

Welcome to

Christianity

GOOD
NEWS

1. Scripture

- God's Inspired Revelation

The Bible comes from God. He worked through human authors and their personalities to communicate who he is, what he is doing and what he desires.

Not their own imagination 


Like how the wind blows a sail on a boat

No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21

The prophets...prophesied of the grace that would come to you...the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified...those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. 1 Peter 1:10-12

Prophets = Old Testament authors

Apostles = New Testament authors

That you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Saviour. 2 Peter 3:2


Peter is telling us here that Paul's letters are from God!

Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles...as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:15-16

- God's Unchanging Truth

The Bible has ultimate, enduring authority over every area of life. Without error, it is relevant to every generation and should be trusted above any cultural standard and above our personal feelings/experiences.

The word of God which lives and abides forever...the word of the Lord endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:22-25

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honour and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed. 2 Peter 1:16-19

Peter is talking about The Transfiguration

Peter's experience and gospel is consistent with the Old Testament prophets

- **The Unfolding Drama of Redemption**

The central theme and purpose of the entire Bible is to point to God's rescuing and restoring of humanity through Jesus and his gospel. God revealed this through story, poetry and prophecy in 66 books over 1500 years and 40+ authors.

The whole Bible is ultimately about Jesus and the gospel.

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow...who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit. 1 Peter 1:10-12

- **The Source of Life**

God's goal is to point us to Jesus and produce his character in us as we continue an ongoing personal relationship with him. He accomplishes this through our daily reading, trusting, and obeying of his word as the Spirit applies its truths to our lives and empowers us to live them out.



As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby. 1 Peter 2:3

And so we have the prophetic word...which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:16-19



2. Creation

- **God (not us) is the Centre of the Story**

God is the Creator, and therefore the Lord, of the entire universe. Although earth was created for humanity to live on, it was created by God for his purposes. This means that the universe is Theocentric (God centred) and not anthropocentric (man centred). In an age in which it was believed that many pagan gods created different parts of the world and many other myths about how creation came into being, this truth that God had created all of it was significant.



Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them. Acts 4:24

The living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them. Acts 14:15

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth. Acts 17:24

- **God Created Out of His Overflow (Not Need)**

God was perfectly satisfied within the Triune relationship of love between Father, Son and Spirit. Creation did not add to him or change him in any way. God did not create because he needed a place to dwell, or a people to serve him or worship him. Creation is an expression of the abundance of God's character, wisdom and power. In other words, it is the overflow of his goodness, love, kindness, creativity, beauty, brilliance, and generosity. Creation, therefore, is one way that God reveals his glory.

In the Old Testament God dwelt with Israel in a tent... and then a temple. BUT these could not contain Him.



The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands...heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool. What house will you build for me? Says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Acts 7:48-49

...nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything. Acts 17:25

God does not NEED the sacrifices, gifts, and offerings of humanity.

- **God Created us to Depend on Him**

God did not create us and then walk away. All of creation continues to depend on God for its existence. God is actively and intimately involved in the life of every created thing. We were not created to function independently of God.

He gives to all life, breath, and all things. He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings...He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:26-28

- **God Made us in His Image (Giving us Value)**

God made us on purpose, for a purpose. To be made in the image of God doesn't mean we were made to look like God outwardly, but that we are made to be reflect and respond to him. God has crowned humanity with dignity and honour. This is what gives us intrinsic worth and value.

God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27

Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Acts 17:29

The word 'image' is the same word for 'statue' or 'idol'. Just like how a statue of a false god represents that god, so we were made by the true God to be living, breathing, moving, talking "statues" of Him!

- **God Created us to Love and Enjoy Him**

God made each of us to know him in an intimate relationship of love and joy. Creation alone cannot satisfy us. Instead, we receive and enjoy the blessings of creation as God's gifts to us, in glad, thankful worship.

You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of joy in your presence. Acts 2:28

He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. Acts 14:17

...that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him. Acts 17:27

- **God's Creation was Good and Whole**

God described his finished creation as very good. The world had everything it needed to exist and thrive in abundance and beauty.

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. Genesis 1:31

Sadly this wouldn't last...



3. Fall

- **Humanity Rebelled Against God**

God created us to love, trust and obey him. However, mankind began to love self over God and to trust in creation instead of the Creator. We willingly and selfishly rebelled against him. That moment of rebellion separated us from right relationship with God and the blessings that accompany that relationship.

Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful...who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator...they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.
Romans 1:21, 25, 28

> Zeus
> Shiva
> Baal
> Odin
... but also...
> Food
> Money
> Sex
> Entertainment

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

We are hardwired to worship, which means we will ALWAYS worship something.
This means if we don't worship God, we will worship other things as gods...
This is what we call IDOLATRY!

