



# The Greatest Treasure!



# 1 God is the sovereign Creator of all things.

 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.  
(Genesis 1:1)*

 *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, (Psalm 24:1)*

 *But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. (Jeremiah 10:10a)*


There is one living, eternal God who created all things. Because God made everything, everything belongs to God. God is also sovereign over all He has created. That means God is King of His creation, and He controls and rules over it. He is an all-powerful, wise, and good King.

 **What does this mean for you?**

God made you. You belong to God. God is your ruler.



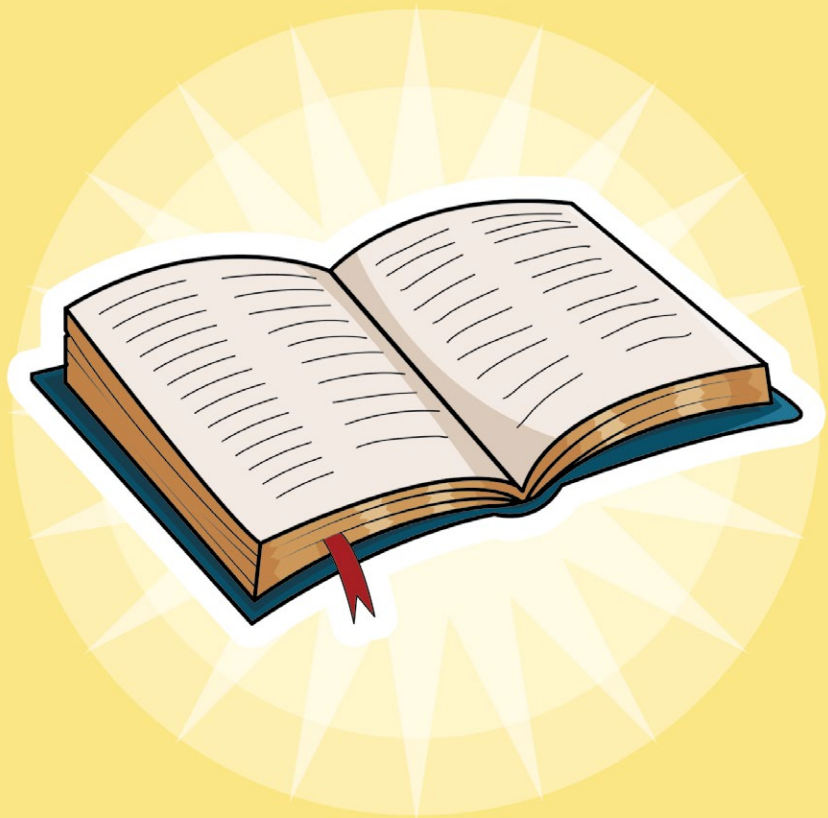
# 2 God created people for His glory.

 *Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I will give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.*  
(Psalm 86:11-12)


Just as people make things like cars, stoves, and baseballs for a special purpose, God created people for a very special purpose. God created men and women, boys and girls, in His own image and likeness so that we could think, feel, and act in certain ways toward God. God made us to have a very special relationship with Him. We are to “glorify” Him by honoring, trusting, loving, thanking, and praising Him most of all. Living for this purpose is what will make us truly happy forever.


 **What does this mean for you?**

God created you to know, trust, and love Him most of all.



# 3 God is holy and righteous.

 *The LORD is righteous in all his ways (Psalm 145:17a)*

 *“...You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”  
(Leviticus 19:2b)*

 *So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. (Romans 7:12)*

God is holy. That means He is perfect in every way. He is also righteous—everything He thinks, says, and does is right. Because God made us to be like Him in certain ways, we must be holy and righteous, too. In the Bible, God gave us His holy and righteous commands. They tell us what thoughts, desires, words, and actions are pleasing to God—what glorifies Him. God says that we must always obey these commands in order to have a right relationship with Him.


 **What does this mean for you?**

You must obey God's commands all the time.





# 4 Man is sinful.

 *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20)*

 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23)*

God's holy and righteous commands not only show us what is pleasing to God; they also act like a mirror to our hearts—showing us that we are *not* righteous and holy. We do not obey God all the time. That is sin. All people—even babies—are born sinful. That is because after the very first man, Adam, sinned in the garden of Eden, he passed on his sin nature to all people. We show we are sinners by the wrong things we think, desire, say, and do. We don't always love God most of all. We aren't always thankful to Him. We do wrong things toward others.

**? What does this mean for you?**

You have disobeyed God's commands. You are a sinner.



# 5 God is just and is right to punish sin.

🎓 *...he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness. (Psalm 9:8)*

🎓 *...the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (Ephesians 5:6b)*

🎓 *For the wages of sin is death, (Romans 6:23a)*

Would it be right for your parents to be very angry if someone tried to harm you on purpose? Yes, of course. There should be consequences for wrong actions. Now think of a holy and righteous God. He is right to be very angry when people sin, and He is right to punish sin. That is what it means that God is “just.” God has decided that the right punishment for sin is death and hell. Hell is a place where sinners will experience God’s great anger forever. There is nothing more terrible than hell, but sinners are completely helpless to save themselves. This is our biggest problem!

