



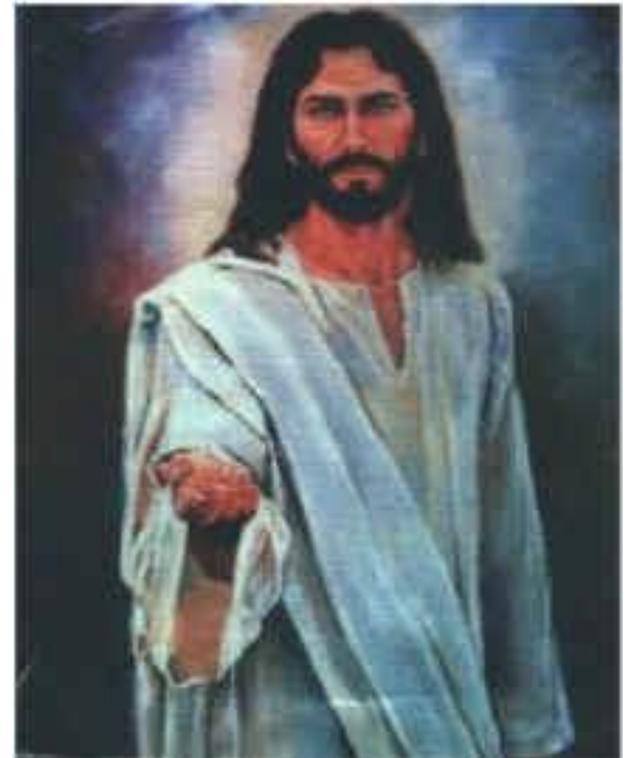
Foundations:

Basic Christian Teachings

Session 1: A Saving Relationship

The Goal of *Foundations*

The goal and prayer is that you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ as you grow in knowledge of Him, and what it means to be in this relationship, and in your ability to share this good news with others.



Outline

- A Saving Relationship
- A Divine Relationship
- A Conversational Relationship
- A Sacred Relationship
- A Living Relationship
- A Communal Relationship



Relationships

- God made you for **RELATIONSHIP**
 - With other people
 - With creation
 - With God
- God wants all people to be in relationship with him
 - By **GRACE** (gift)
 - Through **FAITH** (trusting in him)

Relationships

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

Relationships

“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

John 14:2-3

Perfect Relationships

What would our world be like if all relationships were perfect?

- People
- Creation
- Self
- God



Perfect Relationships

But what is our world really like?

- Most people ache for a **BETTER WORLD**
- Did one once exist? Or will it? **YES!**



Designed for Good

God created a wonderful world.

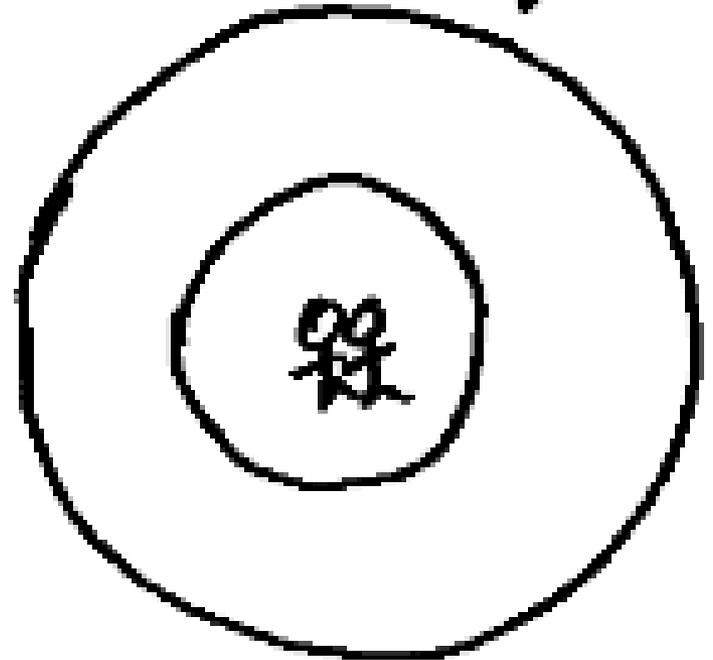
In the beginning all the relationships were right.



