

Psalm 118:26 “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”

My name is Chris. My wife, Mary, and I, have come here today with our brothers and sisters in the Faith, to share His Word. We thank you for allowing us to come and share. We pray that His Spirit works in us all to give us understanding.

Please join us now in prayer... Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, we pray now for your will in our lives, we pray now for your wisdom and understanding, and we pray now that you will create a work in us that we may come to know you and walk in your will as you reveal it to us through your Spirit and in your Word

Before I became a believer I was like many of you may have been. What many of you may be even now. I knew believers, but I was not a believer. I went to Sunday School and Church with my family, but my parents did not really share their faith with me. They seemed more interested in appearance than reality, They would ensure that we were dressed nice, set up straight, did not fidget or squirm around in our seats. I knew enough of the stories of the Bible. The story of Creation, the story of Noah and the Ark, of Jonah and the whale, the story of Jesus’ birth and His death and resurrection. But knowing was not, for me, believing. As a young adult I followed my culture. I did what my friends around me did. I drank too much and acted badly too often. It was not until I really turned to Him to get me out of trouble that I understood what being a believer was all about. What He did when I first accepted His invitation to believe was to give me the greatest gift a man can receive. He gave me my first taste of the fruit of His Spirit. He gave me His peace. Peace of mind, peace of Spirit. Taking away my anxiety. My troubles did not disappear, but my worrying over them went from right in front of my face, being all that I could see, to being put behind me. Something that was now in His hands. My focus became not what I faced in the world, but what He was calling me to become. What He continues, even now, calling me to become.

Let us consider now the basic principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Gospel means “Good News”. His Gospel is the Good News that provides for us a path to God. A Path to eternity in heaven. A Faith that promises forgiveness of sins.

The Gospel is not complicated. God made all creation as He reveals in Genesis chapter 1, and “it was very good” Gen 1:31. But creation became “cursed”, and death entered the world, because man, Adam and Eve, listened to the words of satan, and believed them over the command of God not to eat the fruit of the tree that He had commanded “You shall not eat of it” as revealed in Gen 3:17-19. And, God cast man out of His presence, out of the garden as revealed in Gen 3:23-24. So, man became separated from God by sin. But, God made provision for man even in sin. Even at that moment that He cast man out of His

presence, He revealed His plan to restore man into His presence. He revealed His plan to provide for man, now cursed to die, a “Way” back to an eternal life, not in torment, but in His presence, without fear, without pain, without suffering. He reveals His plan in Gen 3:15 in speaking to satan, that “crafty serpent” who deceived Eve, and who deceives us even today. God said “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall crush your head”. He provided a path for man to return into His presence. He provided a “Way” for man to attain once again “Life”. Life that was lost because of sin. Life eternal. John 3:16 reveals that “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”. John 14:6 reveals that Jesus Christ is “the Way, and the Truth, and the Life”. Jesus Christ is that way. Believing in Him is the path to that eternal life that was once lost.

God, through the Apostle Paul, reveals to us in 1 Cor 3:2 that the basic principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ can be referred to as “milk”. This is a reference to the food of an infant. A small child, not yet maturing to understand all that He reveals to us of His will for us in His Word.

Consider now what is the “milk” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It can, arguably, be considered in these Scripture

Consider Romans 6:23 “the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”, meaning to us that sin leads to death, but He provides for us a free gift. An unearned, undeserved gift. Life eternal through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ

Consider Acts 16:31 And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved”, meaning to us that to believe that Jesus of Nazareth, the firstborn child of the virgin Mary, is the Lord. That He is God. A Truth revealed even more clearly in John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” and John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”, meaning to us that Jesus was and is God having become a man. Jesus was and is God the Creator in the flesh. Believing in Him means that we believe what He reveals about Himself in Scripture.

Believing in Him means that we believe Him when Jesus spoke in John 14:6 saying “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”. No one comes to life eternal in His presence where there is no more pain, no more suffering, except through Him, Through “believing” in Him.

Believing in Him means that we believe what He spoke in Romans 3:23-24 saying that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”, meaning that we must accept that we are sinners incapable of being good enough to be worthy of eternity in His presence, falling short of His glory, that we are deserving of the eternal torment promised to the unbeliever,

but, I say again “but”, in spite of our sinful ways, if we call upon Him to be our Savior, truly believing that He is God, and that He died and was raised from the dead to redeem us from the death that we deserve for our sin, then He will “gift” to us, by His “grace”, the unearned, undeserved gift of His righteousness, His justification, His making us right with God our Creator.

In believing in Him we are called to do as commanded in Romans 10:9 “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”, meaning that He calls us, the believers, to believe that Jesus died and was raised again from the dead by God the Father, to confess with words from our mouth that Jesus is Lord, Jesus is God, God the Son.

He promises us in Romans 10:13 “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”, meaning everyone who repents, who changes his mind, turning from chasing sin, to seeking the will of God in first believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, he or she will be saved. Saved from death, the death of eternity in torment, Saved to Life, the Life eternal in His presence, without pain, without suffering.

He reveals to us in 1 Pet 2:24 “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed”

He promises us in John 1:12 “all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”

So what is it that He asks of us in these Scripture?

1. He asks, and I urge you today if you have not already done so, to “believe” in Jesus Christ, and be saved
2. To “believe” that He is Lord. To believe that He is God.
3. To “believe” that He was dead, buried, and resurrected alive by God the Father.
4. To “believe” understanding that He is the only “way”, the only path to God.
5. To “believe” that we are sinners, separated from God by our sin, and that we are saved, “justified”, made righteousness, by “grace”, by His mercy, and that, a “gift” from God, unearned, undeserved.
6. I urge you today to call upon Him, confessing that He is God and inviting Him to come into your body in the person of the Holy Spirit and take control of your will, your life, your walk. Saying “Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I want to turn from my sins, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe He died for my sins and that You raised Him to life. I want Him to come into my heart and to take control of

my life. I want to trust Jesus as my Savior and follow Him as my Lord from this day forward. In Jesus' Name, amen."

Consider now what He reveals to us in 1 John 5:12 "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life"

Today may be the only day that you hear this good news, so I want to give you an opportunity to follow God today. I urge you to accept His grace right now. To accept His forgiveness of your sins. To "believe" in Jesus Christ, making Him your Savior. To those who have not yet accepted His invitation for saving grace, I plea to you to accept His offer of grace today. Right now. Wherever you are. Stop and make a decision for Christ. A choice to "believe". A choice to turn away from our sin nature and seek to walk in Christ. Pray to Him as we have already presented, saying "Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I want to turn from my sins, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe He died for my sins and that You raised Him to life. I want Him to come into my heart and to take control of my life. I want to trust Jesus as my Savior and follow Him as my Lord from this day forward. In Jesus' Name, amen."

If you have made this decision and prayed this prayer, whether today or in some day past, know that He calls us to read His Word, His Bible. That is where we will find Him. That is where He speaks to us. That is where we will find His will for us.

It is my prayer for you today, first that you are saved, coming to the knowledge of the Truth, and next that you walk in Him daily. In His Word, in His will. May "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" 2 Cor 13:14