

**MY
PERSONAL
COMMITMENT
TO
JESUS CHRIST**

by Pastor Bill Vasilakis



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A word from the Senior Minister
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Dear Friend

I am delighted that you have invited Jesus Christ to be your personal Saviour and Lord.

A personal encounter with Christ is the greatest event that anyone can experience. You have been given a new spiritual life, are forgiven of all your sins and have now received the gift of eternal life. You really have been born again, are part of God's family, and will live forever with Jesus.

God loves you deeply and desires that you develop and grow into a mature Christian. The material in this booklet will help you to understand what a commitment to Jesus is about, and how to develop your relationship with God. We also have another great booklet entitled "New Life In Christ", which encourages us to grow in our knowledge of Jesus. The ten lessons in this booklet cover subjects like how you can be certain you have eternal life, how to pray and read your Bible, the importance of attending church regularly, and how to tell people about Jesus.

If you inform us of your commitment to Jesus, one of our Pastoral Team will be in touch with you soon, and if agreeable to you, will arrange a Christian living nearby to visit as a friend. They can help you with the lessons and answer any questions you may have.

My sincere prayer is that over the next few weeks, you will grow in your understanding of God's amazing love and His special plan for your life.

Sincerely



Senior Pastor

My Decision for Jesus Christ

By the grace of God, I have
this day accepted Jesus Christ
as my personal Saviour and Lord,
and I thank Him that He has
forgiven me of all my sins, transformed
my heart, and granted me Eternal Life.

Name _____

Date _____

"Whoever comes to me I will never drive away."
John 6:37

*"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed
in His name, He gave the right to become children
of God."*

John 1:12

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

... And His Radical Changing Power

I. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Christianity is not primarily 'a philosophy' or 'a way of life' or 'a set of beliefs'. It is about a living person. It is the Good News about Jesus Christ.

The Gospel or Good News is about Jesus Christ Himself – Who He is – What He has done – How He can be personally known.

The Four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell all that we need to know about Jesus. Read and re-read these accounts for yourself.

II. WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF, HUMANITY AND HIS MISSION

- **Who He is** ... That He is both Fully God and Fully Man at the same time.
Matthew 26:63-68; John 5:17-18; John 10:25-33; John 14:9; John 4:6; John 11:35; John 8:1-11; John 12:1-8; Matthew 9:1-8; Matthew 28:9, 17

Jesus was not like any other person. He *forgave people's sins* and *allowed others to worship Him*. He was *not coy about His claim of being God in human form*. The *amazing miracles* He did also pointed to His deity. There is simply no other explanation than that He was God.

- **What's Wrong with our World?**
Mark 7:20-23; Mark 11:25; Matthew 6:12; Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus *correctly diagnosed the cause of the world's problems*. He incisively pointed *to sin in the human heart as the root problem*.

The mother of all sins *is spiritual pride* as we try to live independently of God. This is the *real source of our troubles* and *what corrupts people* and *cuts them off from God and one another*.

Sin is the disease that is afflicting *all humanity*, and only Jesus can fix it.

- **Why He had to be Crucified**
Matthew 16:21; Matthew 26:1-2; Matthew 26:27-28; Luke 23:34; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 15:3

Jesus said that this was *the only way* that God's forgiveness and gift of eternal life *could be granted*. He took upon Himself the sentence of death that *rightfully belonged to us*.

Through dying on the cross, He took the sins of all humanity upon Himself *to appease God's righteous demand for justice*.

Jesus can now *freely offer forgiveness* and *restore us to the relationship that God* always intended for us in the beginning.

- **Why He had to be Resurrected**
Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:36-48; Mark 16:15-20; Romans 1:2; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Romans 4:25-5:2

When Jesus rose from the dead, *it validated His claims to deity*.

Because Jesus is alive, He is still *all powerful* and has been transforming people's lives *ever since His resurrection*. *The miracle of Christian conversion* cannot be explained in any other way.

Jesus *will do in people today* what He did when He physically walked this earth.

- **What He Expects from all People**
John 5:24; John 3:16-18; John 1:12-13

The message about Jesus is to be heard *by every living person of every age*.

Whoever *believes on Him* and *receives Him* will be saved and miraculously transformed.

To become a Christian, there is '*Something to be believed*' and '*Someone to be received*'.

This is the *only way* of entering into a dynamic relationship with this living person, Jesus Christ.

III. HOW TO ENTER JESUS' KINGDOM

God our Heavenly Father *has already done His part* to restore our relationship to Himself through the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf.

He took the initiative.

Now He waits for *each of us to individually accept what* He has done for us.

1. **ADMIT that God has not had first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.**

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong."¹
John 1:9

2. **BELIEVE that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again on Easter and is alive today.**

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit..."

