



My Personal Commitment to Jesus Christ

Pastor Bill Vasilakis

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Written and compiled by Bill Vasilakis

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THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®

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A word from the Senior Minister, Pastor Bill Vasilakis

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 in 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 to be certain you have eternal life, how to pray and read your Bible, and 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Vasilakis". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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.
I thank Him that He has
forgiven me for 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 & His Radical Changing Power

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Christianity is not primarily 'a philosophy' or a 'way of life' or '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.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF, HUMANITY & HIS MISSION

Who He is – Jesus is both Fully God and Fully Man at the same time

Matthew 26:63-68; 28:9, 17; 9:1-8;

John 5:17-18; 10:25-33; 14:9; 4:6; 11:35; 9:1-11; 12:1-8;

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 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; 11:25; Matthew 6:12; 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; 26:1-2; 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 and *appeased 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; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:36-48; Romans 1:2; 4:25-5:2; 1 Corinthians 15:4

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; 3:16-18; 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.

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.

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

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

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

'For it is by grace that 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.*

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 birth.... but by *the will of God*.

'Jesus said, '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

THE LIFE TRANSFORMING RESULTS

It is very important from the outset of your decision to *understand the implications* of what Jesus Christ accomplished for you through His Death and Resurrection. Receiving God's free grace is *life transforming*. We receive God's Riches as Christ's Expense.

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.' - Ephesians 1:3

Forgiveness

Luke 24:47; Acts 3:38; Matthew 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.

Righteousness & Justification

2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:25

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.

New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3; 1 Corinthians 6:17

I am now a brand new spiritually reborn person on the inside and so I start life afresh with God.

Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 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.

Sanctification

Romans 6:6; 7:6; Galatians 2:2; 1 Corinthians 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.

Satanic power is legally broken

Revelation 12:7-11; Colossians 1:13; 3:15; Ephesians 6:10-20;
2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Luke 10:19

I can through Jesus Christ successfully resist the devils accusing thoughts and deceiving schemes.

Peace and Freedom

Romans 5:1-2; 8:1; Psalm 32:1-2; 103:12; Hebrews 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. See 1 Timothy 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

