

We know the Bible is the most famous book in the world, but it is also the most misunderstood book. Many get overwhelmed by the vast amount of information in the Bible & miss what God is telling us. However, the Bible's message is simple to see when we just look at the big picture of the Bible.

The Bible is Incredible Book

66 Books: 39 OT + 27 NT

Written over **1500** years
(1450 BC – AD 100)

40 different authors inspired by God

From **3** different continents, different
nations, and varying cultures

Contains **3** different languages
(Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek)

HEBREW

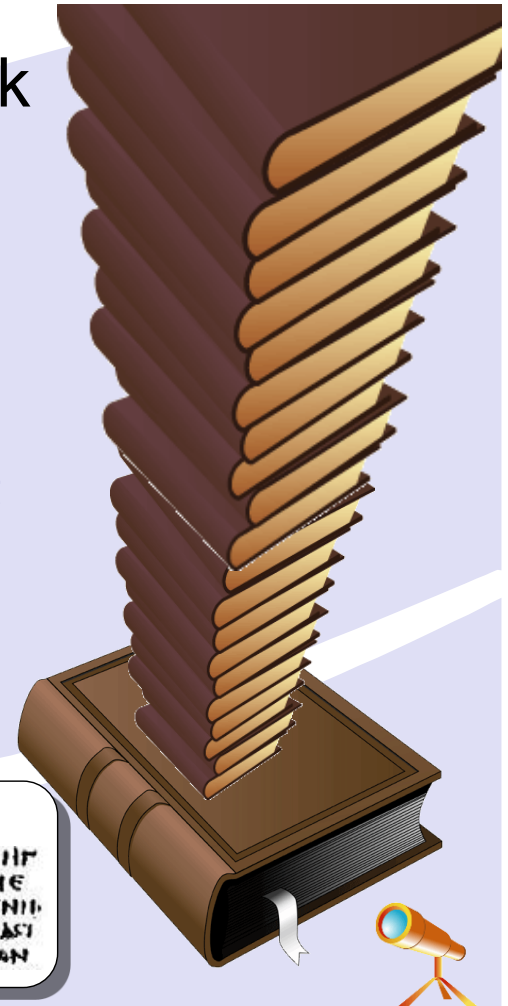
וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁמַע
ה' אֶת קוֹל מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל
וְהָיָה יְהוָה אֶחָד

ARAMAIC

ܡܠܟܐ ܕܥܡܪܐ
ܕܥܡܪܐ ܕܥܡܪܐ
ܕܥܡܪܐ ܕܥܡܪܐ

GREEK

ΚΑΙ ΔΟΘΗΤΩΣ ΜΗΡ
ΜΑΚΑΙ ΗΛΟΙΡΗ
Η ΜΕΛΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΥΝΗ
Η ΑΝΑΡΕΧΗ ΤΩ ΒΑΣΙ
ΛΕΙ ΚΑΙ ΛΕΥΣΕΙΑΝ



40 Authors...6 Major Empires...

1500 Years...6 Books...

3 Continents...3 Languages

One Theme!

amazing

God's Plan of Redemption

Yet with all of these varying factors there is **only one** theme throughout the entire Bible!
This is one of the most powerful evidences that this book was written by God.
God's only theme is His plan for mankind. So let's look at God's plan for us.

Jesus told his apostles to...

“Go into all the world and
preach *the gospel*
to all creation.”

Mark 16:15

Gospel means good news.



What is this good news?

The Gospel (good news) is the message
of how mankind can be saved.
Apostle Paul said...



“I am not ashamed
of **the gospel**
for it is the
power of God
for **salvation...**”

Romans 1:16



The Gospel...Must be Obeyed

*“...when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who **do do not obey the gospel** for Lord Jesus.*

These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...”

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9



So how one responds to the gospel is a **critical turning point** in one's life both before death & after. Since the Bible says those that do not **obey the** gospel will pay an eternal penalty. It's more than just belief in God.