Designed for Good

- Creation
- People
- God

Designed for good



Damaged by Evil

- The ability to choose
- Choosing self over the relationship with God is **SIN**
- We want to be **IN CHARGE**



Damaged by Evil

- Creation
- People
- God





Beyond Repair

- The damaged relationship with God is **ETERNAL**
- To be cut off from God is to be cut off from **LIFE**



Beyond Repair

- The damaged relationship: SINFUL NATURE
- We are SELF-CENTERED, rather than GOD-CENTERED



Beyond Repair

■ Sin is not just something we DO, but also our fallen CONDITION.

■ We sin BECAUSE of our sinful condition



Beyond Repair

- We will always FALL SHORT of the good we were designed for.

The Stairway to Heaven

- Religion, as a human institution, is **HUMANITY'S** attempt to repair the relationship



The Stairway to Heaven

- GOOD DEEDS
- MEDITATION
- RITUALS
- PRAYER
- SUFFERING
- MARTYRDOM

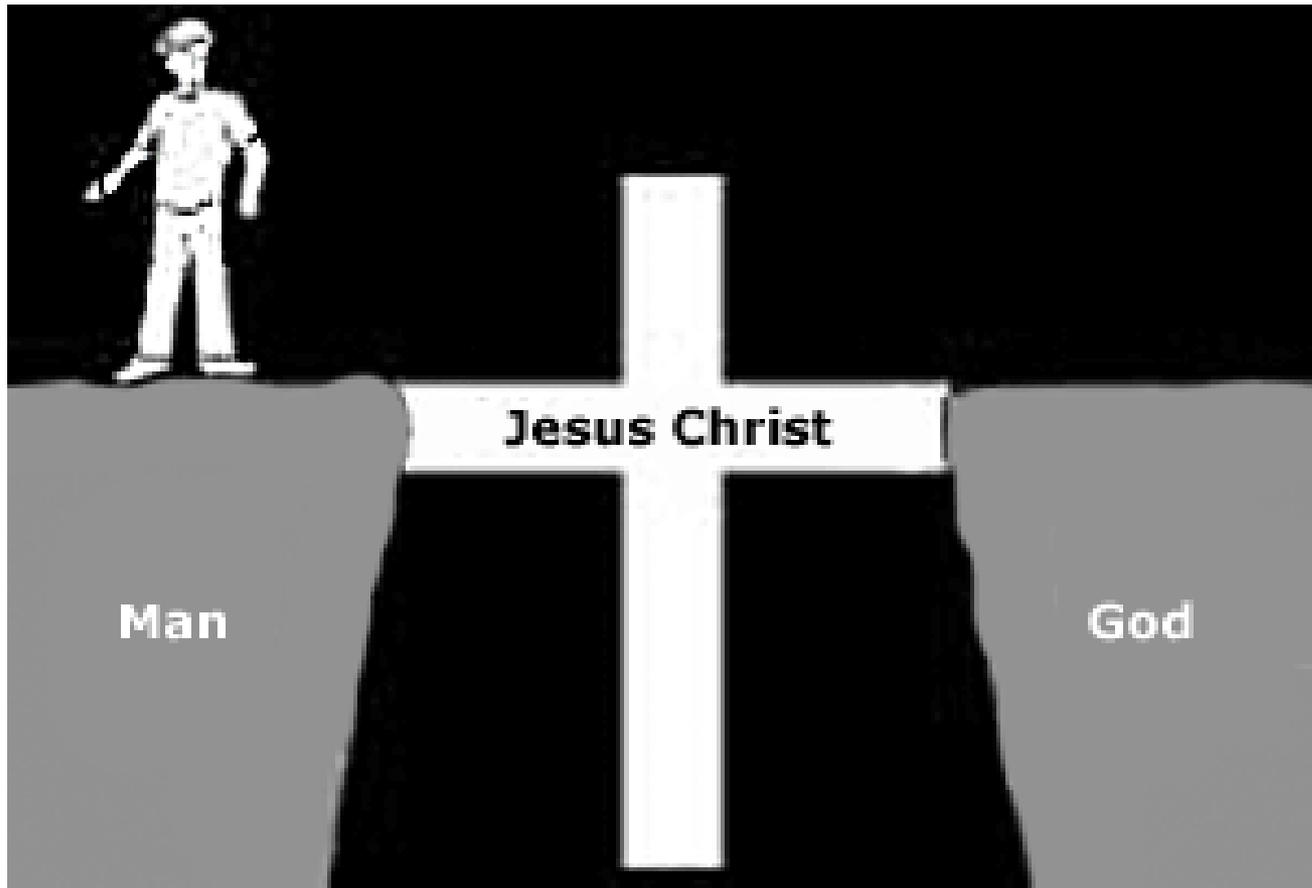


Restored for Better

- Christianity is about God **COMING DOWN** to take us to himself
- Christianity is about a restored relationship with Jesus, who **IS** the stairway to heaven.