- **Our Rebellion Broke the World**

As stewards of and rulers over creation, the entire world was affected as humanity rebelled against God. The consequence of the fall of man into rebellion and idolatry is all of the suffering, sickness, sorrow, abuse, injustice, pain and death we see in the world around us.

Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

The creation was subjected to futility...the bondage of corruption...we know that the whole creation groans and labours...until now. Romans 8:20-22

Cursed is the ground for your sake...both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth. Genesis 3:17-19

- **We are Born Sinners by Nature and by Choice**

Whilst all humans now inherit a sin nature, we also individually and consciously choose to rebel against God.

Who knowing the righteous judgment of God...not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:32

There is none righteous, no, not one...there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside...there is none who does good, no, not one. Romans 3:10-12

- **Sin is Not First Our Actions but Our Hearts**

We are not sinners because we sin, rather we sin because we are sinners. Sin is not first what we do. Sin starts in our hearts and minds and then works its way out into what we do and say.

They...became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened...God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves...being filled with all unrighteousness. Romans 1:21, 24, 29



I know that in me (in my flesh) nothing good dwells. Romans 7:18

Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. Matthew 15:19



- **Sin Enslaves Us**

Whilst sin disguises itself as freedom, it is slavery. We are born into this bondage. There is nothing within us that naturally wants to or is able to escape.

You are that one's slaves whom you obey...you were slaves of sin. Romans 6:16-17, 20

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?... with the flesh [I serve] the law of sin. Romans 7:24-25

Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. John 8:34

- **Sin Destroys Us**

Our sin is rebellion against a holy God. The deserved consequences are serious. Some may appear to evade them in this life. However, the final consequence of sin is death and eternal punishment in hell.

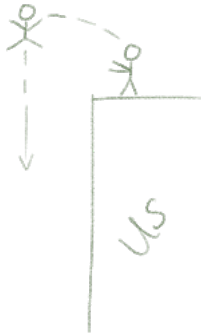
You are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath...to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness; indignation and wrath. Tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil. Romans 2:5, 8-9

...sin leading to death...the end of those things is death...the wages of sin is death. Romans 6:16, 21, 23

4. Salvation

- **We Need to be Rescued and Restored**

As slaves of sin, dead in our sins, we have no ability to please God and are completely unable to make our way back to him. We have no power to undo the damage we caused when we rebelled against God, nor do we have any way or desire to transform ourselves.



And you, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3

Satan

- **We Need Someone Truly Human**

Because the nature of humanity had been corrupted by sin, it was necessary for God to create a new kind of humanity by providing a human substitute who would become the head of a new creation. The same human nature that sinned should pay for sin. We needed a human who could achieve moral perfection by completely trusting and obeying God on our behalf. We needed someone who would willingly take upon himself the guilt and punishment for our rebellion, paying our sin debt.



Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:18-19

- Adam

- Jesus

In all things He had to be made like His brethren...to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17



• We Need Someone More than Human

Only someone **more than human** could take the full weight of every sin upon himself. Only someone **more than human** could rise himself from the dead. Only someone who has eternal life, can offer eternal life to others. Only someone divinely pure has the authority to offer forgiveness to others.

*Who can forgive sins but **God alone**? Mark 2:7*

• Jesus is Fully God and Fully Man

God the Son, the Creator of the heavens and earth, stooped down into human history. He **became man**, without ceasing to be God. He was **perfectly God** while being perfectly human.

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same. Hebrews 2:14

*Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be **equal with God**, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and **coming in the likeness of men**. Philippians 2:5-7*

*In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...And the **Word** became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:1-3, 14*

The "Word" is a name for Jesus

• Jesus Died, Taking our Sin and Death

As Jesus hung on the cross, the sin and guilt of all humanity was drawn to him and the full, just and holy wrath of God towards our rebellion was poured upon him. Jesus' final words on the cross "it is finished" demonstrated that the **payment for sin** had been fully satisfied through his suffering and death.

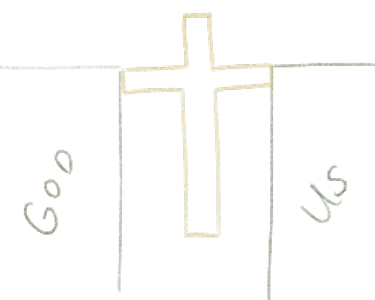
*God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, not **imputing** their trespasses to them...He made Him who knew no sin to be **sin for us**, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:19, 21*

*Christ **died for the ungodly**...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...**justified** by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him...we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son. Romans 5:6-10*

"Reconciling" = making peace

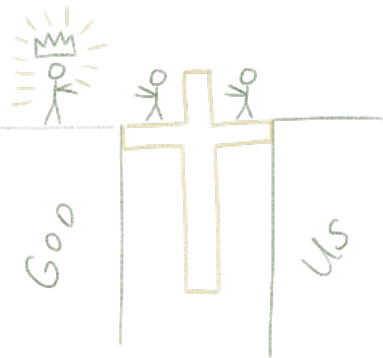
"Imputing" = counting

"justified" = declared righteous



- **Jesus Rose, Offering Life and Freedom**

Jesus rose as conqueror over sin and death. His resurrection demonstrated that the Father was satisfied with his payment for sin. Because he lives in the power of an endless life, he can offer eternal life to whoever will come to him.



