



The Wonderful Salvation of God

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1. Introduction

God's salvation message, also called the gospel (which means good news), is very simple. Here is a summary:

God created everything very good, but death, disease, and suffering came as a result of our sin. Sin (or transgression, or iniquity, or trespass) is our failure to measure up to God's standard of righteousness, which is to be and to do good and right in all ways and at all times. All of us have sinned and we are sinful by nature, and our works (what we do) cannot earn or merit salvation in any way. God is holy, which means that He is unique, perfect and excellent in every aspect of His nature, character, actions, and words. God's very nature is perfect love, but He is also perfectly righteous and perfectly just by nature and He cannot simply overlook our sin because His perfect justice requires judgment against us due to our sin.

Since God's love and mercy for us are so great, God the Son, Jesus Christ, became a Man, being born through a virgin, and lived a sinless life so He could bear the just judgment in our place. He suffered much more than just physically, taking our sin upon Himself, and giving Himself to be the sacrifice on our behalf. Jesus died for our sins, was buried, then after three days He rose from the dead. Because He did this for us, if we acknowledge our sin and come to Him, simply believing that He died for our sin and that He rose again, placing our trust in His loving salvation (with no other requirement), then we will receive forgiveness of our sin. We will escape hell, and also receive eternal life of perfect peace and joy in heaven, free from death, disease, suffering, sorrow, pain, and sin.

This booklet shows a small portion of how extensively and consistently God has spoken His salvation message throughout the entirety of His word (the Bible, or Scripture). To help illustrate this point, this booklet is about 80% Scripture. It contains passages from 32 of the 39 books of the Old Testament, and from 23 of the 27 books of the New Testament, which are the two parts of the Christian Bible. Also, no Bible passage is included more than once.

The Old Testament is the same as the Jewish/Hebrew Bible (called the Tanakh). God's salvation message has always been the same, and the New Testament is not a change from the Old Testament, but rather it shows God's fulfillment of the salvation that He

promised in the Old Testament. To help illustrate these points, this booklet has Old Testament Scripture in blue text and New Testament Scripture in green text.

Since some of the old English of the King James Version is harder to understand, footnotes have been included to assist.

2. God's word and God's way

The Bible was written through the hands of multiple people but is ultimately from God Himself.

- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16) KJV
- By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. (Deuteronomy 8:3) KJV

God's power and understanding are beyond our comprehension.

- Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee (Jeremiah 32:17) KJV
- I know that thou canst¹ do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. (Job 42:2) KJV
- He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite. (Psalm 147:4–5) KJV

¹ can

God is more than powerful enough to preserve His word through the centuries. It is true and will never need to be adjusted.

- The words of the LORD are pure words...Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (Psalm 12:6–7) KJV
- The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. (Isaiah 40:8) KJV
- For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. (Psalm 119:89) KJV
- Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever. (Psalm 119:152) KJV
- Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. (Matthew 24:35) KJV
- By the word of God, which liveth and abideth¹ for ever. (1 Peter 1:23) KJV

- And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true (2 Samuel 7:28) KJV
 - Thy word is true from the beginning (Psalm 119:160) KJV
- ¹ remains

God's judgment regarding our future will last for all eternity, and He wants for us to choose the right way and be with Him.

- It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27) KJV
- Every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. (Psalm 119:160) KJV
- Of the doctrine of...resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6:2) KJV
- He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered. (Proverbs 28:26) KJV
- A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident. (Proverbs 14:16) KJV
- A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple¹ pass on, and are punished. (Proverbs 22:3) KJV
- He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; but he that despiseth his ways shall die. (Proverbs 19:16) KJV
- He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul (Proverbs 15:32) KJV
- For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36) KJV

¹ naive or ignorant

God is sovereign, so He is able to declare to us what the right way of salvation is.

- He doeth according to his will...and none can stay¹ his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? (Daniel 4:35) KJV
- The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand...For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back? (Isaiah 14:24,27) KJV
- Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him. Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? (Ecclesiastes 8:3-4) KJV

¹ restrain

God loves us, but He does not accept our “sincerity” or “faith” if we place it in the wrong way.

- For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way...For the turning away of the simple¹ shall slay them...But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet² from fear of evil. (Proverbs 1:29–33) KJV
- The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. (Proverbs 12:15) KJV
- For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. (Romans 10:2) KJV
- Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth³ with his feet sinneth. (Proverbs 19:2) KJV
- Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:17) KJV
- Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err⁴, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. (Matthew 22:29) KJV
- He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. (John 12:48) KJV

¹ naive or ignorant ² secure ³ rushes ⁴ you are in error

We should make sure our beliefs are based on the word of God, and not based on wrong teachings, or traditions, or our feelings.

- He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men...And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. (Mark 7:6–9) KJV

Because God loves us so much, He has given us many warnings in His word, and He also teaches us the right way in His word.

- Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105) KJV
- The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding (Psalm 119:130) KJV
- Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:11) KJV

- Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. (Proverbs 3:5–7) KJV
- For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning (Romans 15:4) KJV
- The holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15) KJV

We can put our confidence fully in God because He never changes His way.

- For I am the LORD, I change not (Malachi 3:6) KJV
- Thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax¹ old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. (Psalm 102:25–27) KJV
- Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. (James 1:17) KJV
- Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. (Hebrews 13:8) KJV
- God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent²: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (Numbers 23:19) KJV
- The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen³ to nought: he maketh the devices⁴ of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. (Psalm 33:10–11) KJV

¹ grow ² change His mind or way ³ peoples or nations ⁴ plans or designs

3. God's creation

There is no other God anywhere, and God has made His existence obvious to us through His creation.