Restored for Better



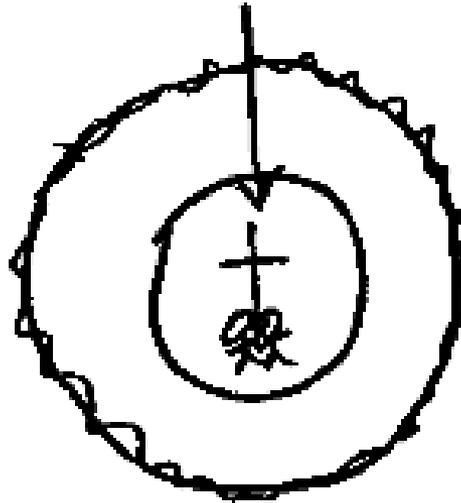
Why did Jesus Come?

- To bring us back into relationship with him
 - **SALVATION**
- To give to us the entrance into the place of perfect relationships
 - **NEW CREATION**
- To empower us to be His agents in restoring relationships in the world:
 - **FOLLOWING JESUS** in the power of the **HOLY SPIRIT**

Why did Jesus Come?

- But not even just for humanity . . .
 - To restore and resurrect **ALL OF CREATION**

Restored for better



A Relationship Restored by Grace

- Our relationship with God is restored by **GRACE** through **FAITH**

- **GOD'S**

- **RICHES**

- **AT**

- **CHRIST'S**

- **EXPENSE**



What did Jesus do?

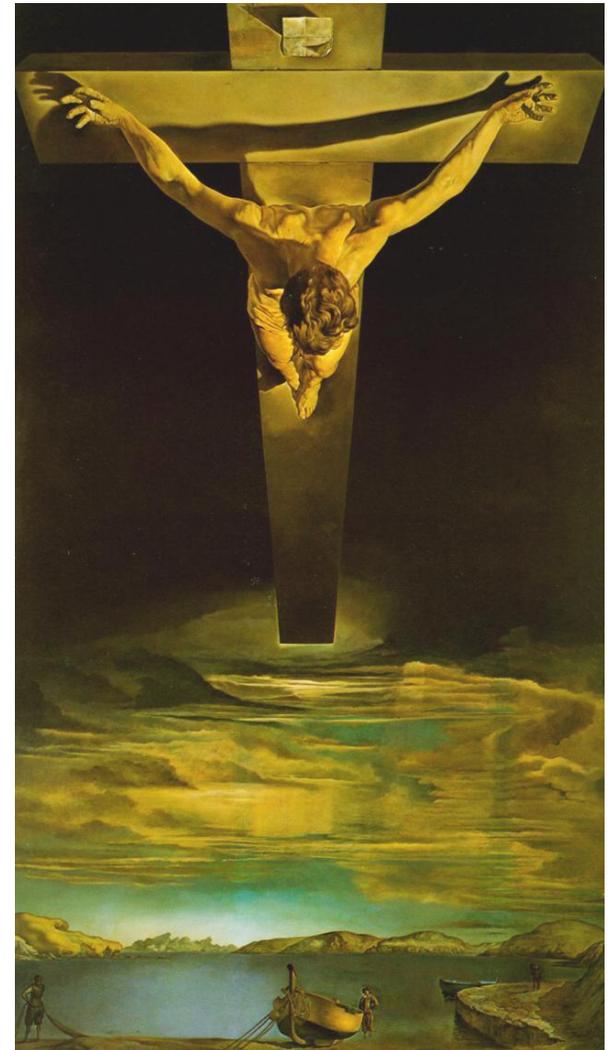
- He LIVED



What did Jesus do?