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

BORN
AGAIN!
(given new
life)

We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

} those who
trust in Jesus
share in His
death, burial,
resurrection
and life.

5. New Creation

- **New Life Begins When We Trust Jesus**

We receive the gift of salvation when we agree with God that we are guilty and worthy of judgement and place our full trust in the finished work of Jesus' incarnation, death and resurrection. Christ's payment for sin will not be ours until we acknowledge that it was our sin that led Jesus to the cross and that it is only through Jesus alone that we can be saved.

"Incarnation"
= Jesus as God being born as a human

Jesus answered "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." John 6:29

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Undeserved
FAVOUR/
KINDNESS

- **We are Set Free to Say No to Sin and Yes to God**

Not only are we forgiven, but we are made a new creation, set free from the bondage of sin.

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Romans 6:6-8

If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. John 8:36

This means FREEDOM from sin!



SIN IN
OUR HEARTS



comes out
in our
actions
and words



• We are Freed from Self to Love God and Others

We are set free from our selfish, destructive tendency of curving into ourselves and are now able to curve out towards God and others.

For the love of Christ compels us...he died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13-14

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1 John 3:16



• Jesus Will Return to Make All Things New



Jesus has promised that he will return to undo, heal and transform all that is broken in the world. He will remove sin and the consequences of sin, including disease, pain, sadness, shattered relationships and death. This is our blessed hope.

The creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Romans 8:21



} The consequences of the fall.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then he who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:4-5

Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Jude 1:24

- **Before that He is Transforming His People Daily**

Between our conversion and Jesus' return, God's great desire for us is that we become more and more like Jesus each day. He is actively working in and with us, in the midst of this broken world, to transform our attitude, actions, decisions and relationships.

"WILL" = the desire

"TO DO" = the strength

It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Philippians 2:13

The new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. Colossians 3:10

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29

God the Father wants all of His children to become more and more like their Big Brother Jesus!

- **The Spirit Lives Inside of Us to Do This**

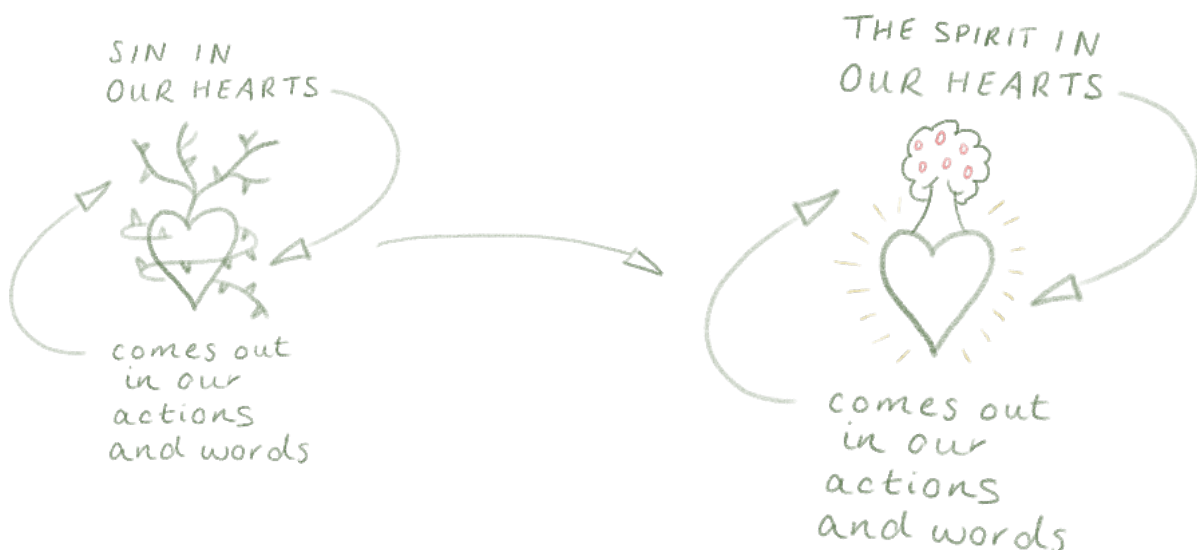
When we trust in Jesus, the Spirit indwells us, partnering with us in our pursuit of being like Jesus. He accomplishes this by pointing us to Jesus. The more we look to Jesus, the more the Spirit produces Jesus' characteristics in us.

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18

The more we look to Jesus, the more like Him we will become.

Only the Holy Spirit can produce this fruit in us.

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh....the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25





**GOOD
NEWS**