



8. RSVP

The gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) has been called the ‘greatest story ever told.’ Why is it the greatest? I would say, because it is about God blessing all nations. It is about good things to come - forever. In one passage it is correctly called "the everlasting gospel" (Revelation 14:6). It is God's plan for blessing all of humanity for eternity. Let us begin our study Christian essentials over the next eight lessons. I call this Christian Essentials because most Christians across denominations and nations would agree with the concepts presented in this series. Here we reflect on a topic that makes eternal life a reality through Jesus Christ- *RSVP Jesus' invitation.*

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

Being born and raised in a Christian family meant I automatically knew "about" Jesus. That did not necessarily mean I "knew" Jesus which we all know is an entirely different cup of tea. Till my mid-twenties I did the usual churchy things that children in Christian families do. I found church and Christianity a boring mix of rituals and speed breakers to fun in the form of “you shall nots.”

Of course, I knew I was a sinner, though compared to some of my friends I was not a spectacular one. Unfortunately, the faith of my parents never became my faith during those days.

1. The Explorer

But, I clearly remember in university experiencing an emptiness within, though in worldly terms I was a winner. It was a spiritual emptiness that needed to be filled. I explored eastern mysticism. I had a short honeymoon with its western cousin EST. Other religions seemed similar to Christianity and so while I did study them, I was not interested in just becoming more ‘religious.’ While I began my faith journey as a “seeker” of God, I did not find Him in rituals or in religion.

2. Discovering God

I found God only when I learned the simple truth that Christianity is not a religion. It is a personal invitation for a one-on-one relationship with Jesus. This relationship begins when one moves from being a seeker to a believer. As a seeker I knew about God but once I became a believer, it has been an incredible spiritual journey experiencing in little and big things, what Jesus had declared. *“I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance.”* (John 10:10b).

3. Discovering some truths of Christianity

Yes, the invitation to become a Christian is not an invitation to boredom. Neither is it an invitation to become super religious. Being a Christian means living an abundant life, knowing God personally! At its heart Christianity is about a relationship, which is what we humans were made for. A relationship that fills one of our basic and deepest needs. Since, relationally, we are the ones who need God to feel fulfilled, our response to Jesus’ invitation becomes crucial.

4. The beauty of Jesus' invitation

The beauty of Jesus' invitation is we don't need anything to deserve it. It is an open and unconditional invitation available to everyone. The fact is one can never be good enough to deserve to have a relationship with God. That is why it is so wonderful that "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). We can accept Jesus' invitation just as we are. The moment someone accepts Jesus, all is forgiven and their life begins with a clean slate, regardless of what they did in the past. So, where does all of this leave you and me?

5. You and Jesus' invitation

Let me close the Christian Essentials series with Jesus' invitation for a relationship with Him. An invitation that is requesting you for an RSVP. Your response could be I am already in a relationship with Christ. That's great, keep nurturing the relationship.

Your response could be "I need to think about it." Or It could be a "No, I am not interested."

It could also be "Not now, maybe later," for a variety of reasons.

But the only RSVP that gets the relationship started is "Yes."

If you would like to accept God's grace and begin a new and exciting relationship with Jesus, I invite you to pray the prayer of acceptance (see below) anytime you are ready and start this incredible relationship with Jesus. Feel free to contact me to know what to do next.

DECISION TIME

- In John 11:25-26 Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die & whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **Do you believe this?**
- If you answered yes, why don't you take the next step and make the decision and accept the gift offered by Jesus? Just pray this prayer of acceptance: *Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. Thank you, Lord Jesus.*

WHAT NEXT?

If you have accepted Jesus for the first time or even if you have been a follower of Jesus, here is a short video on your next steps to build your relationship with Jesus Christ.

<https://youtu.be/dCuuRjrOUFA>

CONNECT WITH US

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