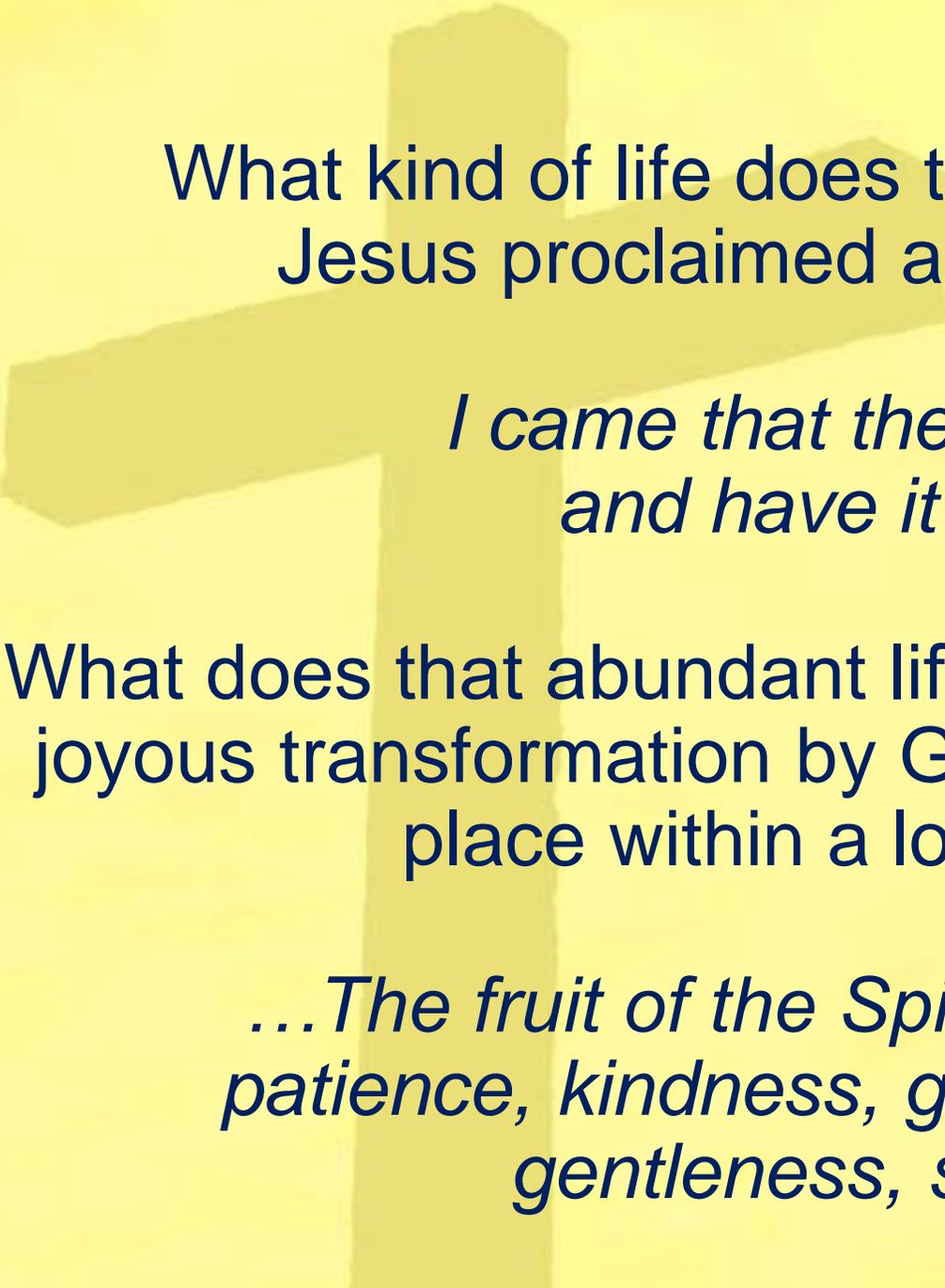




The most important question, for all eternity:

WHAT IS THE “GOSPEL”?

Great News for Sinners!



What kind of life does the Gospel offer to you?
Jesus proclaimed about those he loves:

*I came that they may have life
and have it abundantly.*

John 10:10

What does that abundant life look like? It's a new life of joyous transformation by God's inner work, and taking place within a loving community.

*...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control....*

Galatians 5:22-23

But first, the BAD NEWS: We have a problem.