1 Peter 3:18

"If you confess that Jesus is your Lord (Boss, Master), and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9

3. **ACCEPT God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.**

"For it is by grace you are saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."

Ephesians 2:8, 9

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12

Our relationship to God *is not restored by anything we do*, but on the *basis of what Jesus has already done for us*.

4. **INVITE Jesus Christ to come into your life and to be the director ("Lord") of your life.**

"To all who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God."

John 1:12-13

All we need to do *is trust Him to save us*. All those who believe this are reborn! Not a physical rebirth ... but from *the will of God!*

"Jesus says, '*Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...*'"

Revelation 3:30

Anyone can take these steps by praying a *simple prayer of commitment to God*:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for *making me and loving me*, even when I've *ignored you* and gone my own way.
I realise I need you in my life and *I'm sorry* for my sins. I ask you to forgive me.

Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on.

Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

"Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."
Romans 10:13

IV. THE LIFE TRANSFORMING RESULTS

It is very important from the outlet of your decision to *understand the implications* of what Jesus Christ accomplished for you through His Death and Resurrection and the *life transforming nature of Gods free grace ... Gods Riches At Christs Expense ... Eph 1:3*

1. **Forgiveness**, (Luke 24:47; Acts 3:38; Matt. 26:28)
... I am now forgiven of all my sins and the shed blood of Christ covers not only my Past sins, but also my Present and Future sins.
2. **Righteousness, Justification**, (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 4:25; 5:17)
... I now have a right standing with God conferred to me because of Christ and not because of anything I have done or will ever do.
3. **New Creation**, (2 Cor. 5:17; John 3:3; 1 Cor 6:17)
... I am now a brand new spiritually reborn person on the inside and so I start life afresh with God.
4. **Reconciliation**, (2 Cor. 5:18-19; 1 John 1:3-4, 7; Hebrews 4:14-16))
... I now have a reinstated, personal, friendly and intimate relationship with God as my heavenly Father.

5. **Sanctification**, (Rom. 6:6; Rom 7:6; Gal 2:2; 1 Cor. 1:30).
... I now can experience freedom from the compulsive power of my sin nature through the all powerful Holy Spirit who now indwells me.
6. **Satanic power is legally broken**, (Rev. 12:7-11; Col. 1:13; 2:15; Eph 6:10-20; 2 Cor 10:3-6; Luke 10:19)
... I can through Jesus Christ successfully resist the devils accusing thoughts and deceiving schemes.
7. **Peace and Freedom**, (Rom. 5:1-2; Rom. 8:1; Psalm 32:1-2; 103:12; Heb 12:2) ... I am free from condemnation and as I continually look to Christ I am safe and secure.

It is absolutely imperative to understand the complete spiritual answer that is in Christ. I will not be able to experience lasting spiritual freedom and really grow as a new Christian unless my life is fully centred on Jesus Christ.
1 Tim 2:4-6; John 8:31-32

1. SINFUL PEOPLE ARE IN A HOPELESS STATE BEFORE A PERFECTLY JUST AND HOLY GOD. Eph 2:1-3

MA

GOD

ETERNAL DEATH

1. All have sinned as our hearts are deceptive (Rom 23, Jer 17:9, Mark 7:20-23)

2. The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23)

3. Judgement is certain (Heb 9:27)

SIN SEPARATES PEOPLE FROM GOD

HELL (Rev 21:8)

ETERNAL LIFE

1. God is Holy 1 Peter 1:6

2. God is Just 2 Thess 1:6

3. God is Love 1 John 4:6

3. YES GOD'S GOOD NEWS IS THE GOSPEL. 1 Cor 15:3-4

1. Christ died for our sins

2. He was buried

3. He rose again

GOD

REPENT BELIEVE RECEIVE

REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL, Mark 1:15

Repent

We turn from our sin and go God's way. Its having a Godly sorrow for sin. Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9, 2 Corinthians 7:10

Believe

We place our trust totally in Christ for everything that Pertains to our salvation. We now look to Christ and Lean fully upon Him as our Saviour. He is the only one who can rescue us from our sinful state.

JESUS CHRIST is the BRIDGE between PEOPLE and GOD John 14:6

GOOD DEEDS

GOOD MORALS

EDUCATION

RELIGION

GOD'S SOLUTION THROUGH JESUS Romans 5:6-10 1 Peter 3:18 Colossians 1:20-22

ETERNAL LIFE AND SECURITY CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN CHRIST

John 10:27-30 1 John 5:9-12

2. SINFUL PEOPLE ARE IN A TOTALLY HELPLESS CONDITION AND ARE NOT ABLE TO SAVE THEMSELVES

Rom 3:10-11

GOD

ETERNAL DEATH

GOOD DEEDS

GOOD MORALS

EDUCATION

RELIGION

ETERNAL LIFE

Eph 2:8-9 Isa 64:6

People's own works can not bridge the guilt between God and themselves. IS THERE A WAY OUT... ANY HOPE?

