



GOOD NEWS GUIDE

REMEMBER: GOD LOVES YOU!

Brother Roland, PO Box 14, Fayetteville PA 17222

September, 2024

Would you like to receive an extra copy of the "Good News Guide" each month to share with a friend, neighbor, or family member? Let me know.

Get Right With God

If you see the title of this lesson and think you know where it is going, you might be wrong. Stay with me.

I'm going to focus on the first three words of the title, one at a time. I'll start with the word **With**.

The Bible says, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" It says this twice (*Psalms 14:1 and 53:1*), probably to help us remember it. But in my view a bigger fool is the person who believes that God exists, or thinks that He might exist, but who lives his life as if God does not exist, or does not matter. At best that person is postponing the blessings of the relationship with God that he might be enjoying. At worst, such avoidance of that relationship is likely to become permanent, and then eternal. And being apart from God eternally is hell.

Everyone gets to choose either heaven (to live in eternity with God) or hell (eternity without God). Only a brain-dead fool would knowingly choose hell, but a whole lot of slightly smarter fools are choosing hell unknowingly, just by rejecting God.

My admonition is this: DO NOT choose to live your life on earth without God; instead, be determined to live your life on earth with God. Of course this has serious ramifications. If one wants to be with God, it really has to be on God's terms. He is God; and we, in spite of our pride and selfishness, are not God.

This Bible passage beautifully describes the writer's attitude about being "with God":

I was so stupid.

I thought about [evil] people and became upset.

God, I was upset and angry with you!

I acted like a senseless animal.

But I am always with you.

You hold my hand.

*You lead me and give me good advice,
and later you will lead me to glory.*

In heaven, God, I have only you.

And if I am with you, what on earth could I want?

*Maybe my mind and body will become weak,
but God is my source of strength.*

He is mine forever!

God, people who leave you will be lost.

You will destroy all who are not faithful to you.

As for me, all I need is to be close to God.

I have made the Lord God my place of safety.

And, God, I will tell about all that you have done.

(Psalm 73:21-28 Easy to Read Version (ERV))

Now, the word **Right**. In the context of this lesson, it does not mean "okay" or acceptable to God; rather, it has these two meanings: (1) in a right relationship, and (2) right away, right now, as in, "I'll get right to it".

The Bible very clearly teaches that you cannot make yourself acceptable to God. Salvation — God's acceptance of you — is a gift, paid for by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. God cannot be persuaded to love you more than He already does; He loves you already with an unimaginably great and unconditional love. Thus the right relationship begins with thanks. "Thank you, Lord Jesus, for taking the punishment for all of my sin. Thank you, heavenly Father, for making a way for me to be with you forever in Heaven."

Being in right relationship to God means loving Him. But we cannot love God without spending time with Him, so we're back to the word **With**. Then we must also understand that the right relationship with God is not simply something we can decide. He is God. I'm not, and you're not. We just have to cooperate and do our part while He develops it.

Here's what that right relationship looks like:

Learning about Him. Spending time reading and studying the Bible, so that we know what it says about God. Especially studying Jesus to see what God is like. Jesus said, "If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him. ... Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." (*John 14:7,9*)

Acknowledging Him. Letting others see that we know Him and value Him; that we don't disrespect Him or simply ignore Him, as so many people do. "... everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven." (*Matthew 10:32*)

Communicating with Him. Spending time every day in prayer, and listening more than we speak. We don't

need to struggle with this. ... *the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Romans 8:26)*

Trusting Him. He knows everything; we know next to nothing *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own [very limited] understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

Obeying Him. We show that we love God and trust Him by living as His word says we are to live. *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (1 John 5:2)*

Serving Him. *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. (Romans 14:17-18) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)*

Praising Him. God doesn't need our praise; He is not looking for an ego trip. But we need to listen to ourselves praising Him, speaking the truth about His goodness and mercy. *Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. (Psalms 147:1)*

Sharing Him. *But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)*

Even if we agree with everything that has been said up to this point, it is so easy to procrastinate; to say to ourselves, "Yes, I'll get around to doing this someday soon — or at least eventually." If that is you, then I implore you to pray, "Holy Spirit, please give me a sense of urgency about this." This is what God's word says: *Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2b)* And this: *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:8)*

There are two things wrong with procrastinating: First, Jesus could return at any moment; but, more to the

point, to postpone entering into a right relationship with God is to miss the blessings of that relationship for however long we delay. God has so much to show us, so much joy and peace to give us, that it is to our loss and shame when we put it off. Get right to it!

