

**You don't earn it, you don't work for it.
It's a free gift of God's grace.**

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. All you can do is accept it. But God still gives you the choice. Ephesians 2:8-10

But there is a choice to make. Chose to live for Him.

Christ died for all so that those who would live would not continue to live for themselves. He died for them and was raised from the dead so that they would live for him." 2 Corinthians 5:15

You are not free from the consequences of your choices.

"Today I am giving you a choice between good and evil, between life and death." Deuteronomy 30:15

What's going to last forever?

Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. 1 Thessalonians 5:10

What is it going to be like in eternity with God's family forever?

"Then God's home will be with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. And he will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past will be gone forever." Revelation 21

Part 2:

**Understanding the Big Picture
From Scripture**

**Following
Jesus
In Real Life**

For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment.

Colossians 1:16 The Message Paraphrase of the Bible

Why were you placed on this planet?

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Ephesians 1:4,5

Why did God go to all of the trouble to create the universe?

The Bible says he did it for three reasons.

1. He did it to reveal His _____.
"Everything comes from God. Everything exists by his power. And everything is intended for his glory." Romans 11:36
2. He did it to express His _____.
"His compassion is intertwined in everything he does." Psalm 145:9
3. He did it to form a _____.
"In his goodness, God chose to make us his own children by giving us his true word. And we out of all creation became his choice possession." James 1:18

James 1:18 tells us two astounding facts.

First, you matter more to God than everything else he's created.

Secondly, God created it all so that you could exist.

The Bible is very clear and specific about your destiny.

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn (means supreme) among many brothers and sisters. Romans 8:29

So what happened?

Adam _____.

He had a little help from Eve but Adam messed it up.
Mankind fell into rebellion against God.

The effect of that disobedience was catastrophic on the earth. It did two things:

1. It brought _____ onto the planet.
"Sin came into the world because of what one man did, and with sin came death." Romans 5:12

2. The world itself was _____ by sin.
Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.
Romans 8:20,21

For thousands of years the Bible promises a solution to this mess.

Here's what the Bible says:

"Jesus was given to die for our sins and he was raised up from the dead to make us right with God." Romans 4:25

Why did he send Jesus?

"When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God." Romans 5:6

Why did he do that?

Because we are broken in ways that we cannot fix ourselves.

The laws of Moses, could not save us because of our fallen state "...But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own son in a human body like ours except that ours are sinful. And God destroyed sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sin." Romans 8:3

We don't have the power to change our nature.

"Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong [that's Adam] and got us all into this [mess] trouble with sin and death, another person did it right [that's Jesus] and he got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, [by paying for all our sins] he got us into life!" Romans 5:18 (MSG)

God used Paul to explain His plan with Jesus.

I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. 10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:9-11