

GOOD NEWS !!

Have you heard the GOOD NEWS? Untold Millions have not heard!
Perhaps you or your friends have not heard.
Maybe your neighbor has not heard the GOOD NEWS!
So many have never heard the good news.

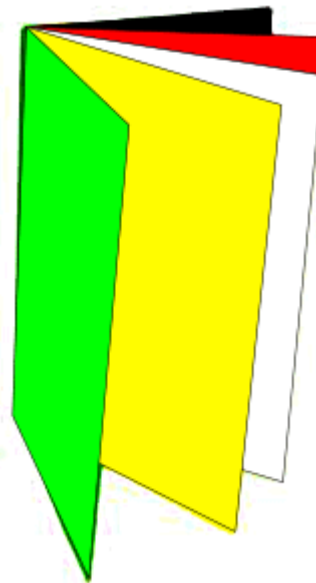
The GOOD NEWS changed my life when I heard it and acted on it.
Of course there were others who shared it with me otherwise
there is no telling what I might be or where I might be.

Introduction

The GOOD NEWS resulted in my going to Hawaii in 1962. While living there an eruption occurred in one of the volcanoes. The volcanoes of Hawaii are called the safest in the world because most are not explosive but push out the lava at a rate so people can come and observe the eruptions. The airline companies have reservations of people who want to come and see eruptions so when there is an eruption, the airline will notify the people and they will come from distant lands to see the eruptions. The eruption we saw occurred in the late 1960's. We drove to where it was occurring. We had to wait for about an hour to get to the place where we could observe it. It was in a crater called the Makaopuuhe Crater. It was a rainy cool day so a jacket was required. The place where the eruption occurred had only a small area where you could walk up to a rock wall about waist high and look down into the deep hole where the molten magma was boiling. Once we arrived and walked to the wall where the area was flat enough to walk up close to the eruption, we looked down into a lake of melted rock that was heated over 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. If you threw in a piece of iron it would have melted it in a few seconds. The air was filled with the smell of sulfur. The cool air would begin to harden the surface of the melted rock then it would sink down and you would see a lake of fire. I will never forget the sight. The heat was so great one would break out into sweating and have to take off one's jacket. It was such an awesome sight as the smell and fumes went up into the air. It made me realize that the lake of fire described in the Bible where Satan and his demons will be cast is a very real place and not an imaginary tale. (Matthew 25:41)"Then

shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:” Rev. 20:10). Anyone who fell into the molten lava would die immediately! It was awful to behold. You might ask what does that have to do with the GOOD NEWS? Well, I am getting to that.

I was a boy of only five years of age when I first heard the good news. You see, the good news is for everyone and even a child can receive it when it is explained in simple terms. My mother was teaching a Sunday school class of boys and girls. She was using a book that did not have any words in it but colors. There was a gold page, a white page, a black page, a red page, and the booklet was green. I understand that a man named D L Moody was the first one to make the booklet and use it to tell the GOOD NEWS. The booklet is explained below.



THE GOLD PAGE

The gold page reminds us of the wonderful place called heaven described as the new heaven and the New Jerusalem (Revelation. 21:1-22:5) where the street is of pure gold (Rev. 21:21) and all tears are wiped away (Rev. 21:4a--thus no one will cry there Rev. 21:4d). There will be no more death (Rev. 21:4b which means no cemeteries, no coffins, no funerals, no insurance). There will be no more emotional trouble (Rev. 21 4c--no heartache, sorrow, grief, regrets, guilt or disappointment). There will be no more pain (Rev. 21:4e—no suffering or illness thus no hospitals, clinics, Doctor’ offices, no ambulances, no drugs) because the former things like sin we know today will have passed away (Rev. 21:4f;). It is hard to imagine such a glorious place. And best of all, God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be there (Rev. 21:22 “And I saw no temple therein (speaking of the New Jerusalem which is heaven brought down to earth): for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it”) Thus, even today when a believer in Jesus Christ departs from the body, they go to be with the Lord (II Corinthians 5:8 “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”);). Thus death for the believer is not a horrible experience but simply a move from this physical body with indwelling sin (Romans 7:14-20) into the glorious presence of the