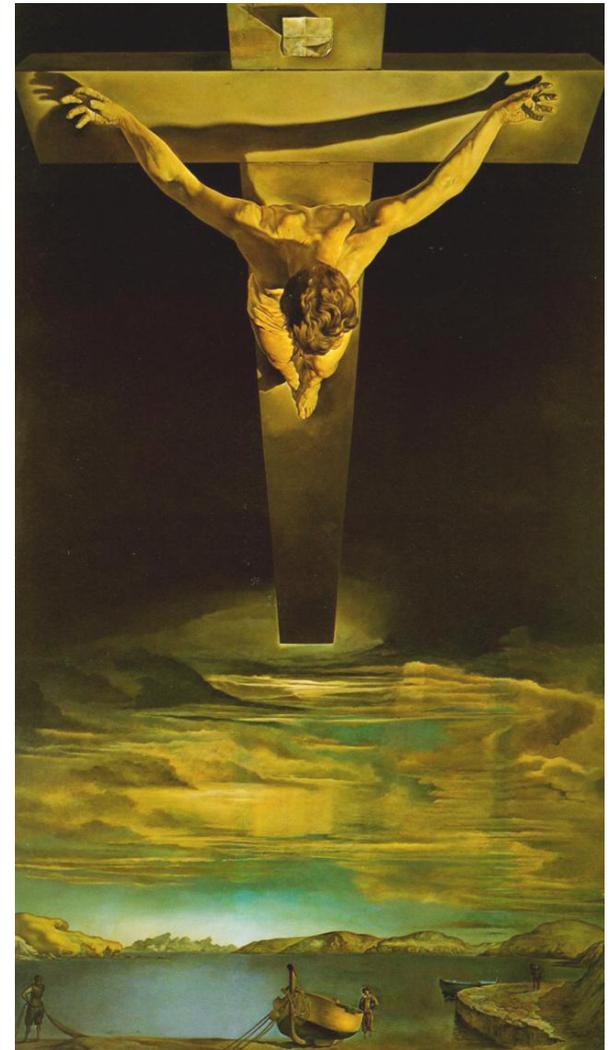
■ He LIVED

■ He DIED



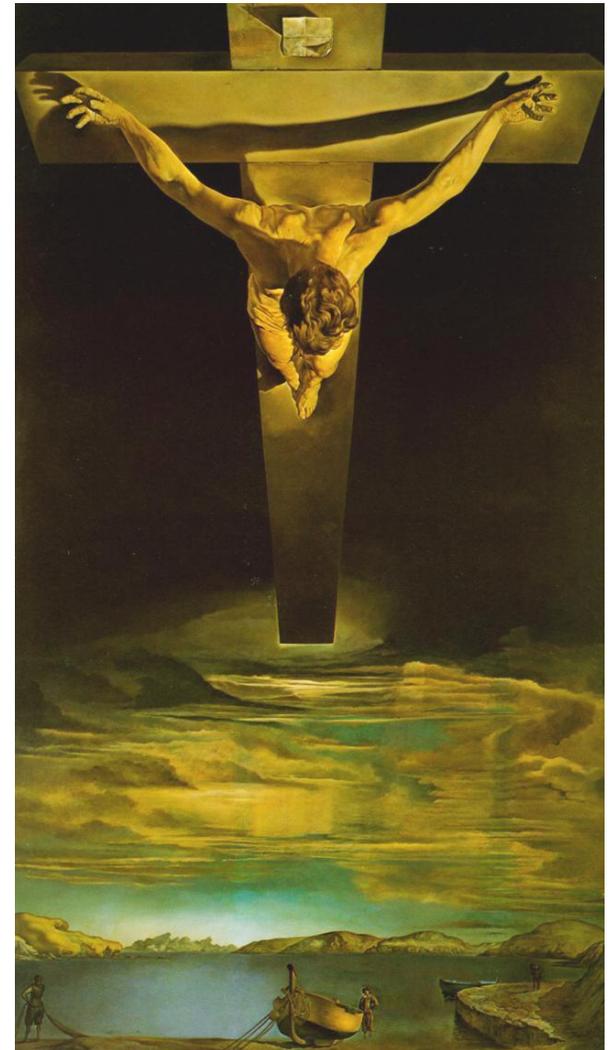
What did Jesus do?

- He **LIVED**
- He **DIED**
 - Jesus took our **SINS** from us, and gave His **RIGHTEOUSNESS** to us.



