

# THE BEST LONG HAUL YOU WILL EVER GET



BY “UTURN” THE TRUCKER

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From Earth to Heaven. That’s a long haul. Its given to you freely, and its totally based upon the *faithfulness* of Jesus Christ.

And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified **by the faithfulness of Christ**... Galatians 2:16 NET

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, that is, into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. **It is reserved in heaven for you**... I Peter 1:3-4 NET

I suppose that most everyone has heard that Jesus Christ died on the cross for sinners.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the **tree** [cross]... 1 Peter 2:24 NET

**IF** you can agree with God that you are a sinner [have not been obedient to the law of God]

So whoever knows what is good to do and does not do it is **guilty of sin**. James 4:17 NET

Everyone who **practices sin** also **practices lawlessness**; indeed, **sin is lawlessness**. 1John 3:4 NET

For we too [Christians] were once foolish, **disobedient**, misled, enslaved to various passions and desires, spending our lives in evil and envy, hateful and hating one another. Titus 3:3 NET

—that you are not a good man [compared to God]

...for all have sinned and **fall short of the glory of God**. Romans 3:23 NET

...No one is **good** except God alone. Luke 18:19 NET

—and not deserving of God’s blessings—but deserve to be punished

For the **payoff [wages] of sin is death**... Romans 6:23 NET

Now we know that **God’s judgment** is in accordance with truth...**He will reward each one according to his works**: eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory and honor and immortality, but **wrath** and **anger** to those who live in selfish ambition and do not obey the truth but follow unrighteousness. ...There will be **affliction** and **distress** on everyone who does evil... Romans 2:7-9 NET

—you know the Lord keeps a log book of His own on all of us—our whole life—everything we have done; thought; or said is recorded in it—at the day of judgment that log will be opened in front of us. I don’t know about you, but if someone does not come to my rescue on that day I have no hope.

I tell you that on the **day of judgment, people will give an account** for every worthless word they speak. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:36-37 NET

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne. **Then books [logs] were opened**, and another book was opened — the book of life. So the dead **were judged by what was written in the books [logs], according to their deeds**. Revelation 20:12 NET

—If you can agree with these things—then I’ve got good news for you.

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our **Lord Jesus Christ**, who gave himself for our sins **to rescue us**... Galatians 1:3-4 NET

This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: “**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**”... 1 Timothy 1:15 NET

You might be thinking, “Yal, I’ve heard that, and that’s ok for some people, but you don’t know me. I’ve got too many bad habits, faults—and ok, sins. I could never live like a Christian.”

Let me say to you that I am a trucker also and I know exactly what you are saying. But there is another bit of good news I can give you that most people never hear about. Christ not only died for sinners—He *lived* for sinners also. EDITOR’S NOTE

You say, “I’ve never heard that. What do you mean?”

I had never heard of it either until someone taught me from the Bible.

When Christ Jesus, God the Son, was on earth He was perfectly obedient to God the Father and the Law of God. In all His thoughts and behavior He never sinned.

**He committed no sin** nor was deceit found in his mouth. 1 Peter 2:22 NET

But when the appropriate time had come, God sent out his Son, born of a woman, **born under the law**, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we may be adopted as sons with full rights. Galatians 4:4-5 NET

I [Jesus Christ] glorified you [God the Father] on earth **by completing the work you gave me to do**. John 17:4 NET

Even His death on the cross was a willing obedient act that He was sent by the Father to accomplish.