A Warning...To Christians

*"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a **different gospel**; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort **the gospel** of Christ. But even if **we or an angel** from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally **condemned!**"*

Galatians 1:6-12 (see also Acts 20:28)



However, the gospel is often misunderstood by Christians thinking there are many gospels. Apostle Paul said. (^) So we see if we miss obeying the gospel (good news) of how to be saved that in the end it **will not matter** how religious or good we were. This is why there is a different church at every corner. People are sincere in their belief. However, it does not matter what we think, but God. This is not a politically correct statement in today's world of everyone can believe what they want.

The ONE Gospel

*"I am amazed that you are so quickly
deceitful!"*

What is the one gospel?

Where do we start?

*...only there are some who
you and want to distort the*

GOSPEL

*...an angel from heaven
gospel other than the
d to you, let him be
condemned!"*



Galatians 3:24

Also: Rom. 15:4
For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

1 Cor. 10:11
Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction
(see also 2 Tim 3:14-15)

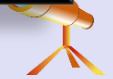


Well the old law in the Old Testament taught us how we can be brought to Christ through faith. So let's look at this to help us understand the gospel or good news.



"Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine." Lev. 20:26

**God is Holy! There is no impurity in Him.
God requires us to also be holy.**



Ps 33:4-5

“For the word of the LORD is upright, And all His work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the loving kindness of the LORD.”

JUSTICE

LOVE

God's holiness is demonstrated in His justice and love toward mankind.

^ If we only experienced the JUSTICE of God it would be a short story for all of us. However, the other side of His holiness is His LOVE. He gives us a way to redeem ourselves.



DESIRES TO HAVE A SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US



*Him who knew no sin he made to be
sin on our behalf; that we might
become the righteousness of God in
him. 2 Corinthians 5:21*



GOD

**However, God is Holy ,
but we are not always so holy.
The Bible says that our sins
separate us from having a
relationship with God.**



*Whoever is born of God
does not sin. 1 John 5:18*

Romans 6:23
...for the wages of sin is death

SIN ↔ DEATH

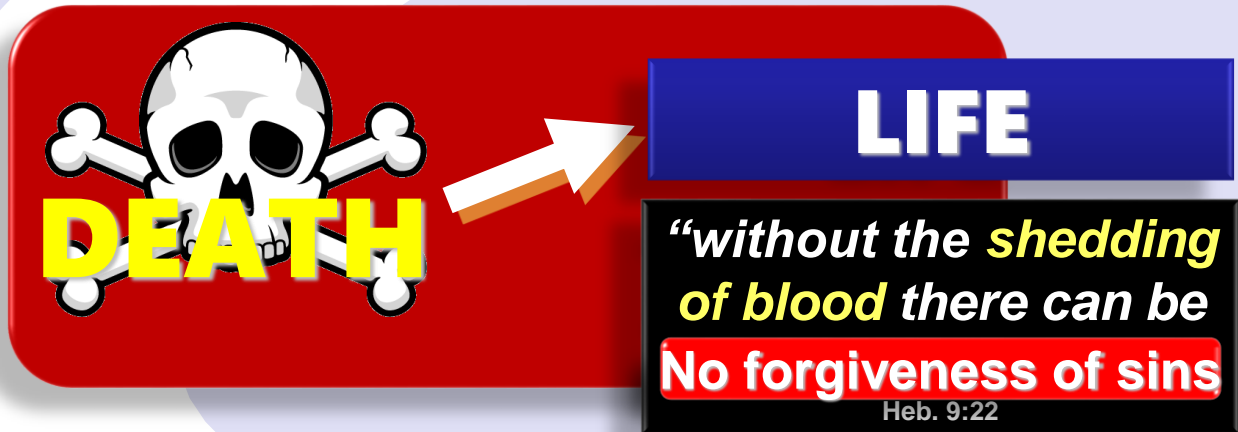
Romans 3:23
...for all have sinned

*So we need somehow for our sin
to be dealt with so we can have a
relationship with God.*



^ Our eternal spiritual bodies are dead inside us even though our earthly physical body is alive.

The **PRICE** for SIN



*How can it be dealt with? What is the price for sin?
It is life. Life must be given. ^*



God's **Justice** Demands Death as Payment for Sin



*Without the
shedding of
blood there can
be NO
forgiveness of
sin. Heb 9:22*



**That places all of us in a
desperate situation since we
have all sinned.**

**We all have the price of death
hanging over our heads.**

**How are we suppose to pay
that price?**



God's **Love** Provides a Way to Pay the Price

GRACE

God *gives*
what is *not* deserved
(Romans 3:23-26; 5:6-11)

LIFE!