GOD'S GOOD NEWS IS OPEN FOR ALL HUMANITY.

John 5:24 John 3:16-18 John 1:12 Rom 10:9-10 1John 1:9

GOD

REPENT BELIEVE RECEIVE

ETERNAL DEATH

Genuine repentance manifests itself in confession of sin (1John 1:9) and by receiving Christ as one's personal Saviour and Lord. (1John 1:12)

THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

... TO ACCEPT MEANS LIFE John 1:12, Rev 3:20

... TO REJECT MEANS DEATH 1John 5:11-12

GOOD DEEDS

GOOD MORALS

EDUCATION

RELIGION

G. R. A. C. E.

God's Riches At Christ's Expense Ephesians 1:3:2:8-10

Forgiveness 1 John 1:9

Righteousness Romans 4:25

Eternal Life John 5:24

New Creation 2 Corinthians 5:17

Reconciliation Colossians 1:21-22

Sanctification Romans 6:6

Victory over Satan Hebrews 2:14-15; Colossians 2:15

Peace and Freedom Romans 5:1-2

JESUS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR

It is very important to know what has happened to you, as this will help you for the rest of your Christian life.

When you asked Jesus to come into your life, two things happened:

1. Jesus became your Saviour
2. You became a child of God

We call this salvation or being “saved”. **God wants you to know three things:**

1. Before salvation you are a sinner. This means that you have missed God’s mark and therefore have fallen short of His ideal for your life.
2. You cannot do anything to save yourself.
3. Only Jesus can save you.

The Bible says, “*All have sinned*” (Romans 3:23), and that means you and me.

The Bible also says, “*The wages of sin is death*” (Romans 6:23), and that means eternal separation from God.

How can we be saved from this situation?

Jesus provided the way by dying on the Cross. He took our place and suffered our punishment. Jesus has bridged the gap between God and us.

When we turned from our sin and asked God to forgive us and believed Jesus died for us, God forgave us and accepted us.

Now Jesus has become your Saviour and you have become a child of God.

You are a Christian.

JESUS YOUR PERSONAL LORD

“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.”

Romans 10:9

When you accepted Jesus into your life, He became your Saviour and Lord. He has set you free from sin, which manifests itself in *self-centredness* and *acts of selfishness*.

God loves you and wants the best for you. Because He is far wiser than us, He wants us to trust Him by *allowing Jesus* to be at the centre of our lives (i.e. our Lord).

Sin is not just immorality, adultery, lying, stealing, cheating – it is far deeper than any of these things. Sin is *a refusal to honour God* as God. We can believe in God, attempt to worship Him, and still run our lives on our own terms. Sin is allowing *self* to be firmly fixed in the centre of our being instead of God. It is a kind of *anarchy* in which we challenge God’s right to rule the centre of our *life* (which the Bible calls our heart) and it is from our inner heart attitude that we must turn in order to be truly saved and converted.

So deeply ingrained is this basic *self-centred independence* that God can only come in and rule our lives when we decide to surrender our basic self-centredness and willingly allow Him to come in and take over. It is this willingness to give up being boss and allow Jesus Christ to be Lord that is the first issue in becoming a Christian.

It is not only the first issue however, but a constant one. The success of your Christian life will depend on how you respond to the question, “Who is to be boss – you or Him?” If you settle that question right now in favour of Jesus Christ, allowing Him to be Boss in all of life’s decisions, you will move in the direction of a positive and powerful Christian experience.

Bible References:

Luke 6:46; John 13:13; Ephesians 2:1-10; Philippians 2:1-13;
Colossians 2:6-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17

MY PERSONAL QUIET TIME

1. Why do I need a quiet time?

Jesus' parting command was Matthew 28:19, "make disciples". A disciple is a disciplined follower of Jesus.

A Disciple's Life

To achieve something worthwhile always requires discipline, e.g. music, athletics. How much more should we follow certain vital disciplines to prepare us for eternity (2 Corinthians 4:18)? The Christian faith is essentially a personal *living experience with Jesus Christ* (John 17:3).

A daily quiet time spent alone with Jesus is essential to lead you into a continual living experience with God. It will change your life!

2. What do I need?

- A Bible – a reliable translation, e.g. New International, Revised Standard Version, New American Standard
- A Notebook – small, loose leaf you can carry with you
- A Pen
- A Quiet Place

3. When should I have my quiet time?

The early morning is ideal, but choose whatever time is most convenient for you.

Why do we favour early morning?

... It's before anything else can interrupt your day.

... We should try to give our best time to God, then to people, and then the affairs of the world.

... At the end of the day we are usually tired, whereas at the beginning, we tend to be fresh.

