

ATTACHMENT TWO – THE SIMPLE GOSPEL MESSAGE

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT

“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (**Romans 6:23b**)

“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)

BECAUSE ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT WE CANNOT EARN IT NOR DO WE DESERVE IT

The bible says that no amount of personal effort, doing good things, or even being religious, can earn eternal life:

“It is the gift of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast.” (**Ephesians 2:8c-9**)

IF GOD DID NOT OFFER EACH OF US A PLACE IN HEAVEN AS A GIFT, NO-ONE WOULD GET THERE, BECAUSE

EVERYONE HAS SINNED

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“There is none righteous, no, not one;” (Romans 3:10a)

“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;” (Isaiah 64:6a)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked;...” (Jer. 17:9)

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

We all have our own standards for what sin is. But when it comes to heaven, only God’s standard is relevant. To God, **hate and lust** are sins just as much as murder or adultery, because both express selfishness and ignorance of His Law.

The greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to care for others as much as we care for ourselves. Every time we fail to love in this manner, we are sinning. That is why the Bible says: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (**Romans 3:23**)

WE CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE OURSELVES

The reason we cannot save ourselves is because we all miss the mark and fall short of God's standard of absolute perfection.

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
(Matthew 5:48)

No matter how good we are, any sin, no matter how trivial it may appear to be, spoils the perfection that God requires.

“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” (James 2:10)

Whilst some people are better than others, being better is not good enough. It is like two people trying to jump across a deep chasm. If one falls only a couple of feet short of the other side, he is no better off than the other who only makes it half way.

BECAUSE WE HAVE ALL SINNED, NONE OF US ARE ABLE TO SAVE OURSELVES. NO ONE WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET TO HEAVEN. HOWEVER IN CHRIST, GOD OFFERS US ETERNAL LIFE AS A FREE GIFT.

Why should God offer anyone the gift of eternal life?

BECAUSE GOD IS LOVING AND MERCIFUL, HE DOES NOT WANT TO PUNISH US

“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.” (Psalm 145:8-9)

“For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” (Psalm 100:5) **“For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.”** (Joel 2:13c)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:6-

In fact the bible says, “... for God is love” (1 John 4:8)

HOWEVER, BECAUSE GOD IS PERFECTLY JUST, HE MUST ALSO PUNISH SIN

God's love does not overrule His justice.

“Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” (Deuteronomy 32:3b-4)

“For I will not justify the wicked.” (Exodus 23:7c)

“I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity;” (Isaiah 13:11) “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)

IF GOD WAS TO OVERLOOK OUR SIN BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE, HE WOULD NO LONGER BE JUST. HIS LAW IS PERFECT AND HIS SENTENCE HAS BEEN PASSED... “THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH” (Romans 6:23a)

HOWEVER GOD HAS BROUGHT HIS LOVE AND HIS JUSTICE TOGETHER IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS GOD

JESUS WAS FULLY GOD YET ALSO FULLY MAN

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1&14)

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS AND TO FULFIL GOD'S JUSTICE

WITHOUT CHRIST, EACH ONE OF US WOULD STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE GOD BECAUSE OF OUR SINS. HOWEVER BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, HE HAS PUT OUR SINS ONTO JESUS.

- **Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to fulfil God's justice**
- **On the third day He arose from the dead and is alive forevermore**
- **Jesus gives the gift of eternal life to all those who RECEIVE Him (believe in Him)**
- **This is why we celebrate Easter**

This is the simple gospel message which must be preached to the unbelievers. (Refer to Romans 1:16-17, 1 Cor. 1:17-24, 1 Cor. 2:1-5, 1 Cor. 4:20 and Acts 8:4-8) "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (**Romans 5:8**)

THE DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS HAS REPAIRED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE ALL NOW HAVE A WAY OF COMING INTO HIS PRESENCE, HOLY, PURE AND FAULTLESS

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE IS FOR **WHOEVER** BELIEVES IN HIM. **WHOEVER INCLUDES YOU!**

YOU CAN RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH FAITH

"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**)

Relying on your own efforts or even human logic, or even religious activity, cannot save you. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to be forgiven by God and to receive the gift of eternal life.

