

## ONLY GOOD NEWS TRUTH THAT SETS YOU FREE

About 24 years ago, I was diagnosed with cancer. The day I was diagnosed, the Lord spoke to me life-changing words. These were, '*This is NOT about healing; this is about learning*'. From that time on LEARNING HIS TRUTH became my focus. It became more precious to me than my physical life; more and more **it seemed like a veil was being slowly rolled back** to reveal a depth of grace and truth I hadn't experienced before. I learned things I didn't know ... things about things I thought I knew (it's amazing when we really humble ourselves before God that we realise how much we don't know about things we thought we knew).

During that journey, **HE SHOWED ME** day after day how He is in control of all things and that He has always been, which paved the way for my recovery.

**THIS REVEALING OF HIS GRACE & TRUTH WAS LIKE A GIFT WHICH I RECEIVED WHILE I WAS UNWELL ... a gift that has kept on giving and has never stopped ...**

So, I emerged from this amazing journey wiser ... and more blessed than I had been before the journey started. Like Job, the Lord blessed the latter end of Chris Lambe more than the former.

I was pronounced clear of cancer and treatment stopped; however, His teaching in me continued; in fact I now realise it had only just begun and the cancer was only a doorway to bring me to this magnificent Grace Truth.

**ONE OF THE OTHER GREAT REVELATIONS I HAD WAS ABOUT GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH. I DISCOVERED THAT GOD'S MESSAGE TO MANKIND IS GOOD NEWS – AS IT IS WRITTEN, 'BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST & YOU WILL BE SAVED'. (Acts 16:31)**

**BUT I ALSO LEARNED, GOD'S MESSAGE OF GOOD NEWS DOESN'T END WHEN A PERSON IS CONVERTED ... IN FACT, AT THAT POINT, IT HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN ...**

**I NOW KNOW, THIS IS THE MESSAGE PAUL, THE APOSTLE, TAUGHT & THAT RUNS THROUGHOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

Paul was 100% dedicated to this message of 'The Good News of Grace'. (From Acts 20:24)

**Romans 1:1,3 (Redacted)**

***Paul ... an apostle of Jesus Christ, separated into THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD, 3 CONCERNING ... JESUS CHRIST ...***

We see Paul wanted to teach this MESSAGE OF GOOD NEWS TO THE ROMAN CHURCH WHO WERE ALREADY SAVED -

**Romans 1:15 NLT**

***... I am eager to come to you in Rome ... to preach the Good News.***

**YOU SEE, THERE ARE MANY, MANY MYSTERIES ABOUT GOD'S GOOD NEWS YET TO BE DISCOVERED & EMBRACED BY THE CHURCH ... MORE THAN ONLY GOOD NEWS FOR SALVATION.**

**Ephesians 6:19** World English Bible **SLIDE**

[Pray] on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in opening my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the Good News.

## **BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE ... THIS GOOD NEWS KEEPS GETTING GOODER**

THE MORE I HAVE STUDIED ... THE MORE I'VE LEARNED THAT GOD'S MESSAGE TO HIS PEOPLE IS ONLY GOOD NEWS because of THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST.

### **This is what we posted on Facebook**

Did you know, once you are a born again believer, God will only speak, 'Good News' to you and there will never again be a condemning word out of God's mouth directed at you. God has only got Good News to say to you ... all day, every day for the rest of your life ...

*Good News: Pastor, Church attendance has tripled this month.*

*Bad News: It happened while you were away.*

*Good News: Pastor, Mrs. Jones really loves your sermons.*

*Bad News: She also loves 'Big Brother', 'Desperate Housewives' and 'The Texas Chain Saw Massacre'.*

*Good News: You have been chosen for the town's javelin throwing contest*

*Bad News: Your job is to catch the javelins.*

*I have Good News and Bad News about God's message to the church. What do you want first?*

*Give me the good news ...*

**GOOD NEWS: There's no bad news!**

**SLIDE**

This is what we teach in our fellowships in Helensvale and Redcliffe.

We actually see people set free as a result of simply hearing and receiving the Good News of God concerning Jesus Christ and themselves.

