

What is the Gospel?

Jesus lived the life you should have lived,
died the death you should have died,
and rose from the dead so you could be forgiven
and have eternal life both now and forever.

Part 1

Jesus lived the life you should have lived.

The Bible says there is only one true God. He is the Supreme Creator of all things and also our Heavenly Father. The Bible says in the book of *John 1:3-4* *3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

It also says in *John 1:10* *He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.*

Many times in the Bible we are told that we were made by God to know God. In the very beginning God made us with a purpose and that purpose was to know Him, enjoy Him and work for Him. All people are God's children, His creation and we owe him worship, honor, respect and devotion. However, mankind chose from the very first to disobey God, dishonor God and turn away from God. The Bible tells us that this rebellion against God is called sin.

The Bible also says we will be judged for **Every Word, Every Thought and Every Deed**. Perhaps the easiest way to know how we will be judged is by looking at God's Ten Commandments to consider our words, thoughts and deeds. The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20.

Romans 3 says this, 10 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

You might think you have done a pretty good job of living up to God’s standard, but consider every word you have spoken out loud? What should you have said? One of the Ten Commandments says, Do Not Lie.

Our words can’t be taken back once they are spoken. And often, those words cause relational and emotional damage that we may or may not even know about. How can we even begin to make all of these relational problems right?

Consider every thought that has crossed your mind. How often have you had ill thoughts about another person that have gone unspoken. One of the Ten Commandments is Do Not Envy, and another is Do Not Commit Adultery. Jesus said that what we think in our hearts is like committing the action with our hands.

What about your thoughts that are untrue about another person, accusing them of motives and actions that they didn’t intend. The Bible says that God knows everything about us, including our thoughts.

Consider every deed you have ever done? Think about all the things you have ever done and then consider all those things you can’t even remember. The Bible says, Do Not Steal, Do not Kill. Did you ever steal? Even the smallest item. Did you ever hurt someone? Did you ever cause damage to someone’s property? Did you ever hurt your own body by over or under eating? All of these things and many more would be deeds that count as bad deeds.

This doesn't mean that we have only done terrible and bad things. In fact, many people live good and moral lives. But it's possible that even some of the good things we do are done with improper motives.

When you think about the good things you have done, could you think about the motive for why you did those good things? Surely some of them were motivated by pure and good thoughts. Maybe. But for most of the good things we have done, I think we are motivated by selfishness.

Why did you say the good words? Perhaps it was motivated by selfishness, which actually makes it something bad. Why did you do that good deed? Was it truly out of selflessness, or was it in hopes that others will think well of you, or that you would get some reward? You see, it is possible to do good things with selfish motives, so sometimes even the good that we do is not actually good.

The Bible calls these things, both the bad things that we do and also the selfish motivation behind both the good and bad things sin. It's not just bad behavior, but actually sin. The underlying reason something is wrong in the first place is because it is first an offense against God. For example, lying to your neighbor is wrong because God is truth and lying offends His character.

This means that everything we say, think or do wrong is offensive to God as well as possibly offensive to another person.

This doesn't mean that every person is as bad as they could be. God is perfect and the Bible tells us that for anyone to have a relationship with God they must also be perfect.

So back to the big question I asked earlier what kind of life should we have lived? Out of respect and honor for our creator, we should have lived a life of obedience to his commands and precepts. A life of perfect words, perfect thoughts and perfect deeds.

We have not, and that has created a debt between us and God. A debt of honor that must be restored. A debt of respect that must be repaid. A debt of sin that must be atoned for. This is why God sent His perfect Son Jesus into the world. Because God does love us and care for us. He did not want to leave us hopeless and without a way to return to a right relationship.

Jesus, the son of God, came to make things right between mankind and God. From the time Jesus was born, He alone lived a life that was truly pleasing to God. He lived the life you and I were expected to live. He is the only one to earn God's favor by living a perfect life. He never said a bad word, never thought a bad thought, never did a bad deed. This means he has no sin to pay for.

In addition, He also did everything right by living the perfect life we were expected to live. All the good things Jesus did, He did with the right motives. They were never done out of selfishness, but only out of pure love. So that means His life is perfect in every way.

Jesus had to be born of a virgin and live a perfect and sinless life. 2 Corinthians 5 says this:

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses

against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is why the Bible describes him as the perfect, sinless lamb of God. He is a substitute in every way for us. Therefore, Jesus, on our behalf, is able to willingly stand in our place as a substitute for us before God. Jesus lives the life we should have lived.

