

COVENANT CHURCH

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA

The Great Exchange!

*The Good News
about
God's Plan of Salvation.*

A REFORMED AND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN BURBANK

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“THE GREAT EXCHANGE!”

The Good News about God’s plan of salvation.

The following eight facts with Bible passages explain how a person becomes a true Christian.

Here are eight facts from the Holy Bible about God’s plan of salvation:

First we’ll look at the eight facts, then we’ll look at the Bible verses they are based upon.

- 01 God created all things good and for His glory.
 - 02 God created man in His image to be in a relationship of love and friendship with Him forever.
 - 03 All mankind fell into sin and death, both spiritual and physical, when the first man Adam sinned by breaking God’s commandment.
 - 04 The penalty of sin is death, both physical and spiritual, and eternal damnation.
 - 05 You cannot by your own efforts save yourself from condemnation, now or on Judgment Day, & from the eternal punishment of your sins.
 - 06 God sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ into the world to save us from our sins.
 - 07 God forgives our sins and gives us the gift of eternal life when we believe in His Son Jesus Christ.
 - 08 When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and the GOOD NEWS about God’s plan of salvation we will begin to pray and call upon God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in believing prayer.
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Now, let’s consider each fact and some of the Bible verses that support each one...

01

FACT NUMBER 1

God created all things good and for His glory.

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”

— GENESIS 1:31

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

— ISAIAH 6:3

02

FACT NUMBER 2

God created man in His image
to be in a relationship of love
and friendship with Him forever.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

— GENESIS 1:27

“Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”

— GENESIS 2:7

03

FACT NUMBER 3

All mankind fell into sin and death, both
spiritual & physical, when the first man Adam
sinned by breaking God’s commandment.

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

— GENESIS 2:16–17

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”

— GENESIS 3:6

A QUESTION:

You may wonder, How can we all be sinners because of what the first man Adam did in the Garden of Eden?

THE ANSWER: Before Adam fell into sin, God had promised him life on the condition of perfect obedience. This “Covenant of Works” that God established between Himself and Adam was with Adam and all his natural offspring whom he represented. We are Adam’s natural offspring. We are all descended from him.

Adam is the covenant head of all who are descended from him by natural generation. When he sinned by disobeying God’s command, he broke that covenant agreement and plunged himself and all mankind into the guilt, condemnation, and punishment of sin. He lost his original righteousness for himself and for us, and in him, as our representative, we all became sinners. By Adam’s transgression we became guilty before God, and then, once we came into existence and were conceived in our mothers’ wombs, that sin was imputed to us, placed legally to our account before God, and our fallen guilty natures thereby became corrupt, and as a result, as soon as we were born, we ourselves began to commit actual sins.

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”

— ROMANS 5:12

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

— 1 CORINTHIANS 15:22

“But like Adam they transgressed the covenant.”

— HOSEA 6:7

* *The fact that we are all sinners is seen in our fallen natures by the sinful deeds we do.*

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

— ROMANS 3:23

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

— 1 JOHN 1:8

“If we say we have not sinned, we make him [God] a liar, and his word is not in us.”

— 1 JOHN 1:10

04 FACT NUMBER 4 The penalty of sin is death, both physical and spiritual, and eternal damnation.

* *This means that mankind is spiritually dead, alienated, and estranged from God. In our natural condition we are in rebellion against God, under His just wrath against us, and blind to His presence and glory. We are in a condition of spiritual death and animosity toward God. This is why unsaved persons, even though they are under God’s wrath and headed to the fires of an eternal Hell, don’t feel it, and generally don’t give any thought or concern for their salvation.*

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air [the devil], the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.”

— EPHESIANS 2:1-2

* *This also means that we are all subject to physical death.*

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

— ROMANS 6:23

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”

— HEBREWS 9:27

* *This is a serious problem for us, because we must all someday die, and on Judgment Day give an account of our lives before God for all our sinful words, thoughts, and actions.*

Jesus said, “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.”

— MATTHEW 12:36

“...their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”

— ROMANS 2:15-16

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.”

— REVELATION 20:12

“Because he [God] has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man [Jesus] whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

— ACTS 17:31

* *If we die in our sins (unforgiven), in a state of enmity and rebellion against God, then on Judgment Day we will be condemned for our rebellion and sins, and sent to be punished in Hell for all eternity.*

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

— ROMANS 3:23

“It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”

— HEBREWS 9:27

“And they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

— REVELATION 20:13-15

05

FACT NUMBER 5

You cannot through your own efforts
save yourself from condemnation
now or on Judgment Day and from
the eternal punishment of your sins.