HOW DO WE RECEIVE THIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE BY FAITH?

WE MUST TRANSFER OUR TOTAL TRUST TO JESUS CHRIST ALONE

We must simply **BELIEVE** what God has done for us, and **ACCEPT** His offer of eternal life and **TRUST** Jesus Christ alone. There is no other way.

WE NEED TO REPENT OF ALL OF OUR SINS

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (**Acts 3:19**)

REPENTANCE IS LIKE DOING A U-TURN

- 1) It is recognising that we are going in the wrong direction*
- 2) It is owning up to God and asking for His forgiveness, and*
- 3) Choosing to go in the opposite direction – HIS WAY*

TURNING FROM OUR OWN WAY TO GOD’S WAY IS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF OUR LIFE

The Apostle Paul wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (**Galatians 2:20**)

GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US. WE CAN TRUST HIM TO LEAD US INTO THE FULLNESS OF LIFE THAT HE WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE.

Jesus said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (**John 10:10**)

FULLNESS OF LIFE ONLY COMES WHEN WE LIVE OUR LIFE HIS WAY.

Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;...” (**John 14:23**)

GOD'S SPIRIT (THE HOLY SPIRIT) GIVES EVERY BELIEVER THE POWER TO LIVE AN OVERCOMING LIFE

OBEYING GOD INCLUDES DOING SOME NEW THINGS IN OUR LIFE AND DOING SOME THINGS DIFFERENTLY. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF WISDOM AND AS WE READ IT, GOD WILL SPEAK THROUGH IT (Psalm 119:133) TO ENCOURAGE US (Psalm 119:107) AND TO GIVE US CLEAR DIRECTION IN LIFE. (Psalm 119:105) (The bible is God's love letter to us) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **(John 8:31a-32)**

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SAVED BY DOING GOOD WORKS, (ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT), *LIVING IN A WAY THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD WILL BE EVIDENCE OF YOUR NEW LIFE* AS A BELIEVER, AND WILL CONFIRM THAT *JESUS CHRIST IS TRULY LORD OF YOUR LIFE*

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO ALL BELIEVERS

THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO ENABLES AND EMPOWERS BELIEVERS TO WALK IN VICTORY. BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE, IS THE KEY TO EXPERIENCING ABUNDANT LIFE AS A BELIEVER.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." **(John 3:6)** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." **(Romans 8:11)**

THE NEW LIFE THAT WE RECEIVE THROUGH GOD'S SPIRIT MEANS THAT WE ARE NOW PART OF A NEW FAMILY

ALL BELIEVERS BECOME PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name;" (John 1:12)

Reading the bible, praying to God and finding a church home are all keys to help you to live a victorious life as a believer (Christian). Being part of a vibrant church fellowship will help you to become established in your faith.

"Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing," **(Ps. 92:13-14)**

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES TO HELP ALL CHRISTIANS TO SHARE THEIR FAITH AND THE GOSPEL IN A CLEAR AND SIMPLE MANNER

(COMPILED FROM EXTRACTS FROM OUR EVANGELISM FIRE WORKSHOP MANUAL)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” **(1 Corinthians 15:1-4)**

In this passage of Scripture we see the four basic facts of the gospel which we need to preach and share with others:

- 1) *Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins*
- 2) *Christ was buried*
- 3) *God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and*
- 4) *Righteousness is received from God through **believing** these facts*

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**

Every person must make a personal response to the facts of the gospel to receive salvation and the gift of eternal life. When we repent and put our faith in Jesus Christ all of our sins are forgiven and God’s righteousness is imputed to us (that we might become the righteousness of God in Him) – It is based on His righteousness being imputed or attributed to us when we give our life to Jesus Christ, that we as believers satisfy and meet the entry requirement to get into heaven when we die, which is sinless perfection. (Matthew 5:48) To be absent from the body as believers is to be with the Lord.

