

RADICAL LOVE

Behold! The Best News Ever – Rick Warren
Parts 1-2

*"May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love."
Ephesians 3:17 (NLT)*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his Only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not Perish but have Everlasting Life."
John 3:16 (KJV)*

1.

"God SO loved the world."

"Long before he laid down earth's foundations, God had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of his love." Ephesians 1:4 (The Message)

*"The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation."
Psalm 145:9-10 (NLT)*

"Nothing in all creation is able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:39 (NIV)

*"May you be able to feel and understand . . . how long, how wide, how deep, and how high God's love really is and experience this love for yourselves."
Ephesians 3:18-19 (TLB)*

2.

"That he GAVE his only begotten Son."

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God." Colossians 1:15 (NLT)

Jesus: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9 (NLT)

"God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him." Romans 5:8 (NIV)

"When Jesus served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good—not only ours, but the whole world's." John 2:2 (The Message)

"God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (TLB)

3.

"That WHOEVER BELIEVES in him should not perish."

"The free gift of eternal salvation is offered to everyone." Titus 2:11 (TLB)

"It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open." Acts 10:35 (The Message)

"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." Romans 10:9 (NIV)

"I did not come to judge the world, but to save it." John 12:47 (NIV)

4.

"But have EVERLASTING LIFE!"

"Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven, and the future STARTS NOW!" 1 Peter 1:3-4 (The Message)

"God's unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ." Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

*"Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you!"
2 Corinthians 6:2 (TLB)*

Next Steps

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CHRISTMAS IS FOR ALL PEOPLE!

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Parts 1-2

"The angel said to the shepherds, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be FOR ALL PEOPLE.'" Luke 2:10 (AMP)

"I have seen the Savior you have given TO ALL PEOPLE. He is a light to reveal God to THE NATIONS." Luke 2:30-32

GOD DOESN'T PLAY FAVORITES!

1. GOD _____ ON ALL PEOPLE

"God's light shines on ALL people." Job 25:3

"He causes his sun to shine on ALL PEOPLE, both good and evil, and he sends rain to BOTH those who do right and those who do wrong." Matthew 5:45

"The Lord is good to EVERYONE." Psalm 145:9 (NLT)

AT CHRISTMAS:

"When the goodness of God appeared, he saved us." Titus 3:4-5

2. GOD _____ ON ALL PEOPLE

"He showers compassion on ALL his creation." Psalm 145:9 (NLT)

"Each day the Lord pours out his unfailing love upon me." Psalm 42:8 (NLT)

- **LOVE** _____
"God knows every way I take, is concerned about it, and pays attention to it." Job 23:10 (AMP)

"Can a mother forget her nursing child? . . . I will NOT FORGET you! I have engraved you on the palms of my hands!" Isaiah 49:15-16 (NLT)

- **LOVE** _____
"Today, in the City of David, A SAVIOR FOR YOU has been born. He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

3. GOD _____ OF ALL PEOPLE

"God made the hearts of all people so he understands everything they do."

Psalm 33:15 (NLT)

"Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses, since he faced all of the same temptations we do." Hebrews 4:15

"When we're weak and tired, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayers out of our wordless sighs and our aching groans."

Romans 8:26 (The Message)

"You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book." Psalm 56:8 (NLT)

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

4. GOD _____ FOR ALL PEOPLE

"Jesus sacrificed himself for ALL PEOPLE to free them from their sins."

1 Timothy 2:6

"John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Here comes the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" John 1:29 (NIV)

"He died FOR EVERYONE, so that all who live would not continue to live for themselves, but would live for him who died for them." 2 Corinthians 5:15

5. GOD WILL _____ WITH ALL WHO BELIEVE AND RECEIVE HIS SON

"To ALL who received him and believed in his name, Jesus gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 (ESV)

"It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open." Acts 10:35 (The Message)

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord WILL be saved!" Acts 2:21 (NIV)

A PRAYER THAT ALL PEOPLE CAN PRAY:

Dear God, thank you for creating me and giving me every day of my life. Thank you for all of the good things you provide that I take for granted. Thank you that you've never stopped loving me. And when I'm hurting, thank for understanding and even sharing my pain. Most of all, thank you Jesus for coming to Earth at Christmas to save me. I know that I cannot save myself. So thank you Jesus for dying on the cross to save me. This Christmas, I accept you as my Savior. Save me from my tendency to do the wrong things. Save me from my past mistakes. Save me from my present stress. And save me for eternity in heaven with you. I want to be a part of your family. I want to learn God's purpose for the rest of my life on Earth. I humbly ask these things in your name. Amen.

