



NEXT STEP

WHAT DID
JESUS DO?



0861 CHURCH
info@urbanlife.org.za
www.urbanlife.org.za

References :

- *The Normal Christian Birth*, David Pawson, Hodder & Stoughton 1989
- *New Life, New Lifestyle* by Malcolm Black
- *50 Reasons Why Jesus came to die*, John Piper

CONTENTS

3 | STARTING AT THE VERY
BEGINNING

4 | LAYING DOWN THE LAW

5 | THE GOOD NEWS

6 | AMAZING GRACE

8 | THE ENEMY IS DEFEATED

10 | JOURNEY

13 | PRAYER

14 | WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

16 | 50 REASONS WHY JESUS
CAME TO DIE



NEXT STEP

WHAT DID JESUS DO?

What did Jesus do and why does it matter to you? Whether you have become a Christ follower or whether you are just investigating the claims of Christ, our hope is that this booklet will help you make a start in answering this important question.

STARTING AT THE VERY BEGINNING...

Mankind is the pinnacle of all God's creation. He created us in His image and likeness and for the purpose of being in relationship with Him. It was God's desire that we live in agreement with His ways, as only His ways are perfect and pure. He is the only measure for what is truly good. God does not want to force us to be in relationship with Him and live according to His ways – He gives us free will.

Adam, the first man God created, disobeyed God (*Genesis 3*) believing that he did not need God but could be His own god. Adam's choice damaged the relationship between God and man for us all.

"When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned".
(*Romans 5:12- ESV*)

Sin causes a breakdown in man's relationship with God. Sin is an attitude – when we prefer our self

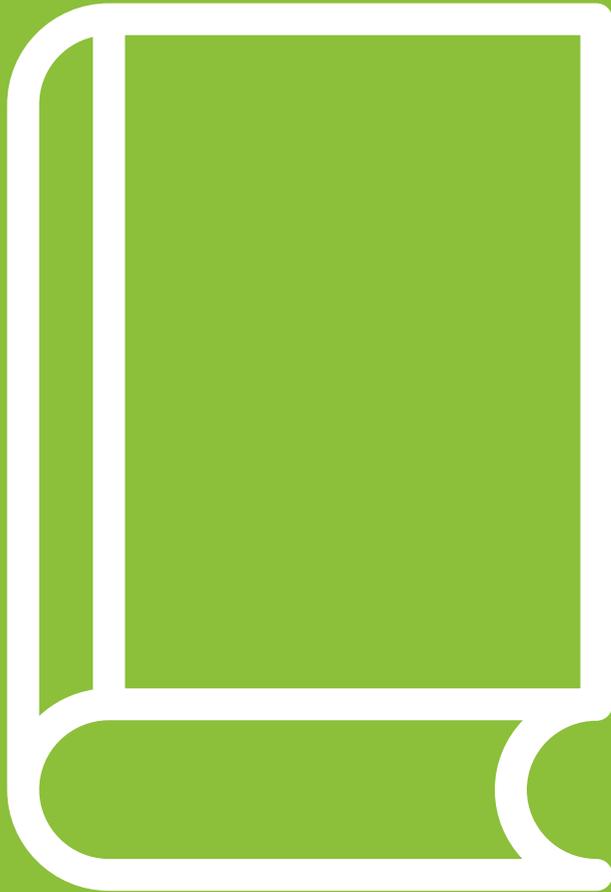
and our ways over God and His ways. Man's sin has brought a curse on the earth, bringing sickness, pain, suffering and death. The Bible explains the consequences of our sin:

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord".
(Romans 6:23 - ESV)*

The death referred to here is not a physical death but rather a spiritual death. When we are spiritually dead we are not able to relate to God our Heavenly Father and we cannot experience life to the full as He intended us to.

Our sin not only separates us from God in this lifetime but, if not dealt with, will separate us from Him in the next lifetime /eternity.





LAYING DOWN THE LAW

From the day that sin entered the world, wickedness spread. God saw that even the imaginations of men's hearts were continually evil. In spite of this, God's still wanted to have fellowship with man!