MERCY

God *does not give*
what *is* deserved
(Romans 1:18)

DEATH!



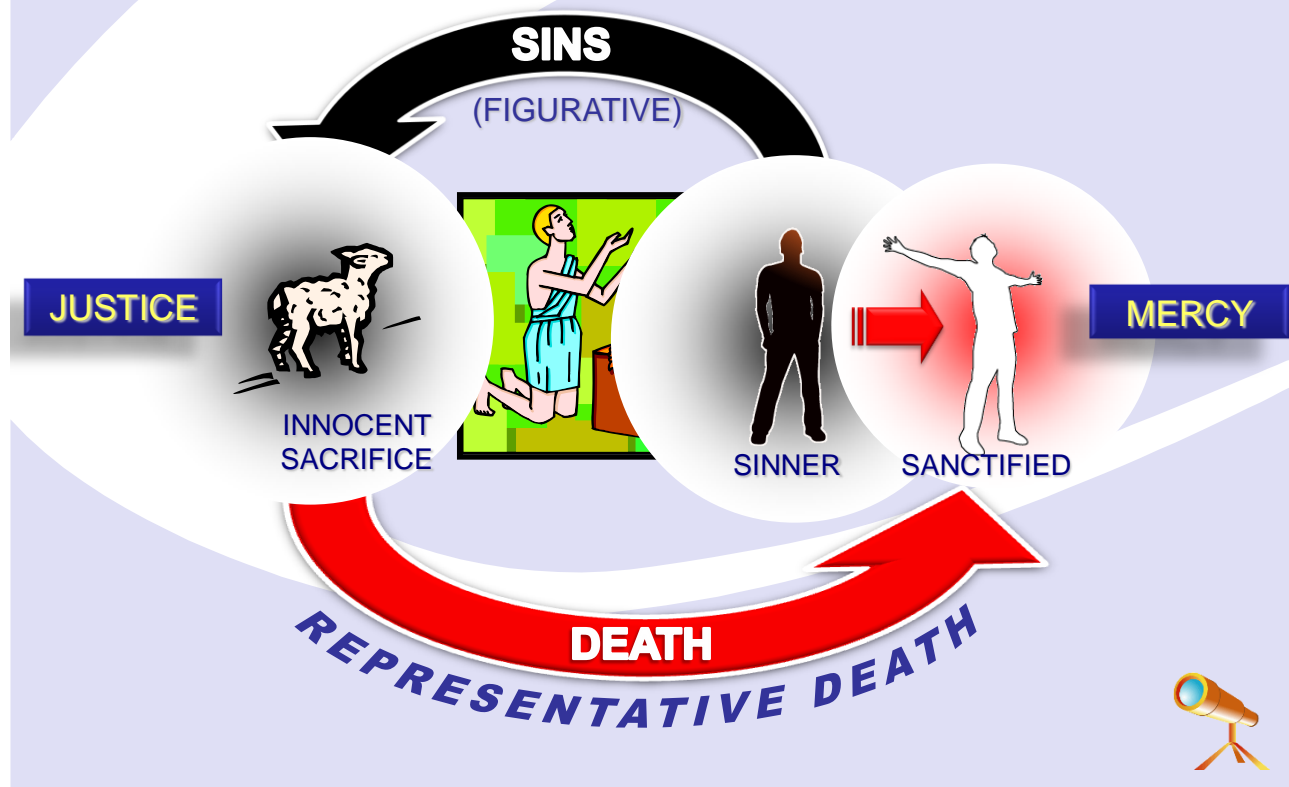


MERCY

BLOOD

However, to obtain this grace and mercy in the Old Testament one had to sacrifice an animal. So by **acting** on their belief the blood of that animal's life is how forgiveness was obtained.

Animal Sacrifice



To summarize. In the Old Testament a sinner deserved to die. However, he didn't have to die. The sinner could offer an animal that would die in his place. So his sins were transferred figuratively to the innocent animal and his sins could be dealt with in the death of that animal. So the sinner representatively died when the animal died. So through this process he was forgiven and made holy and could then have a relationship with God.