MAN



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

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

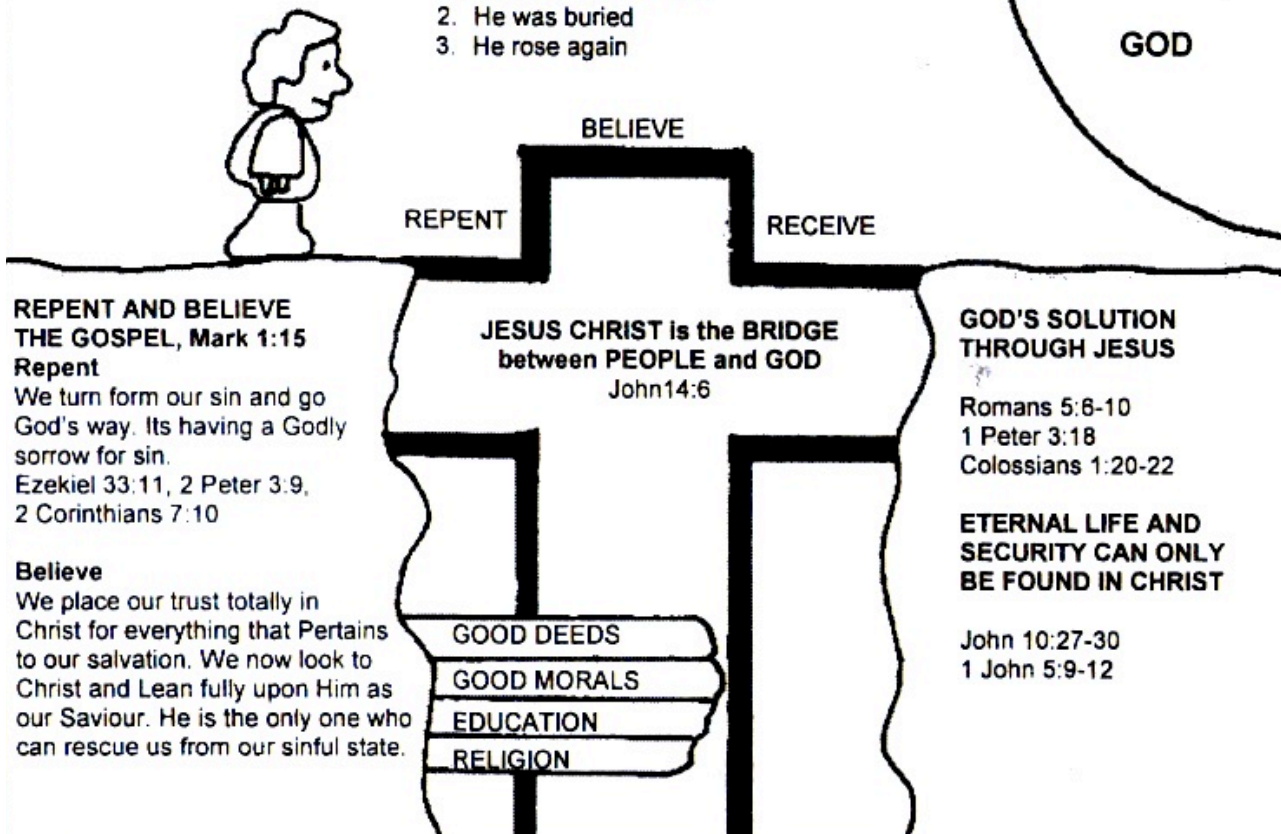
ETERNAL LIFE

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?

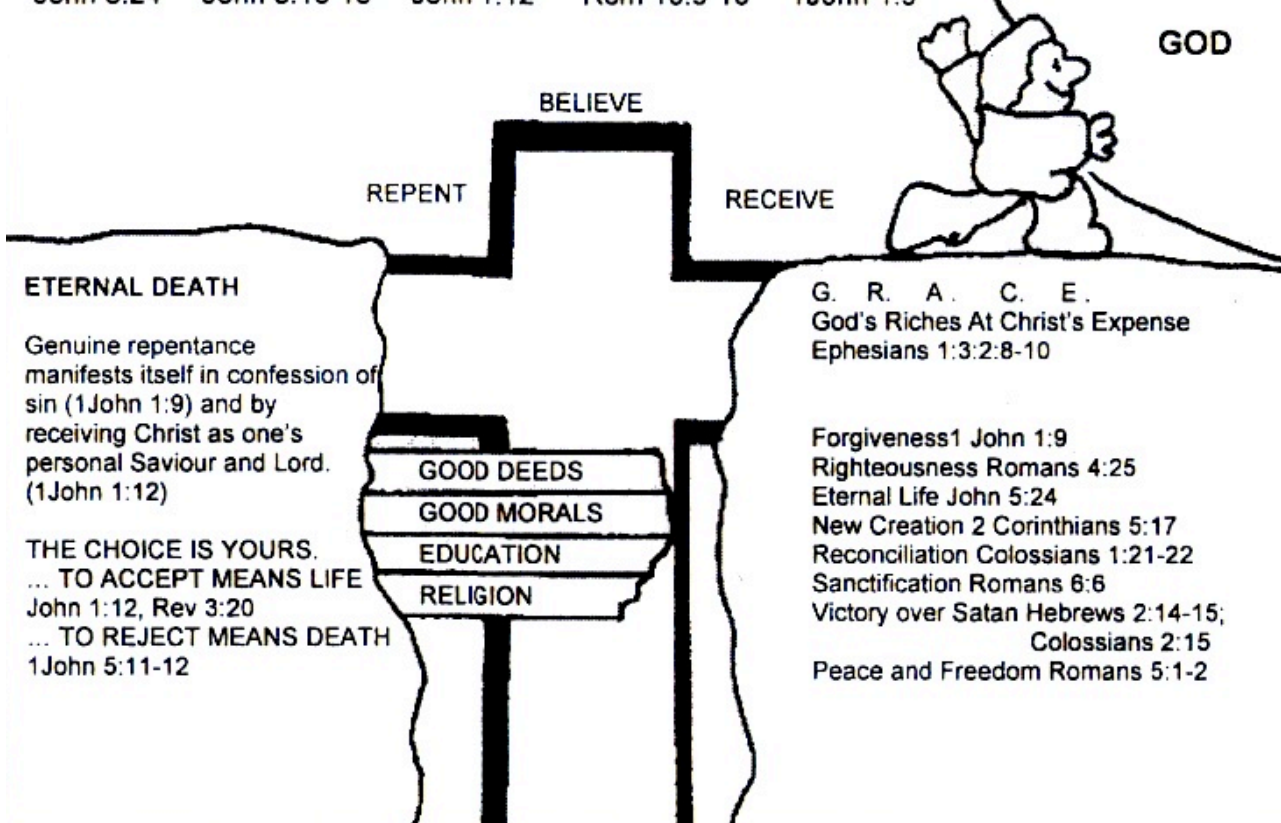
3. YES GOD'S GOOD NEWS IS THE GOSPEL. 1 Cor 15:3-4

