



What is the Good News?

In brief, the "Good News" is that Jesus has done for us what we could not do for ourselves. If I had to summarize the Good News in one word, I'd choose the word, "*Rescue*." The Bible tells us that we were lost, rebellious, and dead, separated from God and condemned in our sins with no ability to save ourselves (and that's really bad news)! "But God (good news!), who is rich in mercy, because of his great love for us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in sin—it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2)." Now, THAT'S Good News!

The essence of the Bible and of Jesus revolves around these two words, "*Good News*." We believe the Good News is so essential to our lives that we named our church after it! The Good News is our church's central message. If you get nothing else from us, we hope you'll get this. :)

Overview

In the following pages, we've included two segments that each provide different aspects of spiritual encouragement. The first segment, "***What is the Good News?***" gives an easy-to-understand explanation, as well as, a few quotes and Bible verses that should help answer that important question. The second segment, "***Jesus' Words of Hope & Life,***" are a collection of Jesus' words intended to provide clarity on His message of salvation, faith, hope, and life.

If you have more questions or would just like to talk more about the Good News, Jesus, the Bible, etc., we're available to connect via email, phone, or in person over coffee, lunch, etc. Feel free to reach out to either of us.

We hope this is helpful!

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What is the Good News?

Quotes and Verses to Remind and Encourage Our Hearts in Christ

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Whether you understand the answer to that question or not, it's usually a question that many of us have a hard time expressing in words. It's our hope to help in your understanding and experience of the Good News, as well as, in your ability to articulate to others who may ask you, *"What is the Good News?"*

Good News comes from the original Greek word, "Gospel," which means, "Good News." Probably the simplest and easiest way to define the "Good News" (i.e., Gospel) is, ***"God doing for us what we could never do for ourselves."*** Below are a few quotes and verses that may clarify understanding and explaining the Good News (i.e., Gospel).

G.R.A.C.E.

Another way to answer the question, "What is the Good News?" is by using the acronym G.R.A.C.E which stands for **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. The essence of the Gospel is that salvation comes from God. While it is our responsibility to believe by faith the finished work of Jesus on our behalf (in His life, death, and resurrection), it's God's grace that gives us the faith to believe. Salvation is, from start to finish, a gift of God's amazing grace.

Additional Gospel Bible Verses & Quote Resources

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. – John 3:16-17

God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:21

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. – 2 Corinthians 8:9

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. – Ephesians 2:1-6*

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. - Titus 3:3-6

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. – Colossians 1:13

And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. – Romans 4:5

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. – Romans 8:1-4

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. – 1 John 4:9-10

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” – John 6:29

Gospel Quotes

"God does not love sinners because they are attractive; sinners are attractive to God because he loves them." - Martin Luther

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." - C.S. Lewis

If you died today and stood before the throne of God, and He were to ask you, “Why should I let you into heaven?”, you could answer that question without even uttering one word. All you would need to do is to raise your arm and point to Jesus, because it’s by His work alone and His righteousness that we find favor with God. Our best works are filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). *“Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling”* (from the hymn “Rock of Ages Cleft for Me”) and *“The only thing we contribute to our salvation is the sin that makes it necessary”* (William Temple). We are accepted, embraced, adopted, and loved by God, not by anything that we have done or will do, but by what Christ has done on our behalf. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for God’s glory alone.

“The only thing we contribute to our salvation is the sin that makes it necessary.”
- William Temple (a bishop in the Church of England in the 1920’s – 1940’s)

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." - C.S. Lewis

"To get Jesus, the only thing you need, is need." - Ray Cortese

Jesus' Words of Hope & Life

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

- Jesus (John 11:25-26)

OUR NEED

"I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." - Jesus (John 8:24)

TO BELIEVE

*"Then they (the disciples) asked him (Jesus), "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, **"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."*** - John 6:28-29

"Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life." - Jesus (John 6:47)

"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life." - Jesus (John 6:63)

"He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." - John 6:65

THAT JESUS IS...

*Then Jesus declared, "I am **the bread of life**. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* - John 6:35

*"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am **the light of the world**. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* - John 8:12

*"Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, **I am the gate** for the sheep. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

- John 10:7, 9-10

*"I am **the good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."* - Jesus (John 10:11, 14-15, 27-30)

*Jesus said to him, "I am **the way, the truth, and the life**. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* - John 14:6

OUR SECURITY

*"All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. And this is the will of him who sent me, that **I shall lose none of all those he has given me**, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."* – Jesus (John 6:37, 39-40)

AND PROMISE OF RESURRECTION

"And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." - Jesus (John 6:39-40)

*Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"***

- John 11:25-26

IF WE TRUST HIM

*"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; **if it were not so, I would have told you**. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."* - Jesus (John 14:1-3)

SIN IS LIKE A DEADLY VIRUS TO THE SOUL, BUT JESUS IS THE CURE

In the words of the Apostle John...

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:8-9

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." - 1 John 2:1-2

"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin." - 1 John 3:4-5

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." - 1 John 4:10

"If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God."
- 1 John 4:15