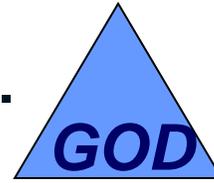
By nature, every human acts as though our Creator doesn't exist, even though we live in his world and breathe his air. We are self-centered rather than God-centered.

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21

Sin separates people from God now,
and leads to eternal judgment to come.

The wages of sin is death... Romans 6:23 *...Whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.* John 3:36.

→ Sin separates people from a Holy God.



→ Sin is like three massive concrete barriers we cannot break through.

Every evil thing you have ever done, or said, or even thought—God knows all.



All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23

In ourselves we are unable to change, and don't even want to change.

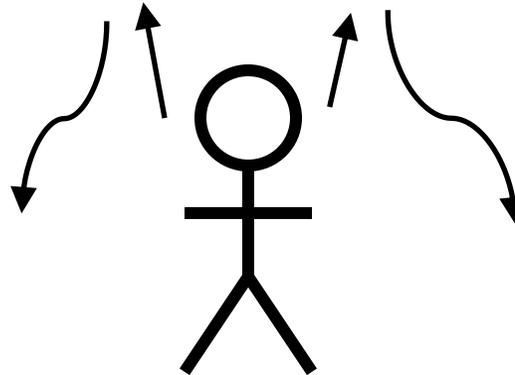


For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery....
Matthew 15:19

People think they are free. But that's the devil's lie. Sinners are slaves. Only God can set us free.



Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.
John 8:34

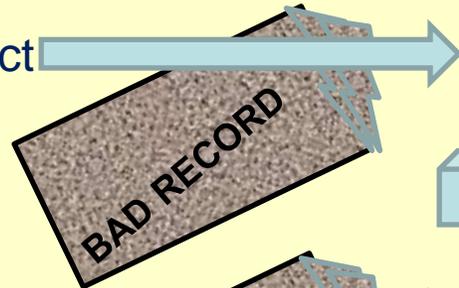


All your best efforts won't help!

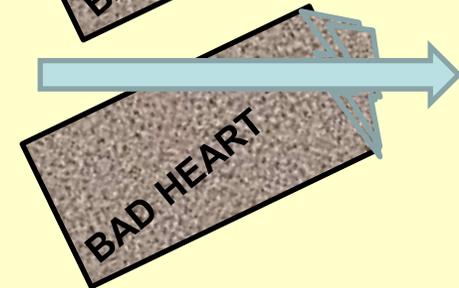
THE GREAT NEWS

→ Christ Jesus broke the barriers!

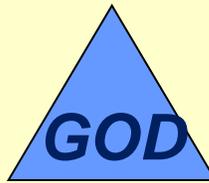
Christ provides a perfect record, to replace your bad record.



God gives you a new heart that trusts and loves him, to replace your bad heart.



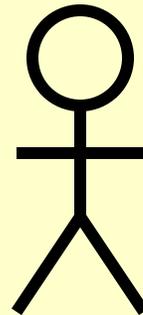
Christ himself becomes your new Master who loves you, instead of the old bad master of sin.



**PERFECT
RECORD**

**NEW
HEART**

**GOOD
MASTER**



...In him we...become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

...I will give you a new heart...I will remove the heart of stone....

