

The Christian Message

By Michael Sosa

"All that we call human history--money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery...is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy."

-C. S. Lewis, Irish scholar, author of The Chronicles of Narnia

What does Jesus have to do with today's world? The answer is everything! The good news and person of Jesus Christ are totally relevant to modern humanity because this is still God's world and we are still His creation. The purpose of our existence is essentially to glorify and serve our Creator. *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*, the respected Christian teaching tool designed to explain the historic Christian faith, put it this way:

"Man's Chief End is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."

In other words we were created for fellowship with God. However, our sins cut us off from our Creator and keep us under His wrath. The Bible is the word of God to us. It tells us that He is Holy and thus cannot look upon our sins (Habakkuk 1:13). To sin against God is to invite His inescapable wrath.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. -Romans 1:18-20, the Bible

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned..." Romans 5:12, the Bible

God's law condemns us

"There is nothing indulgent about the Moral Law. It is as hard as nails...If God is like the Moral Law, then He is not soft." -C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Regardless of the times, the knowledge of God's moral law and sin will always be basic to our being. We confess this basic knowledge when we express outrage at the occurrence of theft, murder, deceit, or unfaithfulness. The basis of the wrongness of any crime or injustice is the reality of God's moral law. We know God and we know His law. This is because, as the Bible says, we are made in God's image and His law is written on our hearts (Romans 2:15). Indeed, none of us have any excuse for our sins against our Holy Creator. All have sinned and have fallen short of His glory (Romans 3:23).

"For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient." -Ephesians 5:5-6, the Bible

We still need the Savior

"Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil." -C.S. Lewis

However great our technological advances, they cannot erase our moral guilt before the living God. Nor can our highly educated psychologists explain them out of existence. Our sins must and can only be dealt with by the very God to whom we must answer after we die. This is why the message of the Bible is still so vital for us today. (God will not excuse us just because we think that we are better than terrorists or nicer than our co-worker. Nor will he judge us by our own personal ideas of what is right and wrong. God has spoken and He has revealed that His law will be the standard by which he will judge us.)

"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness." -1 John 3:4

Jesus Christ: God's solution to our problem

*"We are told that Christ was killed for us, that His death has washed out our sins, and that by dying He disabled death itself. That is the formula. That is Christianity. That is what has to be believed."
-C.S. Lewis*

The basic message of the whole Bible is how all the races of humanity can now have access to the God of the Bible (the God who made and governs the world) through an obedient faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's only eternal Son.

"This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus...In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." -Ephesians 3:6, 12, the Bible

"And they sang a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.'" -Revelation 5:9-10, the Bible

God the Son, Jesus Christ became one of us in order to suffer hell and die for our sins, and rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. Because God is perfectly just and is always true to His character, He must punish sin. But because He is also infinitely loving and merciful, *He made a way to be true to both His justice and mercy* by allowing His eternal Son to suffer hell and death on earth in our place. This really happened in history!

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." -2 Corinthians 5:21, the Bible

"When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." -1 Peter 2:23-24, the Bible

What this means for you

"There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way.'" -C. S. Lewis

What all this means is that without Jesus, you are still an unfaithful law-breaker in God's sight, your sins are not forgiven, and everlasting punishment waits for you.

"If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." -Revelation 20:15, the Bible

But it also means that if you repent of your sins and give your life to Jesus as your Savior and Commander, God will see you as righteous in Christ; and will consequently make you worthy by the totally sufficient sacrifice and resurrected life of Jesus, to receive everlasting and infinitely joyful fellowship with God.

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." -Romans 5:6-11, the Bible

Don't waste your life

*"Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours."
-C. S. Lewis*

If you're not a faithful Christian yet, what are you waiting for? Life is short and the only thing that we can take with us is our relationship with God. Every moment of life on earth is one moment closer to judgment day. Don't waste another God-given moment. Give your life to Jesus and He'll give you the life that we were all meant to have: Everlasting life and fellowship with God.

"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." -Acts 17:30-31, the Bible

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." -1 John 1:9, the Bible

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." -Romans 10:9-10, the Bible

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." -Romans 6:23, the Bible