

Topical

Bad News & Good News

Genesis 1, Acts 2:14-47, Romans

Good news or bad news first? <i>You're not dead yet! But you might be next week.</i> <i>Your other teeth are great, but this one's got to go.</i>	"Positivity only" is a worldly idea "Truth" is God's idea We need to hear the bad news first or we won't think we need the good news Gospel shines brightest in the dark
[Pray] You might think of God as an angry God, <u>unjustly</u> angry <i>God made the rules we can't follow and gets angry with us</i> Most might say they're good people <i>Girl screaming about abortion and being a good person</i> Moral relativism, good compared to... Think of the worst person you can think of Worst thing someone could do Someone could always be worse! <i>Slippery slope of abortion to now child murder</i>	True goodness is a heart matter <i>"A thief steals because he's a thief in heart"</i> <i>Murder charge, <u>premeditated</u> or not</i> <i>We try to hide our hearts well, we think But, God sees the heart</i> <i>"Man looks on outside, god on inside"</i> <i>"The heart is deceitful and wicked above all things"</i> Deep down we know we've done wrong, at some point in our lives - but maybe we've covered it up, moved on, hardened our hearts to not think it's so bad anymore <i>"Deceitfulness of sin"</i>

We come up with all sorts of things to deal with our own lack of goodness and guilt

1. **excuses, blame others** - I'm Irish, italian, or my parents, or my race, or someone did this to me
2. **Works** - Do things to make it better (although fixing/replacing something never makes it like new, salvage title car)
3. **Compare** ourselves to others (moral relativity)
4. **Redefine guilt.** Instead of shame, have pride (but you know it's not working on the inside with how sensitive those folks are)
5. **Remove the law** from our view - no more 10 commandments, separation of church and state
6. **Explain away God, the judge** although Romans 1 is clear

The short-sighted view is that God made the law, we broke it, God is unjust for expecting us to keep something we clearly couldn't.

NOT FAIR!

**The inventor of the law
The inventor of judgment & justice
Also invented the way out - grace**

If you keep reading the Bible,
you'll see over and over God is loving, merciful and gracious, I ong before you get to the verse that actually tells you directly:

1 John 4:8 - He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Let's go back to the beginning

The Beginning is the foundation

**If Genesis isn't literal and accurate
Then everything that follows
doesn't matter**

Why do you think the enemy brought evolution into the world? We've been so dumb to buy into it! It's not holding weight!

Romans 5:12, 14-15 - Therefore, just as **through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin**, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- ... Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. **For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.**

Death came through Adam & Eve's sin. Death did not exist before them.

Millions of years couldn't have happened because it required death.

I believe, as the Bible shows, we're special in the universe. There is no life elsewhere. Our planet is the garden of the universe.

Alien stuff is simple fallen angels and demons

But if there were, our sin corrupted the universe. We are the top of the food chain.

Your view of everything is tied to creation and the events in the garden, the beginning, and sin Your destination is tied to the result of that - a new heavens and new earth, this place burned up, what you did with your sin and God's answer - the Savior	Hebrews 9:27-28 - And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
Genesis 1-3 summary • Creation • Garden • Adam and eve • Command • Broken, deceived and transgressed The solution? Sacrifice God made life, God took the first life of an animal, To pay for us	But we're more valuable than animals, made in His image So the blood of a lesser thing wouldn't do Especially for something like murder eye for an eye doesn't <u>undo</u> the sin, it just might make the brokenness even It would take a better sacrifice to restore the effects of sin - death, suffering, sickness, disease, loss
God knew we'd sin, knew it'd cost Jesus' life even before Day 1 of creation...Yet he still did it... God promised His own sacrifice Genesis 3:15 - And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."	And it'd come through the human line Fully human, fully God Even His son's name means salvation YHWH, Yehoshua God is love But His name is salvation He will save you from anything and everything for eternity - because He loves you

Read Acts 2:14-47

36-47 for time

Pentecost, Holy Spirit, tongues

People from all over the world hearing “the wonderful works of God” in their own language (v11)

Jesus, He’s the one promised from the beginning

Their generation rejected him, their rejection put him on the cross, that cross was the means of their salvation

He didn’t stay dead, He was resurrected
Why? Because He’s God’s only Son
And death was defeated

The death brought about in the garden was defeated at the grave

:40 “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

Their generation

- Wicked king, killed babies, marrying young relatives, killing prophets - JTB, Jesus
- Fickle people looking for a political savior
- Rejected God’s savior, their history
- Roman Empire, worshipping many gods, even a man, Caesar

What about ours?

