

BAD NEWS FIRST—

When Adam and Eve were given the opportunity to live in the Garden of Eden they were free from the consequences of sinful choices (Ge. 2:8-17). Satan offered his perspective to Eve, specifically that God's one rule of not eating from the tree of knowledge was unreasonable. Eve and Adam then both listened to Satan's persuasive deception and chose to eat the forbidden fruit (Ge. 3:1-7). This resulted in a loss of innocence (Ge. 3:10,11) and a curse on the earth with all of its inhabitants (Ge. 3:14-19; Ro. 8:20-22; Re. 21:4). Adam and Eve's sin introduced mankind and the world to spiritual and physical loss, suffering and death (Ro. 5:12). Since that time all mankind has made the same choice following Satan's lure to reject God's will (Is. 53:6). Every person who has ever lived except for Jesus has sinned!(Ro. 3:23)

In the Old Testament era God revealed his character through nature (Ro.1:20), the words of Moses and the prophets (He. 1:2). Once again the alternatives of good and evil were presented (De.30:19) and rejected in varying degrees by mankind (Is. 53:6). While no one was perfect a few persistently looked to God with faith in His goodness (He.11). God worked with the faithful few to bring about a plan to redeem mankind back from slavery to sin and Satan's deception (Ge. 3;15; 12:3; 49:10; De. 18:15; 2 Sam. 7:12; Ps.22; Is. 7:14; 9:6; 49:6; 53).

In the New Testament era God revealed himself through Jesus' and the Apostles' words (He. 1:2; Ep. 2:19-22). But once again everyone chose to sin at varying degrees of rebellion. All people who

- b. The Bible says to REPENT—*I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Luke 13:3, (Ac. 17:30,31; 2 Pe. 3:9; Lk. 15:17,18)*
- c. The Bible says to CONFESS—*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Ro. 10:9, (Mt. 10:32,33 Ro. 10:10; Mt. 16:14-17)*
- d. The Bible says to be BAPTIZED—*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Ac. 2:38, (Gal. 3:26,27; Ac. 22:16; 1 Pe. 3:21)*
- e. The Bible says to be FAITHFUL—*Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. Re. 2:10, (Mt. 10:22; 1 Cor. 15:2)*

9. The benefits of the gospel are greater than gold
(He. 8;12; Ac 2:38; Phil. 4:19; Jn. 3:36;)

10. You can accept Christ — or reject Him, NOW!
(Ac. 8:36-38; 24:24-25) (See Don Dewelt's outline Ten Timely Truths)

11. Refusing to "Trust & Obey" these biblical truths will result in consequences. 2 Th. 2:9-10 *"They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Lk. 12:47-48 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.*

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Good

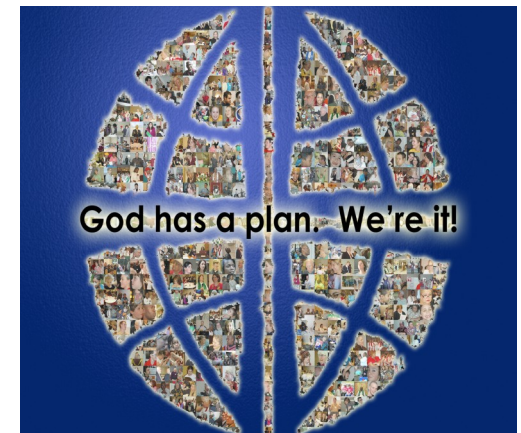
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BIBLE TRUTHS



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What does TLCC teach about salvation?

have lived and remain outside of faith in Jesus Christ stands guilty, destined to eternal punishment for their sin (Jn. 3:36; Re. 20:11-15). The wages of sin is death (Ro. 6:23). There is a spiritual death that is a consequence of each individual's choice to sin (Ez. 18:22), and a consequence of physical death (He. 9:27) which was introduced at the time of Adam & Eve's sin. (Ro. 5:12)

God has revealed what he expects from mankind, and what he has planned for those who **reject His grace** (Jn. 12:48) . Those individuals who ignore His gift of grace, choosing a life absent of faithfulness to Christ will be lost into eternal condemnation (Re. 21:8). This "Hell" is literal and eternal according to Scripture (Mt. 13;50; 25:41). It isn't a place where bar room buddies toast the absence of nagging wives and irritating preachers, nor is it a short time of punishment followed by a painless ceasing to exist (Mt. 25:41).

