

*"What is the Gospel?"  
(1 Peter 3:13-18)*

1 Peter 3:13-18 NIV

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

*What's the best news you've ever received?  
God's Good News in four words, using 1 Pet. 3:18*

*LOVE  
DEBT  
GIFT  
TRUST*

*LOVE (John 1:4, 17:3)*

*God created you for loving relationships.  
God is willing to suffer for you.*

*DEBT (Romans 3:23, 6:23) ('sins' . . . 'unrighteous')*

*We've broken our relationship with God and others.  
We can't fix this ourselves. The Bible calls this SIN.  
We all fall short of God's standards, and even our own.  
Justice demands any debt must be repaid or forgiven by the wronged person.*

*GIFT (John 3:16, 'once for all' . . . 'righteous')*

*God is willing to pay the price we can never pay for our sin.  
We're broken enough that Christ HAD to die for sin.  
We're loved enough that Christ was GLAD to die for sin.  
This restores our loving relationship with God.  
(Math. 11:28-30, Ephesians 2:13)*

*TRUST ('bring you to God', Rom. 10:9-10)*

*The resurrection shows Jesus is who he says he is and can do what he says he can do. We are called to RESPOND.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good!*

