

What is the Most Important Thing?

By Calvin Culy

I'm sure you've heard stuff about Christianity before or about that 'Jesus Christ' that Christians are always talking about. **So what's up with him anyways?** The thing is that most people know just enough about Christians or Jesus that they don't like him, but they don't really know what Jesus is really about.

--- **Do you?** ---

So who is Jesus and what's the truth about him? The best place to find that out is the Bible. In order for us to understand who Jesus is we have to go back to the beginning of time.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..." - Genesis 1:1

You see, from the very beginning of the existence of everything we know, God already was there. That's because God is **eternal**. The Bible says He has no beginning and no end.

When God created the earth it was perfect and fully good, because God is good. God created man and gave man instructions and the choice to obey God. The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, as you may have heard before, chose to do disobey God; they did what was wrong.

Because of their sin we are all born as sinners or people who naturally do what is against the rules that God has set. God has said do not lie, do not steal, do not lust after another person, do not even be proud in your heart. Have you lied? Stolen? Lusted or been proud?

--- **I have.** ---

God also said that if you love anything greater than you love Him then you are serving a false god, and that is sin as well. Now before you check out I want to say that going by that standard we are ALL sinners, and we all fall short of God's standard. I do, and you do.

As I said before, God is good. But God is also just and holy. God is love. (And because God loves what is good, he must hate what is evil.) For example, if you say you love life, and that you love little children and want them to have life, but then you don't care when a man murders a little child, how can you truly love life? You see, in order to love life, you must hate the murder of a life.

In the same way God who loves what is good, hates what is evil. And what is evil? Anything that is against God, anything that is done in disobedience to God. When God says, "Honor your father and mother," and we don't do that, we do what is evil.

And so we stand in a terrible position before a just and holy God who doesn't tolerate evil. We have done what is evil before God and will be judged for that. And we will be sent to hell.

--- **There are no exceptions.** ---

"That's terrible!" you say. "How could God be *loving* if He sends me and every other person to hell?? How could He even be *good*?"

Here's an example. Suppose you were standing in a court before a judge. Let's say you had murdered a man. So you're standing before the judge. The judge pronounces you guilty and a fine is placed on you that is higher than you could ever pay off. If you said, "Judge, you are a good man. I am sorry for my crime, please let me go."

--- **Would a good judge let you go?** ---

Of course not. If he really is a *good* judge, he will *punish* evil. If he were a corrupt judge he would let you go. Any judge who lets murderers and thieves go free in the streets is corrupt.

And this is the very position we stand in before God and will be in when we die. In the Bible it says, "Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." And in our position as sinners, doing what is hateful to God, we all stand guilty.

--- **That means ALL of us stand guilty.** ---

But God didn't stay there. He didn't sit there waiting for us to be destroyed and letting us live lives enslaved by the evil things we do. The Bible says that,

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us!" - Romans 5:8

Jesus Christ died for us. You see, God loves us so much that He had a plan to save us from the punishment of an eternal hell that we all are destined to face when we die. He made a way for us to be brought back to Him and to be forgiven for ALL of the evil that we have committed against Him.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth. Jesus lived a perfect life, never sinning even though He lived a hard life and was tempted to do what was wrong. Jesus did many miracles while he was alive that proved that he is God. Jesus then died for us by his own choice and out of love for us. Because he was both God and human he took all of the sin that was on our heads (which made us guilty), and **he placed that sin on himself**. God the Father crushed Jesus, and Jesus took the penalty for OUR wrong.

--- He paid OUR fine. ---

The bible says that God made Him who knew no sin (Jesus), to be sin for us (to take our place). And then to prove that he was God, Jesus rose again from the dead!

If we turn away from our sin, and put our faith in Jesus we will be **forgiven** from our sin, saved from our sinful lives, and saved from an eternal hell when we die. The Bible says that anyone who belongs to Christ is a new creation; the old has gone, and the new has come!

As a Christian I can testify to this. I used to be trapped in sins like lust, selfishness, and I had no love for others, but by God's goodness and because of Jesus Christ every day I am changing and becoming more like Jesus. Those things no longer hold me captive and I am able to live a life that's pleasing to God!

This is the truth. And it's not from me, but from God as recorded in the Bible, the Word of God. So I plead with you to turn from your sin. Reject it, and cry out to God for the forgiveness for your sin that only Jesus Christ can bring. If you believe and continue to believe in Jesus Christ for your salvation from God's wrath then you WILL be saved.

"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." Ephesians 2:8

If you choose to do this, I'd encourage you to start reading the Bible, obeying it, praying to God to make you more like Jesus Christ who is exactly like God, and getting connected with other believers to study, pray, and worship God. God has revealed to us who He is in the Bible and what we are to do in obedience to Him. And God WILL make you more like Him. He will change your life and save you from your wickedness.

So often preachers say that Jesus will make your life better and that is true, but not in the way of giving you money, pleasure, and all the desires of your heart. He will make you more like God and save you from your

sin, and that is the BETTER that he will do in your life. But you must know that if you do choose to follow Jesus you will be hated, for the world hated Jesus and still does. You may experience more hardships in life even than you have before, but my friend, you will have God to lead and guide you and you will be free from your old life and will have peace in all of these hard times. God will be with you and not against you. And when you die you will go to be with God in heaven for eternity, to live in the glory of his presence and worship Him forever as we were created to do!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.⁷ These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.²⁴ For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you. - 1 Peter 1:3-25