Which brings us to the word **Get**. Again, there are two distinct meanings that I want you to see. One is to understand something, as in, "Oh, now I get it." We need to understand God's plan, and His desire, to bring each of us into an eternal, intimate relationship with Himself. Do you get that truth? I hope so. And the second meaning is this: God offers us heaven as a gift — we just have to receive it; to open our hands and our hearts and say, "Yes. Lord, I believe that your will for me is for my good, now and eternally. I accept your gift of salvation, with heartfelt thanks." And then let the Holy Spirit begin to produce in us the "fruit of the Spirit" — the *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)* that are the attributes of the character of Christ being developed in the adopted child of God.

So here is what **Get Right With God** means to me:

- Get it. Understand that God loves you, and invites you to be saved and to live with him joyfully in Eternity, all sins forgiven and left behind. Say "Yes!" with enthusiasm and gratitude. Grasp His loving invitation with both hands, and draw it close to your heart, and hang on tight.
- Do it right now; don't put it off until "someday" that may or may not ever come about. There will never be a better time than right now.
- With the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit, enter joyfully and confidently into the constant, intimate, forever, beautiful relationship with your Creator that He had in mind for you when He created you. Come into His presence every day, when you have been obedient and even more willingly when you haven't. *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.*

They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31) May it be so for you as you continue to Get Right With God.

Blessings —

Brother Roland

If you have a question about Bible truth or the Christian life, I will gladly share my thoughts with you, and maybe also with readers of the "Good News Guide." Write to me. Please note: I do not have Bibles or study materials to send you.

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This list is shared by brother Gary Riggs, who says that Bibles and study materials he has received by correspondence have "played a major role" in his learning and understanding of God's word, and his growth in Jesus. He hopes you may be similarly blessed. As Brother Gary says, "The pathway to the Lord's grace is the Scriptures."

These booklets can be seen at this web site: SearchouttheScriptures.com There is no charge for these booklets, published under the name Search out the Scriptures Publishers. If you wish to contact us for the booklets, you can receive them by requesting to be put on our monthly mailing list or singular if you desire.

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Booklets

By Faith alone
God's Pathway to Himself
The Eternal Word of God
Should a Christian Major in Minors?
Simplicity
Jerusalem or Bethel?
Are you a Priest?
Are you a Disciple? And of What or Whom?
Is God for us? Or Against us?
The Bible, the Work of Man or a Divine Book
Remarriage for the Christian, Will God Sanction it?
The Gifts of Ephesians 4:11, are They for Today?
As the Shepherd Takes From the Lion
Ups and Downs of a Spirit-led Life
Relationship with God, Temporal or Eternal
Christian Men, Producers of Godly Seed or Earthly Tares?
The Grace of God or the License of Man?
Worship, What God has Established
Unless you are Converted and Become as a Little Child
Dressing for my Glory or for the Glory of God
Did the Apostles of Christ Teach and Practice Legalism?
Should the Veiling of Christian Women be Practiced
all the Time?
The Apostles Doctrine on the Place of Faith
for Christian Women
A Comparison Chart Between the Law of Moses and
the Church of God
Will you Know and be Known by Friends and Family in
Heaven?
Does God Hold the Christian Accountable to Keep
the Saturday Sabbath?
Are you a Christian or just religious?
Two Worlds
Freedom, 25 years laboring in Christ
Cast Down
Covering
Putting Feet to Faith
Dependence or Independence?
Dead Men can't Sin
Spirit, Soul, Body
Religion, What is it?
Legalism in the House of God

Spirit and Truth Worship, is it Yours?
Believe Not Every Spirit
A Debate between Evolution and Creation
Led by the Ministry, or led by the Spirit
Failure: Opportunity for the Hungry
The Faith of Abraham and the Christian
The Church as Presented in Scripture
Baptism by the Spirit
The Eternal Shepherd
The Work, Will, Word and Spirit of God
This World a Life without Justice
The Commandments
The two Covenants Explained
St. Peter's Basilica or the Man from heaven, which do you
follow?