What Made it Work?

FAITH



So what made animal sacrifice work? Was it just superstition? Ritual? Tradition? No, it was **faith**. In fact faith is behind any act of obedience that we do like. For example taking medicine. (Explain)

Faith's Hall of Fame By Faith...

Heb 11

Abel	OFFERED
Noah	PREPARED
Abraham	OBEYED
Sarah	CONCEIVED
Abraham	OFFERED
Isaac	BLESSED
Israelites	PASSED THROUGH
Walls of Jericho	ENCIRCLED

Genuine FAITH requires

Belief-based ACTION

Just like Noah acted on his faith and he built the ark and all these other examples in the Bible.
Genuine faith requires action.

BELIEF ALONE?(James 2:14-26)

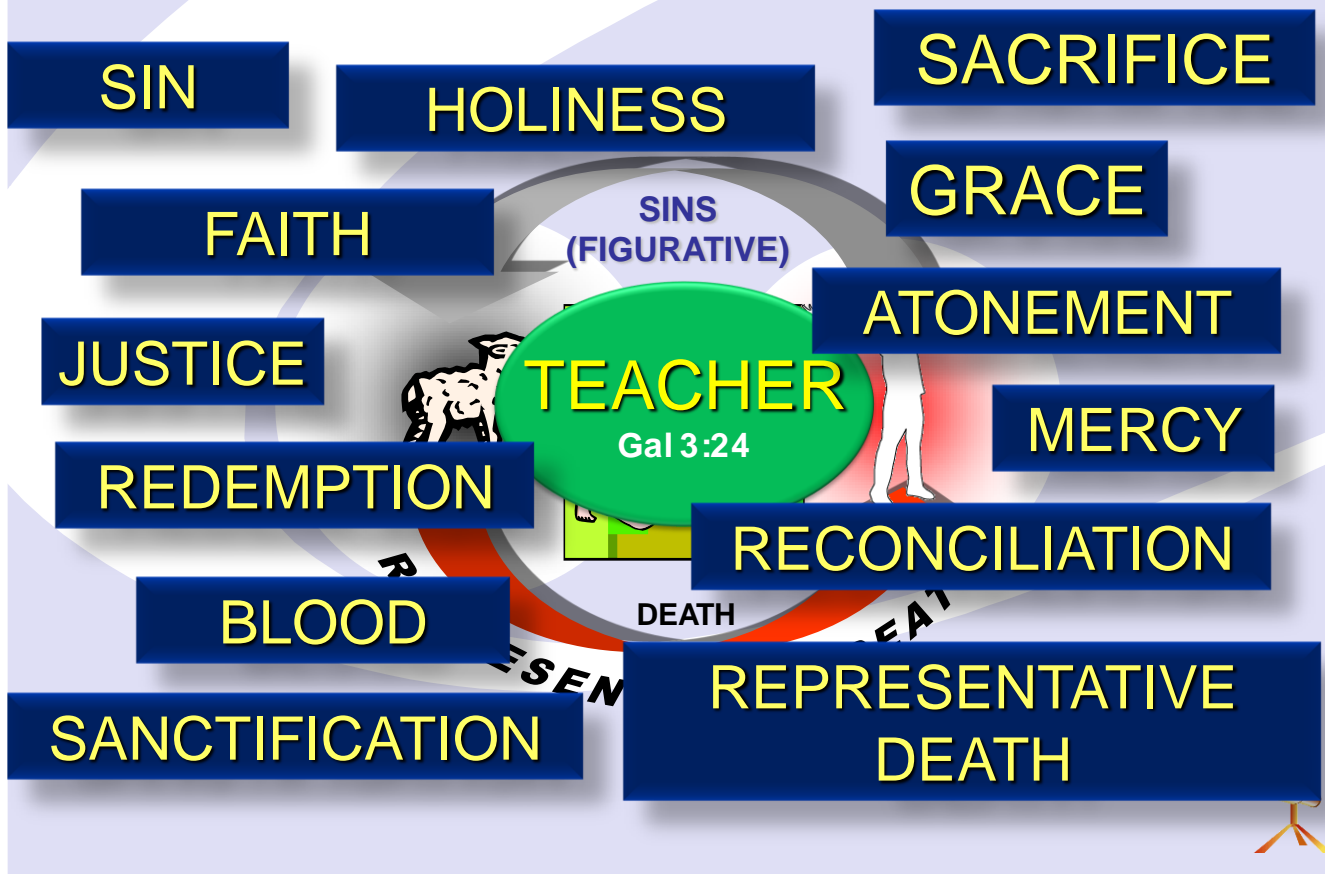
- (v14) Can just faith save a man?
- (v17) Faith without action is dead
- (v18) Faith is shown by action
- (v20) Faith without action is “useless”
- (v24) Justified by action, not “faith alone”
- (v26) Faith without action is dead
- (v19) *Devils are believers!*