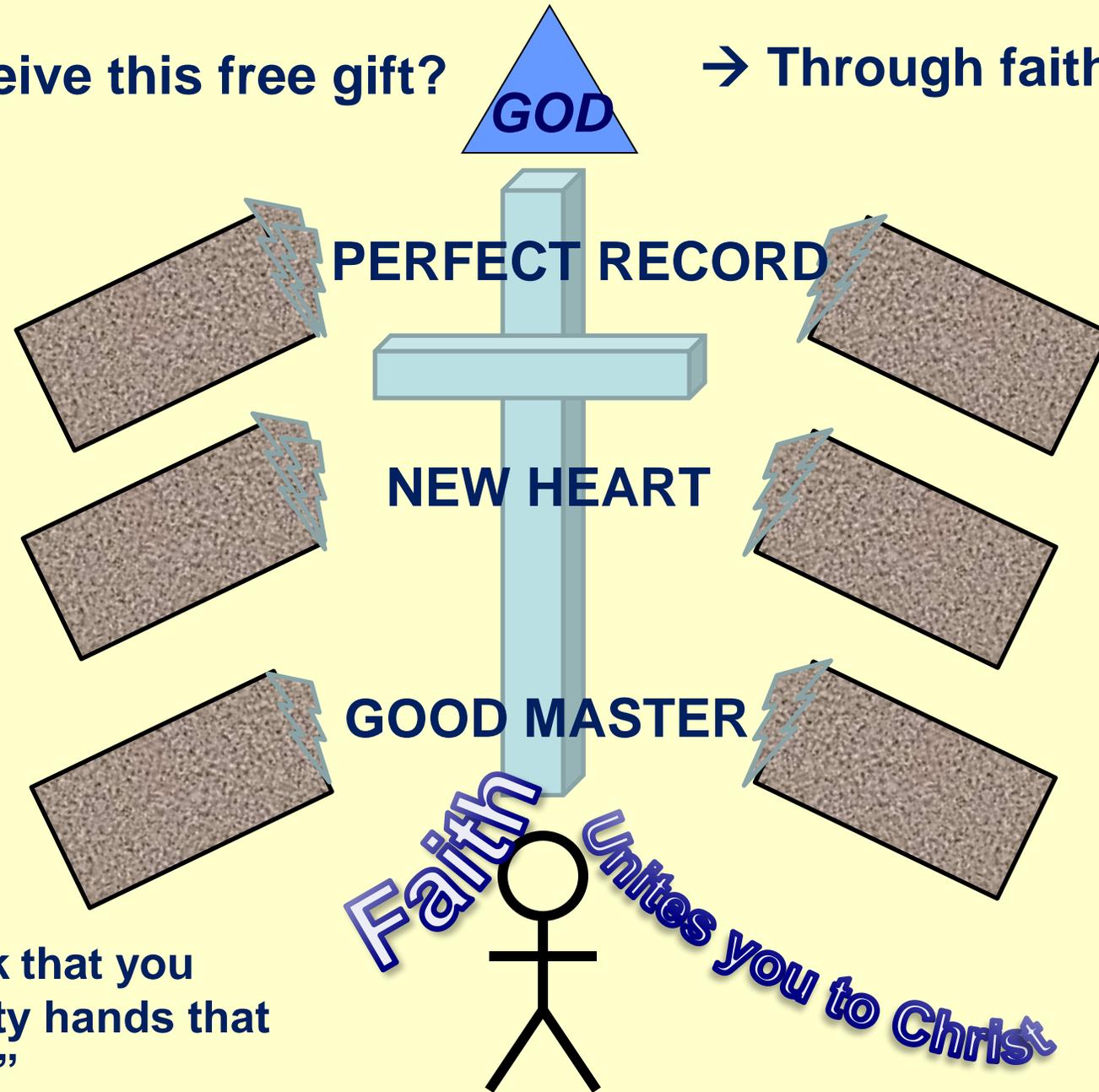
Ezekiel 36:26

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....

Matthew 11:29

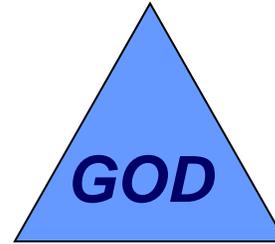
How do you receive this free gift?

→ Through faith in Christ alone!

