

The Way

Are you lost, friend? Looking for direction in life? There is an answer and a WAY that you can have the kind of inner peace, joy, and fulfillment you've been searching for. There is a PLACE where you can find rest for your journey, refreshment for your weary mind and spirit, healing for your tired body, and strength to carry on. You can have the kind of peace and assurance in your life for which there are simply no words to describe! And the road map to finding this PLACE...? It is in the Bible, God's message of love to mankind.

Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." This we read in the book of John, chapter 10, verse 10. Jesus is speaking about US. His will for us is that we have a happy, abundant life, filled with God's best blessings! So many times, though, we do not understand how to accept them. Many do not know who Jesus is. He is the Son of the One True and Living God and, by His life's example, He wants to lead YOU into a life of joy and abundance!

You see, each of us is a special creation, the evidence of a Great and Mighty God, who lives and reigns far above this world and beyond the edge of our universe. He is the Creator of all life and of the universe itself. He is an AWESOME GOD! Within each of us He has placed qualities of Himself. This we know because the Bible tells us that we are created in His image. Genesis chapter 1, verse 27 tells us, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." His desire is not only to have a personal relationship with each and every one of us while we are living here upon this earth, but to have us live and reign with Him in heaven forever! Now wouldn't that be WONDERFUL!

BUT.....there is something which SEPARATES us from God. It is something which, no matter how hard we try to live a good life, to be a good person, we just can not overcome. We lack the peace and fulfillment we are looking for because our relationship with our Creator is missing! There is one reason for this and only one. Our SIN separates us from His love and fellowship.

You see, God is Holy. This means He is perfect. Because of this He cannot tolerate sin. SIN, for some who may be wondering, is doing wrong. In other words, doing "wrong" is when we do things to hurt one another or to hurt God. When we do things that are unloving, such as when we lie, steal, cheat, commit sexual wrong-doing, have selfish motives, exhibit hate through our words and actions, curse God.....all these things are SIN. And God can not tolerate sin. He hates it. It makes Him very sorrowful. It breaks His heart to know that His children, those whom He created in His own image to have fellowship with, whom He loves so dearly and wishes for their love in return, would act in such terrible ways toward one another and toward Him. Because of sin, we are separated from the blessings, peace and fulfillment which He so longs to give us.

But there is GOOD NEWS! God made a WAY for us to have that special relationship which He longs so much to share with us. It is one which we, too, inwardly long for. Yes, that's right! We long to have a relationship with the ONE who created us. Walk into any bookstore in America today and you will find hundreds of books on spirituality, spiritual awareness, science of the mind, and so on. Surf the internet and you will discover countless websites for psychics, spiritual clairvoyants, tarot readers, and

those who claim to be in contact with the spirit world. We as human beings search out these things because we were created by a Spiritual God. We have a spiritual void inside of us that longs for things which are spiritual. Because we are created in the image of God, we are not only made of flesh, but each of us possess a special place within us that only God's Spirit can fulfill. There are no psychics, clairvoyants or tarot readers, no spiritual awareness or "power of the mind" books which can give us what we long for to fill this empty place inside. Without God and His Spirit living in us, we are incomplete. Our guidance system is missing. We are LOST, like weary travelers on the highway of life, driving hopelessly without a MAP.

So what is the GOOD NEWS? What is the WAY which God has provided for us to have direction in our lives....the WAY to peace and fulfillment....the WAY to find meaning in our tedious lives? Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; No man comes to the Father, except through me." JESUS CHRIST is the WAY! THERE IS NO OTHER. Through knowing Him we can find a place where there is peace, comfort, tranquility, fulfillment, understanding and freedom from fear. We can find our way to true life! But we must first be willing to BELIEVE in Him and to accept His FREE GIFT of a NEW LIFE.

Sounds too simple, doesn't it? That is what many people think. But the truth is, it is SIMPLE. You see, God knew that we could never be good enough to enter into His presence and have a loving, meaningful relationship with Him. He knew that, no matter how hard we tried to do right, we could never quite hit the mark. Romans 3, verse 23 reads, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." After Adam and Eve disobeyed Him in the Garden of Eden and sin entered into the world, God had compassion on humankind. He understood our plight and the struggles we face. And, out of His deep love for us and longing to have us near Him, He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. JESUS became our redemption. HE became the WAY for us to have a restored relationship with GOD. HE is the WAY to that place of Abundant Life!

You see, Jesus walked this earth, just as we do. He was God's only Son, born of a virgin woman. He grew up like we do, felt the pressures of childhood like we do, knew the difficulties of adolescence like we do, experienced the frustrations of adulthood like we do, was tried and tested like we are. Yet, in all His life, He NEVER SINNED. He was perfect because He was God's own Son, God in the flesh. Hebrews 4, verse 15 reads, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Only His life and the shedding of His innocent blood would be able to cover the sins of the world and set men free- free from their sin and free to spend an eternity with Him in heaven. John 3:16 reads, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Christ was rejected of men. He was persecuted, belittled, mocked, and denied. The Bible tells us that He was beaten and bruised beyond recognition. He was rejected for doing nothing but GOOD. Yet, it was all part of God's plan for US. He loved us that much!

Jesus gave His life hanging on a cross. His hands and feet were pierced with nails. A painful crown of thorns was placed upon His head. He was a HOLY, living sacrifice for us, so that we might have a WAY to gain fellowship with God. By accepting Who He was and is, and through knowing Him by the life He lived, God has provided us with a Way to have an abundant life. It is through His Son, Jesus Christ. By accepting Jesus Christ as God's Son and asking Him to become part of your life, you can experience