

Even today God is calling YOU to realize †who He is and †what He has done; then →be sorry, →receive Jesus by grace through faith, and →know you have God's forgiveness!

4. **Romans 3:20-22**: No one can make himself righteous, so God offers us His righteousness through Jesus!

a. ²⁰ "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law [by trying to keep the law]; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin [even though the law tells us what to do, we cannot do it perfectly; therefore, we know we are sinners]."

b. ²¹ "But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known... ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

God is so good; He knows we are sinners – that we cannot fix our sin or save ourselves! Therefore, since He loves us so much, He freely gives the righteousness we need to all who believe in Jesus!

Conclusion: So what is the message? ♥God created, ☹we sinned, ♥God promised Jesus, †Jesus came, and †Jesus made the way to heaven for everyone! Now, **God is calling all people TODAY to receive Jesus as their Savior!**

If you have Him, rejoice; then share Him with others by **sharing a Bethlehem card with someone today!** Since God loves us so much, let us show His love to others! Amen!

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

"Do YOU Know HOW MUCH God Loves You?"

Based on Various Passages NIV

5th Sunday of Easter – 2010

May 2 → 8:15 & 10:45

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Christ-centered ♥ Bible-based ♥ Relevant

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† Grow in their knowledge of God's Word!

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Do YOU Know HOW MUCH God Loves You?

♥ God created everything in six days – all was very good; then the fall into sin brought separation and death, so God promised to send His Son to bring restoration and life!

♥ When the time was right Jesus lived, suffered, died, and rose – winning the victory over sin, death, and the devil!

♥ Now, God is calling and enabling all people to be sorry for their sins and fully trust in Jesus Christ for eternal life!

Read → Gen. Chap. 1-3; John 3:1-18; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 3:20-22

These cards – front and back – are available at Bethlehem.



Please share them with everyone you know and love, even with strangers!



Thanks!

Introduction: Dear fellow-believers, today's sermon will equip you with a simple way to †invite others to Bethlehem AND †help them know about creation, sin, and salvation! In this sermon I will try to help you better understand the second side of the Bethlehem card. **After the service, be sure to receive multiple copies to share with others!**

1. **Outline and Highlights of Genesis Chapters 1-3:**

a. **Chapter 1 – God created everything in six days:**

- i. Day 1 (vv. 1-5) – heavens, earth, and light.
- ii. Day 2 (vv. 6-8) – sky (water↓ from water↑).
- iii. Day 3 (vv. 9-13) – land and seas (water← from →water); then vegetation.
- iv. Day 4 (vv. 14-19) – sun, moon, and stars.
- v. Day 5 (vv. 20-23) – fish and birds.
- vi. Day 6 (24-31) – animals and people.

The finished product: ³¹ “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”

The point: God did not create suffering and death; instead, we brought it upon ourselves through sin!

b. **Chapter 2 – Details of God’s creation** (from chapter 1):

God ✦watered the land, ✦formed the man from the dust, ✦warned the man not to eat from the good and evil tree, ✦had the man name all the animals, ✦formed the woman from the man’s rib, and ✦participated in the first marriage – *God gave the woman to the man!*

c. **Chapter 3 – People brought death, but God**

promised life: ✦The fall into sin, ✦the Savior is promised, ✦the temporal consequences of sin are stated, and ✦the first blood sacrifice is made – *when God killed an animal to make clothes for the man and the woman! Their sin was ultimately followed by MANY sacrifices, which eventually led to Jesus once-for-all sacrifice which took away our sins* (1 Peter 3:18)!

2. **Highlights of John 3:1-18:**

- a. **Vv. 1-12:** To see and enter the kingdom of God, a person must be born *from above*, of water and of the Spirit. ⁶ “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God – both through Baptism (Titus 3:5-7) and through the Bible (1 Peter 1:23) – to unite people to Jesus!
- b. **Vv. 13-18:** Jesus, the Son of Man, the One from heaven, knows what He is talking about – so we should listen to Him! Because God loves all people, He sent His Son to live, suffer, and die – so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life! **The Son came to save us** 😊, but people condemn themselves whenever they refuse to believe in Jesus as their Savior 😞!

3. **Highlights of Acts 17:22-31:**

- a. **Vv. 22-23a:** People *then* and *today* are religious, but not necessarily righteous – *forgiven in God’s sight!*
- b. **Vv. 23b-29:** The true God ²⁴ “made the world and everything in it... ²⁵ [He] gives all men life and breath and everything else.... ²⁸ ...in him we live and move and have our being...”
- c. **Vv. 30-31:** Furthermore, ³⁰ “...God...commands all people everywhere to repent [to be sorry for their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior]. [Why?] ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed.”