

TITLE AND NUMBER: 89. Bad news / good news



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Colossians 1:21-23

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

LOOKING FURTHER: Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8; Jude v24

What does this Bible passage tell us?

When I was at school, a lot of our jokes were the 'Good news – bad news' type. Today's passage is the other way round – bad news, then good news. It starts with some strong words. The author, Paul, tells us that we were once God's enemies because of our 'evil behaviour', but the good news is that Jesus wipes away the consequences of our wrongdoing. Romans 3:23 tells us that 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.'

God has reconciled us – that means He has brought us back together and made us part of His family – through the price that Jesus paid when He died on the cross.

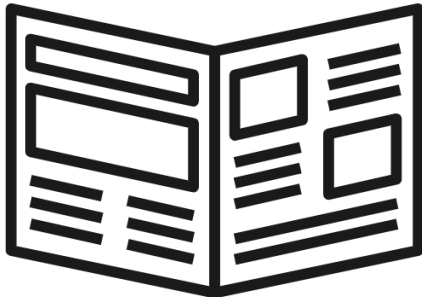
Paul declares that this Gospel – which means good news – has been given to 'every creature under heaven.' Sometimes I meet people who are afraid they are not included in the Good News because they have not been 'good enough.' These verses make it plain that it is not about us being good enough, because God's promise is that He will make every one of us holy. Romans 6:23 tells us that the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. All we have to do is to be firm in our faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

A free gift is free for everyone. When we take today's message on board for ourselves, we also have to take it on board for other people. There is no one who is excluded from the promise that God will make them holy if they put their trust in Him.

Reflections:

- If you have any doubts about whether the Good News is for you, reflect on Ephesians 2:8: 'It is by grace [the generosity of God] that you have been saved – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.'
- Are you struggling with negative feelings towards someone? Ask God to help you see that these promises are for them as well.
- Pray the words in Jude v24 for yourself and those around you – He is 'able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before his glorious presence.'

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

