

The MOST Crucial Question ANYONE Can Ask— “How Can a Mortal be Righteous Before God?” Job 9:2

Jesus' words are in **RED**.

Scriptures are in **BLUE**.

The answer to that question is revealed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus is the Jewish Messiah.

What is the Gospel? It is “Good News!”

God's redemptive purposes are revealed in His “Eight Covenants.”

Three covenants provide context for concisely proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. They are categorized as the “Bad News,” the “Old News,” and the “Good News.”

BAD NEWS

SINFUL “LIFE”

God's first covenant, “Edenic,” was a conditional covenant between God and Adam. God commands Adam NOT to eat from “The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.” Eternal life with God was available to Adam and Eve by eating from the “Tree of Life” in the middle of the “Garden of Eden.” But they ate from “The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” instead. Adam, the “first man,” sinned, and by his sin, he blew it for ALL Mankind.

“We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one...” Romans 3

The “Edenic” Covenant is NO longer in effect; however, the impact of Adam's sin is.

The Bible Outlines and Reality Confirms that all people are “born” to live out their lives by the **Sinful Nature**. Galatians 5:19-21 outlines the sinful nature:

Sexual immorality, Impurity, Debauchery, Idolatry, Witchcraft, Hatred, Discord, Jealousy, Fits of Rage, Selfish ambition, Dissensions, Factions, Envy, Drunkenness and Orgies.

No One is immune from the reality of sin. From birth, we sin against others, and others sin against us. Most of the time, when we sin, we “think” we are getting away with sin because there are no immediate “external” consequences. But that's not true. **All sin has consequences**. It may not be legal, monetary, or other retributive “external” consequences, but ALL sin brings about “**internal death**” or even “**literal death**.” Internal death includes emotional, psychological, and mindful consequences such as guilt etc. On the flip side, when others sin against us, it often hurts deeply and can also produce the effects of “internal death.”

In summary, we are all born destined to live by our “desires” and “choices”— NOT God's. We are, by default, bound to our sinful nature and to reap the “internal and literal death” consequence of our sins. All this and **more** is **Bad News**.

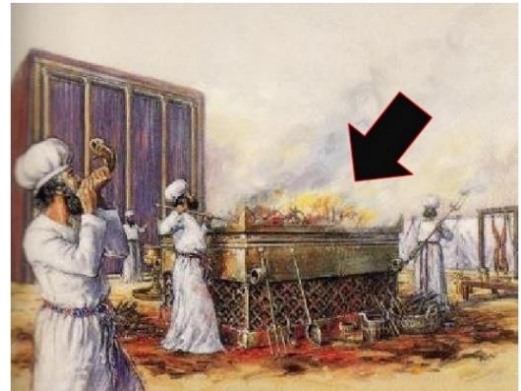
OLD NEWS

WORKS "LIFE"

God's fifth covenant, "Old," is a conditional covenant made between God and Israel. At Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the "Old Covenant Law," written on stone, consisting of 613 commandments, ordinances, and a Worship system. God instructed the Jews to put His Word on their heart, on their mind, and on the doorposts of their homes. So the Jews symbolically did this via two small boxes called "Tefillin." In the picture, God's Word is placed on the head (mind) (RED arrow). But because you can't literally place anything on the heart, they put the tefillin on the left arm (closest to the heart) and tie it with straps on the arm to keep it in place (BLUE arrow). The Jews also put God's Word on the right side of their "Doors" via "Mezuzah" (PURPLE arrow). "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and, when you walk along the road when you lie down, and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth." Deuteronomy 11:13–21



No one could obey all of God's laws; therefore, God also initiated a "system" to deal with "ongoing sin." God required that every time "someone" sinned, they would come to the "Tabernacle" (then the First and Second Temple) with an animal and sacrifice it on the "Brazen Altar of Sacrifice" (BLACK arrow) to "atone" and "cover" their sins. Please reflect on the picture, as there were millions of animal sacrifices each year, and a lot of animal blood spilled. "For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" Leviticus 17:11. "In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness" Hebrews 9:18–22.



God's Law has no power to cause you not to steal, bear false testimony, covet your neighbor's property, etc. **The "Law" revealed that we are sinful and cannot obey it.**

"For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. Once, I was alive apart from law, but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life, and I died. **I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.** For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment deceived me and, through the commandment, put me to death. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good. Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good." Rom. 7

The sacrificial system was never-ending as the People of God **continued** to sin as NO ONE could obey all of God's Laws. Therefore, God said He would provide a "New Covenant" — a permanent solution to dealing with their sins. "The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.** It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers... "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "**I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31:31-34

GOOD NEWS

GRACE "LIFE"

God's eighth covenant, "New," is an unconditional covenant between God and Israel, and it is still in effect.