In the First Testament, God laid down the Law so man would have knowledge of what was sinful (*Exodus 19, 20*). When a law was broken, man was required to make an animal sacrifice to seek God's forgiveness.

"For the life of any creature is in its blood. I have given you the blood so you can make atonement for your sins. It is the blood, representing life, that brings you atonement." (*Leviticus 17:11*)

Unfortunately the law was very hard for man to keep. Even those with the best intentions would break a law and the debt of the sin eventually became too much. Man could never pay God back – not ever!

THE GOOD NEWS...

Even though we reject God – He loves us unconditionally and wants us to be His children! God knew that the consequences of our sin would destroy us and separate us from Him and He had a rescue plan! Jesus came to this earth to be the ultimate sacrifice for our sins so that we can be reunited with God our Father. Jesus took on the sins of the whole world, without ever sinning himself. He died on the cross so that the debt of our sin could be paid in full for all eternity!

“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ’s cross.” (Col 2:3-14)

Jesus did not come to the earth to judge or condemn us. He came humbly to identify himself with us, to be tempted in every way as we are (but with-

out sin). Jesus came on a mission to earth to restore and rescue everything in creation that has been destroyed by sin!

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:16-17).

All who confess and believe in their heart that Jesus is their Saviour and submit their lives under His Lordship will be saved. Their sins are removed from them as far as the east is from the west and their relationship with God is restored. You may have heard people referring to the term “Born again” this simply means that we have left our old lives behind and become new creations. We become the children of God.

“For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him

from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved". (Roman 10:9-10)

God's love smashed the wall that sin built between God and us!

AMAZING GRACE

Perhaps you think, "But I am not a bad person, I really try and live a good life". But the Bible says that according to God's perfect justice – our good just doesn't measure up. Even our good works are as filthy rags to Him, outside of a relationship with Him. All of us have sinned, only God is perfect.

"For all have sinned - all fall short of God's glorious standard". (Romans 3:23)

But the good news about God's ways is that He died for us while we were yet sinners. He knew we

would sin and He didn't want our works to be the way we earned His love and acceptance.

His Salvation is a free gift! His Love is unconditional! There is nothing we can do to make God loves us anymore or make Him love us any less. We don't have to work for or earn God's approval. This is His Amazing Grace!

Grace is God's undeserved and unmerited love. We deserve to be punished for our sins but grace means that we don't get what we deserve, because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross!

It is important that we realize that we are unable to save ourselves.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God". (Ephesians 2:8)



"The thing that keeps me on my knees is the difference between Grace and Karma. At the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, or in physics—in physical laws—every action is met by an equal or an opposite one. And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that ... Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done a lot of stupid stuff ... I'd be in big trouble if Karma was going to finally be my judge. It doesn't excuse my mistakes, but I'm holding out for Grace. I'm holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don't have to depend on my own religiosity. The point of the death of Christ is that Christ took on the sins of the world, so that what we put out did not come back to us, and that our sinful nature does not reap the obvious death. It's not our own good works that get us through the gates of Heaven." - Bono (U2)

THE ENEMY IS DEFEATED

There is more to this world than what we can see with our natural eyes. There is a spiritual war that is raging between the Kingdom of Light (God's Kingdom) and the Kingdom of Darkness (Satan's Kingdom).

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places". (Ephesians 6:12)

Satan is not a fairytale character. He prowls around like a roaring lion, ready to devour. (1 Peter 5:8) He is like a thief that comes to steal, kill and destroy. (John 10:10)

You don't need to be frightened of Satan if you are a child of God because Jesus defeated Satan on the cross. He has given those who believe in Him authority over the Devil and his evil ways.