There are believers in eternal punishment!



The Bible tells us more about faith. When it ask can belief alone save us? (^)

The OT “Teacher”

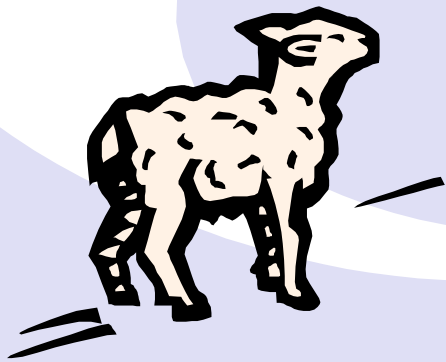


So we learn a lot looking at the Old Testament.

Now let's look at the new law in the New Testament which we are under today.

“Behold the

LAMB OF GOD



that
takes away
the sin of the
world”

In the New Testament Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

The Lamb of God - Ransomed

Mt. 20:28

the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many



Mt. 26:28

for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.



Jesus is the one final offering for all sin for all time.
In Jesus there is no sin. He is an innocent and blameless sacrifice.
He came to give his life for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus paid the price for us.

Christ's Sacrifice - Reconciliation

Colossians 1:22

*But now he has
reconciled you by
Christ's physical body
through death to
present you holy in his
sight, without blemish
and free from
accusation*

Also

Hebrews 13:12

Hebrews 10:10

Heb 9:22 ..without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness

So when we sin we deserve death, but we don't have to die because Jesus died for us and (this is the key) when we die with Jesus our sins can be dealt with and forgiven and we can be free from sin and made holy.

The Death of the Believer

*"I have been **crucified with Christ** and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me"*

Galatians 2:20



**"crucified
with Christ"**



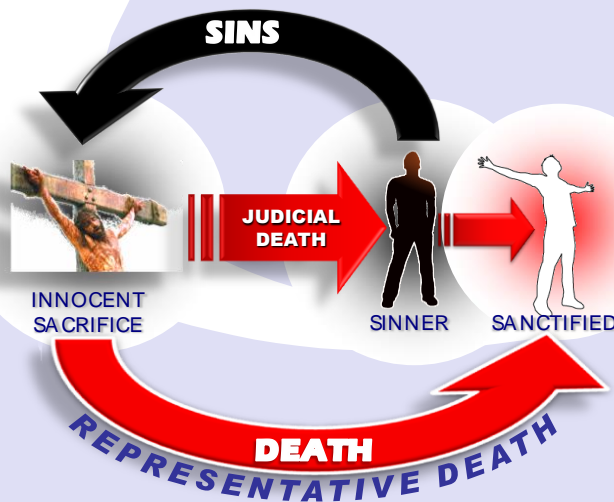
Christ's death represents the death of the believer!

(^) So if we want to live with him then our old selves has to **die with him**.
If we want to be saved then our old life we lived before obeying Christ has to be crucified with Christ.
Christ's death represents the death of our old selves so we can start a new life as a follower of Christ.

To summarize our sins **can not** be forgiven

UNLESS:

**We have died *with* Christ.
Then we die to sin.**



This is according to the plan of redemption for ***“without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”***



The fundamental question of the gospel is:

When?

Or
How?

At what point in my faith . . .

do I ***die to sin?***

do I ***die with Christ?***

When does God view me as . . .

uniting with Christ in his death?

crucified with Christ?