The "Good News" of the New Covenant is that God no longer requires an animal's sacrifice to forgive sins. Therefore, instead of putting sin on an animal ("Old News") as the Jews did. **God placed "All" our sins "Past, Present, and Future" on His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah.**

"Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law, we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3

The "New Covenant" was enacted at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross. The "Life of Grace" of the "New Covenant" offers "True Life," replacing the "Life of Works" of the "Old Covenant," which offers no life at all. "Righteousness" or "Right Standing" with God (which includes forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and a relationship with God), once unattainable in the "Old Covenant" (no one could obey all 613 Laws), is now obtainable in the "New Covenant." **Therefore, by believing in the "Gospel of Jesus Christ," God's Law is written "internally" IN your mind and ON your heart.**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ Encompasses the Following Four Truths.

- 1**-Jesus Christ **was crucified on the cross as a sin substitute,** and His blood was spilled to cover and forgive all past, present, and future sins.
- 2**- Jesus **died and was buried** that same day.
- 3**- Three days later, the gravestone that sealed Jesus's body was miraculously rolled away, and **Jesus Christ was resurrected.**
- 4**-Jesus Christ **gives us His LIFE** through the indwelling, Precious Holy Spirit.

The Biblical Model for Receiving “Salvation” and “Righteousness” from God.

The Training of a “Treasury Agent”

Training in identifying counterfeit currency begins with studying genuine money. Treasury Agents DO NOT study fake currency. That’s because once they “know” every detail of genuine currency, they can immediately sport the phony currency. In summary, the first step in the training process begins by touching the bill. Currency is printed on unique cotton-based paper. Second, the bill is “tilted” to reveal the holographic stripe and the “colors” of the bill. The third step is to look through the currency by holding a bill to the light as key features will appear, including watermarks and “threads” woven through the bill. The final step is to look at the fine lines within the bill’s portrait and background patterns. New Treasury Agents study genuine currency for weeks before they “Know” what genuine currency is and can then identify the fake.



The Training of a “Gospel Agent”

- “Nowhere in the New Testament will you find that salvation is about ‘accepting’ Jesus. Nowhere are you called to ‘accept Jesus.’ Nowhere in the New Testament will you find that salvation is about ‘asking Jesus into your heart.’ Nowhere in the New Testament are you told to ‘ask Jesus into your heart.’ Nowhere, nowhere, nowhere. It’s not there! What you are told again and again and again is to repent and **believe**.” -Voddie Baucham-
- “I do not preach decisions; **I preach regeneration**.” -Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones-
- “Do not go where it is all fine music and grand talk and beautiful architecture...**Go where the Gospel is preached...and go often**.” -Spurgeon-

Studying the Genuine Biblical Currency

“The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:8-13

Let’s break down the verses into four parts.

“That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord.”

“And believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. You will be **saved**.”

“For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are **saved**.”

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be **saved**.”

1-

“That if You Confess with Your Mouth, Jesus is Lord.”

“Jesus is Lord of ALL, or He is not Lord at ALL.”

We don't use the word “Lord” in our modern culture. So, most people do not know what “Lord” means. Therefore, when you confess “Jesus as Lord,” you say I'm no longer in charge of my life. **NOW**, Jesus Christ is in charge of **every** detail of **my** life.

You are affirming His:

Authority

Sovereignty

Rulership

Confessing “Jesus as Lord” is a humble act that transfers control of your life to Jesus Christ.

You are humbled when you say Jesus is the authority. I'm not.

You are humbled when you say Jesus provided for my salvation. I can't.

You are humbled when you say Jesus rules over every aspect of my life. I can't.

When you confess “Jesus as Lord,” you are saying, **“He is MY Lord,”** and HE is in control over “everything” in your life. It includes your finances, family, relationships, mind, emotions, work, children, marriage, health, education, profession, future, etc. Therefore, when communicating the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to an unbeliever, we must explain the Biblical definition of “Lord.” They must understand that confessing “Jesus as Lord” means giving up total control of their lives and turning everything over to Jesus Christ.

I have heard evangelists, pastors, and teachers selling “fire insurance,” saying, “Confess ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and you won't go to Hell.” This point is debatable, but one thing is not. Confessing “Jesus as Lord” is an act of **“humility.”** Let's look at the point of coming to God in humility and making Him Lord. In the following passage, a man “falls on his knees” (a humble gesture) and addresses Jesus as a “Good Teacher.” However, the better translation is **“Master.”** The man wants to know how to have **eternal life**. With love, Jesus looks at the man and says, **“Go sell everything you have and give it to the poor.”** It is important to note that Jesus is not saying that “everyone” must sell everything and give it to the poor to inherit eternal life. Jesus tests this man to see if **“HE is Lord”** (Master). The man failed and walked away, “sad” because he had great wealth. **The man was unwilling to give Jesus Christ total authority, sovereignty, and rulership over his life.**

“As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’” “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.” Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this, the man's face fell. He went away sad because he had great wealth. Mark 10:17-22

In the following passage, Jesus addresses those who are confident in their own “righteousness” — people who trust in their “works” to achieve “right standing” with God. Remember that righteousness with God is not attained by works but by believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus compares two people. The first person, a Pharisee, gloats about how he is “good” and emphasizes all the “good” things “he” is doing. The other person is a “tax collector,” the lowest and most hated profession of that day. The tax collector would not even look up to Heaven but beat his breast and say, “**God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**” Jesus says the tax collector went home “justified” (righteous) before God. The tax collector displayed true humility in coming to God. The tax collector knew nothing he could do to earn God’s favor and eternal life. “Salvation” and “Righteousness” are credited to anyone (Jew or Gentile) who humbly believes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This truth is a stumbling block to many, especially Jewish people.