- Thus saith the LORD...I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. (Isaiah 44:6) KJV
- I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure (Isaiah 46:9–10) KJV

- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse (Romans 1:18–20) KJV
 - But evil men and seducers shall wax¹ worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (2 Timothy 3:13) KJV
 - The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity (Psalm 53:1) KJV
 - Wherefore doth the wicked contemn² God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it³. (Psalm 10:13) KJV
 - They... shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. (1 Peter 4:4–5) KJV
 - It is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. (Romans 14:11–12) KJV
- ¹ grow ² spurn or despise ³ an account

God created everything very good, but death, disease, and suffering came and continue because of our sin. But there is hope!

- And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. (Genesis 1:31) KJV
- By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Romans 5:12) KJV
- And he¹, as a rotten thing, consumeth², as a garment that is moth eaten. (Job 13:28) KJV
- The creature³ itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:21) KJV
- Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world (Galatians 1:3–4) KJV
- Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Romans 15:13) KJV

¹ man ² decays ³ creation

4. God's perfect goodness

God is perfectly righteous and good in all ways and at all times.

- The LORD is righteous in all his ways (Psalm 145:17) KJV
- The LORD is upright...and there is no unrighteousness in him. (Psalm 92:15) KJV
- The just LORD...will not do iniquity (Zephaniah 3:5) KJV
- Exalt the LORD our God...for the LORD our God is holy. (Psalm 99:9) KJV
- God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5) KJV

God requires the same perfection from us in order for us to be with Him in heaven, however we have all failed to be perfect.

- Judgment¹ also will I lay to² the line³, and righteousness to² the plummet⁴ (Isaiah 28:17) KJV
- Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy. (Leviticus 19:2) KJV
- Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48) KJV
- What doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes (Deuteronomy 10:12–13) KJV
- I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. (Genesis 17:1) KJV

¹ justice ² as ³ measuring line ⁴ plumb line or level

God will not judge us based on how we were compared to others or "if our good deeds had outweighed our bad deeds."

- But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. (2 Corinthians 10:12) KJV
- But the LORD said...Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7) KJV
- For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. (Galatians 6:3) KJV
- For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. (James 2:10) KJV

- All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned¹: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die. (Ezekiel 18:24) KJV

¹ remembered

None of us measure up to God's standard and we all fall entirely short in contrast to His perfect and infinite holiness.

- God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (Psalm 53:2–3) KJV
- For there is not a just¹ man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. (Ecclesiastes 7:20) KJV
- There is none upright among men...The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge (Micah 7:2,4) KJV
- Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. (Psalm 62:9) KJV
- For there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:22–23) KJV
- For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8–9) KJV
- Are we better than they? No...As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one...They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (Romans 3:9–10,12) KJV

¹ righteous

As Jesus taught, God requires perfection from us not only in actions, but also in heart, thoughts, words, motives, and attitudes.

- Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts (Psalm 51:6) KJV
- Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. (Matthew 5:27–28) KJV
- Adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4) KJV
- Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill...But I say unto you, That...whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. (Matthew 5:21–22) KJV

- Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3:15) KJV
- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. (Matthew 23:27–28) KJV

The sin of lying includes lying to ourselves about the character of God such as, "Since God is loving, He will overlook our sin."

- Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. (Jeremiah 7:8) KJV
- Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. (Psalm 40:4) KJV
- Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing¹ (Psalm 5:6) KJV
- For without² are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers³, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. (Revelation 22:15) KJV
- But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers³, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (Revelation 21:8) KJV

¹ lies ² outside ³ sexually immoral

The sin of idolatry includes creating our own false image of God in our imagination that we prefer and are comfortable with.

- We ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device¹. (Acts 17:29) KJV
- God saith,...thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself²: but I will reprove³ thee (Psalm 50:16,21) KJV
- For his...image is falsehood...They are vanity, the work of errors (Jeremiah 51:17–18) KJV
- For the idols have spoken vanity...they comfort in vain (Zechariah 10:2) KJV
- Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:4) KJV
- They rejected his statutes...and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain (2 Kings 17:15) KJV

¹ design or plan ² you thought that I was just like you ³ rebuke

Unless we receive God's gift of salvation, the just consequence of our sin is eternal death, separated from the kingdom of God.

- Every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death (Leviticus 20:9) KJV
- Whoso privily¹ slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off...He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry² in my sight. (Psalm 101:5,7) KJV
- Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death (Romans 1:29–32) KJV
- Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate³, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9–10) KJV
- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23) KJV

¹ secretly ² continue ³ homosexuals

Our sin is our own fault and we are each individually responsible for it.

- The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. (Ezekiel 18:20) KJV
- God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err¹, my beloved brethren. (James 1:13–16) KJV
- Is not destruction to the wicked? and...punishment to the workers of iniquity? Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps? (Job 31:3–4) KJV
- Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:24) KJV

- God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee. (Psalm 69:5) KJV
 - All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.² (Hebrews 4:13) KJV
- ¹ do not be in error ² give an account to

Our sinfulness is offensive to God and we need His salvation through Jesus Christ.

- They sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them (1 Kings 8:46) KJV
- Behold, thou art wroth¹; for we have sinned (Isaiah 64:5) KJV
- I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God (Jeremiah 3:12–13) KJV
- In that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid (Isaiah 12:1–2) KJV

¹ angry

5. God's absolute justice

God is loving and merciful but He cannot disregard His justice and overlook our sin, therefore we need His salvation.

- The LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering¹, and abundant in goodness and truth,...forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty (Exodus 34:6–7) KJV
- The LORD is longsuffering¹, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty (Numbers 14:18) KJV
- The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked (Nahum 1:3) KJV
- He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment²: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. (Deuteronomy 32:4) KJV
- Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment²? (Malachi 2:17) KJV
- If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8) KJV

- Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee³, because thou sayest, I have not sinned. (Jeremiah 2:35) KJV

¹ patient ² justice ³ judge against you

God is good and has provided salvation, but He should rightly be feared because of the severe judgments that He can pronounce.

- Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God (Romans 11:22) KJV
- The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. (Ezra 8:22) KJV
- My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments. (Psalm 119:120) KJV
- And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28) KJV
- Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy (Revelation 15:4) KJV
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7) KJV
- The fear of the LORD tendeth¹ to life (Proverbs 19:23) KJV
- By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. (Proverbs 16:6) KJV

¹ leads

Jesus Christ Himself is the Judge, and He told us the terms of His judgment in advance.

- He hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31) KJV
- For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth. (Psalm 96:13) KJV
- Preaching peace by Jesus Christ..., and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick¹ and dead. (Acts 10:36,42) KJV
- But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another. (Psalm 75:7) KJV
- Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. (Ecclesiastes 8:11) KJV
- Thus saith the LORD...diminish not a word: If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent²

me of the evil³, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings. (Jeremiah 26:2–3) KJV

- Therefore I will judge you, ... every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. (Ezekiel 18:30) KJV
- He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18) KJV

¹ living ² relent ³ painful judgment or penalty

God, in His love, has provided escape from eternal death and has warned us, and if we are His enemies, then that is by our choice, not by His choice.

- Our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues¹ from death. But God shall wound the head of his enemies, ... such an one as goeth on still in his trespasses. (Psalm 68:20–21) KJV
- How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation (Hebrews 2:3) KJV
- We had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death (2 Corinthians 1:9–10) KJV
- Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified². (Psalm 143:1–2) KJV
- Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness (Psalm 35:24) KJV
- Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength. (Psalm 54:1) KJV
- The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. (Proverbs 18:10) KJV
- Thy hardness and impenitent heart treasure³ up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds (Romans 2:5–6) KJV

¹ escape or deliverance ² declared righteous ³ stores

6. God's wonderful love

God is loving and merciful and gracious and patient and forgiving, far beyond comparison.

- He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. (1 John 4:8) KJV
- And we have known and believed the love that God hath to¹ us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:16) KJV
- The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. (Psalm 103:8) KJV
- Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD. (Psalm 119:156) KJV
- God, who is rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4) KJV
- But thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness (Nehemiah 9:17) KJV
- To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission² of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us (Luke 1:77–78) KJV
- He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. (Micah 7:18) KJV
- I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness (Jonah 4:2) KJV

¹ for ² forgiveness

God loves us and wants to have relationship with us, and for us to be His children, but that is possible only by obeying God's command to believe in Jesus.

- Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. (John 15:14) KJV
- But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name (John 1:12) KJV
- And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God. (Hosea 1:10) KJV
- That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3) KJV

God satisfied His justice against our sins (propitiation) and also demonstrated His love by bearing the death sentence for us.

- In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:9–10) KJV
- But God commendeth¹ his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8) KJV
- I declare unto you the gospel...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day...After that, he was seen of above² five hundred brethren at once (1 Corinthians 15:1,3–4,6) KJV
- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16) KJV

¹ demonstrates ² seen by more than

Jesus did not have His life taken from Him, but He freely gave Himself for us in love.

- No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. (John 10:18) KJV
- Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16) KJV
- I live by the faith of¹ the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20) KJV
- And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:2) KJV

¹ in

7. Jesus is God our Savior

Jesus is, and always was, and always will be, God the Son, who in love, came down by becoming a Man so that He could feed us with His salvation (the bread of life).

- I taught..., taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them. I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke..., and I laid meat¹ unto them. (Hosea 11:3–4) KJV
- And the LORD said,...I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them (Exodus 3:7–8) KJV

- Jesus therefore answered and said unto them,...I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever (John 6:43,51) KJV
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (John 1:1,14) KJV
- And of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. (Romans 9:5) KJV
- God was manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16) KJV
- For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (Colossians 2:9) KJV
- The kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared (Titus 3:4) KJV
- For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. (Psalm 74:12) KJV

¹ gave food

Jesus showed He was God by taking upon Himself the name of God "I am." He also received the declaration of Thomas without dispute.

- And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (Exodus 3:14) KJV
- Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him (John 8:57–59) KJV
- Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands...and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. (John 20:27–29) KJV

Jesus became a Man so He could take the penalty for our sin. He was the mediator for us because He was both God and a Man.

- Wherefore in all things it behoved¹ him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17) KJV
- For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (1 Timothy 2:5–6) KJV

¹ was necessary for

Jesus, our righteous God, who lovingly bore our sin so that we could live with Him, is the only Savior and only way of salvation.

- Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. (Isaiah 43:10–11) KJV
- There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. (Isaiah 45:21) KJV
- In the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed¹ against him shall be ashamed. (Isaiah 45:24) KJV
- Be it known unto you all...that by the name of Jesus Christ...doth this man stand here before you whole...Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:10,12) KJV
- But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (John 20:31) KJV

¹ angry

Jesus, in His kindness, helps us to avoid wrong ways by telling us that He is the only Savior and the only way of salvation.

- Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6) KJV
- Then said Jesus unto them again...I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved (John 10:7,9) KJV
- Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12) KJV
- I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. (John 8:24) KJV

At God's command a brass serpent was setup. This was symbolic of Jesus bearing our sins on the cross, and to be saved, we need to look to Him (trust in Him).

- And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld¹ the serpent of brass, he lived. (Numbers 21:9) KJV
- Jesus answered...And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:10,14–15) KJV

- And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:40) KJV
- Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. (Isaiah 45:22) KJV
- Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (1 Peter 2:24) KJV

¹ looked to

8. Jesus did it all for us

Jesus did the entire work of salvation for us, and there is nothing that we can do to add to it or contribute to it.

- Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3) KJV
- He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (Hebrews 9:26) KJV
- I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put¹ to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. (Ecclesiastes 3:14) KJV
- Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought², and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation³ of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 2:11) KJV
- Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands⁴. (Job 14:15) KJV
- I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it (Psalm 52:8–9) KJV
- Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly (Psalm 108:12–13) KJV
- Help me, O LORD my God: O save me according to thy mercy: That they may know that this is thy hand; that thou, LORD, hast done it. (Psalm 109:26–27) KJV
- O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things (Isaiah 25:1) KJV
- To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth⁵ the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth⁶ righteousness without works (Romans 4:5–6) KJV

¹ added ² done ³ troubling ⁴ God desires the work of His own hands ⁵ declares righteous ⁶ accounts

The work of Jesus alone was sufficient to save us from all sins, past, present, and future.

- LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought¹ all our works in us. (Isaiah 26:12) KJV
- I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me. (Psalm 57:2) KJV
- As for God, his way is perfect;...he is a buckler² to all them that trust in him. For who is God, save³ the LORD? and who is a rock, save³ our God? God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect. (2 Samuel 22:31–33) KJV
- But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God...For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:12,14) KJV
- He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him (Hebrews 7:25) KJV
- And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God (2 Corinthians 3:4–5) KJV
- And ye are complete in him (Colossians 2:10) KJV
- Verily⁴, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. (John 6:47) KJV

¹ done ² shield ³ except ⁴ truly

Salvation was provided completely and freely by His work and His goodness (righteousness).

- And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing. (Psalm 107:22) KJV
- I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy¹ works. (Psalm 73:28) KJV
- Come and see the works of God: he is terrible² in his doing toward the children of men. (Psalm 66:5) KJV
- For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. (Psalm 92:4) KJV
- Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? (Proverbs 20:6) KJV
- In thee do I put my trust...Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee³ (Psalm 16:1–2) KJV

- The LORD their God shall save them in that day...For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! (Zechariah 9:16–17) KJV
 - Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid⁴ up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought⁵ for them that trust in thee (Psalm 31:19) KJV
 - O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good (Psalm 136:1) KJV
 - My people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD. (Jeremiah 31:14) KJV
 - Jesus sent him...saying, Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto⁶ thee. (Luke 8:38–39) KJV
- ¹ God's ² awesome ³ my goodness is nothing apart from You
⁴ stored ⁵ done ⁶ for

We do not have righteousness of our own, but we can have righteousness if we submit to God's righteousness.

- For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just¹ for the unjust², that he might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18) KJV
 - For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Romans 10:3–4) KJV
 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33) KJV
 - A King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment³ and justice⁴ in the earth...and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Jeremiah 23:5–6) KJV
 - The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God. (Jeremiah 51:10) KJV
 - My mouth shall shew⁵ forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day...I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only. (Psalm 71:15–16) KJV
- ¹ righteous ² unrighteous ³ justice ⁴ righteousness ⁵ tell

Salvation is a free gift, entirely from God's grace and mercy, without any merit or reason for boasting by us if we receive it.

- They which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:17) KJV

- Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable¹ gift. (2 Corinthians 9:15) KJV
 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8–9) KJV
 - Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day...The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.² (Exodus 14:13–14) KJV
 - We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (Ephesians 1:7) KJV
 - And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. (Romans 11:6) KJV
 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us (Titus 3:5) KJV
- ¹ inexpressible ² be silent (no boasting)

One of the criminals crucified next to Jesus was earlier insulting Him, but by God's grace had a change of heart shortly before dying, and Jesus showed that he was saved by saying he would be in Paradise.

- Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left...The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same¹ (Matthew 27:38,44) KJV
 - And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss². And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. (Luke 23:39–43) KJV
- ¹ also mocked and insulted Jesus ² wrong

By what He said on the cross, Jesus showed that, according to His love, He finished the work of redemption completely for us.

- Jesus...said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost¹. (John 19:30) KJV
- Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us (Galatians 3:13) KJV
- O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of² my soul; thou hast redeemed my life. (Lamentations 3:58) KJV

¹ His spirit ² pleaded the case for

The resurrection of Jesus shows that He lived a sinless life and was accepted as the substitute who bore the judgment for our sin.

- Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. (Romans 4:25) KJV
- If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins...But now is Christ risen from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:17,20) KJV
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively¹ hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3) KJV
- Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live (John 11:25) KJV

¹ living

9. The simplicity of trusting in Jesus

God's salvation is also called the good news because we do not have to measure up, but just simply believe and trust in Jesus.

- But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled¹ Eve through his subtilty², so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3) KJV
- Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. (John 6:28–29) KJV
- Through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission³ of sins. (Acts 10:43) KJV
- Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (Colossians 2:8) KJV
- Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of⁴ Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of⁴ Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Galatians 2:16) KJV
- Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth⁵ from day to day his salvation. (1 Chronicles 16:23) KJV

¹ deceived ² cunning ³ forgiveness ⁴ in ⁵ proclaim the good news

Some try to pervert the simplicity of the good news by adding things that have to be done in order to be saved or stay saved.

- Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:5–6) KJV
 - And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not? I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works; for they shall not profit thee. (Isaiah 57:11–12) KJV
 - Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness. This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood. Therefore will I discover¹ thy skirts upon thy face, that thy shame may appear. (Jeremiah 13:24–26) KJV
 - I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:6–8) KJV
- ¹ uncover (lift up over)

The sin of idolatry also includes worshipping ourselves (the creature) by valuing our works rather than God's (the Creator).

- Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands (Isaiah 2:8) KJV
 - I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me...and worshipped the works of their own hands. (Jeremiah 1:16) KJV
 - Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more¹ than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. (Romans 1:25) KJV
 - They trust in vanity, and speak lies (Isaiah 59:4) KJV
 - They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy...Salvation is of the LORD. (Jonah 2:8–9) KJV
- ¹ rather

We should not “boast,” thinking that we can contribute, but rather be “circumcised” by cutting off all confidence in our flesh (self).

- As many as desire to make a fair shew¹ in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised...that they may glory² in your

flesh. But God forbid that I should glory², save³ in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth⁴ any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. (Galatians 6:12–15) KJV

- Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17) KJV
- For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. (Philippians 3:3) KJV
- Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. (Deuteronomy 10:16) KJV

¹ good showing ² boast ³ except ⁴ accomplishes

God uses riding a horse as being symbolic of putting confidence in the flesh (self), and warns us of the consequence of doing so.

- Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay¹ on horses...but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!...Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit². (Isaiah 31:1,3) KJV
- It is the spirit² that quickeneth³; the flesh profiteth nothing (John 6:63) KJV
- Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit², saith the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6) KJV
- An horse is a vain thing⁴ for safety⁵: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death (Psalm 33:17–19) KJV
- They hold fast deceit, they refuse to return. I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle. (Jeremiah 8:5–6) KJV
- He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy. (Psalm 147:10–11) KJV
- For thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously...; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods (Hosea 14:1–3) KJV
- I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The LORD is my

strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God (Exodus 15:1–2) KJV

- Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. (Psalm 20:7) KJV

¹ rely ² the Holy Spirit ³ who gives life ⁴ empty hope ⁵ salvation

We have value because God created us and loves us, but God hates pride and self-confidence. Our confidence should be in God.

- Pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward¹ mouth, do I hate. (Proverbs 8:13) KJV
- For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (Mark 7:21–23) KJV
- A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. (Proverbs 29:23) KJV
- Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16:18) KJV
- There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12) KJV
- Behold, his soul which is lifted up² is not upright in him: but the just³ shall live by his faith. (Habakkuk 2:4) KJV
- By terrible⁴ things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth (Psalm 65:5) KJV

¹ perverse ² is proud ³ righteous ⁴ awesome

Here is a parable that Jesus taught about two people, one who looked to what he did, and one who looked to God's mercy.

- He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (Luke 18:9–14) KJV

We should do the will of the father, trusting in the finished work of Jesus, rather than ultimately trusting in our “wonderful works.”

- Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not...in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7:21–23) KJV

10. Heaven & Hell

Hell (Hades now, the lake of fire later) is where Satan (the devil) and all who reject God’s way will end up.

- Be sober...because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8) KJV
- And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:10) KJV
- The beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. (Luke 16:22–24) KJV
- And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night (Revelation 14:11) KJV

But if we receive God’s salvation, we will escape hell and we will have eternal peace and joy with Him in heaven (the new earth).

- In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust...Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape (Psalm 71:1–2) KJV
- He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces (Isaiah 25:8) KJV
- And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (Revelation 21:4) KJV
- And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle¹, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light (Revelation 22:5) KJV

- For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create (Isaiah 65:17–18) KJV
 - My tabernacle² also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Ezekiel 37:27) KJV
 - And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away...And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle² of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. (Revelation 21:1,3) KJV
 - We, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (2 Peter 3:13) KJV
 - Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. (1 Peter 5:14) KJV
 - Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. (2 Thessalonians 3:16) KJV
- ¹ lamp ² dwelling

11. Sacrifices & Law

God does not want sacrifices. The sacrifices were to be a reminder of the seriousness of sin and of the need for the coming Savior.

- Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire;...burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. (Psalm 40:6) KJV
- To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD...I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs...Bring no more vain oblations¹ (Isaiah 1:11,13) KJV
- For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more² than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:6) KJV
- God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things (Acts 17:24–25) KJV

¹ offerings ² rather

The requirement for a perfect sacrifice was to show our need for the sinless Savior Jesus Christ, the only acceptable sacrifice.

- Whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. And whosoever offereth a sacrifice..., it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein. (Leviticus 22:20–21) KJV

- Your lamb shall be without blemish (Exodus 12:5) KJV
- Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation¹ received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Peter 1:18–19) KJV
- John seeth Jesus coming...and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29) KJV
- And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. (1 John 3:5) KJV
- For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15–16) KJV

¹ conduct

God desires repentance (acknowledging our sin and trusting in Jesus), rather than sacrifices (works that we think are good).

- Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings...? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good (Micah 6:6–8) KJV
- For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. (Psalm 51:16–17) KJV
- Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD. (Psalm 4:5) KJV
- The foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God (Hebrews 6:1) KJV
- Testifying...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21) KJV

The law of the Old Testament was not given as a means of salvation, but was given to help us realize our need for the Savior.

- For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light (Proverbs 6:23) KJV
- Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the

deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:19–20) KJV

- For the LORD our God hath put us to silence...because we have sinned against the LORD. (Jeremiah 8:14) KJV
- What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants (Genesis 44:16) KJV
- Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. (Psalm 62:1) KJV
- Thou shalt read this law...that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God (Deuteronomy 31:11–12) KJV
- The LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive (Deuteronomy 6:24) KJV
- For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect...But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance¹ again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. (Hebrews 10:1,3–4) KJV
- Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. (Galatians 3:24) KJV
- Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. (Acts 13:38–39) KJV

¹ reminder

The law of the sabbath rest was given as a sign that we should “rest” from our work and trust in God’s work.

- Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you¹...: every one that defileth² it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off (Exodus 31:13–14) KJV
- In respect of...the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body³ is of Christ. (Colossians 2:16–17) KJV
- Jesus answered and said,...Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:25,28) KJV

¹ makes you holy ² profanes ³ substance

People in the Old Testament were not saved by what they did, but by God's grace through faith in the coming salvation of God.

- Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted¹, that are far from righteousness: I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry² (Isaiah 46:12–13) KJV
- Thus saith the LORD, ...my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. (Isaiah 56:1) KJV
- Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation (Micah 7:7) KJV
- For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth (Job 19:25) KJV
- But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. (Psalm 13:5) KJV
- And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD...because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. (1 Samuel 2:1–2) KJV
- And it shall be said in that day, Lo³, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation. (Isaiah 25:9) KJV

¹ stubborn hearted ² delay ³ look

Several Jewish people were rightly expecting the arrival of Jesus, such as Simeon and Anna who saw Jesus as a child.

- Simeon...took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation (Luke 2:25,28–30) KJV
- Anna...gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. (Luke 2:36,38) KJV

12. Prophecies & Foreshadows

Prophecies in the Old Testament showed that Jesus was God the Son (Immanuel means God with us) and showed that He would bear our sin.

- For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6) KJV

- Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14) KJV
- Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name? (Proverbs 30:4) KJV
- Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. (Psalm 2:12) KJV
- But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5–6) KJV
- He shall...justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:11) KJV

Here are just a few of the prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament and the fulfillment in Jesus several hundred years later.

- They shall look upon me whom they have pierced (Zechariah 12:10) KJV
- But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. (John 19:34) KJV
- But thou, Bethlehem..., though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2) KJV
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea (Matthew 2:1) KJV
- Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding...upon a colt (Zechariah 9:9) KJV
- They cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon. And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. (Luke 19:35–36) KJV
- I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6) KJV
- Then did they spit in his face, and...others smote him with the palms of their hands (Matthew 26:67) KJV

Many actual events foreshadowed Jesus. Below are just a few from the life of Joseph, and showing the fulfillment in Jesus.

- Joseph brought unto his father their evil report...And...they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. (Genesis 37:2,4) KJV
- The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. (John 7:7) KJV
- And when they saw him afar off...they conspired against him to slay him. (Genesis 37:18) KJV
- All the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death (Matthew 27:1) KJV
- God sent me before you...to save your lives by a great deliverance. (Genesis 45:7) KJV
- We have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (1 John 4:14) KJV
- All the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? (Genesis 47:15) KJV
- Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life. (John 6:35) KJV

13. Adam & Eve

Adam & Eve tried to cover their nakedness (the shame of their sin) by what they did (their works). But God showed that only His provision was acceptable.

- The eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons¹. (Genesis 3:7) KJV
- Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. (Genesis 3:21) KJV

¹ coverings

Here are similar passages on the futility of attempting to cover our sin with our works or “good deeds.”

- Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity (Isaiah 59:6) KJV
- He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. (Proverbs 28:13) KJV

If we confess our sin by throwing aside our filthy garments, and then run to Jesus, then we will receive the robe of His righteousness.

- But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags¹; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6) KJV
- And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. (Mark 10:50) KJV
- I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10) KJV
- This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD. (Isaiah 54:17) KJV

¹ garments

Filthy garments will fall apart, exposing sin in God's presence. The righteousness of Jesus is the only garment that can endure.

- Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness (Psalm 119:142) KJV
- For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation. (Isaiah 51:8) KJV
- Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. (Revelation 16:15) KJV

If we look to what we do, we may think we are saved, but find out that we did not have the garment of the righteousness of Jesus.

- And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 22:11–13) KJV

14. Cain & Abel

Cain offered the fruit of his work and was rejected. Abel offered sheep (symbolic of trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus) and was accepted.

- Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller¹ of the ground...Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of...his flock...And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? (Genesis 4:2–7) KJV

¹ worker

Cain trusted in what he did (going his own way), plowing the ground, and offering the fruit (sacrifice) of his own work.

- Be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. (Ecclesiastes 5:1) KJV
- Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way (Hosea 10:13) KJV
- There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 16:25) KJV
- I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts (Isaiah 65:2) KJV

If we do well (go God's way), then we will for sure be accepted, and not be cursed away from the new earth (like Cain was cursed).

- And now art thou cursed from the earth (Genesis 4:11) KJV
- Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire (Matthew 25:41) KJV
- The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth. (Proverbs 10:30) KJV

15. Learning from leprosy

God often included situations in the Bible that had symbolic meaning in addition to the literal meaning.

- I have...used similitudes¹, by the ministry of the prophets. (Hosea 12:10) KJV
- But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory¹ (Galatians 4:23–24) KJV

¹ similes or symbols

The following passages about leprosy, in a person, garment, or house, also teach us about the disease of our sinfulness.

- Then the priest shall look upon it: and, behold, if...it be in sight deeper than the skin; it is a leprosy broken out...wherefore the priest shall pronounce him unclean:...he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without¹ the camp (Leviticus 13:25,46) KJV
- The garment also that the plague of leprosy is in...shall be shewed unto the priest: And the priest shall look upon the plague, and...if the plague be spread in the garment...it is unclean. He shall therefore burn that garment,...it shall be burnt in the fire. (Leviticus 13:47,49–52) KJV
- Then the priest shall come and look, and, behold, if the plague be spread in the house,...it is unclean. And he shall break down the house, the stones of it, and the timber thereof, and all the mortar of the house; and he shall carry them forth out of the city into an unclean place. (Leviticus 14:44–45) KJV

¹ outside

In each of the passages above about leprosy, the priest doing the examining symbolically represents God the Son, Jesus Christ.

- We have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God (Hebrews 4:14) KJV
- The Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick¹ and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom (2 Timothy 4:1) KJV
- We speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth² our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 2:4) KJV
- Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocketh³ another, do ye so mock⁴ him?...Shall not his excellency make you afraid? and his dread fall upon you? (Job 13:9,11) KJV
- The priests answered and said, It shall be unclean...So is this people...saith the LORD; and so is every work of their hands; and that which they offer...is unclean. (Haggai 2:13–14) KJV

¹ living ² examines or tests ³ deceives ⁴ deceive

God's loving warning #1: The leprous person was declared unclean and was banished to live alone and outside.

