

HOW GOOD IS IT?

In our modern society today, many people think that all religion is the same. They think that if you are so inclined, just pick one that you like and add it to your natural life, but if you don't, it's no big loss. And you know, they may be right.

Religion is done by Man and for Man and is a program devised by natural men who are separated from God because of Adam's fall from God's presence.

It is initiated and maintained by man's human effort. There are thousands of religions on the earth today with thousands of variations of teachings and thousands of forms of expression that can all be performed by completely natural men without God's presence.

The Gospel is not is not a religion. It's the supernatural work of God on our behalf, that only He can do.

Let's look at a few scriptures that show God's plan to reconnect Mankind to Himself and His method of doing it.

Romans 8.1 declares that,

Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those WHO ARE IN. CHRIST JESUS, *who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.*

2 For THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS [the law of our new being] HAS FREED ME FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.

3 For GOD HAS DONE what the Law could not do, [its power] being weakened by the flesh [which is the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit]. Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [GOD] CONDEMNED SIN IN THE FLESH [HE SUBDUED IT, HE OVERCAME IT, AND HE DEPRIVED IT OF IT'S POWER OVER ALL WHO ACCEPT THAT SACRIFICE],

4 So that the righteous *and* just requirement of the Law might be fully met in us who live *and* move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit [our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit].

God had a lot to say about sin in these verses. He condemned it, subdued it, overcame it and deprived it of its power over us. By our accepting God's supernatural work for us, God says that we've been set free from sin.

Please note that God was not dealing with our particular individual sins, but with our fallen nature that causes all of them.

The original Greek word for sin in these verses is hamartía. Strong's defines it as "Sin, which is forfeiture because of missing the mark," is the brand of sin that emphasizes its SELF-ORIGINATED and SELF-EMPOWERED NATURE – thus it is not originated or empowered by God, therefore it is NOT OF FAITH, WHICH IS HIS INWORKED PERSUASION.

These verses also say that we must. accept Jesus' sacrifice to receive these conditions. Which begs the question, "how good is it?"

Let's look at four statements of reality from God that reveal exactly what this incredible sacrifice makes available to us as His children.

We find them in Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 9.12 He went once for all into the [Holy of] Holies [of heaven], not by virtue of the blood of goats and calves [by which to make reconciliation between God and man], but His own blood, HAVING FOUND AND SECURED A COMPLETE REDEMPTION [AN EVERLASTING RELEASE FOR US].

Here is the Greek definition of the word translated as "eternal" or "everlasting."

It does not focus on the future *per se*, but rather on the *quality* of the *age* it relates to. Thus, believers live in "eternal life" right *now*, experiencing this quality of God's life now as a present possession.

Verse 15 [Christ, the Messiah] is therefore the Negotiator *and* Mediator of an [entirely] new agreement (a new testament or covenant), SO THAT THOSE WHO ARE CALLED AND OFFERED IT MAY RECEIVE THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISED EVERLASTING INHERITANCE—since a death has taken place which rescues *and* delivers *and* redeems them from the transgressions committed under the [old] first agreement.

We receive this eternal inheritance because we are His children and members of God's family.

Hebrews 10.10

In accordance with this will [of God], WE HAVE BEEN MADE HOLY [CONSECRATED AND SANCTIFIED] through the offering made once for all, of the body of Jesus Christ (the Anointed One).

To sanctify means "to make holy, to consecrate, to sanctify; to dedicate, and separate.

Verse 14

For by a single offering, HE HAS FOREVER COMPLETELY CLEANSED AND PERFECTED THOSE WHO ARE CONSECRATED AND MADE HOLY.

This amazing sacrifice was initiated by God and done by the only One in the universe who can do it. God Himself. And as mentioned earlier, we as believers experience God's eternal life now in this present age.

Here is how God made this supernatural deliverance happen for us.

Romans 6

4 We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, SÒ WE TOO MIGHT [HABITUALLY] LIVE AND BEHAVE IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

The Greek word translated as "life" is zoe. Defined as, life as God has it.

6 We know that our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our] body [which is the instrument] of sin might be made ineffective *and* inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin.

The definition of the Greek word translated as "inactive" is:

to render something completely inoperative; thus, being of no effect (totally without force, completely brought down); done away with, caused to *cease* and therefore abolish; make invalid, "to make idle or inactive

7 For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed and delivered) from [the power of] sin [among men].

The definition of the word translated as "freed" is

the believer is justified" by the Lord, cleared of all charges and punishment related to their sins and they are made righteous by God's grace.

10 For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him]

11 Even so, CONSIDER YOURSELVES DEAD TO SIN and your relation to it broken, BUT ALIVE TO GOD [LIVING IN UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM] in Christ Jesus.

God's plan is that whatever happened to Christ also happened to us. Christ didn't just die for us, by God's doing we actually died with Him.

The Apostle Paul asked a very powerful question, "how can we who died to sin live in it any longer"?

In my 60 years as a believer, I've heard Christians say things like, "we are only sinners saved by grace" and "Christians aren't perfect, they are only forgiven."

It seems to me that the intent of statements like these is to warn unbelievers not to judge God's offer of complete eternal salvation by our shabby representation of it.

Our witness in this world IS NOT our behavior modification efforts and the academic presentation of Jesus' teachings. The Gospel is supernatural and God is the only one who can transform us into the likeness of Christ and manifest His eternal life in us and through us by His Holy Spirit.

Let's look at a couple more statements of reality from God. He says in

2 Cor. 5.17 Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!

WE'VE ACTUALLY BEEN RE-CREATED IN CHRIST BY GOD.

1 Corinthians 1.30 states,

But by His doing YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO BECAME TO US WISDOM from God, and RIGHTEOUSNESS, and SANCTIFICATION and REDEMPTION, so that, just as it is written, let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.

Christ's eternal life becomes our life in this world and we share Christ's inheritance as God's heirs and members of His family.

This is God's testimony, He has given us His eternal life. This life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son, has that life.

1 John 5.11

One final scripture. It's John 16.14, speaking of the role of His Holy Spirit in God's plan.

14 He will honor and glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

15 Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you

I've share with you many statements of reality from God that He has already spoken, already done, and has committed His Holy Spirit to make our present and eternal experience.

It seems inconceivable that we or anyone else would hang on to our spiritually dead lives inherited from Adam and Eve and not accept God's supernatural work to redeem us back into His family.

Jesus said in Mark 10.15

Truly I tell you, anyone who does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Let's trust God's absolutely perfect sacrifice for us and say like little kids,
THANK YOU DADDY!

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

kingdomrealities.org