

We all need to come clean before the Lord and not claim that we have anything good to represent us before God. We are guilty. ***Before our birth, we already needed Jesus the Savior.***

Paul, who persecuted Christians before Jesus Christ, God's Son, converted Him, reminds us what the Old Testament tells us: **"There is none righteous, no, not one ..."** (Romans 3:10) and that **"... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23).

But Paul doesn't stop there. ***The bad news sets up the good news.*** Paul then tells us the remedy for our fallen and cursed situation: **"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation [protective covering from God's wrath] through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus"** (Romans 3:24-26).

You see, you can be declared righteous, holy, and clean, and thus allowed into God's holy presence as our first parents once enjoyed! How? By believing on Jesus Christ's righteousness in place of your own (He alone lived the complete, perfect life on this earth), along with believing on Jesus Christ crucified on the cross to pay for your sins and satisfy the justice of the Father (Only He is qualified: 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 5:7). Herein we see both God's justice and His mercy—He sacrifices neither. Our works earn us only punishment, but God's present gives life to whosoever will believe: **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"** (Romans 6:23).

Outside of federal union (legal representation) with the resurrected Jesus Christ, you are currently under God's wrath remaining in your federal union in and with fallen Adam.

John, one of Christ's closest disciples, tells us that **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth [remains] on him"** (John 3:36).

The question is, do you believe on Jesus Christ to save you? If you do not, you simply remain under God's curse upon this world. But if you do believe, you have everlasting life waiting for you, for He rose from the grave and prepares a place in heaven for Christians. In Christ, you will make it past Judgment Day and be welcomed into God's presence in a place that is even better than the Garden of Eden, where **"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him"** (1 Corinthians 2:9).

FAITH TOWARD THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Jesus came to save sinners. It is what God the Father and He the Son covenanted to do on behalf of His elect before the beginning of time (Psalm 2, Psalm 110). You simply need to die to yourself and your own "good works", and trust in Christ's righteous life and cross-work to be credited to you. This is the good news. You don't try to earn heaven by your imperfect works. You just have faith in Christ's finished work (John 19:30).

Jesus said: **"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"** (John 3:14-19).

I implore you to be reconciled to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as your death and Judgment Day are approaching. Trust not in yourself or in anything or anyone else to go to heaven.

If God saves you through belief, you will want to obey His call to sing praises to Him in the assembly of believers and serve along side them until Christ returns in Glory, for **"the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"** (John 4:23-24). **Jesus, Who said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand", is making disciples among all nations to serve Him together** (Matthew 4:17; 28:18-20).

If Christ is your Saving Good Shepherd, but you have not yoked yourself to His Church, I encourage you to join us for worship this Sunday. If you are not a believer, but feel touched by God to want to learn more, don't ignore your conscience speaking to you. Come and hear Jesus speaking to us from heaven in worship (Psalm 22:22, 25; Hebrews 2:12). Come and see Him living by the Holy Spirit in His Body, the Visible Church, the household and family of God, and the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 2:19, 3:15; 1 Timothy 3:15).

Taste and see that, transcending our earthly failings, the LORD in heaven is indeed good!
(Psalm 34:8)

Jesus of Nazareth has brought this Gospel from heaven to wherever you now find yourself on His earth. May the Lord graciously bless you to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). May you personally know His salvation, for **"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country"** (Proverb 25:25).