... At the end of the day, we have battled through the day's challenges and problems, whereas at the beginning, God can prepare and guide you for the day ahead.

It is written of Jesus:-

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."

Mark 1:35

Remember:

- To rise early, one needs to go to bed early.
- The average person needs 6-8 hours sleep. Too much is unnecessary, too little is wearying.
- Cultivate the habit of early rising. Initially it will require discipline, but soon becomes easier.
- A time set too early will not be sustained. Start with a time that is reasonable and gradually rise earlier.
- Set a definite time. Start with at least 15 minutes and work towards 30 minutes.
- Make it regular – the same time each day.

4. How to have a quiet time.

Begin with a brief prayer – i.e. talk with God. Thank God for His blessings on you and for being here with you now. Tell Him that you believe and are expecting that He will meet with you, speak to you, and that He will reveal His will to you through this quiet time. Use the Lord's Prayer as a guide (Matthew 6:9-13).

Realise that God is ready to guide and direct you. *"When the Spirit of truth (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all truth."* (John 16:13). How does God come to you? He comes to you principally through His Word, the Bible.

This is a channel which the Holy Spirit uses most frequently.

Read the passage of Scripture that you have chosen for the day. Work your way through one book of the Bible at a time. Start with the Gospels, then Acts and the New Testament letters. It is better to read one or two chapters meaningfully, than ten quickly, which you promptly forget.

- Do not read simply to understand. Read with an attitude of 'openness' and 'receptivity'. You are feeding on God's Word. It is your spiritual food. *"Man does not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4)
- You may not understand everything you read. Do not let that bother you. Whisper to God, *"I don't get all of this...but I know that you will help me to understand as we move along."* (Proverbs 1:5).
- Let your reading be broken up by moments of prayer and meditation. In other words, enjoy this spiritual meal. Taste it, savour it. Read parts of it out loud. Apply it to yourself, e.g. Colossians 2:10, read, *"I have been made complete"* instead of *"you"*.

Write down what comes to you during this reading – meditating – prayer time. *This is the key to your whole quiet time.* When you write down, you begin to crystallise and capture the actual workings of the Holy Spirit in your heart, mind and soul.

Make it quite personal and direct, not simply what the passage "means", *but what it means to and for you.* Perhaps it will trigger some thought not directly related to the passage you are reading. That's all right. Write it down. *This is the Holy Spirit's personal message to you.* This is God speaking to you ... today!

You may like to follow the "P.R.O.A.P.T." method of study:

Pray – commit the time to God and seek an openness of mind.

Preview – scan read the passage.

Read – in depth.

Observe – a truth.

Apply – that truth in your own life.

Pray – about it.

Tell – of it to others.

Divide a page into quarters, and:

- In the *first* section, write the specific verse(s) that you are reflecting on.
- In the *second* section, write what you understand the passage to mean.
- In the *third* section, write what you believe the Lord is saying to you personally about the passage.
- In the *fourth* section, write what adjustment you will need to make to outwork the particular passage in your life.

(See the sample page at the end of this section.)

Naturally you are not always "tuned in" to the Holy Spirit 100% - you will get some "static" from your own thoughts and opinions. But more and more, as you faithfully follow this daily discipline, your little Notebook will become a record of God's personal dealings in your life.

5. A Time for Prayer

- Begin with *thanks, praise, adoration* (worship)
- *Confess* any known sins, asking God's forgiveness.

- *Affirm* your faith in God. Say aloud several strong statements of faith, e.g. *“God is my refuge and strength.”* *I know that Jesus is alive, and His Kingdom is surely coming.”* *“I am a conqueror in Christ.”*
- *Present your requests* to God. Don't be satisfied with unanswered prayer. Remember Mark 11:24. Pray with real persistence, purpose and faith. Thank Him in faith for the answers. Remember as Christians we are devoted to a *Person* (not a cause).
- A time of *praise and thanksgiving* at the end is the right way to close your time of prayer. Some Christians sing a worship chorus too.

SAMPLE NOTEBOOK PAGE

Here is a sample of someone's quiet time for one day:

Romans 3:23
 "...for all have sinned,
 and fall short of the glory
 of God."

Feb 4th
 No one matches God
 and His perfection. All of
 mankind has failed to
 reach the quality of life,
 which God intended him
 to live.

I am certainly no
 exception from the title
 of sinner – only God and
 I know the full extent of
 my sin.

But God has offered me
 a way out of this vortex
 with the gift of
 everlasting life through
 Jesus Christ.

See Romans 6:23; John
 5:24.

To recognise I am a
 sinner means I am half
 way there. To become a
 Christian and receive
 that eternal life, I must
 receive what God has
 given me. He cannot
 give until I accept His
 gift.

Jesus died on the cross
 in my place. He fore-
 paid every debt I couldn't
 pay. WOW! WHAT
 LOVE.