



BY T.L. OSBORN

**B**EFORE JESUS CHRIST returned to His Father in heaven, the last thing that He told His followers to do was: *Go to all the world and preach the GOSPEL to every creature.* <sup>Mk.16:15</sup>

What is the *Gospel*? For sure it is not religion or church doctrine or a spiritual dogma or rite or ceremony. *Gospel* means *GOOD NEWS*.

Jesus commanded: *Preach the GOOD NEWS to every creature.*

What Good News is to be proclaimed? The Good News of what Jesus Christ accomplished for you and for me when He died on the cross.

You may ask: Is that Good News?

Yes it is, when you understand it and believe it. What I am going to share with you will bring peace to your soul even while you are reading it, if you *only believe*.

The creation of humanity is recorded in the Bible. *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* <sup>Ge.1:1</sup> It says, *God created male and female in His own likeness, out of the dust of the earth. Then he breathed into them and they became living souls.* <sup>Gen.1:27; 2:7</sup>

God warned them that if they sinned and disobeyed His Word, they would die. His law was established: *The soul that sins, it shall die.* <sup>Eze.18:4</sup> Paul, the

apostle said the same thing: *The wages of sin is death.* <sup>Rom.6:23</sup>

Satan knew that law, and since he is the great enemy of God, he was determined to destroy the wonderful man and the beautiful woman whom God had created.

He came to them and tempted them to sin against their creator – to disobey Him and to distrust His word. He lied to them and deceived them saying they would *not* die if they disobeyed what the Lord had told them.

Then the great tragedy occurred; the man and the woman both sinned and as a result, they were condemned by their sin. They became afraid of God and were filled with guilt.

God came and reminded them of His law which imposed deterioration and death upon those who sinned against Him. Adam and Eve could no longer live in His presence. They were expelled from the garden that God had planted for them, to live under the dominion of Satan. <sup>Gen.2:8</sup>

Instead of peace and tranquility, now the lot of humankind was sin, guilt, fear and death. They became the slaves of Satan whose lie they believed. That began their estrangement from God and their subjugation by the destroyer, the liar, the killer. <sup>Jn.8:44</sup>

The Bible says, *As by one, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all, because all have sinned.* <sup>Ro.5:12</sup>

Now you can understand where sin, guilt and disease originated and why they destroy humanity today.

Despite human sin, the Bible says, *God is love.* <sup>1Jn.4:8</sup> *He is not willing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance.* <sup>2Pet.3:9</sup> His Word says, *I have no pleasure in the death of the one who dies.* <sup>Eze.18:32</sup>

God's great love drove Him to find a way to redeem people from their sin so they could live and not die. But He had made a law: *The soul that sins, it shall die.* <sup>Eze.18:4,20</sup> That law could not be mitigated.

Since *all* had sinned, *all* must die. This could not bring pleasure to God. How could humanity be saved?

Only one way – by **SUBSTITUTION**.

The person who sins is guilty; and the judgement of that sin is death – unless a substitute is found to die in their place, enduring the full punishment that the law perscribed.

So people killed animals to atone for their sins, but the Bible says, *It is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.* <sup>He.10:4</sup> Only a **person** could be a valid substitute.

Since *all* had sinned, there was *none* who could die in the place of another, because each person must bear the judgement of his or her own sins.

But God's love drove Him to offer His Son, Jesus Christ, to assume our guilt and to endure the judgment that we deserved. He was perfect; He had no sin, so *He could be our substitute!*

That is why the Bible says, *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting Life.* <sup>Jn.3:16</sup>

So Jesus suffered *our* penalty of death for us. He willingly went to the cross and died in *our* place so that we might live. The Bible says, *He bore our sins on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live in righteousness.* <sup>1Pet.2:24</sup>

When He was crucified, He suffered the penalty of *our* own sins. Now that He has borne our punishment, we are no longer guilty. We are saved. All we have to do is **BELIEVE**.

Jesus said, *Whoever believes on the Son is not condemned: But whoever does not believe is condemned already because he or she has not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God.* <sup>Jn.3:18</sup>

He said, *Greater love has no one than this, that one would lay down his or her life for a friend.* <sup>Jn.15:13</sup> And He said, *You are my friends.* <sup>Jn.15:14</sup>


The Lord said: *Whoever hears my Word, and believes on Him that sent Me, has everlasting Life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto LIFE.* <sup>Jn.5:24</sup>

That is the *Gospel* – the *Good News*. Jesus died for *you*. He bore *your* sins. He took *your* punishment. God gave His only Son to bear *your* judgment in *your* place. He believed that you were worth it? His act of *Love* proves how much He loves *you just as you are*.

I urge you to trust in Him *now* for salvation. He believed in *you* even before you believed in Him. He came to *you* even before you came to Him. He loved *you* even before you loved Him.

This promise in the Bible is for you: *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.* <sup>Ac.16:31</sup> Do that today. He loves you. He died to redeem you.

Confess your faith today. Say to Him: I thank you Lord for Your *Love* and for Your *Life*. I believe You endured the penalty of *my* sins. You died for me. Thank you for salvation.

Do it today! God bless you! 

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