

3. God planned our rescue: "...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23 ESV).
4. Jesus is the Son of God: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us [as Jesus of Nazareth]" (John 1:1, 14 NAS).
5. God's love moved Him to rescue us: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NAS).
6. Jesus is the Lamb of God: "...John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29 NIV).
7. Jesus is our perfect substitute:
 - a. Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17 ESV).
 - b. "He [the Father] made Him [the Son] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21 NAS).
8. Jesus is the only way to heaven: Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6 NAS).
9. Jesus took our punishment: "...and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24 NAS).
10. Through baptism we have God's forgiveness: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38 ESV).

11. Eternal life is God's gift to us through Jesus: "...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23 NAS).
12. By grace through faith we receive the benefits of Jesus' work:
 - a. "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe" (Rom. 3:22 NIV).
 - b. "...by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8 NAS).
13. Eternal life is certain through Jesus: "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:12-13 NAS).

Conclusion

After the Holy Spirit has impressed the BAD news of sin, death, and eternal punishment upon us; then that same Holy Spirit will make us sorry for our sins, enable us to believe in Jesus, and give us the desire to be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins; that is GOOD news!

Then, knowing Jesus as our Savior, *let us grow up in the Bible and honor Him as our Lord!*

Unsure; need help? Let us know!

Connect With Us

- Website:** BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
- Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
(Just South of Pleasant Valley Road)
- Schedule:** See our "Join Us" brochure
- Facebook:** "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"
- Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"
- Contact:** 440-845-2230

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Introduction

Dear Friend: Sometimes we need the BAD in order to benefit from the GOOD.

- Try this: Pick-up a book and *fully extend your arms* (BAD news); then put the book down (GOOD news). How good was that GOOD news?
- Now try this: Pick-up a book and *fully extend your arms for 2 minutes* (BAD news); then put the book down (GOOD news). How good was that GOOD news?

That exercise helps us to understand the need for *significant BAD news* in order to *rejoice in the GOOD news*. Therefore, this brochure begins with BAD news – *a lot of BAD news*. Please carefully read it, believe it, think about it, and even be overwhelmed by it – *for a time*; then rejoice in the GOOD news!

BAD News



1. We inherited sin and death from our parents: "...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men" (Rom. 5:12 ESV).
2. From conception we were sinners: David confessed, "I was... sinful from the time my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5 NIV).
3. Sin earns death:
 - a. "The soul who sins will die" (Ezekiel 18:4 NAS).
 - b. "...the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23 NAS).
4. No one is perfectly right:
 - a. "...each of us has turned to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6 NAS).
 - b. "There is none righteous, not even one" (Rom. 3:10 NAS).
5. We must be perfectly right:
 - a. Jesus said, "...you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt. 5:48 NAS).
 - b. "...whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all" (James 2:10 NAS).
6. God cannot be deceived:
 - a. Jesus said, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Mt. 15:8 NIV).
 - b. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7 NAS).
 - c. "They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*" (Titus 1:16 NAS).
 - d. "If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie" (1 John 1:6 NAS).

- e. Jesus said, "I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead" (Rev. 3:1b NIV).
7. We should not be deceived:
 - a. "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8 NAS).
 - b. "Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil" (1 John 3:7-8 NAS).
 8. Repentance is essential: Jesus said, "unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3 NAS).
 9. God's punishment is terrible:
 - a. "...the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished" (Nahum 1:3 NAS).
 - b. Jesus said, "...those who commit lawlessness... will [be] cast... into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Mt. 13:41-42 NAS).
 - c. "...he who does not obey [*thus, trust in*] the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36 NAS).
 - d. Jesus said, "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch... and cast... into the fire, and... burned" (John 15:6 NAS).
 - e. "...if we go on sinning willfully [*thus, without repentance*] after receiving the knowledge of the truth [*regarding who Jesus is and what He has done*], there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.... It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:26-27, 31 NAS).

- f. "...If anyone worships the beast and his image [*thus, everyone who rejects God's rescue through Jesus*]... he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night" (Rev. 14:9-11 NAS).
 - g. "...if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15 ESV).
10. God's punishment is eternal:
 - a. "They will be punished with everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:9 NIV).
 - b. On judgment day, Jesus will "say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels... And these will go away into eternal punishment'" (Mt. 25:41, 46 NAS).

GOOD News



1. God promised that His Son would defeat the devil: The LORD said to the serpent, "...he [*that is, My Son*] shall bruise your head, and you [*the devil*] shall bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15 ESV).
2. God promised to bless all people through Abram: The LORD said to Abram: "...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3 ESV).