



PEACE BY *piece* SERIES

WEEK ONE: PROBLEM

Good News

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. ~
1 Peter 3:18a

What is the ultimate good in the Good News? God Himself.

Salvation isn't good news if it only saves us from hell and not for God. Jesus' fundamental mission here on earth was to fulfill God's plan "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). Jesus made a way for salvation for all who put their faith in Him (John 3:16-18; 14:6; Romans 6:23; Galatians 3:28) so that they can be in relationship with God. Jesus came to save the sinners - to eat with them, talk with them, and show them God's love (Luke 5:32).

Forgiveness isn't good news if it only gives relief from guilt and doesn't open the way to God. The removal of guilt and the penalty of sin isn't good news if it only makes us legally acceptable to God but doesn't bring fellowship with God. Redemption isn't good news if it only liberates us from bondage but doesn't bring us to God. During Jesus' ministry He intentionally extended forgiveness and offered people a new life.

Adoption isn't good news if it only places us in the Father's family but not in His arms. God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir (Galatians 4:4-7).

There is no evidence that we have a new heart just because we want to escape hell. It doesn't take a new heart to want the relief of forgiveness, or the removal of God's wrath, or the inheritance of God's world. The evidence we have been changed is that we want these things because they bring us into relationship with God. We were made to experience joy from seeing and experiencing the glory of God so that we are filled and can carry out God's plan and walk others into the Kingdom.

Prayer

Today, pray with a grateful heart that you are a child of God. Thank Jesus for the opportunity to love others into the Kingdom. Ask for the ability to see those people in your community who are in need of relationship with God.