Lord as we read in II Corinthians 5:8 “absent from the body, present with the Lord” Our Lord has taken the sting out of death (I Corinthians 15:54-57). To illustrate let me relate a story. There was a little girl that was allergic to bee stings. She and her father were driving along when a bee flew into the car. The little girl began to cry but the father reached out and grabbed the bee which stung him. He opened his hand to show his daughter the stinger on his hand. Now you do not have to be afraid because I took the stinger so the bee can not hurt you! That is what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us. He took the stinger out of death by dying in our place for our sin. Thus, death simply became a moving day for each believer as we depart from this life of trouble and suffering into the glorious presence of the one who loves us and took the stinger of death for us. Now Romans 8:1-2 explains that the law of the Holy Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death. Thus the believer is uncondemned in their spirit before God but is justified (just as if I’d never sinned) as Romans 3:28 states “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”

THE WHITE PAGE

The white page represents the fact that God is holy and without sin. Psalm 145:17 “The LORD is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works.” Isaiah 6:3 “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of hosts: The whole earth is full of His glory” Revelation 4:8 “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is and is to come.” Because God is holy, no unclean or sinful thing can go to heaven or enter the New Jerusalem! (Revelation 21:27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” Only those who have been forgiven of their sin by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sin, was buried, and arose from the grave (Romans 10:9-10, 13) can enter into that holy place (Rev. 22:14-15 Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” I Timothy 2:3-6 “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour: Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus: Who gave Himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time.”) Thus,

when a person understands that Christ died for them as we will learn from the red page, His blood will cleanse and make them pure and clean in their spirit!

THE RED PAGE

The red page represents the blood of Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins. John 19:33-34 “But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was dead already, they brake not His legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.” I John 1:7b “and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanseth us from all sin.” As a boy I had often heard at church and sung a wonderful song about the blood of Jesus.

“What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow,

No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus”

The reason that the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse one from sin is because the life of the flesh is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11 states “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement

{at one ment} for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” Verse 14 “For it is the life of all flesh: the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof:”) These words the Lord spoke to Moses to explain to the nation of Israel that the blood of the sacrifice represented the life of the sacrifice that was offered for their sin.

To illustrate let me relate to you a true account of the death of the first president of the United States. President George Washington had a sore throat so they called for the doctor to come to the home. The doctor prescribed that the President had bad blood so they applied leaches to his skin to drain out the bad blood. I have visited the room where this took place and on the table by the bedside of the President was a Bible. If only they had read the Bible and understood that the life of the flesh is in the blood and believed it

they would not have used such a treatment on the President. The medical record stated that at the last the blood of the President came thick and slow which resulted in the death of the President dying then because they drained all the blood from his body resulting in his death.

Thus, we begin to understand what the blood represents. It pictures the life of the Lord Jesus Christ which was given for our sin and salvation. I could not die for your sin because I am a sinner and you could not die for me because you are a sinner “for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23.

Only the Lord Jesus Christ is without sin and thus He could take our place and die for our sin. II Corinthians 5:21 states “For He (God the Father) hath made Him (Jesus Christ) to be sin for us, (mankind’s sin was placed on Jesus Christ)

Who (Jesus Christ) knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God

In Him (Jesus Christ). (I Peter 2:21-22;) Yes, Jesus Christ was sinless and therefore only He could die for our sins and His blood represents His life that was given for us. The sins of the human race were placed on Jesus Christ as he hung on the cross. He died in the place of each person and for our sin. We have to make the decision to accept or reject what He did for each of us.

THE BLACK PAGE

The black page represents our sin and all the wicked things anyone has ever done. Romans 5:12 states” Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” and 3:10 states “As it is written there is none righteous, no, not one.” This is a quote from Psalm. 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.” V. 3 “They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no not one. ” Romans 3:23 states “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Thus we see man’s sinful condition clearly stated. Even as a child I knew there were times when I disobeyed my parents, even lied when I got caught doing something I knew I should not do. My dad said that “I lied even as a baby “ because I would awaken in the middle of the night, cry and scream like a pin was sticking in me. They would fall out of bed, rush in and turn on the light and

I would say “goo, goo”. I just wanted to be entertained. Everyone is born with a sinful nature so that no one has to teach us how to be selfish, to want the biggest piece, to want my own way, to be rebellious against authority, to be envious of what someone else has, to lust for evil things, to become addicted to what our flesh craves when it says “give me, give me, what I long for.” Yes, we have all sinned and broken God’s holy law by worshipping and yielding to the flesh with its evil desires. As James 2:10 states “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” It only takes one speck of ink on a white sheet of paper to take away the purity of the paper. As Isaiah 64:6 states

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. “ And I understand that the word for righteousness’s in the Hebrew is menstrual bloody rags. That is our good works without the cleansing power of the blood of Christ having been applied to our lives. They are filthy and meaningless. As Isaiah stated in Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him (Jesus Christ) the iniquity of us all.” As a boy we had a riddle that we would share.

