

Good
News

CREATOR

Everything in this universe was created by God, the Creator. Nothing exists by itself or by accident, because all things were created *by* God and *for* God (Colossians 1:16).

The Holy Bible, in the book of Genesis, portrays God as the Creator. Man and woman are called the crown of His creation (Psalm 8:5), because they were created in His image: “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27).

God separated us from animals by making humankind a reflection of His image—as rational, relational, emotional, spiritual, morally excellent, and free beings.

The creation of the whole earth was God’s grand work of His wisdom. Just look at the earth! We did not create the air. We did not make the sun to shine in the day and the moon to shine in the night. We did not produce rain and seasons. We did not cause water. We did not create the ground on which the trees and plants grow. We did not make animals.

All the things on earth are God’s gifts to mankind for their sustenance. The Holy Bible declares, “The heavens are the Lord’s heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man” (Ps. 115:16).

COMMANDMENT

The earth was given to Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, with healthy rules on how to govern God’s creation and their lives. At first, God gave only

one commandment, i.e. not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commandment and rebelled against Him. They chose their own way and became their own lawmakers. (Genesis 2 and 3)

Breaking God's commandment is sin, which made man a sinner and broke his relationship with God. Being spiritually dead in his relationship to God, all of mankind was subjected to the corruption and condemnation of their sinful state (Romans 5:12).

CONDITION

This is what the Holy Bible declares about the sinful condition of all people: "None is righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10), "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:18), and that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

A look at the daily news would testify how we have messed up our lives and God's creation! How unsafe and uncertain is the world today due to our sin and rebellion against the holy God!

Some people think that they have no sin, but the Word of God says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Even if a person obeyed most of God's commandments, but failed in any single command, then God's Word states, "For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws" (James 2:10).

Moreover, good works cannot justify our unclean heart. We are still unclean, as the Holy Bible declares,

“We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment” (Isaiah 64:6).

Like it or not, the sinful passions within us and the corruption in the world around us confirm what God’s Word says, that we are sinners, rebels, and wretched.

How we sin and to what extent we sin may vary from person to person. Some commit murder and some get angry. Some practice homosexuality and some watch pornography. Some engage in extramarital sex and some lust in their hearts. Some worship idols and some idolize themselves. Some steal and some are stingy. Some harm others and some live in hatred.

Also, some speak abusive words and some lie. Some curse others and some boast about themselves. Some are violent and some are arrogant. Some are unrighteous and some are self-righteous. Some do not believe in the existence of God and some others believe in God’s existence but have no fear of Him.

Just as a drop of cyanide can kill a person, so also a small sin corrupts the whole person. Whether we do great evils or small sins, the fact that we are sinful to the core cannot be underestimated.

CONSEQUENCES

We made our present world miserable because of our disobedience to the commandments of God. By our own sinful choices, we have done great damage to ourselves and to the world. This is what we have reaped as a result of our sins:

- Separation from the holy and righteous God
- Bondage [slave to sins like pride, anger, envy, greed, hatred, sexual immorality...etc.]
- Loss of peace and joy
- Discontentment and hopelessness
- Conflicts in interpersonal relationships
- Sickesses
- Natural disasters

Sin not only causes temporal reactions but also eternal consequence. Just as any righteous judge would bring punishment on those who break the law of the land, the Judge of all the earth has decreed punishment for those who sinned against Him. This is the judgment of God upon all the sinners: “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

There are two kinds of deaths: physical death and eternal death. We all die physically, but there is another death, which we all deserve and have earned as a result of sin. This death is an eternal death, everlasting pain and separation forever from the holy and loving God. This eternal death is incomparably painful than all the pain that we experience on earth. In one word, it is called “hell.” To say differently, “The wages of sin is hell.” And all people are under this sentence and unable to break free from this bondage with their own strength.

CHRIST

When we reflect upon the consequences of sin that we have suffered till now and will suffer eternally,

what do you suppose is our need and cry? We need salvation, i.e. forgiveness of sin, deliverance from the bondage of sin, reconciliation to God, joy, peace and purity in heart, and hope of eternal life.

Here is the good news: The God who is holy and righteous provided the remedy for our sins out of His love and compassion. The only way for our salvation is Christ Jesus.

But, why is salvation only in Jesus' name?

Jesus is the only Creator, Lord, and Savior of the whole world (John 1:3). There were many men in history who vainly sought to become 'God'. On the contrary, Jesus is the only One, who though being God, became a man to save sinners (Philippians 2:5-8).

Jesus lived a sinless and perfect life (1 Peter 2:22). He taught priceless truths and did incredible miracles (study the Gospels in the Holy Bible). Above all, He is the only One who took our sin, our curse, and our punishment upon Himself and died on the cross. He brutally suffered in our place for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 1:7). By His death, Jesus satisfied divine justice and showed divine love (Romans 4:25; 5:8).

Not only did Jesus die on the cross for our sins, on the third day, He is the only One who rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:4). He declared, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

In our world's history, is there anyone who died for the sins of people, rose from the dead and claimed to give eternal life to those who believe in Him?

The Lord Jesus made an exclusive and absolute statement, “I am *the way*, and *the truth*, and *the life*” (John 14:6). Christ is not *a way*, *a truth* and *a life*, as if there are many like Him. The words of Christ must be taken seriously because He Himself stated, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away” (Matthew 23:35).

Whether people hate it or love it, accept it or reject it, mock at it or rejoice in it, the truth that God’s Word reveals is this: “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Without Jesus, people perish in sin forever (John 3:16,36).

Friend, your good works, rituals, caste, status, money, possessions, education, job, fame, people—none of these can save you from your sin and give you eternal life. Jesus Christ is the only hope. There is no life without Him. He is what you *truly* need. He is what every person needs to be saved.

CALL

What must our response be to this good news of Christ Jesus and to God’s call to salvation?

First, we must know that salvation is a gracious gift of God, which we neither deserve it nor work to earn it. We cannot earn salvation by our good works. It is received totally as a gift. This is because of the sacrificial death of Christ Jesus on the cross for our sins. It is written, “For the wages of sin is death, but the *free gift* of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Second, “God commands all people everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). To repent is to get *convicted* of our sin against God who is holy; it is to *confess* our sin to God who is merciful; it is to *commit* our lives to God who is able to enable us to turn from our sin to obedience unto Him.

Third, the Lord Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Faith is acknowledging our sinfulness and our helplessness to save ourselves from sin and thus trusting in Christ Jesus alone for our salvation.

Dear friend, will you repent of your sins? Will you believe in the Lord Jesus that He died for your sins and rose from the dead to give you eternal life? When you repent and believe, you receive forgiveness of your sins, you are reconciled to God, and you thus possess eternal life.

Having experienced this, declare your new life in Christ by taking water baptism. Join a Bible-believing local church for fellowship and encouragement. Grow towards spiritual maturity by studying and obeying God’s Word.

For additional information and understanding, please study the Holy Bible. You may consider writing to us either to get a copy of the Holy Bible or for any further guidance.

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