

Jesus the Answer

Glorious Gospel: 4

If you live for 100 years on earth and then 1,000,000,000+ years in eternity, then the most important question is, where will you spend eternity?

Review:

What do we believe?

- If you died today, how sure are you that you would go to heaven?
- If God asked, “Why should I let you in?” what would you say?

What is God like?

- God loves people.
- God hates sin.

What are people like?

- People are sinful.
- People are unable to save themselves.

We have a sin problem.

Isaiah 59:2 It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore. NLT

Our sins can only be dealt with by death.

Romans 6:23a For the wages of sin is death. NLT

This is why all our human efforts fall short.

What kind of death is it talking about?

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” NIV

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9 [The Lord Jesus] will come with his mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. NLT

We are in a dilemma!

Jesus rescues us from our dilemma.

Jesus came to die.

Matthew 20:28 “...just as the Son of man [, Jesus,] did not come be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” NIV

Jesus died in our place to pay our death penalty.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered [or died] once for sins, the righteous [, Jesus,] for the unrighteous [,us], to bring you to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. NIV/NLT

Jesus offers his payment as a free gift.

Ephesians 2:8-9 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. NLT

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. NLT

We receive the gift by belief.

Acts 16:30-31 [The jailer] then brought [Paul and Silas] out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." NIV

John 5:24 [Jesus said,] "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." NIV

What kind of belief saves?

Genuine belief goes beyond acknowledgement.

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. NIV

True belief involves repentance.

Jesus preached it.

Mark 1:14-15 After John [the Baptist] was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" NIV

Repentance is not a change of actions, but it results in a change of actions.

Acts 26:20b [Paul said,] "I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds." NIV

Repentance is a turning from sin and to God.

Acts 3:26 [Peter preached,] "When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways." NIV

Acts 3:19 [Peter preached,] "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." NIV

True belief involves a transfer of trust.

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. NIV

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." NIV