

What About Creation #11

What's so Good?

I remember when some of my friends would try to get me to go to church. They were always telling me how great it is, mostly tempting me with the fact that the girls at their church were good looking. And that if I went, it would make getting a girlfriend easier. So, my notion of the reason to go to church was to get a girlfriend. Some would say that they had mosh pits and rock concerts at their church. I already had that at real rock concerts. My impressions of church were that it was a place for people who want to be like the world, but are afraid to do the real thing. I would be at parties Saturday night and my friends would wake up Sunday morning and say, "Let's go to church". I would think, "What's church doing for them? They were just as smashed as I was last night. Maybe church is somehow another high to help them with the hangover." I guess I did not see much good in those church friends of mine. With examples like these fresh in my mind, I wondered, "What is so good about this Gospel of Christ anyway?"

Good News only as Good as Bad News is Bad.

1. How many have sinned?(Romans 3:23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
2. What is the cost of sin? (Romans 6:23) for the wages of sin is death...
3. How did we get into this condition? (Romans 5:12) Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

Our genes have been messed up because of Adam and Eve (see previous study)

4. What is present with us? (Romans 7:21) I find then a law, that evil is present with me...

It is a law that humanity is naturally self serving like what Lucifer became (see previous study)

5. What is the battle going on? (Romans 7:23-24) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

The battle is between being selfish or loving.

What is the Good News?

Did Christ die for me? (1 John 2:2) And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the whole world.

Propitiation = the action of appeasing a god, spirit, or person. (Oxford dictionary definition)

What is the gift of God? (Romans 6:23) ... the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How is this possible? (Romans 5:17) For if by one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

What happens when we are in Christ? (Romans 8:1) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

What is the power of God? (Romans 1:16-17) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

The Power of Faith

Through what are we saved? (Ephesians 2:8) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God

How are we not saved? (Ephesians 2:9) not of works, lest anyone should boast.

We are his workmanship to do what? (Ephesians 2:10) For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

What gave Abraham righteousness?(Galatians 3:6-7) just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Therefore we know that only those who are of faith are the sons of Abraham.

What if I just have faith? (James 2:17,21-22) There also faith by itself, if it does have works, is dead

How is faith perfect? (James 2:21-22) Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by his works faith was made perfect?

The Eternal Gospel

What kind of Gospel do we believe in? (Revelation 14:6) Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth – to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people–

What kind of covenant are we in? (Hebrews 13:20–21) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen

No one can be saved without what? (Hebrews 11:6) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

What did not take away sins? (Hebrews 10:4) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins

Is Jesus the God of the Old Testament? (Hebrews 13:8) Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The people of God have, since creation, been saved by grace through faith in the blood of the Messiah (Jesus Christ). By no other name can man be saved.

The Sacrifice

What was the Messiah to be like? Read the whole chapter of Isaiah 53 Here we see the messiah as a suffering servant and lamb about to be sacrificed. The true believers in the Old Testament knew that the animal sacrifices were pointing to the Messiah to come.

What did John the Baptist call Jesus? (John 1:29) “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

What do we have to do to not perish? (John 3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believed in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

What do we need to do before we are baptized? (Acts 2:37–38) Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Repentance means a sorrow for sin and a turning away from it.

How can we be forgiven of our sins? (1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What do we need to do to be made pure? (Isaiah 1:16-19) Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek Justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

God wants us to have the Son so that we may have what? (1 John 5:12-13) He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Who Cares?

There once was a man who worked with the railroad. He was in charge of raising the bridge for boats and lowering it for trains. This man had a son. Taking his son to work with him one day, he left the bridge in the upright position when he heard the whistle for the train. Time to lower the bridge..."HELP! Daddy I'm stuck!", His son screamed. The man turned and saw his son stuck in the gears. He had to make a choice. There was absolutely no time to make any other choice. What was he to choose: either save his son or save the hundreds on the train? The decision was made; He pulled the lever and his son was mangled in the gears right before his eyes. He was to watch him suffer in order to save the many on the train. The bridge went down for a great cost. As the train went by, the man looked up into the windows of the passengers. They all looked so happy. There were people eating and drinking, talking and laughing, in complete ignorance to what just happened. The man thought, "Would any of them realize how much their life cost me? Will any of them ever care?" God understand that man's pain. Because of sin, He watched his Son suffering, stricken, smitten and afflicted. Then He watched his Son's heart burst as all of our sins were pressed down upon him. But do any of us care? Do any of us understand? Behold what manner of love the Father has for us. The question is: Will we accept it?