

The Message of Salvation

In the Beginning...

- God created the heavens, the earth, and all that moves, breaths, and lives upon the ground (Genesis 1)
- There is only ONE God

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

- God's most prized creation is man, who was created to have fellowship with Him.

"Everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made."

Isaiah 43:7

God, Jesus, & the Holy Spirit

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit make up the Trinity (the Godhead): one entity, one Supreme Being with three distinct functions. The Godhead/Trinity always was. There will never be another created being who will be able to rise above or take the throne of God the Father, God the Son, or God the Holy Spirit.

God, The Father - The Creator of the heavens and the earth. The first in the Godhead and the owner of everything; by His hands all things in heaven and on earth were created. His primary role is Supreme Deity and He is to be worshipped and loved by the creation of His hands.

God, the Son - Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Word of God made flesh and was with God in the beginning and knows how to reach God. His primary role is that of Savior. He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life; voluntarily submitted to the will of His Father to be the sin offering for the world. He died, was buried, and three days later rose from the dead. He now sits at the right hand of God, interceding for those He died to save.

God, the Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit was also with God in the beginning for the Spirit of God hovered over the spoken Word and made created life a reality. His primary role is to remind us to worship our Creator, remember the promises of God, and encourage us to walk in the ways of God. He is our Guide and Counselor as we (mankind) travel this road called life.

With a general understanding of who God is, we must now understand the role of mankind and the position we have here on the earth.

Mankind (male & female)

- Mankind, both male and female were created in the image and likeness of God (with 3 distinct functions to our lives we have a spirit, a soul, and a body...just like the Godhead/Trinity).
- Mankind was created for the glory of God, to have fellowship with Him, and to worship Him.
- Mankind is God's perfect creation. We have been given the ability to think, to reason, and to make choices (no other created creature was given this ability).
- Mankind has the ability to choose (or not to choose) to love God and/or believe that He is who He says that He is and to follow the path that He has laid out for life...the path of righteousness.

Angels, Demons, & Lucifer, the Enemy of God

Angels

Angels are created beings with the primary role of worshipping God and doing His bidding. They are the messengers of God who ensure that His will is carried out.

Lucifer, the Enemy of God

(Satan or the devil)

- Lucifer is an angel, a created being. He was not with God in the beginning.
- Lucifer was once the most beautiful created being in the kingdom of God with the primary role of worshipping God (He was in charge of the music of heaven). He was always in the presence of God and in the Throne Room.
- Lucifer was not happy with the role that he had been given, for he wanted to be god and to sit/rule on the Throne of God. It was his desire to rule it all, so he convinced a third of the angelic host to join him in his quest to dethrone God.
- Lucifer's act of rebellion against God caused a war in heaven, which left him (and those who followed him) homeless, without a job or position, and destitute. He became a wanderer and was cast out of heaven; confined to the earth until it is time for him to be judged for his actions.
- Lucifer (now known as the devil/Satan) and the fallen angels (now known as demons) will one day be judged for the evil they committed in heaven. The punishment for their act of rebellion against God will be eternal separation from God, in a designated place created just for them...HELL.

One must wonder why God cast His adversary down to the earth, our home and dwelling place. My personal theory is this: If God had just cast His adversary out of heaven and into the universe, then he (Lucifer) would have had the opportunity to corrupt both the heavens and the earth. Lucifer was confined to a small area to influence and rule for a short time, until his eternal dwelling place could be made ready for his time of judgment. He cannot get off the earth or away from those who worship God (this is a temporal form of punishment). Once his punishment has been handed down, he will be confined to a much smaller area away from God for all eternity.

Hell

- Hell was created for Lucifer (a fallen angel and adversary of God) and one-third of the angels who followed his lead (now called demons) as their eternal dwelling place for their decision to usurp the authority and rule of God.
- Hell is described as a place constantly consumed by fire, smoke, and burning sulfur. It's a place of utter darkness with the stench of burning flesh, and the sounds of weeping and gnashing teeth.
- Hell was not created for mankind. It was created for Lucifer and his band of angels. The only way that individuals (human) will find themselves dwelling in hell for all eternity is if they make a contentious deliberate decision to live their life without God and reject the work Jesus did on the cross. This rejection will cause them to die in their sins and be eternally separated from God. This is the only way to make HELL their eternal destination.

Heaven

- Heaven is described as a place of great beauty and color. It is the dwelling place of God, whose glory illuminates the city (there is no need for the sun).
- Heaven is the place God has provided for His creation (mankind) to live with Him eternally.
- Heaven is the eternal dwelling place of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, along with the two-thirds of the angels who did not follow after their fallen comrade.

- Heaven is also the eternal dwelling place for those who love God with all their heart, soul, and mind. It is the reward for those who have made a conscious and deliberate decision to choose life with God, and accept the free gift of salvation (the gift which Jesus died to make this opportunity a reality).
- The only way to make heaven your eternal destination is to repent of your sin; accept and believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay a debt that you could not pay, and live daily for Him. It's a conscious decision, one that we all must make!

The Fall of Man

God gave man the ability to make decisions...to choose between right and wrong; good and evil. With the ability of choice given to him, man (Adam & Eve) made the decision to disobey God's command (Genesis 2). This act of disobedience set the precedence for the future of mankind and introduced sin into the world.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

The Love of Father God

Even though man turned away from God, He (God) still wanted to have fellowship with him (man). God provided a way for man to live in fellowship with Him on earth and in Heaven. He sacrificed His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, thus providing an avenue in which mankind could be restored to a right relationship with Him.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

John 3:16-17

Understanding the Role of Jesus, God's Provision

- Jesus was sent to the earth for the purpose of providing redemption for mankind.
- Jesus was born of a virgin.
- Jesus showed us how to have a relationship with God and also how to communicate with Him.
- Jesus lived a sinless life; however He was condemned to die because of who He claimed to be.
- Jesus shed His blood on the cross in order to give mankind an avenue in which to get to God.
- Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb.
- Three days after His death and burial, Jesus was resurrected.
- Jesus ascended into heaven to take His rightful place at the right hand of God the Father.

All of this was done for YOU!

What Must I do to be Saved?

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1. **Accept** God's provision.
2. **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God and can take away your sin.
3. **Confess** your sins to God (repent & turn from doing things that do not line up with God's Word).

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9, NASB

If you are ready to commit your life to Jesus, then you are cordially invited to take a moment right now to do so. As you are making your decision, please read and meditate upon the following scripture:

*This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from **all** sin. ⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.*

1 John 1:5-10, NIV

Salvation Commitment Card

Example of a prayer of committing your life to God:

Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sin has separated me from You. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life and turn toward You. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, and is NOW alive, sitting at the right hand of God interceding for me. And as an act of my will, I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life; to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus name I pray... Amen...

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Welcome to the Family of God!

After Receiving Salvation

- Tell others about your experience.
- Study the Word of God (the Bible) daily.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

- Begin attending and serving in a Bible believing Church where the Word is taught and preached.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...

Hebrews 10:25a

- Look for the return of Jesus Christ.

—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25b