

THE GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL – OUTLINE

BAD NEWS

1. I Am a Sinner.

The Bible tells us that we have all sinned.

“For all have sinned.” Romans 3:23.

Question: What is “sin?” (Anything that goes against God’s standard of perfection – including bad thoughts, words, or actions).

“Sin” means “to miss the mark”. Whenever we lie, hate, lust, gossip, or do anything that is wrong, we have missed the standard God has set.

Illustration: Suppose you and I were each to throw a rock as far as we could to try to hit the North Pole. You might throw farther than me, but neither of us would reach the goal. It’s impossible.

Question: What do you think it means when it says that we “fall short”? (We haven’t reached God’s standard. We are not good enough).

When the Bible says, “All have sinned and fall short,” it means that we have all come short of God’s standard of perfection. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have not been perfect.

Question:

Have you ever done anything that is wrong? (Yes).

Are you a sinner? (Yes).

What kinds of sins have you done?

Imagine if you sinned one time each day. How many sins would that be in a year? (365).

2. The Penalty for Sin Is Death.

The Bible says that the wages of sin is death.

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23.*

Question: What is a “wage”? (It’s payment for work done).

A wage is a payment for what we EARN!

Illustration: Suppose you worked for me, and I paid you \$50. That \$50 was your wages—that’s what you earned. The Bible says that by sinning, we have earned death. That means we deserve to die and be separated from God forever. But since there was no way that we could get to God, the Bible says that God came to us!

“For the wages of sin is death...”

The penalty for our sin is “death.”

Death is another way of saying that we are separated from God. God is Holy (Perfect), so our sin separates us from Him.

That’s bad news!

Thankfully, there is also some good news.

GOOD NEWS

1. Jesus Died to Pay My Penalty.

The Bible says:

*“God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” Romans 5:8.*

Since the penalty for sin is death, whenever sin is present, someone must die and pay the penalty of “death.” That means we would spend forever separated from God. This verse tells us that someone else died for us.

Illustration: Suppose you are in a hospital dying of cancer. I come to visit and say, “Let’s take the cancer cells from your body and put them into my body.”

Question: If that were possible, what would happen to me? (I would die).

Question: What would happen to you? (You would live).

I would die in your place. I would die instead of you.

The Bible says that Jesus took our place. He paid the penalty that we deserved (because of our sin), placed it on Himself, and died in our place. He paid our sin penalty.

Three days later, Jesus came back to life to prove that sin and death had been beaten and that His claims to be God were true. He has provided a way for us to be with Him forever. That is good news!

GOOD NEWS

2. I Can Be Saved Through Faith.

The Bible says:

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” John 3:16.

The Bible tells us that whoever BELIEVES in Jesus will be saved. Faith is another word for “trust” or “belief.”

Illustration: Just as you trust (or believe) that a chair will hold you up through no effort of your own when you sit on it, you must trust Jesus Christ to get you to heaven through no effort of your own. Trying to work our way to heaven is not possible.

Remember that God's standard is PERFECTION. Since we cannot reach that standard, we needed a different way.

We must believe that when Jesus died on the cross for our sin, He paid our FULL sin penalty. 100% of the cost. He doesn't want our good works. Going to church won't help pay the cost. The penalty is death, and the only way to pay the penalty is by dying. Jesus did that for us.

Do you Believe?

“Whoever hears my Word and believes in Him who sent Me HAS eternal life.”
John 5:24

If we believe, we are saved! Eternal life is a FREE gift!
That's GREAT news!