

## Good News of Grace & Truth

There is good and there is evil in this world; we don't need to live but a couple of years to find that out. We are born into evil, not by anything we have done, but by simply being born. No one is born good; proof of this can be seen by what you have heard: *'Their parents did not raise them right!'* or *'I blame the parents for not teaching them what is right!'*. If we are born good, then why do we need to be taught to do good? We are born into sin, that is why we need to be taught to do good; we do not need to be taught to do evil because we already do it. No one is immune to the power of sin: not the saints, not the one writing this, not Jesus Christ Himself, although Jesus was born into this world under the power of sin, He did not sin, being tempted in every respect that we are tempted; still, He died a criminal's death by being hung on a cross. It was not for His sins that He died, since He had none, but **for yours**. Jesus suffered for being good; and even in His suffering He did good, by making you **right** with God. God's justice demands sin be punished; but by His mercy and love and compassion, He took that punishment upon Himself. God has righteously forgiven your sins through Jesus Christ. He was buried in a tomb for three days. Then on the third day, God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, giving Him new Life. Jesus Christ got what He did not deserve — death, punishment and hate; God gave us what we did not deserve — new life, peace with God and grace. This is the free gift of God. Too good to be true? Well now, you're beginning to understand God; He is Good and He is True!

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If sin results in death and sin needs saving from, then *why would we continue in it?* Jesus saves us from danger; we do not need saving if there is no danger. We do not need saving from a field of dandelions; but if those dandelions had poisonous bees pollinating in them, then we would need saving. When we believe in Jesus Christ, His history becomes ours. Since He died and was buried, we die to our old way of living; we have surely died since we were buried with Him through baptism — people don't bury someone unless they are surely dead; likewise, our old way of living is dead. In the same way, we share in Jesus' resurrection: since He rose from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit, so do we through faith. God served us through Jesus; He helps us through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, consider yourself alive to God through the Holy Spirit, Who turns our bodies or tents into Temples of the Living God. God is Truth and it is impossible for Him to lie; He is Light and there is no dark in Him at all. So if God is for us, who can be against us? Jesus has made us all friends of God; and if God did this while we were His enemies, then what would He do while we are His friends? If He has given us His precious Son, then what, if anything, would He withhold from us? God is the Giver; it's not about *doing for God* only but, first, *receiving from Him*: we can serve because He first served us; we can love because He first loved us. What do we have that God hasn't given us? God has also freely given us eternal life through Jesus Christ: a gift that is so precious it cannot be paid for; so, God in His grace has freely given it! So hold fast Jesus Christ who gave up His Life so you may have Life.

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