

Something Gotta Change?

New Birth and Peace with God

How's life? Going okay? Going great? So-so? However, it is going, it's disappointing, isn't it? "Not what I expected," you say. Things just aren't clicking, it's not working out. No doubt you have tried hard, your hardest, but it is confusing and depressing. Even when there is some "success" it is empty and life is not what you expected. "Something's gotta change," you might say. Why is all this? What is at the root of this that needs to change for real "success" and a sense of fulfillment? Does it have anything to do with God and my resistance to Him? Is He really there and relevant?

The Bible says, *"all things have been made through Him and for Him."*¹ If we were made "for Him," and we are not connected to Him or we are resisting His will and presence in our lives, that would indicate something is wrong and may be a factor in the life disconnect we feel. How can life be experienced if we are separated from the One we were made to be connected to? *"In Him was life and the life was the light of men."*² *"Eternal life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life, he who does not have the Son of God, does not have the life."*³ So why has the connection to God and life been severed and how can it be restored?

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*⁴ Not only that but, *"the wages of sin is death."*⁵ We are dead or separated from God by our rebellion to Him. This is a common problem for all of us as humans and for all humanity. Almost everything we do or think about is affected by this problem and the guilt feelings and fear that result from sin. Sin is to have no restraints or to ignore them. It is to hurt others, either by committing or omitting in our relationship with them. It can be intentional or accidental. It can be in our relationships with other people or in our attitudes and actions toward God, who created the other people we hurt. He is ultimately the one who will avenge humanity's sin against people and the sins of each of us as individuals against one another. *"The Lord is the avenger in all these things."*⁶ Jesus Christ, in the Bible says, *"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father."*⁷ He is our judge.

The really good news is that, *"God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged."*⁸ Jesus Christ is not only judge but also savior. *"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross . . . for by His wounds you were healed."*⁹ You can be clean and fresh right now by believing in God's Son and opening your heart

¹Col 1:16 NASB95 (All references in the [New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update](#) (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).)

² Jn 1:4

³ 1 Jn 5:11-12

⁴ Romans 3:23

⁵ Romans 6:23

⁶ 1 Th 4:6.

⁷ Jn 5:21-23

⁸ Jn 3:17-18.

⁹ 1 Pe 2:24.

to Him. *“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”*¹⁰ *“That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”*¹¹ Life because He rose from the dead, *“In Him was life and the life was the light of men.”*¹² *“That Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.”*¹³ You can have and experience this life, this eternal life, right now by believing and receiving the “free gift of God.”¹⁴ No more guilt so no more guilt feelings. Don’t wait. Do it.

Here is the good news in a nutshell. The apostle Paul says, ***“I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”***¹⁵

¹⁰ Jn 1:12.

¹¹ Jn 20:31.

¹² Jn 1:4

¹³ Ro 6:9.

¹⁴ Rom 6:23

¹⁵ 1 Co 15:3–4