1. Christ died for our sins
2. He was buried
3. He rose again



GOD'S GOOD NEWS IS OPEN FOR ALL HUMANITY.

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



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 being 'saved'.

God wants you to know three things:

1. Before salvation you were 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 that 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 sinner 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 the 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

YOUR PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL TIME

Why do you need daily devotional 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 & sports. 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 *relationship with Jesus Christ*. (John 17:3)

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

What do you need?

- A Bible – a reliable translation, such as the New International Version or the New Living Translation
- Your Life Journal
- Your Daily Reading Plan
- A Pen
- A Quiet Place

When should you have your quiet time?

It is good ideas to set aside time each day and find a quiet place where you won't be distracted. It's not important when you do your devotions, but that you make it a very important part of your day.

If this seems a little overwhelming, take it slow and keep it simple. The important thing is to show up for your daily appointment, because God is always waiting for you.

Why do we favour early morning?

- It's before anything else can interrupt your day.
- You should try to give your best time to God, then to people, and then the affairs of the world.
- At the end of the day you are usually tired, whereas at the beginning, you tend to be fresh
- At the end of the day, you 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.

How to Journal

Starting January 1st each year, I am encouraging the CFC family to read and journal Scripture using a devotional format aimed at hearing from God Daily and responding to his leading.

Journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us.

It's also a useful tool to use at a later time, to reflect on and review some of the 'gems' that you have received and writing down your thoughts helps do this. While journaling is a very personal time with the Lord, you may want to **share some of your daily journaling with your Connect Group or mentors.** Through discussion, you may be able to look deeper into what God is speaking to you.

As we read God's words, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing daily devotions re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

As you do your daily reading, make use of the following devotional format:

SCRIPTURE -

Open your Bible to the chapter found under today's date and allow God to speak to you. When you have done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day and write it in your journal.

OBSERVATION –

What do you think God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Paraphrase the write this scripture down in your own words, in your journal.

APPLICATION –

Personalise what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

PRAYER –

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now write in out.

■ Sample Page

DATE

TITLE

6/9/06 Party Time

21

'Scripture'

Ps 149: 4-5 "For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. Let the saints rejoice in this honour and sing for joy on their beds."

- Observation

It's a two way party. God delights in his people and we delight in him for all he's done for us.
It's the antidote to stress.

> Application

Need to make sure I look forward to worshipping Jesus at CFC on Sundays.

Prayer

Lord, always cause me to see the positive, the potential, the upside. Help me to live joyfully and to inspire others around me to do the same.

Scripture
Observation
Application
Prayer

'How will I be different today because of what I read?'

V



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