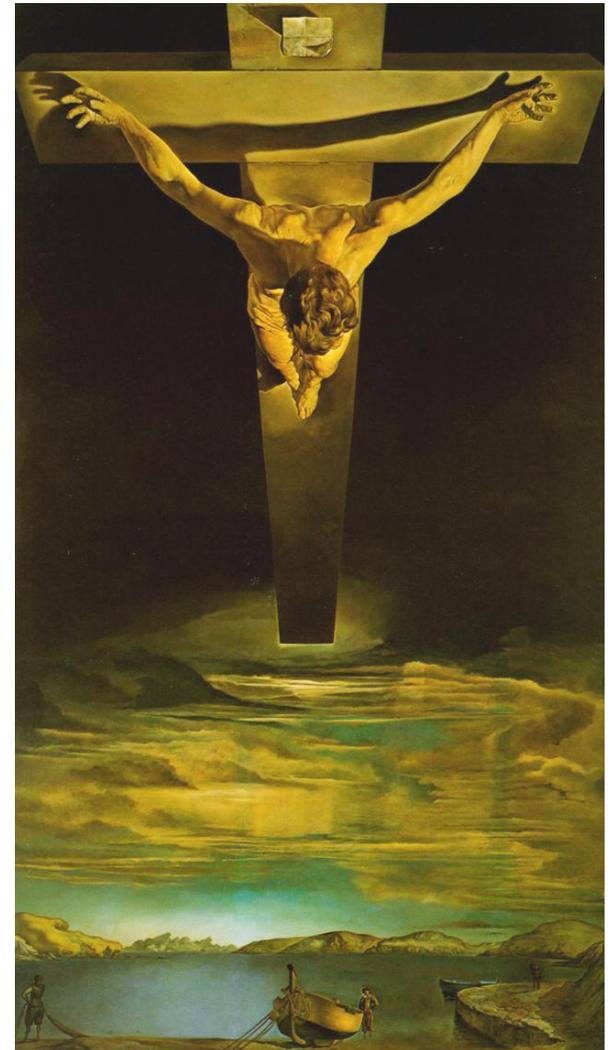
What did Jesus do?

- He **LIVED**
- He **DIED**
 - Jesus received the **PUNISHMENT** we would have received for our sins.



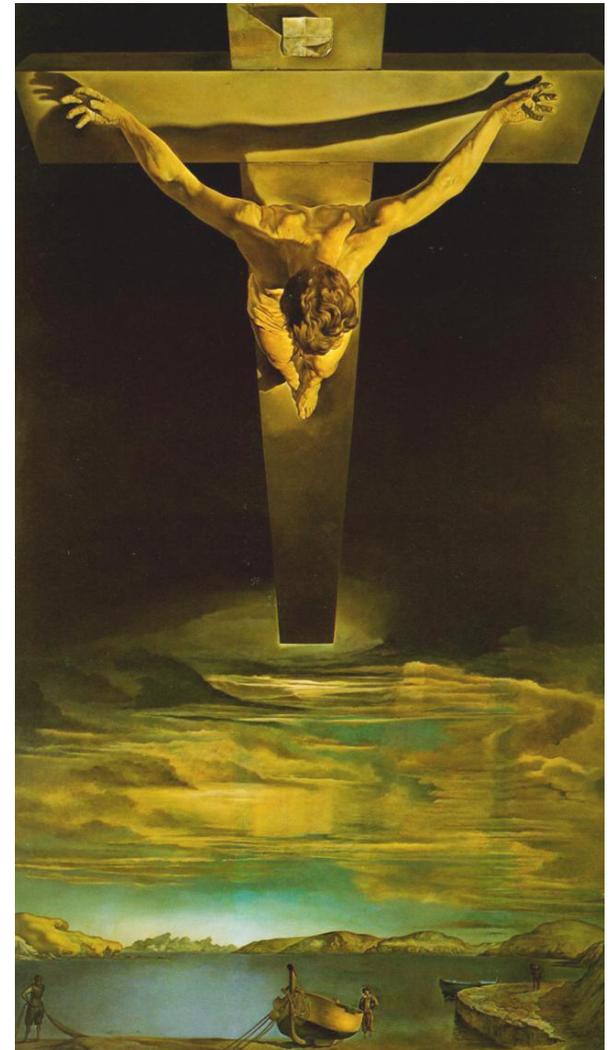
What did Jesus do?

- He **LIVED**
- He **DIED**
 - Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice of **ATONEMENT.**



What did Jesus do?

- He **LIVED**
- He **DIED**
 - Jesus has **REDEEMED** us by His death.



What did Jesus do?

- He LIVED
- He DIED
- He ROSE FROM THE DEAD



What did Jesus do?