This is why the Father loves me — because I lay down my life, so that I may take it back again. No one takes it away from me, but **I lay it down of my own free will**. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it back again. **This commandment I received from my Father**.” John 10:17-18 NET

Jesus replied, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for **I have come from God** and am now here. I have not come on my own initiative, but **he sent me**. John 8:42 NET

His whole *life* of obedience—and His *death* as suffering for sinners— is called the *faithfulness* of Jesus Christ. This faithfulness of Jesus Christ is His *righteousness*. He worked it out in obedience to His Father. Listen to what the Apostle Paul said about himself:

...I have the **righteousness** that comes by way of **Christ’s faithfulness** — a **righteousness** from God that is in fact based on **Christ’s faithfulness**... Philippians 3:9 NET

This righteousness can be yours. As a matter of fact, it is your only hope of heaven. This righteousness is put on your record/log in Heaven. Christ’s perfect record/log *replaces* your miserable, sinful record/log. His death for your sins *cleanses* your record/log of all sins and His obedient life is *placed* on your record/log. That’s how God the Father can legally accept you as His child. Only because of the life and death of Christ. . When God looks at *your* record/log He sees only the righteousness of Christ.

God made the one [Christ Jesus] who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him [Christ Jesus] we would become the **righteousness** of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 NET

So even David himself speaks regarding the blessedness of the man to whom **God credits righteousness** [puts on his record] apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the one against whom the Lord will never **count sin** [puts on his record].” Romans 4:6-8 NET

The Bible says that any *sinner* that *trusts/believes* in Christ Jesus faithfulness is given this great salvation. God the Father actually *declares you righteous* [as in a court trial] because of what Christ did.

But the scripture [Bible] imprisoned everything and everyone under sin so that the promise [of salvation] could be given — because of the **faithfulness of Jesus Christ — to those who believe**. Galatians 3:22 NET

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For no one is **declared righteous** before him by the works of the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God... has been disclosed — namely, the righteousness of God through the **faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who believe**. For there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But they are **justified** [declared righteous] freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:19-24 NET

Therefore, since we have been **declared righteous by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... Romans 5:1 NET

That’s why the Bible calls Christians “believers”. They believed the gospel message of Jesus Christ as written in the Bible.

But many of those who had listened to the message **believed**... Acts 4:4 NET

After he had gone through those regions and spoken many words of encouragement to the **believers** there... Acts 20:2 NET

Finally, Christ will help you live the Christian Life. Your maps, CB, and GPS will be the Bible. The Holy Spirit will enable you the live the Christian life.

For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of **power** and **love** and **self-control**. 2 Timothy 1:7 NET

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the **Holy Spirit who was given to us**. Romans 5:5 NET

Now we have not received the spirit of the world, **but the Spirit who is from God**, so that we may know the things that are freely given to us by God. 1 Corinthians 2:12 NET

He promises to never leave you or forsake you. Run this “long haul” brother by trusting in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no “D.O.T.” or “Chicken Houses” on this road. See you at the final truck stop.

From Simeon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the **righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ, have been granted a faith** just as precious as ours. 2 Peter 1:1 NET

“Uturn” the Trucker

“*Mercy triumphs over judgment*” James 2:13b NET

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“NET” stands for the NET Bible that can be read or downloaded for free from [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

GospelPedlar realizes that the death of Jesus Christ is THE major theme of the Gospel.

*1 Corinthians 15:1-4* Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, **the gospel** that I preached to you, that you received and on which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. For I passed on to you as of first importance what I also received—that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures, and that **he was buried**, and that **he was raised on the third day** according to the scriptures...

*Romans 1:1-3* From Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the **gospel** of God. This **gospel** he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, **concerning his Son**...

In this little tract I have incorporated an aspect of the Gospel that is not always brought to light—what theologians call the “active and passive obedience of Christ” [see below: *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. John Murray. WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1955. Ch.2, pgs. 19-22]—but first, we must always begin at the beginning. People need Christ because they are sinners.

From *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*. John Murray. WM. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1955

## CHAPTER II

### The Nature of the Atonement

Pages 19-22.

IN dealing with the nature of the atonement it is well to try to discover some comprehensive category under which the various aspects of Biblical teaching may be subsumed. The more specific categories in terms of which the Scripture sets forth the atoning work of Christ are sacrifice, propitiation, reconciliation, and redemption. But we may properly ask if there is not some more inclusive rubric under which these more specific categories may be comprehended.

