

THE GOSPEL ("Good News")

1. CONFESS. We find first of all that we are told by God to "confess" our sin against Him. To confess means to agree with God about what He says that our condition is - that we have offended God by falling short of His expectations that He commanded. We will examine what God says in the Bible about confessing our sin as you read the following questions and write down what you observe there. How do you measure up to the Ten Commandments? Are you a good person?

-- Look up Romans 2:14-15 and write down what you see about the Law and our conscience.

-- After reading John 16:8, what does God show us?

-- What is it that God really wants from us (see Psalm 51:6)?

-- From Hebrew 4:12, what does His word (the Bible) reveal to us?

-- Look at Romans 3:10-12. Are you a good person? What does God say about that?

-- Now read Romans 3:23; what does this mean to you?

-- What purpose does the Law (Ten Commandments) have according to Romans 7:7?

-- Rom.3:19-20 law stops the excuses by showing we all are sinners

-- Based on Matthew 5:27-28, if we look at our hearts in light of God's Law, are you innocent?

-- The purpose of the Law can also be found in Galatians 3:24. Why does the Law show us our sin?

2. UNDERSTAND. The next step is to really understand and consider the consequences of your sin.

-- Read Isaiah 59:2 and write down what sin does to us:

-- According to Romans 14:12, do we do enough good to get away with anything?

-- Carefully read Romans 6:23 and then put down what you see about the consequence of our sin.

-- Look now at Hebrew 9:27. After you die, what will happen according to God?

-- Read over 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 a few times. If you don't know Christ, what will become of you?

-- Finally, read Revelation 20:15 and comment on the wages we earn for disobeying God:

3. REPENT. Repent – this word means to turn away from and stop your sin (sin is rebelling against what God commands and so missing the mark of His intentions and expectations for us).

-- What motivates us to turn from our sin and do our best to stop (2 Corinthians 7:10)?

-- When we see our sin as God does, what is the result according to Isaiah 66:2 and Luke 4:18-19?

-- Look at James 4:6 & 1 Peter 5:5 to see about pride and humility. Why do we justify our rebellion?

-- So what should we do according to what Jesus said in Mark 1:15? Why?

-- Ephesians 2:8-9 talks of our good efforts to earn God's favor. Can you really work for a gift?

-- Read Acts 2:38 and note below what you need to do to have God forgive your sins.

-- What is the result seen in Acts 3:19 when you repent?

-- What is the reason and result of repenting from Acts 17:30-31? What standard of righteousness?

4. ACT. Believe (take Him at His word) and Receive (act of your will) Jesus and His work on cross. We cannot just intellectually or emotionally acknowledge Jesus, but take action on what He says.

-- What does God tell us about how to come to Him from Acts 4:12?

-- Compare Numbers 21:6-9 & John 3:14. What does this tell you about listening to God?

-- Now look at John 1:12 and write down what 2 things you must do to become a child of God?

-- According to Romans 5:6-8, why did Jesus die for you?

-- From Romans 5:21, what did Jesus do for you and me?

-- Look at Romans 5:18-19 and comment on disobedience, obedience, judgment and justification:

-- Why did Jesus suffer in our place (1 Peter 3:18) - think of a courtroom sentencing.

-- Does what 1 Corinthians 1:18 says about this good news make it seem foolish or wise?

-- John 3:36 tell us we must believe for life, or God's wrath remains on you. Why is that?

5. REBIRTH. Be changed by God Himself, and so be Reconciled to Him you are separated from. We cannot change in our own effort, and need to be made right in our severed relationship with God. Just repeating a sinner's prayer that somebody tells us to repeat at a church altar does nothing without God's conviction and work in our hearts first!

-- How do we come to God from John 6:44, and whose effort or will brings us to even desire Him?

-- God's work from John 3:8 uses wind to describe His Spirit's work - what does it say?

-- Now look back at John 3:3 and jot down why a change is necessary.

-- According to 1 Peter 1:23,25, by what means are you reborn?

-- How doe Romans 5:10 describe being saved from sin and made right before God in Christ?

-- How can a changed (reborn, saved) person do what God says according to Jeremiah 31:33?

6. ASSURANCE. Certainty of Jesus' finished work of salvation delivers you from sin and Hell. Let us now look at the working of God when you believe, receive, and are made a new creation by Jesus.

-- Hebrews 7:25 tells you what about those who come to God through Him? What does that mean?

-- Why is the Gospel given to us as you read in 1 John 5:12-13?

-- How is death and God's judgment on your sin now addressed in John 5:24?

-- What else does God promise you from Jude 24 concerning His work in you to make you new?

-- Finally, consider John 10:28-29. Why can you or anyone not take you away from God in Christ?

SUMMARY:

You looked in this study at what God says about the Good News of what Jesus Christ has done for you. Considering eternity is at stake, please take the advice in 2 Corinthians 13:5 and 2 Peter 1:10 below and examine where you stand with Jesus Christ. Consider where you are and count the cost. Go back over these verses and take time to understand what they say if you are uncertain.

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified. 2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 2 Peter 1:10