Good News Next—

When Adam and Eve were confronted by God for their sin in the garden He gave hints of a plan to crush Satan's influence and redeem mankind through Eve's family tree (Ge. 3:15). Though God was grieved by man's sin (Ge. 6:5,6) he was grieved even more by the suffering of those who chose to look to Him for forgiveness (Ex. 3:7,8; Is. 63:9). Moses and the prophets gave us the law that reveals fleshly appetites which are in us all (Ro. 7:5-8), They are described as a "sinful nature" in the NIV translation and "the flesh" in the NASBU. Living just to feed these appetites, unrestrained by

God's standard of goodness, is very destructive (Ja. 1:15; Ro. 6:21-23). "Following your heart" without God's nature as a standard leads to a deceived and enslaved "heart," (Je. 17:9) making us objects of wrath (Ep. 2:3).

Jesus, which was the only righteous person to have lived, died a sinner's death (Lk. 22:37), which in turned allowed sinful people to receive a righteous person's reward. (He. 10:14) This way God (through Jesus Christ) became the one to affirm the standards of righteousness while suffering the consequences for and justifying the unrighteous. (Ro. 3:26) This offer of salvation is free (Ep. 2:8-10), but not unconditional. (Phil. 2:12; Mt. 7:21; Re. 22:14) One must develop a faith and dependence on God which is life changing.(Ro. 12:1-2) This faith is "conceived" by hearing the word of God. Acting upon its guidance (Ro. 10:17; Mt. 7:24,26) "gives rebirth" to anyone who will accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Jn. 3:7,16-18) The price of this gift was extreme and demands a "faithful" response (Tit. 3:4-7) [not perfection based on fear (1 Jn. 4:17-19), but a pursuit of perfection rooted in love (Tit. 2:10; 3:8)]. Any response less than our best makes a mockery of Jesus' sacrifice and calls our faith into question. (He. 10:26-31)

God has revealed what he expects from mankind (1 Jn. 3:23; 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Ro. 10:9; Ac. 2:38; Re. 2:10). His word describes only a fraction of what He has planned for those who **accept his grace** as revealed and fulfilled through Jesus Christ (1 Co 2:9-10). There will be a new order of life. There will be no sin, sorrow, sickness, nor death (Re. 21:4; 1 Jn. 2:17). Until that day God is calling the church to a ministry of sharing this good news throughout the world (2 Co. 5:18). The church has been equipped through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Cor. 12:11) to serve one another and win the lost! (Gal. 5:13; Mt. 28:18-20)

BIBLE TRUTHS

The question to ask is "**What does the Bible say about being saved?**" The question, "Have I done enough to be saved?" is immaterial. Salvation is by grace! You can't earn it. But neither is salvation cheap. You can't claim to be saved and refuse to respond to it's truths. No one can answer the question: "Did 'So & So' go to heaven?" Only Jesus has the authority to answer that question. But the Bible gives us everything we need to know for us to be sure of our salvation. (1 Jn. 5:13; 1 Pe 1:3) The below Scriptures outline what the Bible says about being saved:

1. **The Bible is the Word of God** (2 Tim. 3:16)
2. **The Bible contains God's will for us** (Ps. 19:7-8)
3. **All disobedience to God is sin** (1 Jn. 3:4; Ja. 4:17)
4. **We've all sinned** (Ro. 3:23; Is. 53:5-6; Pr. 16:2)
5. **The wages of sin is death** (Ro. 6:23; Ez 18:20; Re. 21:8)
6. **Jesus is God in the flesh** (Jn. 1;1; Mt. 16:16; Mt. 4:23; Ac. 2:22-24)
7. **Jesus paid the wages of sin [our debt]** (1Pe. 3:18; 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21; Ro. 5:6-9)
8. **Man must respond to God's grace** (Jn. 1:12-13)
 - a. The Bible says to BELIEVE— *I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be]. John 8:24 (He. 11:6; Ro. 5:8)*