

Welcome to Your Changed Life!

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Welcome— To the Rest of Your Life!



You have just made the most important decision of your life.

Now that you have done so, I want to guide you as you think about what it means to become a Christian.

I once heard of a man who bought a ticket on a ship to cross the ocean. He had little money left, and so he stocked up on cheese and crackers to eat on the voyage. He dreamed of the good things that were waiting for him on the other side and just endured the trip.

As the ship was docking, he told one of the ship's stewards that he had been eating cheese and crackers for two weeks. You can imagine his frustration when the steward said, "Didn't anyone tell you that all the buffets and huge meals were included in the price of your ticket?"

Like you, I'm looking forward to eternity with Christ. But our Lord has an important feast for you to enjoy *NOW*. Don't miss out!

Let's Begin With a Review of What Has Happened to You...

First of all, we want to talk about the word...*GOD*

The Bible tells us He is *POWERFUL*. We usually don't have much problem believing that, do we? But, you should remember that His *POWER* is available for you! Scripture says He can heal our diseases, control circumstances, and release us from problems that have controlled us for years. Isn't that good news?

But we are also told God is *PERSONAL*. That's often a fact that we overlook. He loves you, and He wants you to think of Him as your Heavenly Father. If you have never been too close to your earthly father, this is good news for you. God loves you, and you don't have to do *ONE SINGLE THING* to make Him love you

more. You are now His child, and He is going to care for you. He even knows the exact number of the hairs on your head!

Do you know how to talk to God? People call it “prayer.” Talk to God in the same way you share with someone you trust. Don’t worry about whether He likes your choice of words or not—just talk to Him! He loves to hear you say that you love Him. He is pleased when you take time to just chat with Him about your life. In fact, if you learn to be silent some of the time as you talk to Him, you will quickly discover that He talks to you, too! You will hear His voice with your spiritual ears. *(Please read John 3:1-16 in the New Testament.)*

Next, we want to think about the word...MAN

The Bible tells us that every one of us, without exception, has broken the tie God made to us when He created Adam and Eve. The results of that are really awful! In Romans 3:23 we are told that we have *ALL* sinned and have *ALL* come short of God’s glory.

It would be nice if we could convince ourselves that Man had a little “spark of goodness” in him that could be fanned into a flame. Unfortunately, that’s not true.

Perhaps you have heard people say, “I keep the Ten Commandments as well as the next person.” They think that impresses God. It doesn’t! In fact, Isaiah wrote in chapter 64, verse 6, “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our *RIGHTEOUS ACTS* are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.”

Did you notice that God thinks even our *RIGHTEOUS ACTS* are filthy rags? Whew! That’s powerful. Even if we kept every single one of the Ten Commandments, He wouldn’t be impressed. Lots of people think that they can *DO* something to make God love them. They have never learned that He already loves them. In fact, Romans 5:8 tells us that He demonstrates His love for us “While we were still sinners.” Jesus Christ is God, and He died for us. That’s how we know!

To understand man's problem, we must consider the word...*SIN*

Here are a couple of men walking along. In the background is a tree. Let's imagine this tree is an



APPLE tree (notice the round apples all over it).

Question: Do we call the tree “*APPLE*” because it has fruit on it called “*APPLES*?”

Or, do we say it bears “*APPLES*” because it’s an “*APPLE*” tree?

We wouldn't call the tree a *PEACH* tree when