



The BASIC Good News

BEST

Issue 1

Discovering the Essentials of the Christian Faith

The Color GOLD symbolizes that the BEST of everything is found from, through, in and to the Living God.

“B” is for BEST

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Our Quest for the Best

Where will I find the life that is BEST for me? Where should I look to see what is great, know what is true & be part of what is good?

These are the questions we are going to try to answer in our first edition of the “Basic Good Newsletter.”

People study hard in school and work hard in business in hopes of making a good life for themselves.

People accumulate material possessions, knowledge of the world, awards of merit, and social contacts hoping these things will bring meaning and security to their lives (or maybe because they’ve given up on finding such meaning and security).

People perform works of service hoping this will help them toward the illusive goals of personal fulfillment & a better life. People perpetrate acts of callous selfishness for the same reason.

Where will I find the life that is BEST for me?

People get married because they believe they’ve found a way to make life better for themselves and for their spouse. People get divorced for the same reason.

People will diligently teach their children the difference between right and wrong, and they will even take them to church because they want them to have every possible advantage in making a good life for



The Basic Gospel Bracelet

themselves. People will turn away from the moral standards they were brought up with and will separate themselves from the church when they get older for the same reason.

Where should I look to see what is great, know what is true & be part of what is good?

When we are asked to consider a life of growing trust and courageous obedience lived in an intentional relationship with the Living God, we are not being asked to give up our quest for the **BEST** life possible for us. Quite the opposite!

B.A.S.I.C.

- **BEST** (GOLD): The BEST of everything is found from, through, in and to the Living God.
- **ALIENATION** (BLACK): Sin has ALIENATED people from God and His best for them.
- **SALVATION** (RED): We are SAVED eternally only by the gracious sacrifice of God’s Son Jesus Christ.
- **IDENTIFICATION** (WHITE): We recover our true and best IDENTITY by *admitting* our need, *believing* in Jesus and *calling* on God.
- **COMPLETION** (GREEN): We *grow* as we live by faith, trusting and glorifying our God who is making us COMPLETE.

Life is Good, Love is Better, God is BEST!

Have you ever looked up on a clear, moonless night with the uncountable stars shining so bright when suddenly that sense of child-like wonder comes flooding over you? Oh my, what an amazingly huge and beautiful place we live in! (And the twinkling stars cry out “There is One more beautiful!”)

Have you ever watched the surging of the sea or the crashing of ocean waves & felt overwhelmed by the power of it all? Oh, what might nature possesses! (And the seas roar “There is One more powerful!”)

Have you ever had one of those precious moments—a special gathering of family and friends, holding your newborn child, winning a special prize...—and thought to yourself, “What could be better than this?” (And your question begs another: “Is this moment simply an accident or did Someone plan it for me & give it to me?”)

Have you ever found yourself in the arms of love—your husband’s, wife’s, mother’s, father’s, friend’s—and wished you could stay there forever? Oh yes, it is good to be alive and in love! (And your very wishes witness

to the reality of One whose love is the source of all others and who offers you a place in His love for all eternity!)

All of our natural observations and life experiences and lovely moments point to the One who made it all, sustains everything and IS Love Himself! *The best of everything is found from, through, in and to the Living God.* Knowing Him is life at its best!

Romans 11:33-36 — The Glorious Source & Destiny of All



Doxology (A Word of Glory)

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”

35 “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?”

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever!
Amen.



Questions to Ask:

1. How does human knowledge and wisdom compare to God's according to this text?
2. What does it mean that “all things” are “from him and through him and to him?”
3. What are some things in your life that you enjoy and that might be part of these “all things?”

Psalm 8 — Considering the Creator’s Greatness

1 O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for



him?

5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything

under his feet:

7 all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,

8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

9 O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

Questions to Ask:

1. Where do we see God's glory according to this song? Where do we hear his praise?
2. According to the Psalmist, where does human glory, honor & authority come from ultimately?
3. To whose name does this ancient songwriter give praise in light of human greatness? Why?

Psalm 19:1-6 — Natural Evidence for The Supernatural God

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

4 Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends

of the world.

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

5 which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.

Questions to Ask:

1. What does this Psalmist suggest we are seeing when we look up at the sky or watch the sun?
2. What “knowledge” do the skies have? How does their “speech” transcend all human language?
3. What does this suggest about the glory and the work of God?

Psalm 27:1-4 — If I Had But One Wish...



1 The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

3 Though an army besiege me,

my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

4 One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Questions:

1. What problems does this writer suggest might be his? How big are they? (How do they compare to our problems?)
2. Yet he says in his song that he is not shaken by fear. Why?
3. What does this Psalmist say is his ultimate goal, his final and deepest wish?

Isaiah 45:18-19 — The God of the Bible Claims to be Unique

18 For this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says:

“I am the Lord, and there is no other.

19 I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness;

I have not said to Jacob’s descendants, ‘Seek me in vain.’

I, the Lord, speak the truth; I declare what is right.

“I am the Lord, and there is no other.”

Questions to ask: 1. How do these words from the Prophet Isaiah inform our search for what is best in life? 2. What does God’s word to His people long ago—“I have not said... ‘Seek me in vain.’”—suggest about our own search for Him? (Jesus would say 700 years later “Seek and you will find.”)

Revelation 21 — A Vision of Heaven, A Vision of the Best!

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for

these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. . .

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates...

²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single

pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

BEST



*Reaching Out with
the Message and
Love of Jesus Christ*

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Our Mission

Covenant Presbyterian Church is a Christ-centered church whose members seek to: reach out to others with the message and love of Christ, enable people to become faithful, mature disciples of Jesus, and help people discover and use their spiritual gifts through meaningful worship, nurture, prayer, education and service to our members and beyond.

Our Focus

Teaching the Word of God

Our Vision

To proclaim, teach and live the Word of God so that our members, their families and friends, and our neighbors in the community receive and respond to God's Word by coming to know Christ as their Savior and Lord, growing in their relationship with Him and with one another, fulfilling God's unique purpose for their lives, and sharing their faith with others.

We Share with You the Good News...



For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... (I Corinthians 5:3-4)

✝ That Christ died for our sins

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows... But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed... We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; & the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6)

✝ And that He was buried

You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19) ...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

✝ And that He rose again

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (I Corinthians 15:22)... Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives & believes in me will never die..." (John 11:25-26)

🔑 Humanity's Need

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)... for all have

sinned and fall short of the glory of God... For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)

🔑 God's Remedy

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

➡ What shall I do, Lord?

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved... for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:9-13)

♥ Choose Life

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. (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)... Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. (Isaiah 55:6)