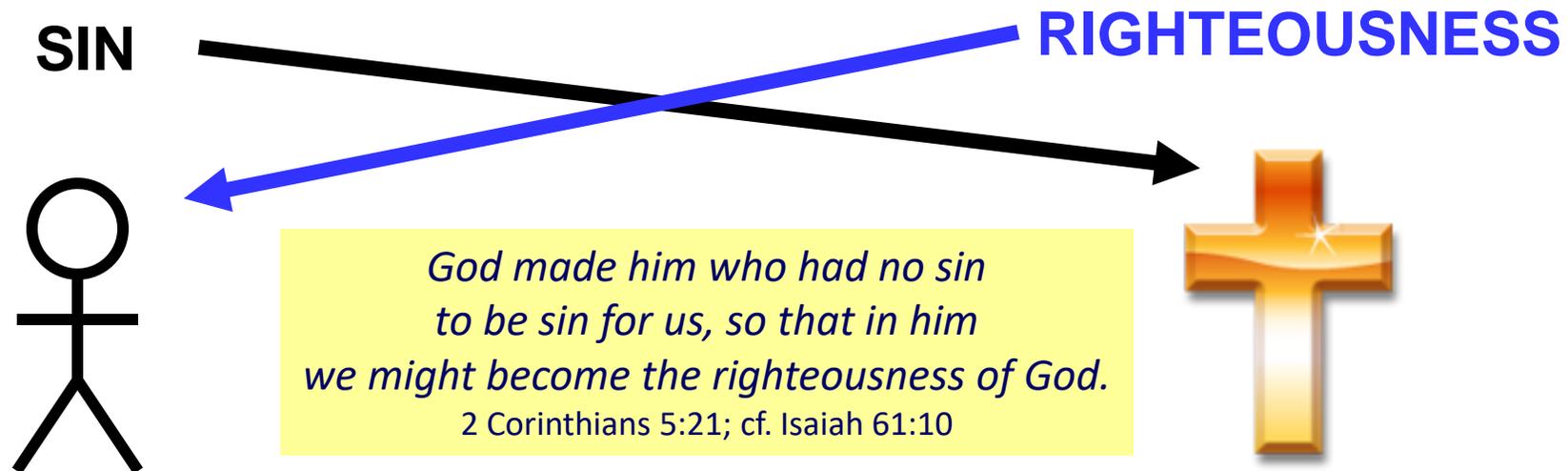


Faith is not a work that you do. It is the “empty hands that receive a free gift.”

THE GREAT EXCHANGE



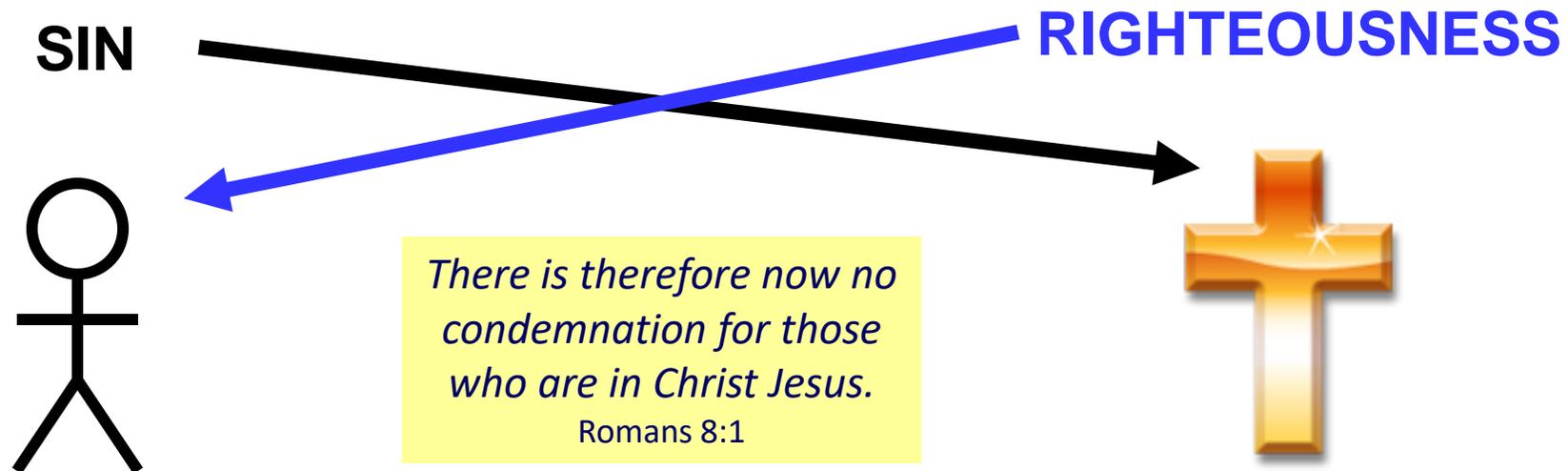
God the Father credits the perfect record of Jesus Christ to our “account” and our sin to Christ’s “account.” His righteousness is the ground (the legal basis) for our justification—God declaring us righteous in his sight. It is the exact opposite of condemnation. It happens now.



THE GREAT EXCHANGE

Received by **FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE!**
FAITH = the empty hands that receive a free gift.

“Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.” Westminster Shorter Catechism 86

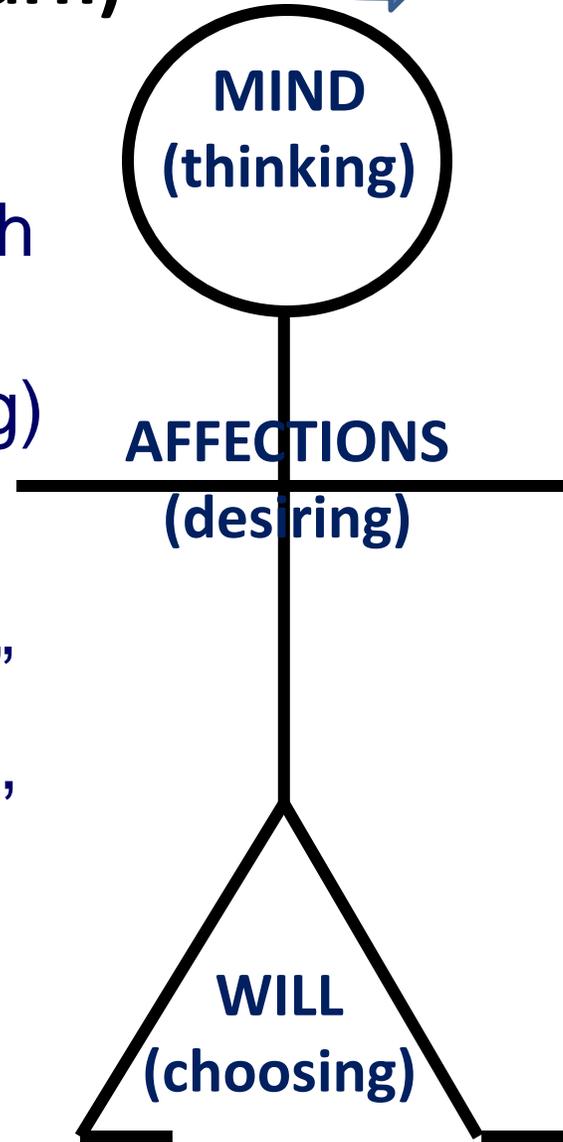


REPENTANCE (Turn)



FAITH (Trust)

What does this saving faith look like? Repentance (turning) and faith (trusting) are two sides of the same coin. You turn away from serving all the false “gods” that used to drive your life, and you trust in Christ as your Savior and Lord.



Faith and repentance happen in the MIND, the AFFECTIONS, and the WILL.

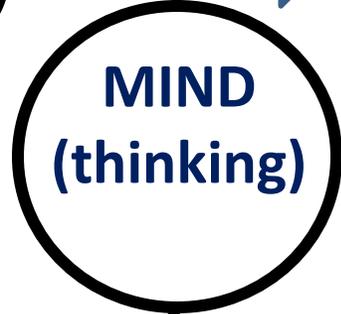
(These are not three “parts” of the person, but looking at the same event from different angles.)

REPENTANCE (Turn)



FAITH (Trust)

Know your desperate need—your sinful condition



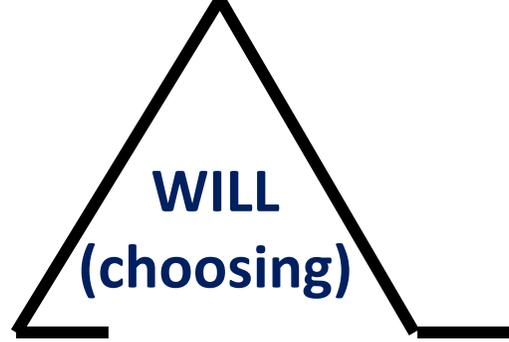
Know God's Provision—Christ who lived & died & rose again

Agree with God about your need



Agree with God about Christ

Turn from sin, from the heart



Rely wholly upon Christ alone

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (KJV)

Will you surrender your life to the Lord Jesus Christ today, by turning from your self-oriented life and trusting in him alone?

Here is a suggested prayer that you can make your own:

“Dear God, I have lived for myself and wanted my own way, not yours. I have been envious, proud, and bitter, and have often failed to love you and others. I have not listened to your Word, the Bible. But now I turn from sin and trust in Jesus Christ who lived the perfect life that I could not live, and died a sinner’s death in my place. I deserved the judgment that he bore. Please forgive me for all my sins, and receive me because of Jesus. Come into my heart now, by your Holy Spirit, and be my Savior and my King.”

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25-27 (ESV)

NEXT: When God saves people, he places them into a new family—the church. Christians aren't meant to go it alone. We need each other. Find a good church where this Gospel is believed and proclaimed, and where you will find friends and leaders who will help you persevere in trusting and following Christ.

FOR FURTHER STUDY, WE RECOMMEND THIS RESOURCE:

https://www.christianityexplored.org/Groups/276316/Home/CE_ORG/What_is_Christianity/What_is_Christianity.aspx