

the gospel message:

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH AND ALL THINGS IN IT. HIS CREATION WAS GOOD! GOD CREATED THE FIRST HUMANS, ADAM AND EVE, PERFECTLY IN HIS IMAGE (GENESIS 1-3). THE LORD LOVED ADAM AND EVE AND TOLD THEM THAT THEY COULD EAT FROM ANY FRUIT OF THE GARDEN EXCEPT FOR THE FRUIT OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL (GENESIS 2:9,17,3:22). ONE DAY, EVE WAS TEMPTED BY A SERPENT (SATAN) TO EAT A FRUIT FROM THE TREE. ADAM AND EVE ATE FROM THE TREE BELIEVING THE LIE FROM THE SERPENT THAT GOD WAS HOLDING SOMETHING FROM THEM AND THAT BY EATING THE FRUIT, THEY TOO COULD BE LIKE GOD (GENESIS 3). IN THAT MOMENT SIN ENTERED THE WORLD AND BROKENNESS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE EARTH CAUSING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION (ROMANS 5:12). A DIVIDE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND HIS PEOPLE HAPPENED AND GOD'S PEOPLE SPENT THEIR LIVES TRYING TO REDEEM THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. HOWEVER, THESE EFFORTS WERE NOT ENOUGH TO CARRY THE WEIGHT OF SIN, THE LORD GOD LOVED HIS PEOPLE SO MUCH AND KNEW THAT THEY NEEDED A SAVIOR AND AN ULTIMATE SACRIFICE (ROMANS 6:23). GOD SENT HIS ONE AND ONLY SON JESUS DOWN TO EARTH IN HUMAN FLESH. JESUS CAME TO THE WORLD AS A BABY, LIVED AS FULLY MAN AND FULLY GOD. JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY SATAN AND DID NOT SIN, HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, LOVED GOD'S PEOPLE, AND SERVED THEM IN SHOWING THEM HOW TO HAVE A FULFILLED LIFE (ISAIAH 9:6). JESUS DID NO WRONG, BUT DIED A CRIMINAL'S DEATH IN CARRYING THE WEIGHT OF EVERY PERSON'S SIN, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE. HE WAS BEATEN, MOCKED, AND NAILED TO THE CROSS, PAYING A DEATH THAT HE DIDN'T DESERVE. HE WAS THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE (1 PETER 2:24). THE STORY DOESN'T END THERE! THREE DAYS LATER JESUS ROSE FROM THE GRAVE PROVING THAT OUR SINS NO LONGER BOUND US FROM HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND LIVING A FULFILLED LIFE THROUGH HIM. THE LORD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS (MATHEW 28)! WHEN JESUS LEFT THE EARTH AND ROSE TO BE AT THE THRONE OF GOD, HE DIDN'T JUST LEAVE US. JESUS SAYS THAT WHEN WE BELIEVE IN OUR HEART AND CONFESS WITH OUR MOUTHS THAT HE IS LORD OF ALL, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SENT INSIDE OF US (JOHN 14). WHEN WE ACCEPT CHRIST, THE HOLY SPIRIT, IN HIS FAITHFULNESS, WALKS WITH US DAILY SO THAT WE HAVE A LIVING AND BREATHING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. NOW, WE GET THE PRIVILEGE TO GROW OUR TRUST AND RELATIONSHIP IN CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM, PRAYER, READING GOD'S WORD (THE BIBLE), AND HONORING HIM WITH OUR ACTIONS AND HEART. WE HAVE ALL SINNED AND FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD, BUT WITH CHRIST YOU ARE NO LONGER CHAINED TO SIN (ROMANS 3:23). THIS FREE GIFT OF JESUS IS OFFERED TO EVERY PERSON, WHO GOD CREATED, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE. THE FATHER OF THE UNIVERSE, YOUR CREATOR, LOVES YOU AND DESIRES NOTHING MORE THAN HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU!

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."-JOHN 3:16