

GAINING THE FAVOUR OF GOD: ***SALVATION THROUGH FAITH VS. GOOD WORKS***

A brief explanation of God, sin and salvation in Christianity: The Good News

A key contrast of Christianity versus other religions is the description of the nature of God and His requirements. The core message of the Bible relates the following:

- 1. God created a perfect world and universe without death, disease or decay.
- 2. Humans disobeyed God and rebelled against His Commands. As such, death and suffering entered the world (“The wages of sin is death”). All humans have inherited this nature to disobey God (sin-nature).
- 3. God, being the Perfect, Holy and Righteous Being He is, has to be just and fair in treating sin in His judgement. But God, being loving and kind, could not bear to see His creation destroyed, and thus made a way possible to save us so we could be set free from the punishment we deserve for our sins.
- 4. This way to save us could not rely on human goodness: no matter how ‘good’ we think we are, none of us is perfect, so no human being can measure up by their own works to God’s Standard. How was God to save us and be consistent in *His Righteous Standard of judgement if sin’s penalty is death and all human beings are sinful*? The only substitute would have to be a Perfect Being who had no sin of his own to substitute and bear the guilt of sin in place of all sinful humanity
- 5. The Bible relates that God gave of Himself, His Only Son, as the Perfect Being to bear our guilt in our place. To bear our punishment (the wage of sin, i.e. death), God, the Son, had to become a human being which could die. The Bible relates of Jesus, the Son of God, being born by the Holy Spirit into the world to fulfil this purpose. It relates His ministry, death in our place and His resurrection.
- 6. Jesus, having no sin, was able to die in our place and give us the opportunity to be in a right relationship with God – something we cannot do on our own. The Bible tells us that by God’s grace, we can receive this opportunity to reconcile with God and be His friends once again, because Jesus took our sins.

If we:

- Believe in Jesus as God’s Son and our Saviour
- Be genuinely sorry for the wrongs we have committed against God in the past (repent), confessing our sins to God
- Be baptised in water in union with God

the Bible tells us that God will forgive our sins and we will be saved.

- 7. The reality of Jesus’ existence as a human being, His Ministry, teachings and the early church have been explored and scrutinized by intellectuals and sceptics of many backgrounds, including Sir. William Ramsay, C.S. Lewis, and Lee Strobel, who each began their search as atheists or sceptics, and concluded their search becoming ardent believers. The preservation of the manuscript texts in the original language of the Gospels and other Books of the Bible far surpasses the preservation of all other

historical documents. The Biblical account of the life and history of Jesus, His disciples and the places recorded have been found to be far superior in its accuracy than external historical records, including the spelling of place names and persons, and geographical proximities.

For more information, you can explore the following sites:

- <https://bibleevidences.com/archaeological-evidence/>
 - <https://answersingenesis.org/is-the-bible-true/3-evidences-confirm-bible-not-made-up/>
 - <https://bibleevidences.com/historical-jesus/>
 - <https://www.alwaysbeready.com/bible-evidence>
- If you have any questions, comments or other feedback, we are here to speak with you. You may contact: Christ.the.1way@gmail.com