

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#2)

Changing the Good News won't increase
the number who are saved!

IT'S A
"FACT OF LIFE": **EVERY SAVED PERSON**
has unsaved friends,
neighbors, and/or relatives.

If the SKY represented all humanity...
And the STARS represented all the saved...

Those who are wise will shine like the
brightness of the heavens, and those who
lead many to righteousness, like the **stars**
for ever and ever.
Daniel 12:3 (NIV)

The AREAS BETWEEN the stars would represent all the unsaved.

This would include many neighbors, friends and relatives.

It's **NOT** A FACT WE ENJOY...

Neither does GOD.
He does not want anyone to perish, so he is
giving more time for everyone to repent.
2 Peter 3:9b (NLT)

**BUT NOT ENJOYING IT
DOES NOT CAUSE IT
TO STOP BEING A FACT.**

MAYBE IF I
CLOSE MY
EYES, IT WILL
GO AWAY.

MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN DENIAL
LYING TO THEMSELVES LYING TO OTHERS.

JESUS WILL GIVE
THEM ANOTHER
CHANCE.

DON'T WORRY,
THEY WENT TO
HEAVEN.

I'M SURE THEY GOT
SAVED IN THE LAST
SECONDS BEFORE
THEY DIED.

THE SAME WAY
YOU TOLD ME MY
GOLDFISH WENT
TO HEAVEN?

**OTHERS TURN TO ALL KINDS OF MISGUIDED METHODS
FOR TRYING TO CHANGE THE RESULTS.**

PEOPLE MAY BEG AND CAJOLE GOD,
trying to get him to save someone
who refuses to repent.

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling
like pagans, for they think they will be heard
because of their many words.
Matthew 6:7 (NIV)

SOME TRY TO BARGAIN WITH GOD,
trying to get him to save someone
who refuses to repent.

IF YOU SAVE THEM, I PROMISE TO...
IF YOU SAVE THEM, I PROMISE TO...
IF YOU SAVE THEM, I PROMISE TO...
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IF YOU SAVE THEM, I PROMISE TO...
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IF YOU SAVE THEM, I PROMISE TO...

THEY MAY EVEN TRY TO CONVINCE GOD
that the unsaved person "isn't that bad,"
and
that it's in God's best interest to save such people!

HE'S NOT THAT BAD!
BUT GOD, YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!
IT WOULD REALLY BENEFIT YOUR CAUSE!
HE'S NOT THAT BAD!
BUT GOD, YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!
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**OTHERS USE "SOUL-WINNING" SCHEMES THAT
ARE DESIGNED TO MANIPULATE THE ACTIONS
OF THE UNSAVED PERSON.**

◀ Using every trick that modern psychology
and the advertising industry can provide! ▶

- ✓ Start out by making them feel good!
- ✓ Let them know you're on their side!
- ✓ Turn up the volume of the sound equipment!
- ✓ Play on their emotions!
- ✓ Throw in a few gimmicks!
- ✓ Get one of their sports heroes to make a "decision"!

... then "decisions" will flow in from all directions!

OTHERS MODIFY THE GOOD NEWS ITSELF,
to make it more appealing to the sinful nature.

We saw this **LAST WEEK**,
and
we will look at it further.



BUT INSTEAD OF ALL THESE MISGUIDED ACTIVITIES ...

Maybe we should start
with a
REALITY CHECK!



WHAT DO WE DESERVE?

If God decided to save **SOME** instead of **NONE**...

- Should we complain?
- Should we say it's unfair?

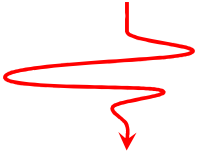
If so, then perhaps our complaint should be
something like this:

"God, why did you save me? It's totally unfair!
You should let me go to hell, as I deserve!"

✓ If we think it's "unfair" for someone else to NOT be saved,

↓

PERHAPS WE SHOULD ASK GOD TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS:



"LET ME GO TO HELL IN THEIR PLACE!"