- He LIVED
- He DIED
- He ROSE FROM THE DEAD
 - His resurrection shows that the fall is REVERSED in Him.



What did Jesus do?

- He LIVED
- He DIED
- He ROSE FROM THE DEAD
 - His resurrection is the promise of OUR RESURRECTION



What did Jesus do?

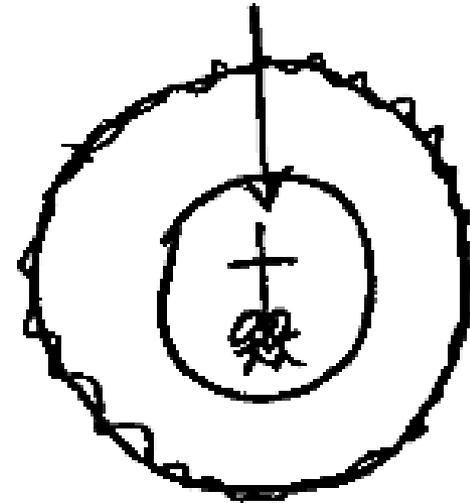
- He LIVED
- He DIED
- He ROSE FROM THE DEAD
 - His resurrection is the preview of the restoration of ALL CREATION.



Restored for Better

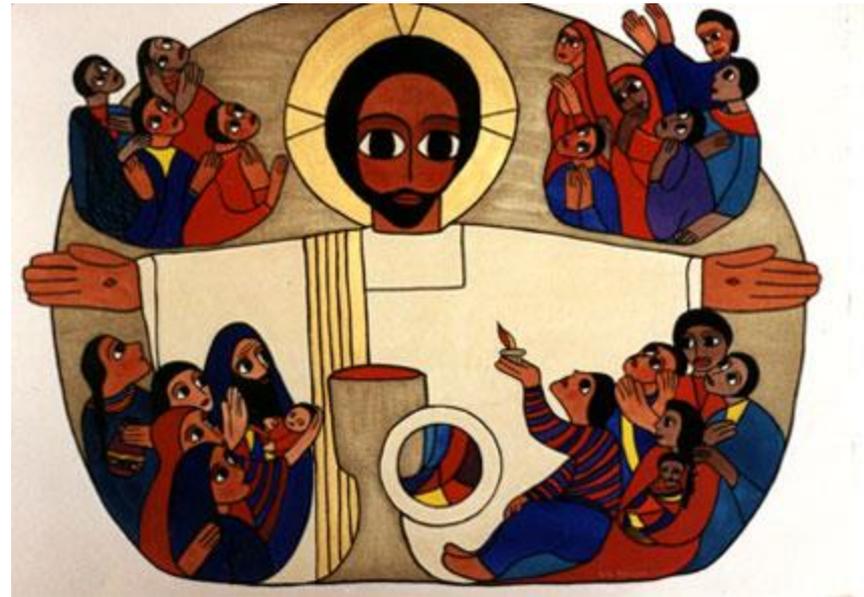
- Relationship with God
- Relationship with People
- All of Creation

Restored for better



Sent Together to Heal

- His **MISSION** is still to restore all relationships
- He has made his followers His **PARTNERS** in this mission.



Sent Together to Heal

- He sends his followers to **MAKE DISCIPLES** of all nations
- He empowers His followers by giving them **THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

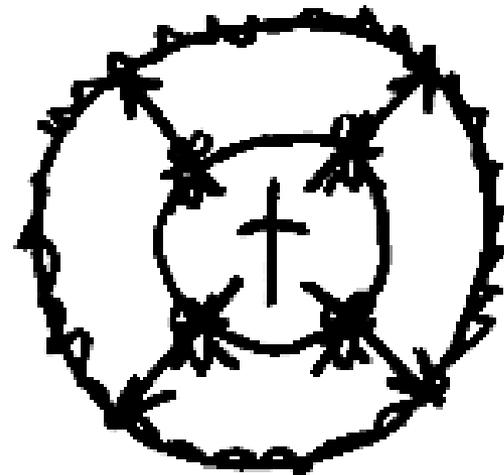


Sent Together to Heal

- We are sent forth as His body, proclaiming and living the restored relationship we have in Christ.