*A few Sundays ago we had a couple visit us from New Zealand. It was the first time they had been in our fellowship; however, after the meeting, the husband mentioned to me several times, 'When I first came in ... I felt such a sense of the presence of God. There was a real sense of freedom among you.' He later wrote on Facebook:*

**'PLEASURE TO EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM AND LOVE IN THE SERVICE LAST SUNDAY ... A WONDERFUL GRACE MESSAGE FELLOWSHIP ...'**

*The wife also shared with me later and the husband agreed, 'Even before we got in the door, the lady that greeted us was so warm and welcoming'. She added, 'Never before when coming into a church service have I felt so welcome or such warmth.'*

**IN CONTRAST TO THIS WE SEE IN MANY CHURCHES THERE ARE MESSAGES POINTING OUT PEOPLE'S FAILURE, TO TRY & GET THEM TO STOP SINNING ... ALERTS OF IMPENDING JUDGEMENT ... WARNINGS ABOUT LOSING YOUR SALVATION IF YOU KEEP SINNING & DON'T ATTEND CHURCH ... COMMANDMENTS TELLING US TO TRY HARDER ... BELITTLED WORDS THAT MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE A FAILURE, LIKE YOU'RE NOT A GOOD CHRISTIAN, LIKE YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE THAT THE WORLD IS GOING TO HELL BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT SHINING YOUR LIGHT, THAT THE DEVIL IS WINNING IN YOUR LIFE & YOU NEED TO FIGHT HARDER.**

**PEOPLE END UP INTENSE ... STRIVING TO TRY & PLEASE GOD ... TRYING TO PLEASE THE ELDERS ... TRYING TO LIVE UP TO A STANDARD. THIS IS NOT GOD'S GOOD NEWS.**

**SO WHAT IS SO GOOD ABOUT THIS GOOD NEWS THAT WE NEED TO KNOW?**

LET'S LOOK AT THREE TRUTHS THAT ARE ABSOLUTELY GOOD NEWS

1. **SLIDE** **GOD WILL NEVER HOLD YOUR SIN AGAINST YOU ANYMORE**

It is an outrageous statement ... but it is an outrageous Gospel.

JESUS HAS **ALREADY** DEALT WITH **ALL** SIN FOR **ALL** TIME UPON THE CROSS.

**Hebrews 9:26** (Redacted) **SLIDE**

*... But now once [for all] He has appeared in the last days to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

'Put away sin' – annihilate / obliterate / eradicate / exterminate

**Revelation 1:5** **SLIDE**

*... Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. (Has already freed us – past tense – passive voice meaning It was done to me)*

I learned this message about 40 years ago when I accompanied a friend to a youth camp where he was booked to speak.

About 30 mins before the first meeting was about to start and as people were gathering this guy said, 'Hey Chris, do you think you could speak at this meeting?'

'OK!' I said, not having prepared anything and at a loss as to what I should speak on.

So I did what all desperate preachers do **and all preachers should do**, I asked God what He wanted to say to His people.

Well, immediately deep inside me I heard the words, '**Tell them God does not have a problem with sin anymore!**'

It was something I had never heard before, but lights went on inside as I perceived Jesus dying on the cross once for all, for all our sin ... for all time!

But the Holy Spirit didn't stop there. He continued to speak, 'The Father dealt with all sin for all time when Jesus died upon the cross. He doesn't have a problem with sin anymore ... people do!'

**1 John 2:12** Berean Study Bible

*I am writing to you, little children, because the sins have been forgiven you for the sake [on account] of His name.*

**'HAVE BEEN, AND ARE FORGIVEN YOU' - NOT OVERLOOKED, NOT EXCUSED BUT  
ACKNOWLEDGED & DELETED FROM OUR ACCOUNT.**

**Ephesians 1:7**

*In Him [Jesus] we have [already] redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*

**Colossians 1:14**

*In whom we have [already] redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

**GOD'S WORD DECLARES THAT THE BORN AGAIN BELIEVER IN CHRIST HAS BEEN SET FREE FROM ALL SIN & THE CONDEMNATION OF THE LAW.**

**GOD HAS ALREADY FORGIVEN ALL YOUR SIN ... PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

**Hebrews 10:12 SLIDE**

*But [when] this [Priest], had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God. (From the Interlinear)*

**2. SLIDE GOD WILL NEVER JUDGE YOU NO MATTER HOW YOU FAIL / GOD CAN NEVER JUDGE YOU**

Because God Judged Jesus on the Cross for the penalty of your sin ... He can never ever again judge you who are His. (Isaiah 53:10-11)

**GOD IS JUSTIFIED IN JUSTIFYING US**

**God would be unjust to judge the same sin twice**

**1 John 1:9 SLIDE**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**'Just' = *dikaios* - he same root word as righteousness or justification**

**It could read 'God is Justified in clearing us from all justice or judgement'.**

## THE WORLD LIVES UNDER IMPENDING WRATH … IMPENDING DOOM

### Romans 1:18

*… The wrath of God is revealed … against all unrighteousness of men …*

It's like that line in the song, 'Yesterday' -

'Suddenly, I'm not half the man I used to be ... there's a shadow hanging over me ...'

