was the Son of God. The Greek word is very helpful in getting the force of the idea because it is related to our English word horizon, “the boundary between heaven and earth.” God’s mighty deed in raising Jesus from the dead “horizoned” him—that is, it clearly marked out Jesus as the divine Son. Paul’s entire view was dominated by Christ as the Son of God.

But it must also be noted in verse 4 that Paul says it was not only the Resurrection which declared Christ’s divinity, but it was also substantiated “Through the Spirit [or, his spirit] of holiness”—that is, the holiness of his human nature. James Denny put it this way: “... the sonship, which was declared by the resurrection, corresponded to ... the spirit of holiness which was the deepest reality in the Person and life of Jesus.” The Resurrection verified with power that Christ’s perfect life came from his being divine.

Paul wanted the Romans to know that his task in sharing the Good News was to preach that Jesus, in accord with the ancient Scriptures, was the resurrected human/divine Savior.

Here Paul's life and task come together. He is appointed by God, he is divinely set apart, he is above all a servant—and his message is “horizoned” before him by the resurrection of Jesus who was both human and divine. The entire sky is filled with this reality. It is this vision which drives Paul to such supreme heights of service.

Hughes, R. K. (1991). Romans: righteousness from heaven (pp. 18–19). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Explore:

Paul's main argument was that there were still eyewitnesses to the Resurrection. That Christ died and was really raised from the dead was a fact that could be corroborated by individuals who were still living at the time 1 Corinthians was being written.

While acknowledging that some who had been eyewitnesses had died, Paul estimated that there were approximately five hundred persons living at the time he wrote who could verify the fact of the Resurrection. He identifies Cephas and the Twelve (v. 5), James and all the apostles (v. 7), and himself. While Paul confessed his unworthiness for having “persecuted the church” (v. 9) and that his meeting with Christ came later, he made no distinction between the Christ who was seen by Cephas and the Christ who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. These are all powerful witnesses.

Chafin, K. L., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1985). 1, 2 Corinthians (Vol. 30, p. 177). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc.

Question 1 of 5

Please explain oral cultures verses cultures like ours that have history books.

Question 2 of 5

What is the biblical view of hell?

Question 3 of 5

What does the word “gospel” mean?

Question 4 of 5

Why is being a good person not enough to get into heaven?

Question 5 of 5

Why is Christianity different than every other religion in the world?