I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience testifies to me through the Holy Spirit—that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the benefit of my brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood.

Romans 9:1-3 (CSB)

[Though it's not possible, PAUL was willing.]

✓ **WHO DOES OUR ULTIMATE LOYALTY BELONG TO?**

Are we willing to put Jesus ahead of everything and everyone... including:

- Ourselves?
- Our unsaved loved ones?

On the Day of Judgment, who do we plan to stand with? Jesus, or unsaved people?

Then [Jesus] said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."
Luke 9:23 (NIV)

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple."
Luke 14:26 (NIV)

✓ PERHAPS WE NEED TO FOCUS MORE ON GOD AND HIS GLORY!

"YOU ARE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS!"

"WHAT AMAZING LOVE!"

"WHY DID YOU SAVE ME? I DON'T DESERVE IT!"

"THERE'S A LOT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT I KNOW YOU DO ALL THINGS WELL!"

"I AM AMAZED THAT YOU SAVED ANYONE — AND ESPECIALLY ME!"

"SHEER MERCY AND GRACE!"

✓ PERHAPS WE NEED TO FOCUS MORE ON TELLING PEOPLE THE GENUINE "GOOD NEWS" ...

☀ AND LEAVE THE RESULTS TO GOD. ☀

"IF THEY DON'T ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS, IT WON'T BE BECAUSE I FAILED TO PRESENT IT ACCURATELY!"

"I KNOW MANY WON'T ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS; BUT SOME WILL ... AND I WANT TO FIND THEM!"

IF WE'RE WILLING TO TELL PEOPLE THE GENUINE "GOOD NEWS" ...

Perhaps we need to start by making sure we know what it is!



So what makes it the "Good News"?

The fact that we're saying something that's TRUE?

There are *many* TRUE statements that are NOT part of the Good News!



"God is Love" – **IS THIS THE GOOD NEWS?**
Check the Book of Acts to find out!
(It's loaded with descriptions of the Good News.)

[So what makes it the "Good News"?]

The fact that it SOUNDS GOOD?

There are *many* things that sound good but are NOT part of the Good News!



"Jesus has a wonderful plan for your life."
– **IS THIS THE GOOD NEWS THAT THE APOSTLES PREACHED?**
Most people would probably say YES! But does the BIBLE?

I'VE NEVER READ THE BIBLE... BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE BIBLE WORDS!

[So what makes it the "Good News"?]

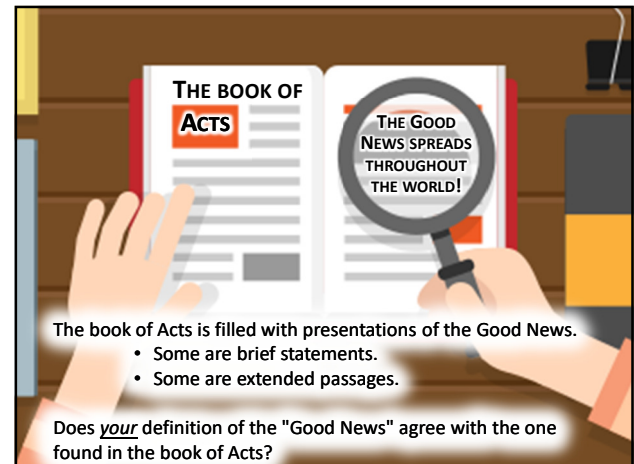
The fact that we use the word "BELIEVE" (or "FAITH")?

There are *many* things that people "believe," some of which are not even compatible with the Good News!



"All you need to do is have faith."
– **Is this the Good News?**
False religions can do this!

Many people *define* "believing" as the *opposite* of "fact."
Did the apostles define it this way?



THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITY

[Same as *last* week!]

Do you know what the GOOD NEWS *really* is?

Check the book of Acts, to see what the *apostles* said it was!



Then compare what *they* said to what *you* have heard.

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