



THE MEANING OF LIFE...

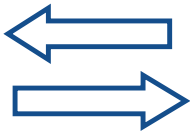
THE MEANING OF LIFE

"In the beginning God created..."

Genesis 1:1

The Bible teaches that God created all things including you and me. In the beginning the world He created was perfect (no pain, no war, no suffering, no death). His original plan for human beings (The Meaning of Life) was that we would know Him, live for Him on the earth and enjoy Him forever in heaven.

However, a lot has happened since that time and it doesn't take long to realise that the world is no longer perfect. This is because mankind (you and me) decided to rebel against God, ignore Him and live our lives however we please. This rebellion is what the Bible calls 'sin'.



GOD

You were created by a loving God.
God created you to know Him, to
live for Him in this life and enjoy
being with Him forever in Heaven

THE PROBLEM

The Bible makes it clear that we are all guilty of breaking God's laws and rebelling against Him (ever lied?, stolen something?, lived your life without God?). This 'sin' has caused a barrier between us and God.

"...all have sinned..."

Romans 3:23

Not only are we guilty of breaking God's laws by our actions but also by our thoughts and motives. Nothing is hidden from God's sight.

When we disobey God it shows that we would rather live without His loving rule over our lives. In reality, we are rejecting our all-knowing, all-powerful Creator.

If this attitude towards God continues until death there are serious consequences.



All of Us

*'...all have
sinned...'*

Romans 3:23

S
I
N

B
A
R
R
I
E
R

GOD

*Creator
King
Ruler
Perfect
Holy
Pure
Loving
Judge*

THE CONSEQUENCES

Firstly, our choice to reject God on this earth will be made permanent at death. This means we will be separated from the source of all love and goodness forever. By rejecting God we are also rejecting heaven.

Secondly, God knows everything including what is best for us. By rejecting God's guidance we hurt ourselves and others e.g. Sex outside marriage can lead to unwanted pregnancies, abortion, broken homes, STD's and neglected children. Drunkenness can lead to health problems, traffic accidents, violence, addiction and poverty. Pride can lead to the illusion that we are in control of everything and not accountable to God for our lives.

The truth is, none of us deserve to get to heaven, we all deserve hell. By our own efforts there is nothing we can do to change this fact. We need help! Fortunately God has done something incredible for us.



All of Us

*'...There is a
problem-your
sins have cut you
off from God.'*

Isaiah 59:2



Hell

S
I
N

B
A
R
R
I
E
R

GOD

*Creator
King
Ruler
Perfect
Holy
Pure
Loving
Judge*

THE SOLUTION

Instead of giving us what we deserve God actually wants to forgive us. He does not want anyone to go to hell and has made a way for us to be forgiven.

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

This forgiveness was made possible when God sent Jesus Christ into the world. Jesus (the perfect Son of God) willingly suffered and died on a cross to take the punishment we deserve on Himself (we broke the law and Jesus paid our fine). God then raised Him from the dead three days later and now offers forgiveness (a perfect record) and new life to everyone.

However, this is not automatic, like any gift, we must receive it.



JESUS CHRIST

GOD

*'The wages of
sin is death...'
Romans 6:23*



Hell

*"But God
demonstrates His
own love for us in
this: While we
were still sinners,
Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8*

Heaven

THE GIFT

Forgiveness cannot be earned! Going to church, praying, living a 'good' life and helping others are good things but none of them can give you a perfect record permanently before God. To receive this forgiveness you must...

1. Admit that you have offended God by your attitudes and actions.
2. Accept that you can do nothing to save yourself.
3. Be willing to turn away from anything that offends God (God will help you do this).
4. Trust that Jesus Christ died for your sins (past, present and future) on the cross and rose from the dead.
5. Through a prayer of faith (trust) give God control of your life.

If you are willing to accept God's gift of forgiveness you must also accept the cost.



TURN AND SURRENDER

You

*'The wages of
sin is death...'
Romans 6:23*



Hell

GOD

You

Forgiven
Accepted
New Life



Heaven

THE COST

Jesus warned us about counting the cost before deciding to follow Him: *"But don't begin until you count the cost..." (Luke 14:28)*

He made it clear that we are to submit to Him and be willing to face suffering and tough times just like He did. However, as a Christian, God enters your life by the Holy Spirit and teaches, encourages, strengthens and helps you even in times of failure. As you surrender control of your life to Him He will give you new desires and the power to change...this is a life long process.

SUMMARY

If you have counted the cost of being a Christian, want to become a follower of Jesus and accept the gift He offers you then the following is a suggested prayer...



WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?



Unforgiven
Under judgement
No hope



Hell

GOD

Forgiven
Accepted
New Life



Heaven

Dear God,

I confess that I have rebelled (sinned) against You many times and am truly sorry. I now turn away from those things that offend You and ask for Your forgiveness. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to take the consequences of my sin (past, present and future) on Himself. Please enter my life by Your Spirit and help me be the person You want me to be, Amen.

To help you grow as a Christian we have included some keys on the following pages. They include reading the Bible regularly and obeying what it says, talking to God and listening to Him through prayer, joining a Bible believing church, being baptised and telling others about your new faith.

For more information about commonly asked questions please go to **www.questionsoflife.com**

WHAT NEXT?...

BE BAPTISED

Baptism is a very important step of obedience as a Christian. It is a public confession that we are now following Jesus Christ and is a spiritually significant act.

Baptism involves a person being briefly submerged under water which symbolises our death to our old sinful life and then being raised up out of the water into our new spiritual life as a Christian.

As a new Christian you will want to be baptised so talk with your local Church leader for help with this.

TELL OTHERS

Now that you have entered into God's family you will no doubt want to tell others about it.

There is no better way to improve your ability to communicate the Gospel than regularly getting out with lost people and sharing it.

The more we do this the better we will become at it. Sharing the Gospel is like any other skill, it takes concentrated practice if we want to get good at it. For a range of tools and practical training go to our website: www.gospeloutreach.co.nz or e-mail us at: info@gospel-outreach.org

JOIN A CHURCH

One of the ways we grow as a Christian is by meeting regularly with other Christians. This can take place in small groups or larger meetings at a local Church.

By joining a Bible believing Church you will meet other Christians from many different walks of life and backgrounds. You will learn how God has worked in their life, guided them, provided for them and answered prayer.

As you meet with other Christians you will learn what God has planned for you.

PRAYER

Just like any relationship, if we stop talking to the person we love, the relationship starts to decline.

Prayer is a critical lifeline between us and God whereby He can guide, strengthen and encourage us as we seek to do His will. Without regularly spending time alone with God we run the risk of losing connection with Him and minimising our usefulness.

God wants to communicate to each of His children as we are all different. His main way is through the Bible but He also wants to give us specific guidance. That happens when we pray.

BIBLE READING

This is one of the fundamental practices of the Christian life. If we want to learn about what God is like and know God's will for our lives there is no better place to start than the Bible.

By reading and obeying it consistently we will become effective Christians as our lives become more like Jesus Christ. The Bible has been described as spiritual food for the Christian so we must make sure we are having regular 'meals' if we want to be spiritually strong and stand up to the attacks the enemy throws at anyone who wants to live for God.

COMMON QUESTIONS...

DOES GOD EXIST?...

A building has a builder, a painting has a painter and creation has a creator. The beauty and complexity of creation itself is one of the main evidences that there is in fact a Creator God.

For more good reasons to believe that God exists click on 'Does God exist?' at www.questionsoflife.com or scan the QR code below:



IS THE BIBLE TRUE?...

Do the dates, places and people in the Bible match with known historical facts? Do modern archeological finds confirm it's accuracy? Has it changed over time? Did predictions it made come true? Is the Bible true?

For convincing proof that the Bible is true please click on 'Is the Bible true?' at www.questionsoflife.com or scan the QR code below:



WHY SUFFERING?...

Poverty, war, famine, disease, injustice, sexual abuse, physical abuse, mental abuse...the list goes on. It is clear that we live in an imperfect world in which there is suffering.

To explore why suffering exists and what causes it click on the box saying 'Why is there suffering?' at www.questionsoflife.com or scan the QR code below:



Contact Details

**Our International website is:
www.gospel-outreach.org**

**To contact us via e-mail:
info@gospel-outreach.org**