- The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death. (Proverbs 14:32) KJV
- For this ye know, that no whoremonger¹, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. (Ephesians 5:5–6) KJV
- And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth², neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:27) KJV

¹ sexually immoral ² anything or anyone unclean

God's loving warning #2: The leprous garment was declared unclean and was burned in the fire.

- The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? (Isaiah 33:14) KJV

God's loving warning #3: The leprous house was declared unclean and was destroyed.

- Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me. And they have not cried unto me with their heart (Hosea 7:13–14) KJV
- God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. (Psalm 52:5) KJV

This passage from the New Testament shows consequences of fire, destruction, and separation from God's presence.

- When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (2 Thessalonians 1:7–10) KJV

Since God is the source of all that is good, being banished, or separated, from God's presence means separation from peace.

- There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked. (Isaiah 48:22) KJV
- Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity...The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment¹ in their goings²: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. (Isaiah 59:7–8) KJV

¹ justice ² ways

We have no hope to clean ourselves, but Jesus can heal us from the leprous disease of our sinfulness and make us clean.

- Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin? (Proverbs 20:9) KJV
- Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one. (Job 14:4) KJV
- And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. (Mark 1:40–42) KJV
- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:7) KJV

We have no hope to straighten ourselves, but Jesus can heal us from the crookedness of our sinfulness and make us straight.

- I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting¹ cannot be numbered². (Ecclesiastes 1:14–15) KJV
- And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together³, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed⁴ from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. (Luke 13:11–13) KJV
- Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise. (Jeremiah 17:14) KJV

¹ lacking ² counted ³ bent over ⁴ released

We have no hope to set ourselves free from slavery and bondage to sin, but Jesus can make us free.

- For we were bondmen¹; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us (Ezra 9:9) KJV
- I am the LORD...and I will rid you out of...bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm (Exodus 6:6) KJV
- If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John 8:36) KJV
- For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2) KJV

¹ slaves

By nature, we have a deceitful hard heart, but Jesus can give us a new heart.

- There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. (Proverbs 30:12) KJV
- There is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful. (Psalm 36:1–2) KJV
- And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. (Luke 16:15) KJV
- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart,...even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. (Jeremiah 17:9–10) KJV
- Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not¹ iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile². (Psalm 32:1–2) KJV
- Render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men) (2 Chronicles 6:30) KJV
- Create in me a clean heart, O God (Psalm 51:10) KJV
- Then...will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit³ will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:25–26) KJV

¹ does not count ² deceit ³ the Holy Spirit

16. Two types of people in God's eyes

In God's eyes, we are either wicked (trusting in the arms of our own strength), or we are a righteous saint (trusting in God).

- He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. (1 Samuel 2:9) KJV
- For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous. (Psalm 37:17) KJV
- The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (Isaiah 52:10) KJV
- He saw that there was no man,...therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness (Isaiah 59:16) KJV
- Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people (Psalm 77:15) KJV
- My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth,...and on mine arm shall they trust. (Isaiah 51:5) KJV

As there are only two types of people in God's eyes, there are also only two outcomes.

- And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25:46) KJV
- The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish. The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity. (Proverbs 10:28–29) KJV
- Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them...and save them, because they trust in him. (Psalm 37:37–40) KJV
- The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead¹. (Proverbs 11:8) KJV
- The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Matthew 13:41–43) KJV

¹ it comes to the wicked instead

God loves people, and He has no pleasure at all in people going to hell for not coming to Him to receive His gift of salvation.

- Then answered Jesus and said unto them, ...And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. (John 5:19,40) KJV
- As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live (Ezekiel 33:11) KJV
- When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them...? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. (Luke 9:54–56) KJV

We are all born with a wicked nature, but we can become righteous (be born again) by trusting in the righteousness of Jesus.

- The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. (Psalm 58:3) KJV
- Behold, I was shapen¹ in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalm 51:5) KJV
- Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily², verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3) KJV
- For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21) KJV
- But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of³ Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe (Romans 3:21–22) KJV

¹ brought forth ² truly ³ in

There are also only two “fathers” in the sense of following one or the other. If we become born again then God is our Father.

- Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me...Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do...When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own¹: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:42,44) KJV
- They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children²: they are a perverse and crooked generation. (Deuteronomy 32:5) KJV

¹ he speaks according to his own nature ² they are not God's children because of their blemish

There are also only two types of trust, whether we trust in our work, or trust in God's work.

- Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath¹ in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh (Jeremiah 17:5–6) KJV
- Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters...and shall not see when heat cometh (Jeremiah 17:7–8) KJV
- I am he which searcheth the reins² and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. (Revelation 2:23) KJV
- He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. (1 John 5:12) KJV

¹ shrub ² minds

17. Realizing our need

We should “sell/forsake” all that we have, realizing that it is not about what we do, that we possess no goodness, and that only Jesus is good.

- So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth¹ mercy. (Romans 9:16) KJV
- There came one running...and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments...And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast...and follow me. And he...went away grieved: for he had great possessions. (Mark 10:17–22) KJV
- So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:33) KJV

¹ shows

Jesus had said “You lack one thing” to him. The only thing that matters is if our name is in the Book of Life by trusting in Jesus.

- And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away...And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the

dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works...And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11–12,15) KJV

Taking up the cross means the death of our pride, denying that we have anything good to offer, and not being offended by that.

- He said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (Mark 8:34) KJV
- And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased. (Galatians 5:11) KJV
- The LORD of hosts...shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence (Isaiah 8:13–14) KJV
- And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. (Matthew 11:6) KJV

God's salvation is available to everyone, but we can receive it only if we realize our need and come to Him believing.