We must have a Bible answer to our questions!

ROMANS 6

When?



“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!

We died to sin.

*How can we live in it any longer? **V 1-2***



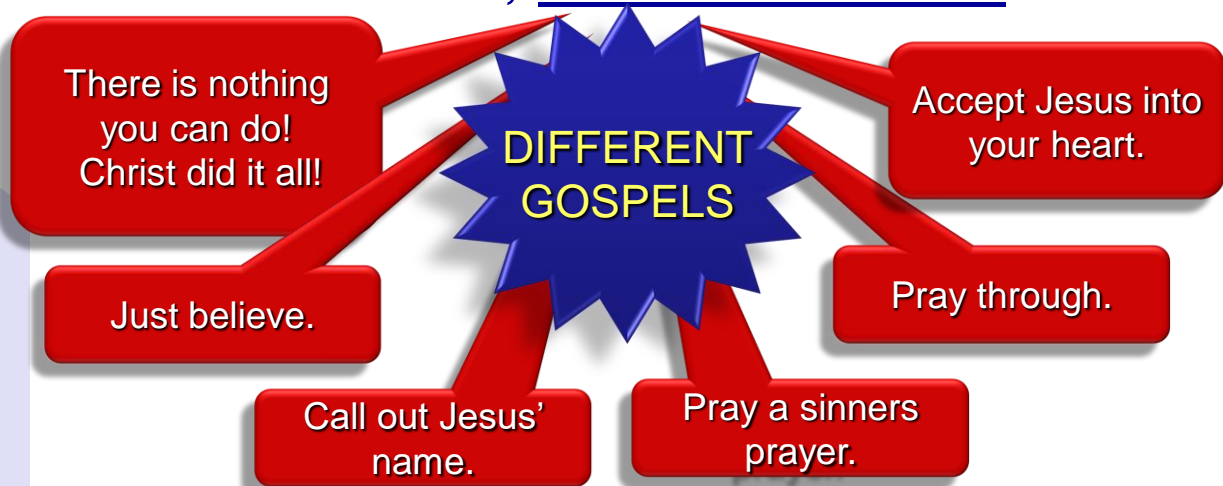
“We died to sin.” How?/When?



Some think we can just go on sinning if we have God's grace, but we died to sin so we can't live in it any longer. So again how or when do we die to sin?

What Shall We Do?

*Now when they heard this,
they were pierced to the heart,
and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,
"Brethren, what shall we do?"*



(^) This is where much of the misunderstanding comes from today.
How does the gospel in the Bible say we die to sin?



v3 Or don't you know
that all of us who have been



baptized into
Christ Jesus

have been

baptized into
His death?