- With God
- With Each Other
- With The World

Sent together to heal



Saved by Faith

- What is Faith?
- More than **HEAD**
KNOWLEDGE
- Receiving **GOD'S GIFTS**



Saved by Faith

- Receiving **GOD**
- Receiving **RIGHTEOUSNESS**,
that is a **RIGHT** relationship.



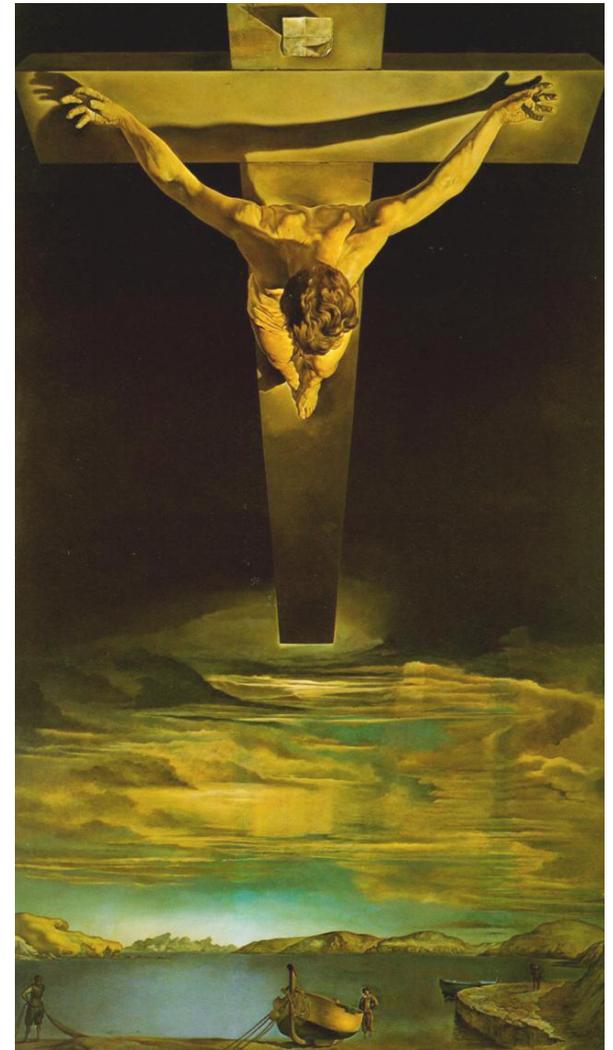
Saved by Faith

- Faith is the restored relationship with God.
- Faith brings all the blessings of the restored relationship with God.