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to Heaven but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Luke 18:9-14

Here is an evangelistic passage of Scripture many evangelists miss.

“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn, and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” James 4:4-10

You and I have heard this passage of Scripture used in many contexts for “believers.” And there are truths for believers we can apply. However, I am convinced that this passage of Scripture addresses “unbelievers.” I believe this because James uses the term “**sinners.**” The word “sinner” is always used in the Bible to refer to “unbelievers.” James also begins this passage with “adulterous” people. “Adulterous” is also a word used to address unbelievers. This passage reveals what an unbeliever does and says. Thankfully, God wants all unbelievers to humble themselves and “**Come to Him!**” Here are my observations from this passage. A friend of the world is an enemy of God, but God longs to be your friend. Come to Him! The Holy Spirit does not dwell in the heart of an unbeliever. But God wants to place His Holy Spirit in you. Come to Him! The proud cannot obtain God’s grace- “salvation and righteousness.” Therefore, humble yourself before God, and He will give you His grace. Come to Him! The devil’s evil demons inhabit unbelievers. But they cannot occupy believers. Therefore, return to God, and the wicked demons will flee from you. Come to Him!

You have dirty hands because of your sins. Wash your hands with “Me,” and you will be clean. Come to Him! You have evil hearts. Purify your hearts with “Me,” and you will be whole. Come to Him! You have one foot in the world and one foot in religiosity. You are double-minded. Instead, say goodbye to the world and choose “Me.” Come to Him! Grieve, mourn, and wail because of your sins. Change the laughter about your sins to mourning because of your sins. Come to Him! Change the joy about your sins to the gloom of recognizing the ungodliness of your sins and sinfulness. Come to Him! Believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and confess, “Jesus is Lord.” Turn over control of every detail of your life to Jesus Christ. Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up. You will be “saved” (receive salvation and righteousness). Come to Him!

A true believer cannot attend church on Sunday and do “good works” (like serving in the children’s story), then go to work, lie, steal, and cheat. True believers cannot watch pornography, be unfaithful to their mate, ignore their children, be “friends” with the world system, and still believe they are “friends” with God. Many unbelievers have one foot in **the church** and their other foot in the world. They are “double-minded.” However, a true believer is single-minded. Their focus and allegiance are to Jesus Christ. Yes, all believers sin sometimes. However, a true believer is under the authority of Jesus Christ. God’s Holy Spirit convicts the believer’s heart concerning their sin. True believers repent and turn away from their sins. So, if there is no conviction of sin and repentance from sin, the so-called believer is most likely not a Christian.

2-

“And Believe in Your Heart That God Raised Him From the Dead, You Will Be Saved.”

Our Christian faith rests on the “**foundation**” of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is also believing and accepting everything else in the Scriptures about Jesus Christ and what He did and will do in the believer’s life.

Here are the truths of the New Covenant that a believer receives.

- You are declared “Righteous” before God and are now in “right standing” with Him.
- You have the assurance that all of your past, present, and future sins are forgiven.
- You have 24/7 access to God and a personal relationship with Him.
- You have His LIFE in you.
- You have the guarantee of eternal life with God.
- You have the assurance of a bodily resurrection.
- You have the sure hope that you will rule and reign with Jesus Christ in His Glorious Kingdom.
- You will receive eternal rewards from God.

Sadly, many will read the resurrection stories and still choose to be unbelievers.

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ, all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him... I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last Trumpet. For the Trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised

imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15: 12-58

The entirety of the Bible rests on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus Christ also means accepting and believing everything else the Bible says. There is no such thing as "Easy Believism" in the Bible. Granted, you won't understand "everything" in the Bible immediately. Believing God raised Jesus from the dead is not the end but the beginning.

-3-

"For it is With Your Heart That You Believe and Are Justified, and it is With Your Mouth That You Confess and Are Saved."



It's important to know that the terms "belief" and "faith" are "**cousins**" in modern usage. But from a **Biblical perspective**, **belief and faith are "identical twins."** Therefore, "belief" and "faith" in the New Testament are interchangeable.

The ideogram of this gold coin represents **belief** or **faith** in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On one side, "**salvation**" means being "rescued" from something. The flip side is that "**Righteousness**" (NASB) or "Justified" (NIV) means to be in "right standing."

4-

"Everyone Who Calls on the Name of the Lord Will Be Saved."

ONLY Belief or Faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

Rescues you from Satan, sin, Hell, and the grave- "**You Receive Salvation From God.**"

Puts you in "right standing" with God- "**You Are Declared Righteousness By God.**"

Therefore, when you're ready:

"Confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:8-13

I Confess with my mouth that "Jesus is Lord."

I Believe in my heart that "Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead."