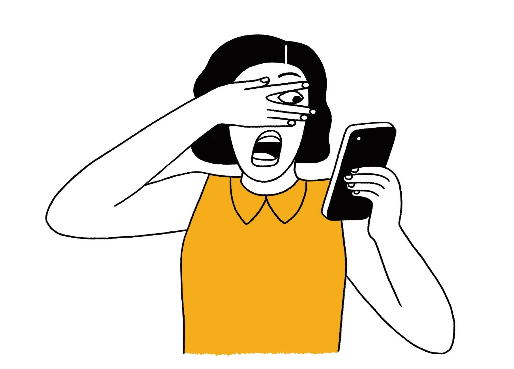
**Need some good news?**

Bad news is everywhere. Divorce. Murder. Disease. Abuse. Death. Theft. Earthquakes. Floods. The list goes on and on.

And don’t even think of mentioning that word coronavirus.

So, are you ready for some good news?

There actually is good news. Really good news. Great news, in fact. Wonderful news!

If you’d like to find out more, keep reading.

First, a little background so you can understand why this news is so good. A long time ago God made this world. It was beautiful and perfect. As the crown of his creation, God made humans. Humans are special because we are made in the image of God, designed to be like him and to reflect his character.

The Bible says, “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” The way to live for the glory of God is to love him, trust him, be thankful to him, obey him, and treasure him above all things. When we act like this, we give glory to God.

You see the problem, don’t you? None of us has loved or trusted or thanked or obeyed or treasured God as we ought. As the Bible puts it, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” The Bible goes on to say that “the wages of sin is (eternal) death.” In other places we are told, “your iniquities have separated you from your God,” and that those who don’t obey God “will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.”

Whoa! That sounds awful! That’s *not* good news.

No, it isn’t. But once you understand how bad our situation is you will be blown away by the hope and joy God offers.

Showinggreat mercy, God sent his only Son Jesus Christ into the world to provide for sinners the way of eternal life. Soak in these words from the Bible. “God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”

Oh, by the way, Jesus didn’t stay dead. To prove that he had accepted Jesus’ death on the cross as payment for our sins, God raised him from the dead on the third day!

Now here’s the good news. Eternal life is a free gift. It’s given to all who make Jesus the one in charge of and supreme Treasure of their lives. Hear loud and clear these promises: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved;” “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved;” “To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

God himself invites you to share in this good news. Listen up.

 “Come, all you who are thirsty,  
    come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
    come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
    without money and without cost.  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
    and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
    and you will delight in the richest of fare.  
Give ear and come to me;  
    listen, that you may live.”

The first kind of person that God invites to come to him is thirsty people who can’t pay for what they need. You may be reading this with thirst in your heart. Your heart feels like the brown grass in a desert backyard. It hasn’t rained for a long time. A lot of old hopes have dried up. Dreams have waited and almost died. Dead-end streets again and again. You’re empty, unfulfilled, and dissatisfied. You know there has to be something more to life.

But now everything that looks good is out of reach. You have no money, no strength, no motivation. Yet, a longing, a thirst, is still there.

And God says, “You’re just the candidate I am after: Come, everyone who thirsts and has no money — no resources, no bargaining position, no track record, no power, no prestige, no pull.” God is inviting *you* to enjoy the banquet of salvation.

Don’t think you fit into this category? There is a second kind of person whom God invites. If the first one doesn’t fit, this one will. While the first person was spiritually bankrupt and burnt out, the second kind of person has money. He’s still spending and still working, dreaming, chasing, searching, experimenting — different job, different city, different car, different house, different wife, new computer, new boat, new books, new bike, new grill, new season tickets, new diet, new looks. But what’s the result? Frustration. Nothing really satisfies. No matter how self-sufficient you look on the outside, there is a huge chasm of need and longing on the inside,

And God says he has the solution and he’s inviting you to come.

So just what do we get if we take God up on his offer? We are offered water, wine, and milk. These three beverages correspond to deep needs that every one of us has.

Water corresponds to the need for refreshment. When you are most thirsty and most desperate, most dehydrated, it’s water that you want, and nothing else. God invites you, right now, to receive refreshment, restoration, reviving, a new beginning.

Milk corresponds to the need for ongoing nourishment. When someone is gasping for life, you give them water. But when you want a little baby to grow day after day, you give him milk again and again. God is not just for emergencies and mountain peaks. He is for health in the long haul. He invites you not only to come alive with water, but also to be stable and strong with milk.

Wine corresponds to the need for exhilaration. We want to live and not die. We want to be strong and stable instead of weak and wavering. But that is not all we need in life. No matter how stoic, unemotional, phlegmatic, laid-back, or poker-faced we may seem to others, there is a child inside of every one of us that God made for exhilaration — for shouting and singing and dancing and playing and skipping and running and jumping and laughing.

The water is good and it’s plentiful. The milk is good and it’s plentiful. The wine is good and it’s plentiful. The Bible loves to talk about the riches of God’s glory and the fullness of joy available from him. He gives what is best and it never runs out.

So, there’s that wonderful, glorious good news. And you’re invited to share in it!

Come, believe, enjoy.