

“KNOW THE GOSPEL”

Article #2

*Gospel Materials adapted from Evangelism Explosion
BASE adapted from Rick Warren of Saddleback Church*

We are glad you are interested in knowing more about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Gospel means "good news" and it is good news indeed. In the below article you will go step by step through the gospel. It is our hope that you will know more about the good news of Christ after you read this article. And it is our greatest hope that you will accept Christ as Savior and Lord (if you haven't already).

TWO DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS

#1: Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven?

#2: If God were to ask you, “Why should I let you into my heaven” what would you say?

There is Good News! *The Bible tells how you can know for sure that you have eternal life with God in heaven. And there are five things you need to know.*

#1: GRACE

Eternal life is a free gift!

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NASB)

It is not earned or deserved.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

#2: MAN

We are sinners.

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. . .” (NKJV)

Man cannot save himself.

Matthew 5:48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (NASB)

#3: GOD

God is merciful and doesn't want to punish us.

1 John 4:8 "God is love." (KJV)

Jeremiah 31:3 "I have loved you with an everlasting love." (NKJV)

God is just and therefore must punish sin.

Exodus 34:7 "He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished." (NASB)

Problem: God loves us and doesn't want to punish us. But He is just and must punish sin.

Solution: God solved this problem for us in the person of Jesus Christ.

#4: JESUS

Who is He? *He is the infinite God-man who lived a sinless life.*

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (KJV)

John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (KJV)

What did He do? *He died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sins and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven.*

Isaiah 53:6 "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

#5: FAITH

Saving faith is not just head knowledge about God.

Saving faith is not just turning to God for temporary needs.

Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life.

John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Acts 16:31 "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. . ."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE?

LET'S CLARIFY WITH FOUR B.A.S.E. QUESTIONS

B – Do you **BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you and showed He was God by coming back to life?

1 Corinthians 15:2a "By this gospel you are saved. . ."

A – Do you **ACCEPT** God's free gift of forgiveness of your sins?

Romans 3:22 "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

S – Do you want to **SWITCH** to God's plan for your life?

Mark 1:15 "Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Romans 12:2a "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

E – Do you want to **EXPRESS** your desire for Christ to be the director (Lord) of your life?

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

PRAYER

Dear God, I believe You sent your Son, Jesus, to died for my sins so I could be forgiven. I'm sorry for my sins, and I want to live the rest of my life the way You want me to. Please put Your Spirit in my life to direct me, in Jesus's name, Amen.

NEXT STEPS

Now that you have read articles #1 "Illuminate Vision" and #2 "Know the Gospel" and have accepted Christ as Savior and Lord it's time for you tell others about your decision (if you haven't already). As you share your new life with Christ please go to the "Ceremonies" page of our website, click on the Baptism icon, and read Article #3 entitled, "Openwater Church Baptism Details".