The Scripture regards the work of Christ as one of **obedience** and uses this term, or the concept that it designates, with sufficient frequency to warrant the conclusion that obedience is generic and therefore embracive enough to be viewed as the unifying or integrating principle. We should readily appreciate the propriety of this conclusion when we remember that the one passage in the Old Testament that above all others delineates the pattern of Christ's atonement is Isaiah 53. But we ask: in what capacity is the suffering personage of Isaiah 53 viewed? It is none other than that of servant. It is by that designation he is introduced, “Behold my servant shall deal prudently” (Isa. 52:13). And it is in that capacity that he reaps the justifying fruit, “By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many” (Isa. 53: n). Our Lord himself puts beyond all doubt the validity of such a construction when he defines for us the purpose of his coming into the world in terms that precisely convey such a connotation: “I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him that sent me” (John 6:38). And with reference even to the climactic event which is pivotal in the accomplishment of redemption, his death, he says, “On this account the Father loves me because I lay down my life in order that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it again. This commandment have I received from my Father” (John 10:17, 18). And nothing to this effect could be more explicit than the words of the apostle. “For as through the disobedience of the one man many were constituted sinners, even so through the obedience of the one many will be constituted righteous” (Rom. 5:19). “He made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:7, 8; cf. also Gal. 4:4). And the epistle to the Hebrews also has its own peculiar turn of expression when it says that the Son “learned obedience from the things which he suffered, and being made perfect became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him” (5:8, 9; cf. 2:10).

**This obedience has frequently been designated the active and passive obedience.** This formula when properly interpreted serves the good purpose of setting forth the two distinct aspects of Christ's work of obedience. But it is necessary at the outset to relieve the formula of some of the misapprehensions and misapplications to which it is subject.

(a) The term “passive obedience” does not mean that in anything Christ did was he passive, the involuntary victim of obedience imposed upon him. It is obvious that any such conception would contradict the very notion of obedience. And it must be jealously maintained that even in his sufferings and death our Lord was not the passive recipient of that to which he was subjected. In his sufferings he was supremely active, and death itself did not befall him as it befalls other men. “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself” are his own words. He was obedient unto death, Paul tells us. And this does not mean that his obedience extended to the threshold of death but rather that he was obedient to the extent of yielding up his spirit in death and of laying down his life. In the exercise of self-conscious sovereign volition, knowing that all things had been accomplished and that the very moment of time for the accomplishment of this event had arrived, he effected the separation of body and spirit and committed the latter to the Father. He dismissed his spirit and laid down his life. The word “passive,” then, should not be interpreted to mean pure passivity in anything that came within the scope of his obedience. The sufferings he endured, sufferings which reached their climax in his death upon the accursed tree, were an integral part of his obedience and were endured in pursuance of the task given him to accomplish.

(b) Neither are we to suppose that we can allocate certain phases or acts of our Lord's life on earth to the active obedience and certain other phases and acts to the passive obedience. The distinction between the active and passive obedience is not a distinction of periods. It is our Lord's whole work of obedience in every phase and period that is described as active and passive, and we must avoid the mistake of thinking that the active obedience applies to the obedience of his life and the passive to the obedience of his final sufferings and death.

The real use and purpose of the formula is to emphasize the two distinct aspects of our Lord's vicarious obedience. The truth expressed rests upon the recognition that the law of God has both penal sanctions and positive demands. It demands not only the full discharge of its precepts but also the infliction of penalty for all infractions and shortcomings. It is this twofold demand of the law of God which is taken into account when we speak of the active and passive obedience of Christ. Christ as the vicar of his people came under the curse and condemnation due to sin and he also fulfilled the law of God in all its positive requirements. In other words, he took care of the guilt of sin and perfectly fulfilled the demands of righteousness. He perfectly met both the penal and the preceptive requirements of God's law. The passive obedience refers to the former and the active obedience to the latter. Christ's obedience was vicarious in the bearing of the full judgment of God upon sin, and it was vicarious in the full discharge of the demands of righteousness. His obedience becomes the ground of the remission of sin and of actual justification.