## ❓ **What does this mean for you?**

You deserve God’s punishment of death and hell. You are helpless to save yourself.



# 6 God is merciful. He is kind to undeserving sinners.

🎓 *“...you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...” (Nehemiah 9:17b)*


Even though sinners deserve God's righteous anger and punishment, God is merciful. God's mercy is like a free gift or a present—something wonderful given to you that you have not earned or done anything to deserve. God's mercy is His gift of kindness shown toward sinners. One way God shows His mercy toward sinners is by being slow to get angry and slow to punish us. In His mercy, God made a way for helpless sinners to be forgiven and saved from both death and hell.


**? What does this mean for you?**

You must depend on God's mercy in order to be saved.



# 7 God sent His holy and righteous Son into the world to save sinners.

 *And the Word [Jesus] 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)*

 *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:17)*

God made a way to save helpless sinners by sending His only Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus is fully God. Everything that is true of God the Father is also true of Jesus. That is why Jesus was able to do miraculous things like healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, and bringing dead people to life again. However, when God sent Jesus to live on this earth, God also had Jesus become fully human just like us. But Jesus was different in a very important way. Jesus was born without a sin nature, and He lived a perfectly righteous and holy life. God’s sinless Son came to save sinners.


 **What does this mean for you?**


Jesus came into the world to save you.





# 8 God put the punishment of sinners on Jesus so that His righteousness might be put on them.

 *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

Since Jesus is holy and righteous and has no sin of His own, He was able to be the perfect *substitute* for sinners—taking their place. Jesus took upon Himself all the sins of God's beloved people and was punished in their place on the cross. God the Father punished Jesus instead of punishing His sinful people. Jesus took away the sin of God's people so that they would be completely and forever forgiven! But Jesus also gave something special to God's people—He gave them His perfect righteousness so that they could live with Him forever. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is proof that He has saved His people!

 **What does this mean for you?**

Jesus died on the cross to be punished in your place.



# 9 God offers the free gift of salvation to those who repent and believe in Jesus.

🎓 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*

🎓 *...“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:15)*

The gospel is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus. God has decided that the way to receive this free gift of salvation is by repentance of sin, and belief in Jesus. Repentance happens when God brings about a change in a sinner's heart. True repentance means you understand you are a helpless sinner and hate your sin in such a way that you turn to Jesus and cry out for forgiveness. Believing in Jesus means believing the truth about who He is, what He has done to save you, and all that He has promised to do. It means believing that He died on the cross, rose from the dead, and is living and reigning today. It means believing in Him as your Savior and King!


## ? What does this mean for you?

God tells you to believe in Jesus and repent of your sins and you will be saved.



# 10 Those who trust in Jesus will live to please Him and will receive the promise of eternal life.

 *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,”*  
(John 14:15-16)

 *According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (1 Peter 1:3b-4)*

If you truly repent and believe in Jesus, you will desire to follow Jesus and do things His way instead of your own way. This is hard work. That is why God gives His people the Holy Spirit, the Helper. The Holy Spirit is fully God just like the Father and the Son are fully God. The Holy Spirit will begin to change you so that you love, trust, obey, and enjoy God more and more. It's a lifelong process.


God has promised a huge reward for everyone who trusts in and follows Jesus—enjoying eternal life in heaven. Heaven is a real place where there will be no more sin, sadness, sickness, pain, or death. God will give His people glorious and perfect new bodies that will live forever!

## What does this mean for you?

If you are trusting in Jesus for your salvation, you must follow Him. Jesus has promised that when you die He will bring you to heaven to enjoy the GREATEST TREASURE of all...



# God is the Greatest Treasure!

 *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)*

**T**hese few pages contain only a brief glimpse of the awesome greatness and worth of the one true, living God! There is so much more to learn about who He is, what He is like, and the marvelous salvation that is found in Jesus. That is why God wrote a book—the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. It is the absolute TRUTH. Read it and ask God to give you understanding. How else can you learn more about God? Go to a church that faithfully teaches the Bible. Ask for help and learn from other Christians. Pray that God will show you what He is like and that you will learn to treasure Him above all else.

# Imagine going on a journey to discover a beautiful, dazzling, amazing treasure —a treasure like no other.

It is a treasure so great, valuable, and exciting that it is beyond your wildest imagination. Upon reaching the treasure, you find that it gives you more joy and happiness than you could have ever dreamed possible! Is there really such a treasure? Yes, there is!

This booklet takes you along a path that leads to this “greatest treasure.” Each “stop” along this path tells something very important you must know about the treasure and why it should matter to you more than anything else. So let’s begin the treasure hunt!

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