



Where the impossible is done today, and the insane...that's in R & D!

Welcome to Readware! This software is offered with a unique condition: if you use it, all you have to do is read this ReadMe! Since you've already begun, please take just a moment more.

Every major system of beliefs in the history of the world believes that salvation (however it's defined) comes through something we do, generally declared by saying something like, "I've lived a pretty good life."

I have Good News and bad news. The bad news is that God requires absolute perfection, and since He is a God of justice, failure to be perfect earns eternal separation from God (commonly known as hell), and since none of us is perfect, we can't save ourselves.

But here's the Good News: God Himself provided a solution: He sent His only Son to become a man to take our place. Jesus Christ, who is 100% God and 100% man lived a perfect life, then died a criminal's death on a cross to take our place. This is called "grace," which means "undeserved love." Another way to define it is, "God's riches at Christ's expense."

Because Jesus got what we deserve, we get what He deserves: eternal life. You see, after Jesus died, He came back to life. Someday, we'll all do that, too, and if we trust in God's free gift, we'll live forever in a new world free of pain and death. This is the central teaching of the Christian church: our works won't save us—Jesus already did. This means that, no matter what we do, God forgives us. Cool, huh?

This was all predicted long before it happened. My favorite example is in a book written 470–480 years before the fact. God said, "...They will look on Me, the One they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn Son." (Zechariah 12:10b, NIV).

Now, if none of the above interests you, then stop now. Salvation is a free gift, not to be forced on anyone. Use the software with my blessing, but keep this ReadMe in case your mind is ever changed.

If you're still reading, the next question you may have is, "But isn't Christianity about morals and being good?" The answer is that we do good works in response to what God has already done for us. We do good because we're saved; we're not saved because we do good.

If you have more questions or want to know more, you can do one of the following:

1. Go to the homepage of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod at www.lcms.org.
2. Call Lutheran Hour Ministries at 1-800-862-2089. Tell them, "I want to learn more about Jesus."
3. Open your yellow pages and find, "Churches:Lutheran:Missouri Synod." Call or visit any of those listed. (Or try any other Christian church—I can only speak for the LCMS.)
4. If you're not in the U.S.A. or none of the above worked for you, try locating a Christian church or missionary near you. Trust me — it's worth the trouble.

Any comments, questions, or frustrations? Send me an e-mail.

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(Mac users, Command-click on the above links.)

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