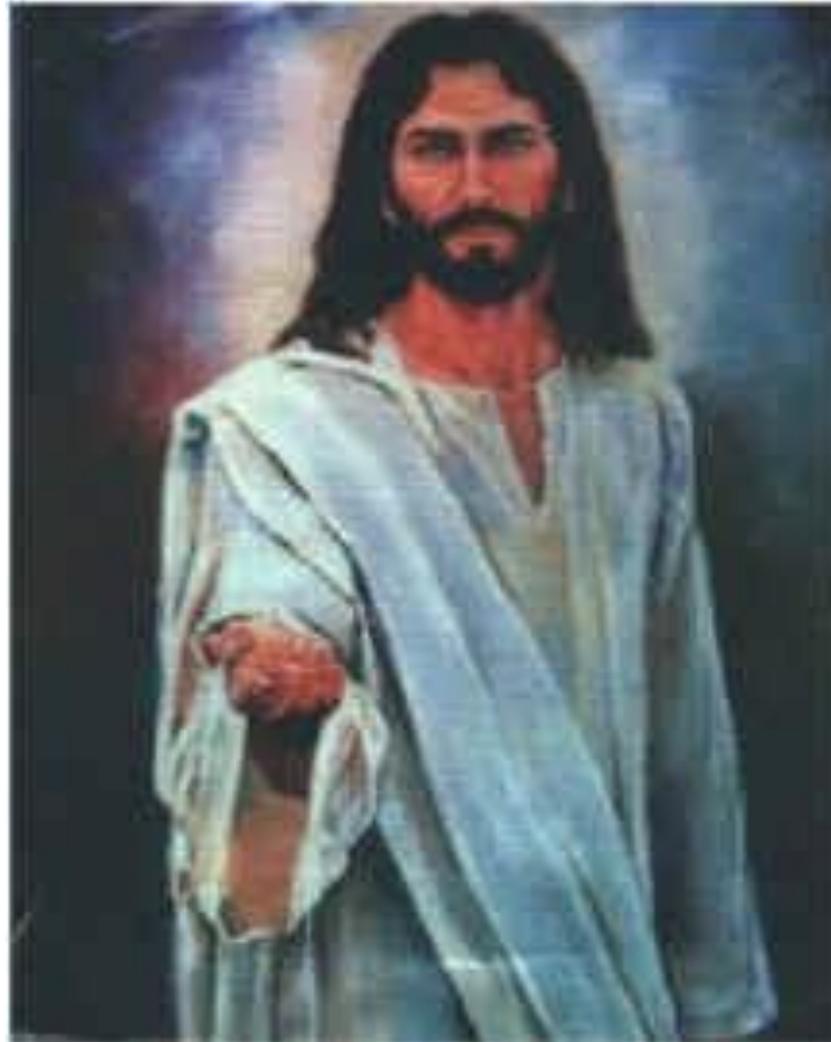


The Good News

- It's not about religion, but relationship.
- It's not about information, but transformation.
- It's not about achieving, but receiving.
- It's not about "DO," but "DONE."



So now what?

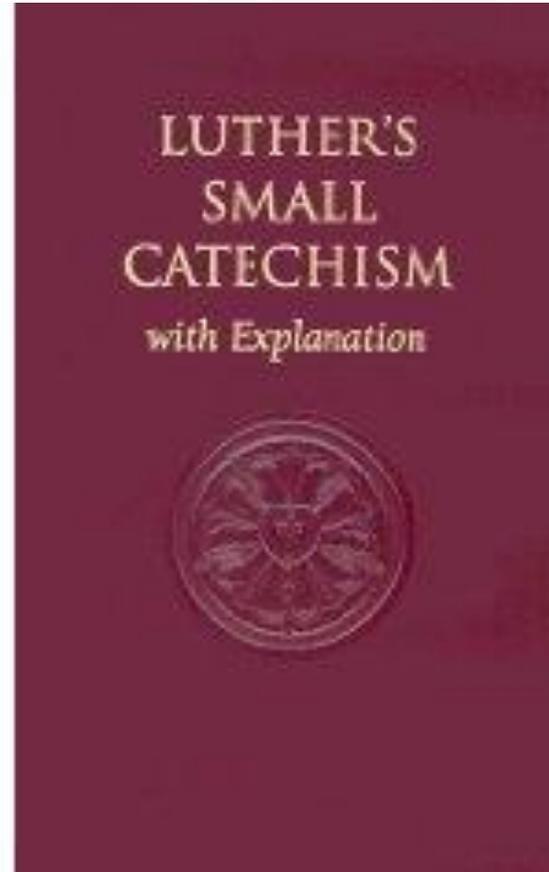


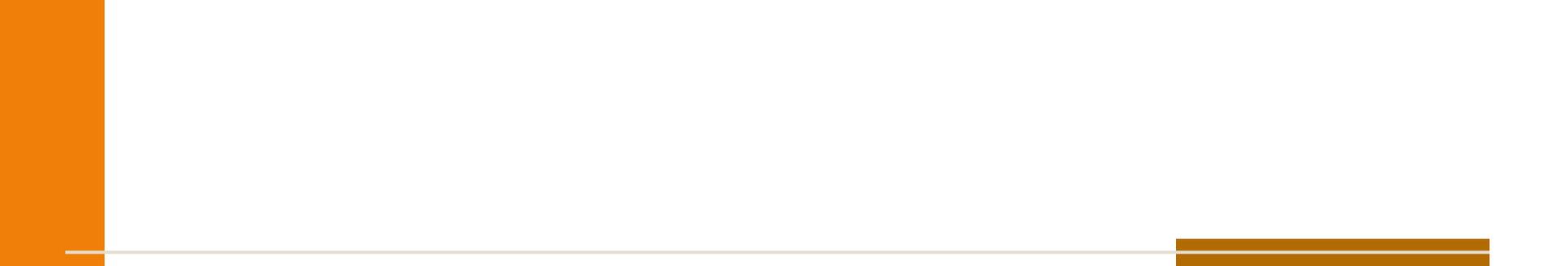
What do I do next?

- Constant in Prayer
- Grounded in the Word
- Faithful in Worship
- Spiritual Friendships
- Loving Service
- Intentional Generosity
- Compassionate Witness



For Further Growing





“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”

John 1:12



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