* *If left to ourselves, there is no power in us to change or turn from our sins and escape the wrath of God that will come upon us if we are left in this unforgiven condition of spiritual death.*

“We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.”

— ISAIAH 64:6

“None is righteous, no, not one;
no one understands;
no one seeks for God.”

— ROMANS 3:10-11

“The wicked shall return to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.”

— PSALM 9:17

* *These facts tell us the bad news about sin and the coming judgment.*

*But the Gospel is the **GOOD NEWS**
about forgiveness and life,
as the following facts show.*

God sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ into the world to save us from our sins.

The GOOD NEWS is about who Jesus IS!

God's Word, the Holy Bible, tells us that Jesus, the eternal Son of God, is both true God and that when He entered history by being conceived and born of the virgin Mary, He became a true man, so He is able to bring us out of sin and its condemnation and into a right relationship with God. As to His divinity, He is God the Son, eternally one with God the Father and with God the Holy Spirit, in the unity of the Holy Trinity, which is one God in three eternal and equal Persons. John the Apostle in his Gospel and First Epistle refers to the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, as "the Word" because it is through Him that we come to know God, similarly to when we come to know a person by their words when they speak.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

— JOHN 1:1

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

— MATTHEW 28:19

"To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen."

— ROMANS 9:5

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

— JOHN 1:14

"Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh."

— 1 TIMOTHY 3:16

"Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"

— JOHN 20:28-29

*The GOOD NEWS is also about what
Jesus DID to save us from our sins!*

“She [the virgin Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

— MATTHEW 1:21

Jesus took to himself a true human nature and became a true human being when He entered humanity through His virgin conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary and subsequent birth. He is therefore truly man descended from Adam, but not a direct descendant of Adam by natural generation. So He did not partake of the guilt and corruption of Adam's original sin. Jesus is therefore 100% human, but unlike all other persons, He also was and is 100% sinless. He is both true God and true man in one Person, Jesus Christ, the Son of God from all eternity, and born in time to be a son of Adam.

Jesus lived a life of perfect and sinless obedience to God for us. As Adam represented all born from him by natural generation in the Covenant of Works, even so Jesus Christ represented all those whom the Father had given to Him to be saved in the Covenant of Grace.

“For our sake he [God] made him [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

— 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

This is sometimes called “**The Great Exchange.**” Our sins were put on Jesus Christ when He took our place and was punished on our behalf on the Cross, and His righteousness is given to us and placed to our account before God, so that we may now be forgiven for all our sins and made right with God in a new relationship of love and eternal life.

“He [Jesus] committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.”

— 1 PETER 2:22

“You know that he [Jesus Christ] appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.”

— 1 JOHN 3:5

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree [the Cross].”

— 1 PETER 2:24

- * *Jesus died on the Cross and took our place as our substitute to suffer the just wrath of God that was against us because of our sins. He represented us and took the punishment that we deserve, so that His death may now be legally accounted to us before God, and we may be forgiven and declared righteous through His righteousness imputed to us. Because He is an eternal Person, God the Son, He could offer a sacrifice in His sufferings and death in His humanity as a man on our behalf that has eternal value. In His sufferings on the Cross He suffered the Hell that we deserve, so that we could be fully forgiven. He paid the debt that we owed and could never pay ourselves. He paid the price for us. He loves us that much.*

“Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.”

— 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

- * *The Prophet Isaiah wrote about the sufferings of Jesus 800 years before Jesus was born.*

“Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.”

— ISAIAH 53:4–6

- * *Because Jesus Himself had no sin, after He had completely paid for all the sins of others that had been legally imputed to Him and placed upon Him when He suffered and died on the Cross, death no longer had any legal claim upon Him and could not hold Him in the grave. It had no legal claim upon Him because by His sufferings He fully paid for all the sins that had been imputed to Him, and so on the third day He rose again from the dead, never to die again.*
- * *By the resurrection of Jesus we can know that the penalty for our sins has been fully paid, and we may now be forgiven and restored to a right relationship of peace and love with God through the sufferings and death of His Son.*

The Great Exchange is the Good News!

“God raised him [Jesus] up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”

— ACTS 2:24

Jesus “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

— ROMANS 4:25

07

FACT NUMBER 7

God forgives our sins and gives us the gift of eternal life when we believe in His Son Jesus Christ.

“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

“Then he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’”

— ACTS 16:30–31

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

— JOHN 3:36

Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.”

