

Come to Jesus; Revelation 22:16-17

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- I. Lost
 - A. Directions are important
 1. Without them, we get lost
 2. I remember driving in Southern California, trying to get back home from my grandfather's house in Cerritos
 3. This was before the time of GPS and cell phones (I was 16 or 17)
 4. I remember thinking, "this road intersects the interstate, so if I just stay on it, I will run into the 5 freeway (and I know my way from there)"
 - B. It did not take long for humanity to get lost
 1. It didn't take long for Adam and Eve
 2. It didn't take long for humanity (the flood)
 3. It didn't take long for Israel
 - i. When God brings them from Egypt to the mountain Moses goes up on the mountain to get the tablets of the law
 - ii. The Israelites get restless and ask Aaron to make them a God
 - iii. Exodus 32:4 (ESV) ⁴ And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"
 - iv. Verse 6 tells us that "the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."
 - v. God was ready to destroy Israel, but Moses interceded, and God relented of his destruction
 - C. We live in a world that has lost its way

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1. Iowa teens kill Spanish teacher over bad grade, prosecutors say (NBC News) – [The teacher's] "body was found in a Fairfield park Nov. 3, 2021, hidden under a tarp, wheelbarrow and railroad ties. She had been beaten to death with a baseball bat. The suspects were 16 at the time."

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2. Mayor arrested for attempted murder in Halloween road rage incident
 - i. A family witnessed someone driving erratically. The person pulled the vehicle over and stopped on the side of the road
 - ii. "As the family passed the suspect vehicle, a male subject stepped out of the passenger side and fired multiple rounds from a handgun at the passing family," the Hood River County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. "The gunfire caused damage to the family's vehicle."

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3. Revelation 22:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.
4. Revelation 22:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

- D. “Weak and wounded sinner lost and left to die. Oh, raise your head for Love is passing by. Come to Jesus, come to Jesus, come to Jesus, and live”

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II. Live

A. We have two choices in life (spiritually), live or die

1. This is not new
2. Moses gives Israel the covenant of blessing and cursing in Deuteronomy 28-30
3. Deuteronomy 30:19–20 (ESV) ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

B. Choose life

1. Yes, He has given us life, but our relationship with Him goes so much deeper than that! “He is your life!”
 - i. Galatians 2:20 (ESV) ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
 - ii. Romans 6:6 (ESV) ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
2. We are encouraged to “choose life.”
 - i. The only way to choose live is to “come to Jesus”
 - ii. Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV) ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
 - iii. 1 John 5:2–3 (ESV) ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
 - iv. Life means trust, loyalty, obedience

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C. Obedience of Faith

1. Paul opens and closes his letter to the Romans with this phrase
2. Romans 1:5–6 (ESV) ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
3. Romans 16:25–27 (ESV) ²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

4. The Greek sentence structure gives us this understanding, the obedience that belongs to faith.
5. There is no faith without obedience
6. James 2:18–20 (ESV) ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?
7. Paul reminds the church in Thessalonica concerning those who have chosen death
8. 2 Thessalonians 1:8–9 (ESV) ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,
9. There are two classes of people who chose death, “those who do not know God” and “those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus”
10. Romans 2:8 (ESV) ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.
11. No wonder Moses said, “choose life” and Jesus says, “come to me!”

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D. God wants you to live

1. The first pancake off the grill is the ‘throw-away’ pancake
2. My wife had a couple Hyundai’s when they first came out, she called them ‘throw-away’ cars because they were so inexpensive; it cost more to fix them than to buy a new one
3. God did not create a ‘throw-away’ human race
4. He wants every single one of us
5. 2 Peter 3:9–11 (ESV) ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

E. So, obey God and live

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III. Wash

- A. “Now your burden's lifted and carried far away and precious blood has washed away the stain. So, sing to Jesus, sing to Jesus, sing to Jesus, and live.”
- B. Call on the name of the Lord!
 1. Acts 2:21 (ESV) ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’
 2. Romans 10:13–16 (ESV) ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to

hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”

3. Paul tells us that calling on the name of the Lord is to obey the Gospel

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- C. On the day of Pentecost, the peoples’ hearts were “cut” (ESV) – the feeling of a sharp pain connected with anxiety, remorse, etc.; deeply moved. ¹
 1. They were convicted by Holy Spirit (using Peter’s words) that Jesus was the Messiah, both Lord and Christ, sent by God to free them from their burden of sin
 2. They repented of their unbelief (verse 38)
 3. They were immersed for the remission of their sins (verse 38)
 4. Acts 2:40–41 (ESV) ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
 5. This is a picture of choosing life!

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- IV. Choose life!
 - A. God has placed before you a choice this morning
 - B. Life and death
 - C. Choose life!
 - D. “Cry to Jesus, cry to Jesus, cry to Jesus, and live”

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 523.