BEHOLD! THE BEST NEWS EVER

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Parts 1-3

“BEHOLD” is used 1,275 times in the Bible (KJV)

- To hold in focus for an extended time
- To gaze in awe or appreciation
- Pay attention! Think about the meaning!

WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS GOD WANTS US TO “BEHOLD”?

The Bible summarized in four statements

1. BEHOLD! GOD CAME TO EARTH! HE BECAME A HUMAN SO WE COULD SEE

“In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. Everything was created by him. Nothing has been made without him. He is the source of all life, and his life gives light to everyone . . . The WORD became a human and lived among us, and WE BEHELD HIS GLORY—the glory of the Father’s only Son. We saw his full grace and truth.” John 1:1,3,13

“That night there were shepherds watching over their flocks in the fields outside of Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel appeared with the radiance of God’s glory surrounding them. They were terrified by this but the angel reassured them, saying ‘Don’t be afraid! BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS of great joy, which is for everyone! Today, in the town of David, your SAVIOR has been born. He is Christ the Lord! You’ll find the babe lying in a manger.” Luke 2:8-12

2. BEHOLD! GOD LIVED A SIN-FREE LIFE ON EARTH THEN PAID FOR OUR SINS

AT HIS BAPTISM: “One day, John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, so John announced, ‘BEHOLD, the Lamb of God, who comes to take away the sin of the world!’” John 1:29

AT HIS TRIAL: “Pilate said, ‘You brought this man to me . . . but BEHOLD, I didn’t find him guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did King Herod, for he sent him back to me. BEHOLD he has done nothing deserving death. So I’ll have him flogged and released.’ But they all cried out, ‘No! Crucify him!’” Luke 23:13-19

AT HIS DEATH: “Then Jesus cried out in a loud voice and gave up his spirit. And BEHOLD, at that moment the curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.” Matthew 27:50-51

3. BEHOLD! JESUS DEFEATED DEATH BY RAISING HIMSELF BACK TO LIFE SO

AT HIS EMPTY TOMB: “And BEHOLD, there was a great earthquake, and an angel came and rolled back the large stone in front of the tomb door, and sat on it! His appearance was as bright as lightning . . . and the tomb guards were so frightened they shook with paralyzing fear. But the angel said to the women, ‘Don’t be afraid! I know you’re looking for Jesus who was crucified. But he’s not here! For he has risen, just as he promised. BEHOLD the place where they had laid his body. Now go tell his disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead; and BEHOLD, he will meet all of you in Galilee. LO, I’ve told you!’ So the women hurried away, afraid, yet filled with joy, and they ran to tell his disciples. But on the way BEHOLD, Jesus met the women! He said, ‘Greetings!’ Amazed, they ran to him, embraced his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said, ‘Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers.’” Matthew 28:2-10

AFTER HIS RESURRECTION: “Then Jesus told them . . . ‘Go to all people everywhere and make them my disciples . . . Teach them to do everything I’ve shown you . . . And BEHOLD, I am always with you, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20

HIS RETURN TO HEAVEN: “When Jesus had finished speaking these things, they BEHELD him being taken up into the sky until they could no longer see him past the clouds. As they kept gazing at the sky, two men dressed in white appeared. One said, ‘Why are you still staring at the sky? This same Jesus that you just saw taken up to heaven will return one day in the same way that you just saw him leave.’” Acts 1:9-11

4. BEHOLD! GOD’S PLAN ISN’T FINISHED. JESUS WILL RETURN TO COMPLETE IT &

“BEHOLD, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him . . . and all the tribes of the earth shall gaze on him.” Revelation 1:7

JOHN’S GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN: “BEHOLD, God’s home is now with his people! He’ll live with them forever and they will be his family. And he will wipe away every tear from their eyes! There will be no more death! There will be no more grief or crying! And there will be no more pain anymore, for the old order of things will pass away. And God will say, ‘BEHOLD, I’m making EVERYTHING NEW!’” Revelation 21:3-5

Jesus says: “BEHOLD, I’m standing at your door and knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door I’ll come in and we’ll fellowship together!” Revelation 3:20

Next Step

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