Books

Christ, the Golden Thread that Binds
An Outline of the Book of Revelation
Theophany
The Lion and the Eagle

Pamphlets

The Christian
Meditations of a Sinner saved by
the blood of Jesus for Eternity
A Brother's Meeting discussing
the Gifts of God

Bookmarks

The Sinner's Friend
Jesus Christ, the Righteous
God's Promise to Man
The Ever Existent One
"O God When I Look Back"
Psalm 23/ believers response

Spanish

El Amigo Del Pecador
Salmos 23

Choose Life

Make these verses your own: "... I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life" (Deut. 30:19-20)

Puzzle:

Z I G O B U F O M F I S D H I Z S H U E A F R E E D O M L C H R
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T R R B X C I X L S F A E O I S K T R R E S E C B K I I P S S I
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G E L I M G I R C K T N I H N Y G E Y S S T R I H H D E U G N O
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N P N Y X R S N T O O S S R I H C F D R E S T T L H A C D I R N
E S R C V B R Z G Z N S U Y S O L E N F I C Y O T B D R N K A Q
R V E X M S K E B P E L A I M E R E E D C A V U E Y W O T A W F
O H T G T E K S S L E P L M S A S C F R W I E I T S I R R M Y U
S Y E R I R S E B P L O I V T S L L M S N E N I E T S E P Y A B
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T G K W P I G S E F M N O L A S E O O V A U V I E N D Y T I A I
Y S M T E N D M T E J N S N E W G T D B T I D N A R X R I L Y N
G W G H I G M X N I A D L I I D H T U A N D E L H K I M E A J G
L P U E D S G T R X N I C S B E O R M G A L O D O K K E N T Z L
D P B P E A C E U O N G D E R I D W J B T Y E A J S W L C U O O
P Q S P E T Y E R E V O G S B E L E N N A N P W X J A Z E R R N
P U B U R A I N S N M W C O N X S I E L I S S E N I Z A L B Y E
O Y L J G N J S E W L P O X D U Q G T A M R C T E F G Q G S L L
T F T H G I L A G N I E B P S T N Y L Y C J O Y F O R E V E R Y

Words:

Unproductive Choices

ADDICTION
ANGER
ANY OTHER WAY
BACKBITING
BEING A BURDEN
BEING A THIEF
BEING LONELY
BITTERNESS
BRINGING PEOPLE DOWN
BRUTALITY
CHILDISHNESS
CYNICISM
DENIAL
DISSATISFACTION
ETERNAL SORROW
FEAR

FOOLISHNESS
GREED
GUILT
HARDNESS OF HEART
IRRESPONSIBILITY
LAZINESS
MAKING MISTAKES
PUNISHMENT
SELFISHNESS
SERVING SATAN
SPREADING DARKNESS
STAGNATION
TEARING DOWN
UGLINESS
WASTEFULNESS
WAYWARDNESS
WORRYING

Productive Choices

BEING A BLESSING
BEING A LIGHT
BUILDING UP
CLEANLINESS
COMMITMENT
CONSIDERATION
DILIGENCE
FACING FACTS
FAITH
FORGIVENESS
FREEDOM
GENEROSITY
GENTLENESS
GOD'S WAY
GRACE
GROWTH
HONESTY

HOPE
JOY FOREVER
KINDNESS
LIFTING PEOPLE UP
LOVING OTHERS
LOYALTY
MATURITY
PATIENCE
PAYING FOR STUFF
PEACE
PRODUCTIVITY
RESPONSIBILITY
SELF DISCIPLINE
SERVING JESUS
THANKSGIVING
TRUSTING GOD
WISDOM