### Proverbs 11:4

*Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, Butttt - righteousness delivers from death. (His Righteousness)*

### Romans 1: 16-17

*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.<sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'.*

#### **THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD REVEALS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

**NB: NOT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW BUT OF GOD**

**NB: There is NO Mention of Sin! (Hebrews 1:9NIV – 'You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness ...')**

**God's righteousness IS A THING WE FALL IN LOVE WITH WHEN WE SEE IT.**

**AND THE REASON WE DON'T SEE IT IS BECAUSE THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD IS NOT TAUGHT IN OUR CHURCHES.**

### Romans 5:1

*… Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. THE JUDGE OF THE UNIVERSE has got no beef with you.*

#### **SLIDE BUT WHAT IF I STILL SIN?**

### 1 John 2:1 Berean Study Bible

*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate before the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

*He Himself is the atoning sacrifice [appeasement] for our sins, and not only for ours [alone], but also for the sins of the whole world.*

### John 5:24 Berean Study Bible

*Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment. Indeed, he has crossed over from death to life.*

### 3. **SLIDE** GOD HAS ALREADY MADE YOU 100% RIGHTEOUS & 100% PERFECT

#### **Hebrews 10:14 SLIDE**

*Because by a single offering He has made **perfect for all time** those who are being sanctified. ('Being sanctified' – passive voice meaning it's being done to me)*

#### **1 Corinthians 6:11 SLIDE**

*And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified [made righteous] in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

#### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

*God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become **the righteousness of God** in Him.*

#### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become **the righteousness of God** in Him.*

#### **Romans 3:21-22**

*But **NOW** the **righteousness of God** apart from the law **IS REVEALED (MANIFESTED)**, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; <sup>22</sup> even **the righteousness of God**, through faith in Jesus Christ, **to all and on all who believe**. For there is no difference.*

### SUPPLEMENTARY CONTINUALLY CRYING OUT FOR FORGIVENESS ...

#### **1 John 1:9**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

This verse is quoted a lot to tell about how merciful and forgiving God is ... how willing He is to forgive us our sins. We are told, 'All we have to do is confess sin'.

So we embark upon a lifestyle of continually asking forgiveness ... having to keep confessing my wrong doing ... my failures ... And our concept of God is that He is frowning on us until we confess ... and even then He's disappointed in us.

So I think, 'Can I just confess 'on the hop' or do I have to feel sorry and wait for some

sense of peace to know He has forgiven me?’  
So I start another ritual in my life, of continually confessing sins.

**BUT THEN THERE ARE SINS WHICH I FORGOT ABOUT  
WHAT ABOUT THOSE SINS???**  
So people tell us, ‘Keep short accounts with God’.

**THEN THERE ARE SINS THAT I DID UNWHITTINGLY ... LIKE ATTITUDES THAT MIGHT RISE IN  
MY HEART OR CRITICISMS OF OTHERS ... HATEFUL MOMENTS ...**  
We definitely need a notepad to keep account. And an alarm to bring these to our  
attention ...  
**THIS IS ONLY HALF GOOD NEWS.**

**NB: 1 John 1:9 IS A FIRST TIME PRAYER FOR SALVATION - a one off  
prayer that we pray when we first come to Christ ...**  
**John is not telling us we have to confess our sin continually to be forgiven.**  
We've already seen, we already are forgiven.

**It's not acknowledging every specific sin we have ever committed or will commit  
but ‘sins’ in general ... IT'S LIKE ADMITTING WE HAVE SIN ...**  
**YOU SEE GNOSTICISM HAD CREPT INTO THE CHURCH AND THESE PEOPLE  
BELIEVED WE DON'T HAVE ANY SIN.**

**SO JOHN IS ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM.**  
This is why John also writes in the previous verse ...  
**1 John 1:8**  
*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

**This is our condition in Adam before we come to Christ ... but if we confess our  
sins (verse 9), He is ... justified in justifying us ... and once and for all we will be  
free from that ‘sin condition’ because Jesus put sin away forever.**