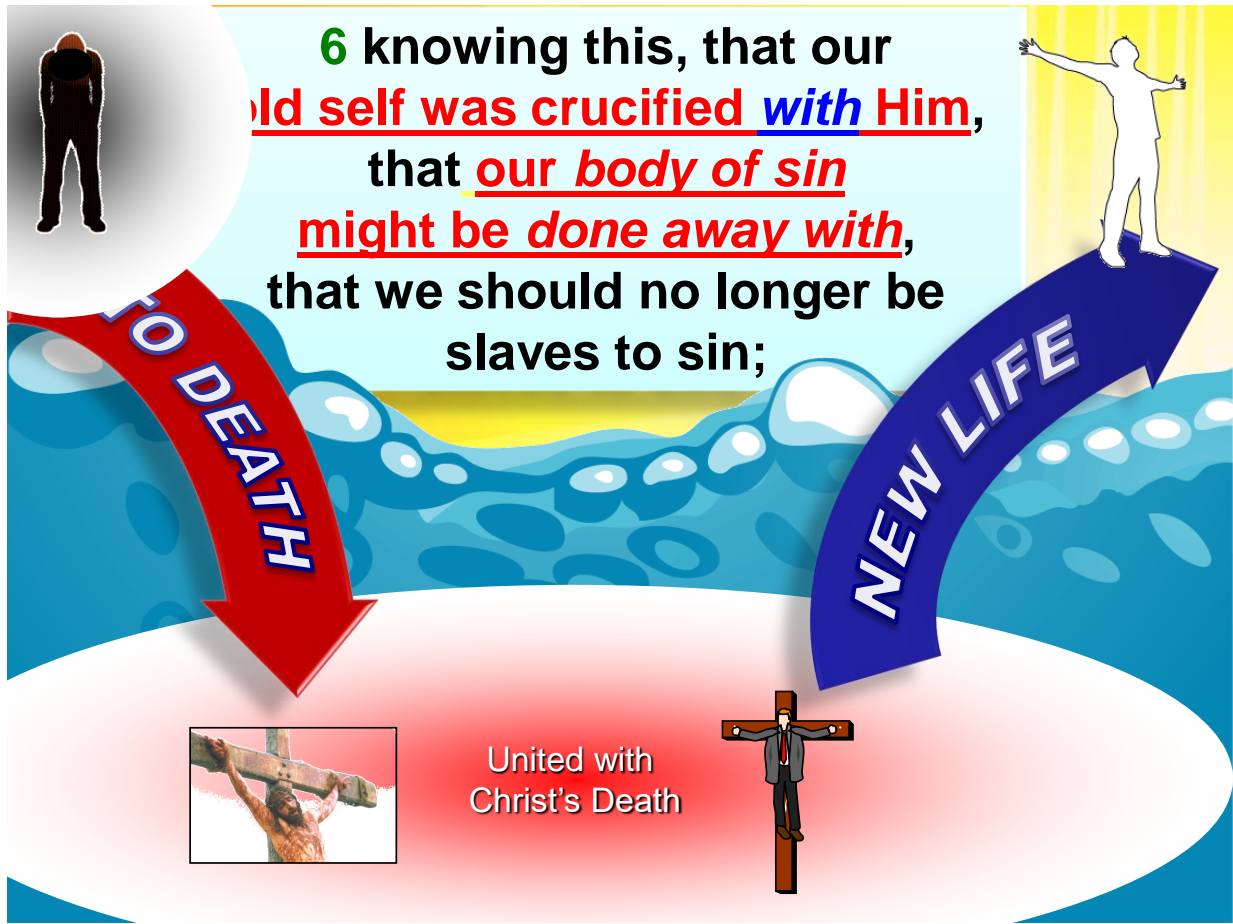
INTO CHRIST

INTO HIS DEATH





(^) What do you do with dead people? You bury them. You wouldn't just sprinkle or pour over them. Then they are raised from the watery grave of baptism to walk a new life.



Do you want to die with Christ?



(^) That is the only way that our sin can be dealt with.

That is the only way we can be saved and the only way to die with Christ is to be buried in baptism.

Remember just belief is not enough.

Jesus told his apostles among his last instructions he gave them before returning to heaven —

***“Go into all the world and
preach the gospel to all creation.
He who believes and is baptized
shall be saved;
but he who has not believed
shall be condemned.***

Mark 16:15-16



So that is the big picture of the Bible.

I believe this and I have died with Christ in baptized and that is why I am motivated to share God's plan to others.

So what is your response to this gospel or good news?

Would you allow me to baptize you into Christ now? So that you can die with Him and arise to walk in a new life having Christ's Blood applied to your account in heaven?

Not ready/Not now? I appreciate you wanting to make the right decision. However, in the Bible, Acts 16:33, when they heard the gospel they responded immediately. Even the same hour of the night they were baptized.

Jesus said you are either with me or against me. Would you die with Christ now?

Know enough? Good you want to know more. I don't know everything either. You learn overtime. Obeying the gospel is just taking the first step to begin learning more. *Would you die with Christ now?*

If you believe in Christ and have faith in His blood, and are willing to repent of your sins and confess His name then you are ready to die with Him and have your sins removed, and enter His kingdom and live a life of faithful loving obedience to Christ as King and have every confidence that you will spend eternity in heaven.

But if you reject this gift there is no hope... there is no other basis on which God will forgive sin, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Check with someone? Well it is your choice. God votes for you. Satan votes for you. You cast the deciding vote. *Jesus said you are either with me or against me. Would you die with Christ now?*

Not good enough? I understand. Just take one step at a time. Like a child you would be a babe in Christ. Obeying the gospel is your first step. *Would you die with Christ now?*