Each individual soul must make a direct personal response to Christ from the heart. Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” (Revelations 3:20)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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)**

SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE IS SIMPLY A FREE GIFT THAT WE MUST RECEIVE BY FAITH BY COMING TO CHRIST WITH A REPENTANT AND OPEN HEART. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT OUR SALVATION HAS TWO COMPONENTS – REPENTANCE AND FAITH TOWARD GOD. In the book of Acts we read the words of Peter,

“Repent therefore and be converted, *that your sins may be blotted out*, so that *times of refreshing* may come from the *presence of the Lord*.” (Acts 3:19)

Jesus Himself preached both repentance and faith toward God in His messages. In the gospel of Mark we read,

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15)

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WHEN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL THAT WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE MUST BOTH REPENT FROM OUR SINS AND BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST – THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BOTH OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD (Lord of all)

We must let go of our old life to embrace the new resurrection life that can only be found in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN SAVE US FROM OUR SINS

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)

Jesus said, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a **PROPITIATION** by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.” (Romans 3:24-25)

IN ROMANS 3:24-25 WE SEE THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

- i) *When we come to Christ we are “justified” and declared righteous in God’s sight. Salvation is a free gift that we simply receive by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9)*
- ii) PROPITIATION means the appeasement of divine wrath by a sacrificial offering (*Jesus Christ died in our place to pay the ransom (penalty) for our sins*)
- iii) His blood is a reference to Christ’s death as a substitute sacrifice for us (See also Hebrews 9:22 and Hebrews 10:19-22) – At the heart of the gospel is the fact that if Christ did not bear the wrath of God that we deserved (Romans 2:5), then that wrath is stored up for us. In John 3:36 we read, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)
- iv) When Christ died on the cross, He paid the penalty even for those previous sins that had been committed in the time of the Old Testament “...to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed” (Romans 3:25)

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT EVERY PERSON FALLS SHORT OF GOD’S STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (AND ENTRY REQUIREMENT TO GET INTO HEAVEN) – SINLESS PERFECTION

Jesus said, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.” (*Matthew 5:48*)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10-12)

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT WHICH EVERY PERSON CAN AND MUST RECEIVE BY COMING TO CHRIST IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH, IF THEY ARE TO BE SAVED FROM THEIR SINS AND GOD'S WRATH

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

In the gospel of John we read, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

THE BIBLE MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT GOD'S DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH (2 Peter 3:9) (1 Timothy 2:3-4) (Ezekiel 33:11) AND THAT ALL WOULD HAVE AN ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. IT IS THE LOVE AND KINDNESS OF GOD (“the goodness of God”) THAT LEADS PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE (Romans 2:4) AS WE PREACH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US ON THE CROSS

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” (Romans 5:6-9)

JESUS HIMSELF SHARED ABOUT GOD'S INCREDIBLE LOVE FOR US AND THAT ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM WILL BE SAVED AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE – EVERY PERSON HOWEVER HAS BEEN GIVEN A FREE WILL AND MUST CHOOSE TO COME TO CHRIST

Jesus Himself said, “For God *so loved the world* that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*”

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” (John 3:16-21)

I WILL NOW CONCLUDE WITH WHAT THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID,

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law” (Romans 3:28)

WE ARE ALL SAVED BY GRACE AND GRACE ALONE THROUGH OUR FAITH IN CHRIST – Saved for a wonderful plan and purpose

Following is a suggested prayer that can be used to help lead an unbeliever to Christ:

“Dear Father God, today I choose to turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit I pray in Jesus Name. Amen”

The Apostle Paul wrote, “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.” **(Romans 10:9)**

ONE FINAL THING THAT WE MUST ALWAYS HAVE A FIRM BELIEF IN – There is power in the message of the gospel to transform cities and nations

WE MUST ALWAYS BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO CHANGE OUR COMMUNITIES. As we preach the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit we can expect that many lives will be touched and transformed by the gospel message as people respond by coming to Christ. In the book of Acts we read, “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. **AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY” (Acts 8:4-8)**

Jesus Himself said, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” **(Mark 16:17-18)** “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” **(Mark 16:20)**