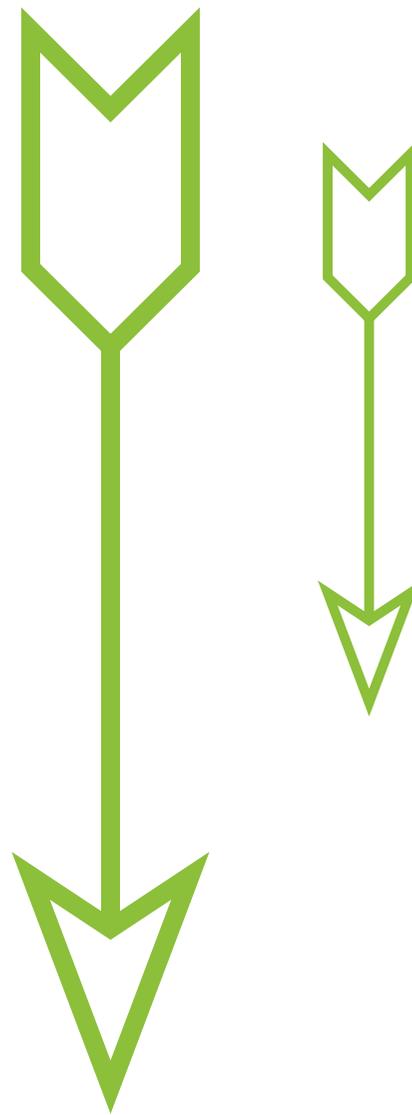
"And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction". (Matthew 10:1)

Before we accepted Jesus' free gift of salvation, we were puppets of the Devil but Jesus cut the chords and now we are free and belong to His Kingdom.

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins". (Colossians 1:13-14)

“Use every piece of God’s armour to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm”

- Ephesians 6:13



JOURNEY

Jesus did not only come to earth to save us from eternal separation from our Father, but also to show us how we should live. Christ gave us a perfect example that we can follow. When we are saved from our old sinful lives, we are given a fresh new start and God want us to use this new opportunity to live life to the full and for His Glory. We are no longer living for ourselves but need to let Him be the master of our lives.

Following in the footsteps of Christ is not something that happens overnight, because we are human, it is a life long journey. It is not however a journey that we have to walk alone.

God has given us all we need to live this life:

- **HIS WORD/ THE BIBLE:**

The Bible is God's Story ("His-Story"). It is the incredible story of God's plan to redeem mankind. It's the inspired word of God to all of mankind

that reveals who He is and His will for us. The Bible is the "manual" for life.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work". (II Timothy 3:16-17)

In order to grow and mature in our walk with God we need to fill ourselves with His Word. It is important that we read our Bibles every day as it is the spiritual food we need to survive and thrive!

"But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4)

- **HIS SPIRIT:**

Before He ascended to Heaven, Jesus promised the disciples that He would not leave them alone, but that a greater Helper and Counsellor would come to stand in His place when He left, the Holy Spirit. This word counselor means, "the One who

walks alongside us” – the Holy Spirit walks closely with us, showing us how to do the things that the Father is calling us to do.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you”. (John 14:16-18)

The Holy Spirit is a gift from the Father to all who have become children of God by being born again. We cannot live the life we have been called to in our own strength, but in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit”. (Ephesians 3:16, NLT)

The Holy Spirit is not a “force” but is God Himself in Spirit, here on earth to dwell in us.

He is our Guide, our Teacher, our supernatural strength, He helps us to understand the Bible, He comforts us, He produces good fruit in our lives and He fills us with power to be witnesses.

• **A COMMUNITY:**

We were never meant to walk this journey as Christ followers on our own. This is why when we become children of God we become part of His family – the church. The church is not a building but the people!

We are placed in a church family to support and encourage one another, to love and serve one another and to help each other grow and mature in God.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrew 10:24-25).

The Church, also known as the Body of Christ, is



God's plan to reach and impact the earth with His Kingdom. We are His Body because it is our hands, our voices, our hearts and our feet that God uses to reveal Himself to the world. *(1 Corinthians 12)*. Each of us is like an organ of the body that plays a vital role. We all need each other and we all have a unique plan and purpose.

We flourish when we are planted firmly in a church community!

*"They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God."
(Psalm 92:13)*

This booklet is an introduction to Christ and what He has done for you. Please see the next book in this series: "WHAT MUST I DO?"

done for you? Have you decided to accept Christ's free gift of Salvation? If you would like to begin your journey as a Christ Follower, you can pray this prayer:

Lord Jesus, I believe that You died on the cross for me so that my sins could be forgiven. I believe the You are the Saviour of the World and that You are the only way to God, the Father.