- Mothers murdering children, OK
- Going after lone holdout
- Pride in schools, perversion to kids
- Pornography everywhere, young girls corrupted for money
- “Redefining morality”
- Broken homes
- Wars
- Racism on the rise
- A lukewarm church, in it for what they can get, twisting scripture

Their response to hearing the gospel?

What do we do?

Salvation starts with a personal response in heart, mind and action

Repentance!

180*, ship turning about face

Going the opposite way (*old Leeland song*)

The opposite way you were going - death & hell

The opposite way your generation is going

No gospel Without repentance
People reject repentance

Matthew 11:23-24 - "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. "But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

Luke 9:5 - "And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them."

You can't get to heaven any way you want (Road trip to Maryland) You have repent to go God's way So what is the way to God? It's through a Who.	John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. Jesus is the only way to get to God There are not multiple ways If there were, as Jesus said, "let this cup pass from me"
Here's the map: Romans Road (expound on each) Romans 3:23 - <u>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,</u> Romans 5:8 - But <u>God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.</u> Romans 6:23 - For the <u>wages of sin is death,</u> but the <u>gift of God</u> is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now <u>no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.</u> Romans 10:9 - that if you <u>confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart</u> that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:13 - For "whoever <u>calls on the name of the LORD</u> shall be saved."	Romans 12:1-2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, <u>by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.</u> The bad news God is real. Sin is real. You're in sin, can't save yourself from death and judgment (eternal death) - you are going to hell in sin The good news God loves you. Salvation is free. The work of your sin was finished at the cross. You don't have to pay for it. Jesus did. John 19:30 - So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. 2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. You have a means of escape, if you'll take it - repent to God!

There's only one sin that you can't be saved from Mark 3:28-29 - "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; "but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"-- What is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?	The Holy Spirit is convicting you of sin, of righteousness and judgment <u>That Jesus is God and your savior</u> Rejecting the truth of His speaking to you, to get you to repent, is what can't be forgiven Because you rejected the only way to be forgiven!
Sin only has you if you stay in it • The only way out is by repenting towards Jesus • He saves you out of it Sometimes Christians fall back, backslide Sometimes people say they're Christians but keep living in sin • If you're really saved, you can't stay in sin, you'll hate it. • You might struggle, but you'll let the Lord get you out The ones to worry about are those who say they're saved but have no problem <u>living</u> in sin It reveals they're rejecting the Holy Spirit, maybe not saved - maybe even that lukewarm church in Revelation	All through OT we see Jesus working in people's lives, pictures of himself and salvation • Christophanies • Noah • Joseph • Moses & Israelites • David & Goliath • Solomon We also see people being saved who are not His people • Rahab • Ruth • Commands for Passover strangers But they were all looking forward to Jesus - Emmanuel, God with us God can't stay away. His desire is always to be with us It's because He is love He loves us And wants to be back together with us <i>Take me back Cora <3 on overpass</i>

That's the message of the Bible: God wants to be with us Not a bat over your head to shape up and fly right or else But God does discipline those he loves And there are consequences to your sin It's a message of repent, or else your sin will destroy you forever. And you don't know what you're doing and how bad that will be	And if you repent, you'll be brand new Able to live a new life that was impossible before Because it's God's life living in you now 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
And you'll have the Holy Spirit as a <u>guarantee</u> that you're saved. When Jesus comes back, you're going with him to heaven To never be alone again <i>Easter bunnies, day after</i>	Are you unrepentant? Unsaved and dead in sin? Saved and backslidden? Think you can do both? Repent, and be saved! Repent and go the right way with Jesus!
The bad news: tomorrow isn't guaranteed The good news: you still have today And you can still be saved today	2 Corinthians 6:2 - For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.