There were 19 sheep in a pasture. One jumped the fence. How many were left?

The answer was NONE BECAUSE SHEEP FOLLOW THE LEADER!

And again in Psalm 53:3 “Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no not one.” Yes, beloved, the black page certainly revealed the filthy condition of my young heart even at the age of five! Thus I realized that I needed a clean heart. I needed forgiveness for all the many times I had disobeyed my parents. I was selfish and self centered. I had evil thoughts and always wanted my own way. I would pout or cry if I did not get my way. I wanted the biggest piece of pie or cake or candy. I knew that I was a sinner because I had a sinful heart and spirit.

Also the black page reminded me of what the Bible said is the penalty for sin. Romans 6:23a states “For the wages of sin is death;” There are two kinds of death. The first that we think of is physical death which we are all well aware of but the second death is the lake of fire Revelation 20:14; 21:8. Jesus taught more of what is after death for the sinner than anyone else. In Luke 16:19-31 Jesus describes what Hades (sometimes translated hell) is like. Jesus told about the death a man named Lazarus and the death of a rich man who knew Lazarus. Lazarus knew the Lord but the rich man died without a relationship with the Lord. Jesus explained what Hades was like for the rich man who went there when he died. He said it was a place of “torments” (verse 23 a “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments”), where the rich man could still see and communicate (v. 23b-24a “and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said,”). A place of no water, but heat and flame in which the rich man was tormented (v.24b “have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame.”). It is a place of memory (v. 25a “But Abraham said, Son remember) and a place of separation with no escape (v. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence [here] to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.”). It is also a place of concern for loved ones who do not know the Lord and a place of unanswered prayer (v. 27-31). Hades is a place to which people without Christ will go after death to stay until the second resurrection and the Great White Throne Judgment. To illustrate, it is like a local jail where a person is kept until they are tried. When they appear before the judge and are sentenced then they are placed in a permanent prison for punishment. The place where they are tried and sentenced is the Great White Throne Judgment described in Revelation 20:11-15 where the records of their life and what they did are read verse 12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” Also Revelation 20:6 explains that those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and are thus holy (Justified-just as if I’d never sinned Romans 3:20-28;), will be in the first resurrection and will not experience the Second Death. Only those who are in the second resurrection verse 13 will be at the Great White Throne Judgment and be sent to the permanent prison which is called the Second Death in Revelation 20:14-15 “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the

lake of fire.”; 21:8. Thus, if I died with a dirty heart I would go into Hades and later into the Second Death! What about You??? Where would you go if you died today???

WHAT CAN I DO TO RECEIVE A CLEAN SPIRIT?

I did not understand all about Salvation but I knew I needed the Lord Jesus Christ to come into my life and forgive me for all the sinful things that were in my life. I wanted a heart that was clean like the white page represented. And do you know that you can have a clean heart or spirit by asking the Lord Jesus to come into your life just as I did as a boy of five. I did not understand all about it but I knew that I had a dirty heart and that I needed forgiveness. Also, the Holy Spirit convicted me in my spirit that I needed the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior. Thus I made the decision to invite the Lord Jesus to come into my life and you can also by acknowledging that you are a sinner. The heart or life refer to the spiritual part of man.

- Romans 3:23 states “For all sinned and come short of the glory of God”
- Romans 6:23 The penalty for sin “For the wages of sin is death (both physical and the second death)
- Romans 5:8 explains that Christ paid the penalty “But God commendation (showed forth) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- Romans 10:9-10, 13 explains that if we confess, believe, and pray we will be saved; “That if thou (you) shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart (your spirit) that God hath raised Him (Jesus) from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believe unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (from the second death and given eternal life).”

Just pray a simple prayer like the following:

“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I know that I have broken your holy law. I believe that you died for my sin and took my place on that old cross. I believe that you arose from the grave and that you live today. Please come into my life and forgive me for all my sin. Wash away my sin with your precious blood. I now invite you to come into

my life. Thank you for hearing this prayer as you promised in I John 5:13-15, and for coming into my life.”

In Jesus name I pray,
Amen

For assurance of Salvation read I John 5:10-15 in the Bible!