

The Gospel according to the Apostles Creed  
We Believe in Jesus Christ

In Acts 5:20 we read "The angel told them, "Stand in the temple courtyard, and tell the people everything about life in Christ." (Gods Word Translation)

The Good news of the gospel is that becoming a Christian is the doorway to a new life, a life that starts now and which changes us from glory to glory (2cor 3:18), beginning now, and being completed when we walk through that door into eternity where we will see God face to face. The truth is that when we are "in Christ" some amazing things have begun to take place as the following table outlines.

**In Christ we ....**

Are saved and being saved	2Tim 2:10	Primarily talking about being rescued from punishment and suffering the eternal consequences of our sin. Being saved is also about the day to day consequences which are redeemed in the here and now. In other words, salvation also means that God takes the things that we did for bad, and uses them for his good, sorting out both the situation and ourselves.
Are Forgiven completely for free	Rom 3:24 Rom 8:1,2	We may find it hard to believe that God really forgives that sin of yours which you cannot forgive yourself for. But it is true. We are justified freely and there is now no condemnation for those in Christ. This is the efficacy of the work of Christ on the Cross.
Are on the winning side	2 Cor 2:14 1 Th 4:16	The end of the book assures us that we need not fear. Any problem, any difficulty we face in him, is nothing compared to the amazing reward we receive at the end of the age because Jesus Christ has defeated every enemy.
Have access to God	Eph 2:13 Eph 3:8-12	There is no priest to go through, no ritual, no mysterious incantation. We can pray directly to God and he will hear and answer our prayers.
Have a future	Eph 1:10 Eph 2:6	God will not toss us aside for something better.
Have eternal life	1Cor 15:19-22	In Christ we are assured of being resurrected to life forever with God and his saints.
Are set free	Gal 2:4	The religious rules no longer apply. The Spiritual bondage that holds us in our addictions is being broken. The fears, worries and anxieties that ruled our feelings are no longer what is in charge. The devil is no longer our boss. We no longer have to prove ourselves. We are free. And with this freedom comes responsibility to care for others and to use our freedom not as a license to sin or do anything we want, but to seek a life that is worthwhile for Gods kingdom sake.
Are made into one family	Gal 3:26 Gal 3:28 Eph 3:6 Rom 12:5	God will put the lonely into families. When the Spirit comes he will turn again the fathers' hearts towards their children. The promise of the gospel is that all of us together become brothers and sisters of the one Father in heaven. This is a gift which can be difficult to receive considering the difficulties we can face in our own families!! But the truth of it is that as in a family we need the expertise of one another to fulfill the work of our fathers business. Every Christina is part of this family and everyone of them has a part to play.
Have Wisdom	1Co 1:26-30 Col 1:28 2 Tim 3:15	The bible tells us that not many of us were the sharpest knives in the drawer before we came to Christ, but in and through him, he has taken the foolish things of this world and made them wise, with a wisdom that is not just "spiritual" but which encompasses the whole of life. Eg advertisers
Have new strength	2 Ti 2:1 Phi 4:13	Moral courage, and inner strength to face some of the most difficult issues came as we yield to Christ
Have a simple faith	2 Cor 11:3	Many religions are quite complex and in this world of burgeoning bureaucracy, the simplicity of faith in Christ is something to be grateful for, and yet in its simplicity it is deeply profound and satisfying. It is the bread of life.
Have a new purpose	Phi 3:14 2 Ti 1:9	The wonderful thing of being in Christ is that he transforms the mundane into a 'high calling'. Looking after your children is sowing spiritually into the next generation, giving a glass of cold water to someone in need is like serving Christ himself (Matt 10:42).

Are Accepted and approved	Rom 15:7 Rom 16:10	Many people in our world struggle with feeling accepted, wanted, needed or approved. So they run around struggling to gain the approval and acceptance from their peers, parents, workplaces etc. This striving causes much heartache for men, women and children, and yet the assurance that in Christ we are completely accepted for who we are and what we look like is an amazing gift which so many people need to hear about.
Are new creations	2Cor 5:17 2Cor 3:18	This doesn't always seem that positive to people. Even though they may not like aspects of themselves, being told they will become a new creature can be fear inducing. The promise is not about becoming some alien planet inhabitant, but more about a renewal of the system operator that will progressively renew us into the image of Christ.
Have work to do	Eph 2:10 2 Cor 5:19 Rom 16:9	These verses tell us how God (re)created us for his work. He takes the passions, talents, and 'bent' that is in us and gives us a job to use it in "reconciling the world" which waits for us to do what we have been created for (Rom 8:19). Work is a gift from God to fulfill our responsibility to the earth and its people in Him. This work includes sharing the good news with others, but also being the good news to others. This includes our day job, our family life and our leisure, "in Christ" but must also be so much more. In what way are we making an impact for the Kingdom of God? eg. How do we involve ourselves stopping human trafficking, the increase in slavery, the rape of the environment? What impact are we having building the kingdom of God? Could we help with the youth group, have a mission to young mums, support student ministries, start a bible study, give a bible to your unsaved friends, approach new people at Church first, before saying hello to your friends. Whatever it is, it will cost you time and comfort but the promise of these verses are that the work of Christ is what you were made for and if you want to know him and grow in him, you will need to work for him.
Will suffer persecution	2 Ti 3:12	The reality is that being in Christ does not guarantee the sweet life. However our sacrifices for Christ are never in vain and help to achieve God's purposes and our ultimate satisfaction. True! For example the suffering we received as child having to do our piano practice, actually gave us a perfect gift that is satisfying as an adult.
Can see clearly	2 Cor 3:14	In Christ we can see things for what they really are. We can see sin, for what it is and injustice for the evil blight that invades our land. A warning though, sometimes having applied this truth, we may begin to think we see things, which aren't really there. Othertimes we prefer to be blind, we prefer not to know, because if we saw, then we might have to do something about it. Is ignorance bliss?
Are made right	1 Co 1:2 1 Co 1:26-30	The truth is that between God and ourselves, and between one another there are so many things and difficulties that get in the way of our relationships. In Christ these are begun to be made right, and it is done by Him as we allow him to work in us.
Have comfort in the love of God	Phi 2:1 Rom 8:39	For God so loved the World he gave his only son... We have been designed for love, we are made in the image of God, and the assurance of being loved not because of what we do, but for whose we are, is truly an amazing comfort.
Have abundant joy	Ph 3:3 1 Ti 1:14	Joy is a characteristic of the Spirit of God. In Christ he gives that to us. Joy is knowing that you have been set free.
Every Good thing	Phm 1:6 Eph 1:3 Eph 3:6 2cor 1:20	Don't be fooled God is not out to punish people but to bless them, and to fulfill them, and to shower upon them that which will satisfy our deepest desires. All the promises of God are 'yes' in Christ (2Co1:20) the problem is that for many of us we don't know they are there so haven't taken hold of them.

All this is ours in Christ! This is Good news something we should embrace and something we can be confident about when speaking to others about the faith we hold close.