
THIS IS YOUR ONE CHANCE!

An urgent invitation to choose life in Jesus Christ



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THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY | JESUS - FAITH - LIFE

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Scripture quotations marked NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible.

Jesus - Faith - Life

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INTRODUCTION

Your Life Is the Opportunity

You have one earthly life in which to hear the gospel, respond to Christ, and be reconciled to God.

I am not saying that this very moment is certainly your final moment, although none of us knows how much time remains. I am speaking of your life as a whole. When this earthly life ends, there will not be another opportunity to hear the gospel and choose salvation.

Jesus' account of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 is sobering. After death, the rich man found himself in torment and could not cross the great chasm that had been fixed. His condition could not be reversed.

And just as it is destined for people to die once,
and after this comes judgment. - Hebrews 9:27,
NASB

That is why the gospel is urgent. God does not warn us because He wants us to be lost. He warns us because He loves us and wants us to come home.

CHAPTER 1

No Second Earthly Life

Eternity gives weight to every day God places in our hands.

God knew before the foundation of the world that humanity would leave His loving care, choose its own way, and fall into sin. Sin is not merely a mistake or a weakness. It separates us from the holy God who created us and gives us life.

Your wrongdoings have caused a separation
between you and your God. - Isaiah 59:2, NASB

If people die without being reconciled to God, they are lost. The Bible's teaching about judgment is serious because eternity is serious. We should not ignore it, soften it, or assume we will always have more time.

Today is the day we can listen. Today is the day we can believe. Today is the day we can turn back to God.

Behold, now is 'the acceptable time,' behold, now is 'the day of salvation.' - 2 Corinthians 6:2, NASB

CHAPTER 2

Why Jesus Came

At the cross, the Son of God took our sin and opened the way home.

God's justice requires an answer for sin, but His grace supplied the answer we could never provide for ourselves. Jesus came to take our place. He lived without sin, gave His life for sinners, was buried, and rose from the dead.

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. - 1 Peter 2:24, NASB

The death of Jesus is not permission to keep living far from God. Grace calls us to leave sin and become His people. Christ has done what we could not do, but we must receive His offer in the way He teaches.

There is no greater love than the love revealed at Calvary. Jesus did not die because we were already good. He died because we were lost and because God wanted to save us.

CHAPTER 3

A Life Made New

The grace that prepares us for heaven also begins changing life here and now.

God can clean up your life, but you have to listen and then you have to do what He says. He does not merely offer a better destination after death. In Christ, He gives a new way to live today.

Anger can give way to self-control. Cruelty can give way to kindness. Guilt can be answered by forgiveness. A wounded conscience can be cleansed. Old patterns do not have to remain our masters.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. - 2 Corinthians 5:17, NASB

The Christian life is not free from trouble. It is life with Christ in the middle of trouble - guided by His Word, strengthened by prayer, and supported by His church.

First John teaches that believers can know they belong to Him as they trust Christ and keep His commandments. That obedience does not earn grace; it is the faithful response of a heart that loves the Lord.

CHAPTER 4

The Hope of Heaven

No earthly beauty can fully prepare us for the home God has promised.

There is no place like heaven, and through Jesus you can have a home there. God is there. Jesus is there. The redeemed of all ages will be there, praising the One who saved them.

Revelation describes a city that needs neither sun nor moon, because God's glory gives it light and the Lamb is its lamp. There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain. Our minds cannot fully grasp how wonderful eternity in God's presence will be.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death. - Revelation 21:4, NASB

Heaven is not simply an escape from a hard world. It is the fulfillment of our deepest purpose: to be with the God who made us, loved us, and redeemed us.

CHAPTER 5

The Greatest Love

God's invitation reaches people who have known love and people who have hardly known it at all.

Some people have lived with very little love. Life's circumstances, broken homes, betrayal, or loneliness have left them wondering whether anyone truly cares. Others have been richly blessed by the love of family and a faithful church.

Yet the greatest love is God's love. Human love can fail, but God proved His love by giving His Son for us. His grace is offered to every person who will come to Him through Christ.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Romans 5:8, NASB

So do not miss your opportunity. Find out how to be saved - really and truly. Open the Bible. Listen to Jesus. Let His Word lead you from sin into the life only He can give.

CHAPTER 6

How to Respond to Jesus

The New Testament gives a clear and gracious response to the gospel.

Hear the gospel. Faith begins by hearing the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

Believe in Jesus. Trust that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the only Savior (John 8:24; Acts 4:12).

Repent of sin. Turn from your own way and choose the Lord's way (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confess Christ. Acknowledge your faith in Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37).

Be baptized into Christ. In baptism, a penitent believer is united with Christ's death and raised to walk in newness of life (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21).

Live faithfully. Continue in Christ, worship with His church, grow in His Word, and remain faithful until death (Acts 2:42; Revelation 2:10).

The Lord is not slow about His promise ... but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance. - 2 Peter 3:9, NASB

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Do Not Let the Offer Pass You By

If you want to study what the Bible says about salvation, The Christian Ministry is ready to help.

You do not need to face eternity with uncertainty. You can examine the Scriptures, ask honest questions, and respond to Jesus in obedient faith.

The Christian Ministry offers Bible-centered resources and personal Bible study to help you know Jesus Christ, understand His Word, obey the gospel, and grow faithfully as His disciple.

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Garland Van Dyke - Minister, Author, and Bible Teacher

Hurry - not because God's grace is small, but because this earthly life is your one opportunity to receive it.