I acknowledge that I am a sinner and that I am in need of Salvation. I repent of my sins. Will You cleanse me and give me a new heart?

I don't want to be the boss of my own life anymore. I submit my life to Your rule King Jesus! I ask that You help me by Your Spirit to live a new life with You and for You. Will You speak to me through Your Word and lead me on the path that You have for me.

*Thank you Jesus!
Amen*

Why don't you tell someone that you have prayed this prayer. This is only the start of the journey, so we encourage you to join one of our Discipleship groups to learn and grow strong in God!



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Atonement:

- Amends or compensation made for an injury or wrong.
- Jesus paid the debt of our sins so that we can be free and reconciled with the our Heavenly Father.

Salvation:

- Saving or being saved from danger, evil, difficulty, destruction, etc.; rescue. Deliverance from sin and from the penalties of sin; redemption
- Salvation is the concept that God saves humanity from spiritual death or Eternal Damnation by providing for them an eternal life

Justification (*"Just as if I have never sinned"*)

- We have been saved from the penalty of sin
- A legal term that talks of us being tried/tested

and declared "Not guilty".

- When we accept Jesus' Salvation, our sins are removed from us, so that when we stand before God He sees us as innocent.

Sanctification

- We are being saved from the power of sin
- Being set apart for God's plans and purposes
- The journey whereby God's Spirit works in us to make us more like Jesus (working on our hearts, our sinful nature).

Saving Grace

- When we receive from God what we don't deserve or could not possibly earn (i.e. we receive salvation without having to earn it).

Redemption

- To be rescued, paying a ransom for someone's freedom

- Recovering something that is yours
- Jesus paid a “ransom” for us to be set free from Satan’s bondage.

Covenant

- A solemn promise / agreement
- The way God chooses to relate to us.

Kingdom of God

- The rule and reign of Jesus,
- His government, His ways, His order, His power
- The domain over which God is Sovereign



50 REASONS WHY JESUS CAME TO DIE: (JOHN PIPER)



1. To absorb the wrath of God
2. To please the heavenly Father
3. To learn obedience and be perfected
4. To achieve His own resurrection from the dead
5. To show the wealth of God's love and grace for sinners
6. To show His own love for us

7. To cancel the legal demands of the law against us
8. To become a ransom for many
9. For the forgiveness of our sins
10. To provide the basis for our justification
11. To complete the obedience that becomes our righteousness
12. To take away our condemnation
13. To abolish circumcision and all ritual as the basis for salvation
14. To bring us to faith and keep us faithful
15. To make us holy, blameless and perfect
16. To give us a clear conscience
17. To obtain for us all things that are good for us
18. To heal us from moral and spiritual sickness
19. To give eternal life to all who believe on Him
20. To deliver us from the present evil age
21. To reconcile us to God
22. To bring us to God

23. So that we might belong to Him
24. To give us confident access to the holiest place
25. To become for us the place where we meet God
26. To bring the Old Testament priesthood to an end and become the Eternal High Priest
27. To become a sympathetic and helpful high priest
28. To free us from the futility of our ancestry
29. To free us from the slavery of sin
30. That we might die to sin and live to righteousness
31. So that we would die to the law and bear fruit for God
32. To enable us to live for Christ and not for ourselves
33. To make His cross the ground of all our boasting
34. To enable us to live by faith in Him
35. To give marriage it's deepest meaning
36. To create a people passionate for good works
37. To call us to follow His example of lowliness and costly love
38. To create a band of crucified followers
39. To free us from the bondage of fear and death
40. So that we would be with Him immediately after death
41. To secure our resurrection from the dead
42. To disarm the rulers and authorities
43. To unleash the power of God in the gospel
44. To destroy the hostility between races.
45. To ransom people from every tribe and language and people and nation.
46. To gather His sheep from all around the world
47. To rescue us from final judgment
48. To gain His joy and ours
49. So that we would be crowned with glory and honour
50. To show that the worst evil is meant by God for good

NEXT STEP