- And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2) KJV
- For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men (Titus 2:11) KJV
- We trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. (1 Timothy 4:10) KJV

If we realize our desperate need as a sinner and believe in Jesus, then we will call upon Him for His salvation.

- For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth¹; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. (Psalm 72:12–13) KJV
- This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering², for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. (1 Timothy 1:15–16) KJV
- Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:6) KJV
- For the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:12–13) KJV

¹ cries out for help ² show all patience

If we realize we are diseased with sin and believe in Jesus, then we will come to Him to be healed by Him and therefore not die.

- When Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole¹ need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Matthew 9:12–13) KJV
- I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee. (Psalm 41:4) KJV

¹ well

If we realize our poverty of righteousness and we hunger for God's righteousness, then we will laugh and rejoice in heaven.

- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6) KJV
- He...said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. (Luke 6:20–21) KJV
- Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? (James 2:5) KJV
- Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour...For he that is mighty hath done to me great things...He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. (Luke 1:46–47,49,53) KJV
- This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. (Psalm 34:6) KJV
- Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses. And he led them forth by the right way...Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. (Psalm 107:5–9) KJV
- Thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor. (Psalm 68:10) KJV

But, if we trust in our “riches” (thinking we are rich in goodness), then we will end up realizing our “riches” were actually worthless.

- But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe

unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. (Luke 6:24–25) KJV

- He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch. (Proverbs 11:28) KJV
 - Lo¹, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness. (Psalm 52:7) KJV
 - For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken (Jeremiah 48:7) KJV
 - Ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. (James 5:1–2) KJV
 - There is that maketh himself² rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself² poor, yet hath great riches. (Proverbs 13:7) KJV
- ¹ look ² there is one who makes himself

18. God's salvation is available to all

God's salvation is available to us no matter how horrible of things we have done, and it is God's desire for us to be saved.

- For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...For therein is the righteousness of God revealed (Romans 1:16–17) KJV
- Whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered¹ (Joel 2:32) KJV
- None of them that trust in him shall be desolate². (Psalm 34:22) KJV
- For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. (Psalm 86:5) KJV
- As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. (Psalm 55:16) KJV
- Let him that is athirst³ come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (Revelation 22:17) KJV
- The Lord is not slack⁴ concerning his promise, as some men count slackness⁵; but is longsuffering⁶ to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9) KJV
- This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have⁷ all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3–4) KJV

¹ saved ² condemned ³ thirsty ⁴ slow ⁵ slowness ⁶ patient
⁷ desires

The truth is that all sin is horrible in God's eyes, but He will forgive us if we turn to Him. The only sin God cannot forgive is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which is calling God a liar by disobeying, for our entire life, His command to believe in Jesus.

- Verily¹ I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost² hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation (Mark 3:28–29) KJV
 - They sinned still, and believed not for³ his wondrous works. (Psalm 78:32) KJV
 - According to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith (Romans 16:26) KJV
 - And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ (1 John 3:23) KJV
 - Repent ye, and believe the gospel. (Mark 1:15) KJV
 - He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (1 John 5:10–11) KJV
 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:9–10) KJV
 - He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth⁴ on him. (John 3:36) KJV
- ¹ truly ² the Holy Spirit ³ in ⁴ remains

Feeling guilt or sorrow for our sins, admitting our sins, or making restitution for our sins cannot save us.

- Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented¹ himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood...And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. (Matthew 27:3–5) KJV
- For godly sorrow worketh repentance² to salvation not to be repented¹ of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. (2 Corinthians 7:10) KJV

¹ regretted ² different Greek word (true repentance, not just regret)

True repentance means acknowledging our sin and turning to God's way of believing (trusting) in Jesus Christ.

- Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? (Ezekiel 18:23) KJV
- Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart (Joel 2:12) KJV
- Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. (Psalm 37:5) KJV
- Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved¹ Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission² of sins should be preached in his name among all nations (Luke 24:45–47) KJV

¹ was necessary for ² forgiveness

The good news is simple: What we do cannot earn or merit salvation in any regard, and God, in His love, provided salvation completely for us by Himself, by His goodness and by His doing. To be saved, we just need to **A**cknowledge our sinfulness, **B**elieve in Jesus who died for our sins and rose again, and **C**all upon Him by asking Him to give us His entirely free gift of salvation.

- Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly¹ from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions (Psalm 51:1–3) KJV
- Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved (Acts 16:30–31) KJV
- If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9) KJV
- If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? (Matthew 7:11) KJV

¹ thoroughly

If we have genuinely believed, then we are free from all guilt and shame. That is reason to have great joy!

- For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:34) KJV

- As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12) KJV
- Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (Romans 10:11) KJV
- There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1) KJV
- Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8–9) KJV

Since God has all power and knows all things, it is absolutely precious to spend time learning what He has said to us in His word. Learning God's word helps us to get to know Him better, helps us to grow, and helps us to avoid wrong teachings.

- I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil¹. (Psalm 119:162) KJV
- I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. (Job 23:12) KJV
- Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err², because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? (Mark 12:24) KJV
- Order my steps in thy word (Psalm 119:133) KJV
- As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2) KJV

¹ treasure ² be in error

The best resource for interpreting the Bible is the Bible. Also, God the Holy Spirit, who dwells in each true believer, can teach us directly what His word means.

- But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost¹, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26) KJV
- The anointing which ye have received of him abideth² in you, and ye need not that any man teach you:...the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth (1 John 2:27) KJV
- If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not³; and it shall be given him. (James 1:5) KJV
- For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him. (Isaiah 28:26) KJV

¹ the Holy Spirit ² dwells or remains ³ and without rebuking

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