

Good News & Bad News!

I've got good news and I've got bad news! We've all been there haven't we? Personally, I always want to hear the bad news first, you know - end with a positive note! The *Gospel* means *good news!* But what does it mean when we say the gospel is the *good news*? Well, first of all good news is really only good news if *bad news* is the alternative. For example if the Dr. tells you, "The bad news is you have cancer, but the good news is that we can cure it with this treatment", well then the bad news may be critical and sobering but the good news is really great news!

So let me tell you the bad news first; it is **truth** that very few people are willing to tell you and very few people are willing to hear these days. *You are a sinner. Your heart is evil and deceptive and wicked. You offend God with your lifestyle, your choices, your values, your pride, and your desires...just to name a few things. Additionally, he created you and gave you life and in return you love so many other things more than you love him. Your sinfulness is repulsive and sickening to God.* Why? Because God is a holy righteous God, who cannot tolerate or even stomach sin; sin is antithetical to God. He would cease to be God if he tolerated sin. And so God's judgment and wrath is upon all sin and those who commit sin.

So the bad news is devastatingly bad; you and I are sinners and we have a nature that embraces sin and God's judgment and wrath is upon us. Therefore in my natural state *I cannot have a relationship with God, and I am destined for an eternity of judgment and wrath.* The bad news would be *insurmountable* bad news were it not for the grace of God; and THAT is the good news! If God simply hated you because you were a sinner, then he would just destroy you because of your sin, but the bible declares that God is a loving and merciful God and indeed He is. God does not force us to love him and He knows we will always choose SIN, He knows we are unable to meet his standard of sinless perfection and so Jesus Christ died *in your place (took God's wrath)* – A SUBSTITUTE. He received the wrath and anger of God against sin – all sin; yours, mine, and every person who ever lived. *Now the good news gets even better!*

God offers salvation to you based upon the sacrificial, substitutionary death of Jesus Christ. To be saved, you must recognize and confess your sinful nature and repent of it, (that means to change your mind about it, to hate your sin rather than embrace it) and then turn to God and ask for his forgiveness, mercy and grace.

Finally you must fully trust that what Jesus Christ did through his sacrificial death was sufficient to satisfy God's righteous wrath upon your sin.

Now let me give you one more bit of bad news & good news. The bad news is that the bible says that the truth that I have shared with you *is foolishness to those who do not believe*, the bible says that *the natural man cannot see spiritual truth*, so in your natural state (which we all are before we are "born again") you cannot understand or appreciate these truths, you need God's Spirit to reveal them to you so that you fully see and understand them. The good news is that God wants you to be saved or born again; he will pursue you by his spirit if you will just cry out for mercy and ask for him to show you the truth of these things.

Are you seeking to know God? Do you sincerely want a relationship with your creator? We want to help! You can call, drop by our offices, e-mail us, or come to a worship service. We would love to help you understand and discover what it means to be saved. We want you to know that the **GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL IS THE GREATEST NEWS OF YOUR LIFE!**