Part 2

Jesus died the death you should have died.

So why did Jesus have to die?

Because Jesus lived a perfect life, only He is capable of offering himself as an acceptable substitute on our behalf to satisfy the judgment of God and take the punishment that is rightly deserved for sin.

So what happened on the cross? On the cross, Jesus takes the punishment that we deserve. The wrath of God against the sin of all those who would believe, is poured out on Jesus at the cross of Calvary. It is the most terrible act of judgment in all of human history. An innocent man is sentenced to die for a guilty world.

It's easy to think that when we think a bad thought, say a bad word or commit a bad deed, that these things are just between us and another person, but we must consider the reason why these things are wrong in order to understand the need for Jesus' sacrifice.

The reason things like; telling a lie, thinking badly of someone, dishonoring our parents, etc. are wrong is because they go against God's character. God is truth, so to lie is to violate His nature. God is love, so to hate is to violate His character. God is honor, so to dishonor your parents is to violate Him.

Anytime we sin, we not only break the relationship with other people, we also break the relationship between God and us. In essence, it is a cosmic crime. Again, the Bible calls this sin.

The Bible also tells us that this sin must be paid for. *Romans 6:23 says this: 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Either we are going to pay for this sin or the only other option is that a worthy substitute be offered in our place. *1 Peter 2:24 says this: 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

Only Jesus could stand in between humankind and God. There are a couple of reasons for this. The first reason is because only Jesus had no sin of his own to atone for. The second reason is because he is not only man, but also God, 100% man and 100% God. This means his sacrifice is of infinite value and worth, making it an acceptable sacrifice that would cover the sins of all who believed and trusted in him.

Not only that, but because he is the Son of God, He is a sacrifice that God will accept on our behalf because of his infinite worth.

On the cross, for everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus, a great exchange takes place. Our sin is transferred to him and paid for, and Jesus' righteousness is transferred to us and credited to our life.

You and I should have been the ones to die this terrible death which is not only a physical death, but eternal separation from the love and mercy of God. This is what Jesus endured during the time of his crucifixion. From the time he entered the Garden to pray until he breathed his last breath on the cross, he was suffering under the agony of having the relationship with his Father cut off. This is the greatest punishment anyone could know. Especially for Jesus, having been in an eternal bond of love with the Father.

He did this for you and for me.

Part 3

Jesus rose from the dead so you can be forgiven and have eternal life both now and forever.

What is the meaning of Jesus resurrection?

The Bible says that we are all dead in our sin. That means that even though we walk around with live bodies, our spirits are actually dead. And because we ourselves are dead and powerless, we cannot bring ourselves back to life. We need someone who has true power over death to raise our spirits from the dead and call us to life.

Jesus resurrection shows us that He has power over death, both spiritually and physically. He has the power to call our dead spirits to life.

Jesus resurrection shows us that He has spiritual power for several reasons. The first one being that he returns from death which we know is another place spiritually.

The Bible verifies that in his resurrected body He also has the power to walk through walls and move from place to place instantly. He even goes from earth to heaven with no change in his body. This means he has power over our spirits and can bring them back to life.

Jesus' resurrection proves to us that He has physical power over death. He rose from the dead to show us that it is He, Jesus who has power over death and sin, not death that has power over us. We are often afraid of death and fearful of sin's power in our lives, but Jesus rising from the dead shows us that He can take us through death safely to a new life. We don't need to be afraid of dying or even someone taking our life.

Jesus resurrection also shows us that God accepted his substitutionary sacrifice completely. Jesus' sacrifice was worthy and completely satisfied God's demands, so his punishment was complete. He rose from the dead to show he is no longer being held in judgment but has been set free. God has accepted his sacrifice on our behalf ultimately and finally.

Finally, and most importantly, He rose from the dead to give his life-giving power to anyone who would believe in Him. The Bible says that apart from God, we have no hope of salvation and no hope of life, but because of Jesus, we can have true life, eternal life. He rose from the dead to give that life to anyone who would believe in Him and love Him as their Lord and Savior.

What should I do now?

If you believe these three truths, then you should pray and ask God to save you.

You should feel conviction for the things you have done wrong while at the same time experiencing repentance. You should

want to turn away from your sin and turn towards God because of His great love for you.

You should confess that you believe that Jesus is the true Christ, the Son of the Living God and you believe that He lived, died and rose from the dead on your behalf.

You should ask him to be your Savior and Lord and commit your life to Him forever.

After this, you should be baptized. Talk to a friend or pastor as soon as possible about being baptized.