— JOHN 6:47

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”

— 1 JOHN 5:13

- * *Those who believe have eternal life now as a present possession from God. And so for them Judgment Day will be a day of acquittal and life.*
- * ***True faith in Jesus Christ brings the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.***

QUESTION:

How can we know that we have true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

ANSWER: When you have heard and understood the Gospel, the Good News about forgiveness through the Lord Jesus Christ, if God is pleased to give you the gift of true faith and repentance, four things will happen in your heart and mind:

- 1** True faith will cause you to repent of your sins, which means to be sorry for them, and will give you a desire to stop sinning and change your life.
- 2** True faith will cause you to trust in and rely on the Lord Jesus Christ alone to save you.
- 3** True faith will cause you to call out in prayer to the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation.
- 4** True faith will cause you to love God and give you a desire to know and obey what He has said in the Bible.

When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and the GOOD NEWS about God's plan of salvation we will begin to pray and call upon God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in believing prayer.

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

— ACTS 4:12

"...together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours."

— 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2

"For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

— ROMANS 10:13

You must BELIEVE the message of the Good News in order to be saved.

To believe means we trust God, that what He has promised in His Word, the Holy Bible, is true, and that because of what He has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ He will pardon and forgive all our sins and receive us to be His true children.

When you believe the Gospel, the Good News, you will **CONFESS** to God and agree with Him that you have sinned against Him, and **ASK** Him to forgive you and make you a true Christian.

Do you believe the message of the Good News about the Lord Jesus Christ?

If your answer is “**yes**” you should pray to God, asking Him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you and to receive you as His child.

A written prayer may be of some help in guiding our thoughts when praying to God, but we must make such a prayer our own by truly understanding and making its words our own when we say it.

A person becomes a true Christian when he or she believes in Jesus Christ. Faith in Him is what saves us, not a ceremonial religious prayer. Our words to God must come from a sincere heart.

The response of a believing heart will be sincere prayer whether praying a written prayer or just praying from our heart to God. As a very wise person once said, “A written prayer is a true prayer, if you actually pray it from your heart.”

We pray because we are confessing to God that we believe in His Son and that we are thankful to Him for His mercies and the forgiveness of our sins He freely offers to us in His Son Jesus Christ.

Your prayer must come from your own heart to God. And so the following prayer is given only as an example and model to help you. If you believe what it says, then you may pray the words as you talk to God in Jesus’ name, but you may also use your own words to pray.

A Model Prayer for Salvation.

“Gracious God, and heavenly Father,

I call upon you in the Name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

*I believe that Jesus is Your Son and the only Savior from sin, death,
and hell.*

I believe that He suffered and died on the Cross of Calvary for sinners.

I believe that He rose again from the dead on the third day.

*I know that I must stand before You on Judgment Day, and so I ask You
now in Jesus’ Name for mercy and the forgiveness of all my sins.*

I confess to You that I am a lost sinner, and helpless unless You help me.

I am truly sorry for the sins I have committed against You in my life.

*I know that I deserve to go to Hell because of my sins, and that I cannot
save myself by any good works or ceremonies that I might do.*

*I ask You from Your good will and kindness to forgive me and save me in
Your mercy freely offered to me in Your Son Jesus Christ.*

*Please give me true faith in Jesus Christ and true repentance from all my
sins, and make me a true Christian in my heart and in my life.*

*Change my heart and mind with true repentance and faith by the work
of Your Holy Spirit.*

*I thank You God for creating me, and I thank You, Lord Jesus Christ,
that You are a kind and gracious Savior and Lord. Please be my
Savior and my Lord.*

*Receive me, I pray, as Your true child, and guide my life, helping me to
live for You according to Your Holy Word the Bible every day.*

*Heavenly Father, I ask all this in the holy Name of Your Son the Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.”*

If you sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are a true Christian and have the forgiveness of your sins and the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

If you desire to learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ and the Good News of Forgiveness and Eternal Life, it is important for you to begin reading the Holy Bible daily and also to find and begin attending regularly each Sunday a Bible believing Church in your area.

Covenant Church of Burbank, California, (the ones who published this little booklet for you), is a Bible believing Christian Church that believes and teaches the Holy Bible. We worship together every Sunday at 10 AM and 6 PM, and you are warmly invited to join us. We will be very happy to give you a gift copy of the Holy Bible free of charge for you to keep and to read. You may contact us through our website, covenantburbank.com. Please feel free to contact us and request your free copy of the Holy Bible.

May God bless you in your life and in the knowledge of His love and mercies, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior! AMEN.

THE END

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COME AND WORSHIP WITH US

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA

You Are Invited to Covenant Church

We gather every Lord's Day in Burbank for historic Christian worship, including the preaching of God's Word. Whether you have followed Christ for many years or are only beginning to ask questions, you will find a warm welcome among us.

SUNDAYS

Morning Worship · 10:00 AM

Evening Worship · 6:00 PM

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