

The Good News of the Kingdom of God

(<https://Jesusthelight.github.io>)

When you go to fast food, you see images of burgers and other foods. Yes, the image looks beautiful, even before you take a bite, you see with your eye that it's desirable. You order and get your meal quickly, it looks nothing like the image, but you don't mind because it tastes good, loaded with sugar & fat & salt, everything your body craves in one meal. In your mouth, your brain lights up and your whole body loves it; but in your gut, it turns bitter. And because of all the processing of the food, it hits your digestion quick, giving you an instant surge of energy and sense of euphoria; but later, it becomes like death within you, constricting your arteries like a serpent around its prey, it makes you disgusted with anything else that calls itself food. As the Truth says, **"Though evil is sweet in his mouth, & he hides it under his tongue, though he desires it & will not let it go, but holds it in his mouth, yet his food in his stomach is changed to the venom of cobras within him. (Job 20)"** You may ask, **"How can something that seems so good be so evil?"** Well, sin is deceitful; it uses what your eye sees to ensnare you into its trap; it lures you in through trickery & beguiling; sin focuses on how it appears outwardly, but inwardly, it's filled with all kinds of impurity; sin is like a promiscuous woman, her lips **"drip honey and smoother than oil is her speech; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. (Prov 5)"** Again, **"and I discovered more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, whose hands are chains. (Ecc 7)"** Does not sin entice the eye with lust and immediate, fleeting pleasure? In evil, don't we distaste that which is good? Doesn't sin harden our hearts toward God? And isn't the end of sin eternal death? Sin takes our functional need and perverts it into a dysfunctional want, corrupting our flesh and making us slaves. *If sin were truthful, how many of us would willingly choose it?* A moment of pleasure for everlasting disgrace (what a sales pitch). Sin needs to lie in order to ensnare us & worse yet, we are deceived into believing that all is well with our soul, as David says, **"Let their table become before them a snare and their well being, a trap. (Psa 69)"** **(flip over)**

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All of us have been born into slavery to sin because, in the beginning, *one* man, Adam disobeyed God *once*, hence *all* die as a result; but, through *One* other man, Christ Jesus, and His *one* act of righteousness, He justifies many and will bring *all* to the resurrection of life. His *one* good act is dying on a cross for our redemption from slavery, blotting out our transgressions, He paid for our freedom through His blood, satisfying the just requirement of the law for us, “and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Heb 9)”. He was buried in a tomb, and on the third day, God raised Him from the dead, granting us victory through His blood & our confession of Him. Beware that the thing in the prophets does not come true in you, “Behold, you scoffers, and marvel, and perish; for I am accomplish-ing a work in your days, a work which you will never believe, even if someone told you. (Hab 1)” *Why is anyone dumbfounded that God can raise the dead? Did He not make all things visible and invisible out of nothing?* But still, you might think, ‘*This is too good to be true*’. In regard to sin, this statement is right; but in regard to God, He is Good & He is True. And in Him, “you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (Joh 8)” and “I (Jesus) am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (Joh 14)” In Christ, we are no longer bound by sin, whose power is in the law, for we have been set free from its demands by walking in the freedom of the Holy Spirit which is by faith working itself out in love And “we love, because He first loved us (1 Joh 4)” It is by grace that we are saved; the gift of God so that no-one can boast; so our boast is in God & His remarkable work that is revealed to us in the kindness of Jesus Christ & through His promised Holy Spirit. Such kindness leads us to repentance, and His love builds us up. Therefore, continue to trust in His kindness and leave no provision for the flesh because “it was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery (Gal 4)” And “do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (Gal 6)” And as for food, all is clean (read Matt 15; Rom 14; Acts 10 & 15; 1 Cor 8-10; John 6); and this is your bookmark.

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