

The background of the image shows the silhouettes of a family walking away from the viewer. On the left, a small child is holding the hand of a woman in the center. To the right, a man is walking. They are all walking towards a bright light source, creating a soft glow around them. The overall tone is somber yet hopeful.

Dead *for good*

Discovering God's
powerful plan & purpose
for broken lives

Slide# 1 - Opening Video – 01-John3:16

Video available for preview at: www.TeAtatuBaptist.com



For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish – but have eternal life!

Brothers and sisters – this IS truly Good News!

As mature believers – it's almost forgivable that we have become desensitized to this truth.

We've heard it so many times that we have been tempted to forget the joyful and life changing truth of this event.

Today IS the day of Salvation, and it's time to
'come home to the Father.'

For some of us, we may act like a Christian, and even have others *think* we are a Christian, but in our heart of hearts, we know we are not.

Behold, today – *is* the day of salvation – for you!

The central theme of the Bible is God's love for you and for all people.

This love was revealed when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world as a human being,

...lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Because Christ died, your sins can be forgiven, and because He conquered death you can have eternal life,

...you can know for sure what will become of you after you die.

You have probably heard the story of God's love referred to as the "Gospel."

The word Gospel simply means "Good News."

The Gospel is the Good News that, because of what Christ has done, we can be forgiven and can live forever.

But this gift of forgiveness and eternal life cannot be yours unless you willingly accept it.

God requires an individual response from you today.

I want to briefly share some verses from the Bible that show God's part and your part in this process:

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Slide # 2 – Statement and photo below:

God's Love Is Revealed in the Bible

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." —John 3:16 (NIV)



God loves you. He wants to bless your life and make it full and complete. And He wants to give you a life which will last forever, even after you experience physical death.

Slide # 3 – Statement and photo below

We Are Sinful



*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
—Romans 3:23 (NIV)*

You may have heard someone say, "I'm only human—nobody's perfect."

This Bible verse says the same thing: We are all sinners.

We all do things that we know are wrong.

And that's why we feel estranged from God—because God is holy and good, and we are not.

Indeed, the greatest sin that exists within the world

today, is the same sin that exists within our very hearts.

That is the sin of unbelief!

Unbelief is NOT dis-believing in something, but failing to believe in something *so much* that it changes your heart and life.

The book of James in the Bible clearly tells us that 'The devil even believes in God!'

One thing I know for sure, is that the Devil is not saved, and never will be!

'Believing' is NOT simply knowing something in your mind, it is a belief that results in a changed heart and life!

Slide # 4 – Video 02 – This Hand

Video available for preview at: www.TeAtatuBaptist.com



Slide # 5 – Heading and Photo below:

Sin Has a Penalty

"For the wages of sin is death." —Romans 6:23 (NIV)

Just as criminals must pay the penalty for their crimes, sinners must pay the penalty for their sins.



If you continue to sin, you will pay the penalty of spiritual death:

You will not only die physically; you will also be separated from our holy God for all eternity.

The Bible teaches that those who choose to remain separated from God will spend eternity in a place called hell.

Slide # 6 – Heading and Photo below:

Christ Has Paid Our Penalty!

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." —



Romans 5:8 (NIV)

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, has paid the penalty for all your sins.

You may think you have to lead a good life and do good deeds before God will love you.

But the Bible says that Christ loved you enough to die for you, even when you were rebelling against Him.

Slide # 7 – Heading and Photo below:

Salvation Is a Free Gift

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." — Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)



The word grace means "undeserved favor."

It means God is offering you something you could never provide for yourself: forgiveness of sins and eternal life, God's gift to you is free.

You do not have to work for a gift.

All you have to do is joyfully receive it.

Believe with all your heart that Jesus Christ died for you!

God has plans for your life – to redeem – that means to replace, to buy back, to renew – your heart and life.

Not only does He want to save you from your sins – He wants to save you from yourself, and that situation you are facing today:

Slide # 8 – Video 03 – God has plans

Video available for preview at: www.TeAtatuBaptist.com



Slide # 9 – Heading and Picture below:

Christ Is at Your Heart's Door

*"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." —
Revelation 3:20 (NIV)*



Jesus Christ wants to have a personal relationship with you.

Picture, if you will, Jesus Christ standing at the door of your heart (the door of your emotions, intellect and will).

Invite Him in; He is waiting for you to receive Him into your heart and life.

Slide # 10 – Heading and Picture below:

You Must Receive Him

*"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." —
John 1:12 (NIV)*



When you receive Christ into your heart you become a child of God, and have the privilege of talking to Him in prayer at any time about anything.

The Christian life is a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

And best of all, it is a relationship that will last for all eternity.

Although being a Christian is a life long journey, it often starts with a decision of the will.

You can choose to follow Christ.

Slide # 11 – Video # 4 - At the Cross

Video available for preview at: www.TeAtatuBaptist.com



You can't ignore this choice, the Bible says that you are: either for Him or against Him.

There really is no neutral ground!

If you are wanting to follow Christ today, you can choose to do so **RIGHT NOW!**

When you are ready, you can pray a simple prayer like the following.

Please remember, this prayer has no 'power' of its own, the only power to save, is in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Slide # 12 – Prayer below

Dear Lord Jesus

I believe in You! I believe in Your holy Word, the Bible and all it has to say about the love and forgiveness You have towards me. I want to receive this love, receive Your forgiveness. I ask You to come into my heart and life and make me Your child! Please help me to repent – to stop doing the things that are wrong and hurtful towards You, other people, and myself. Give me the strength to follow You for the rest of my life.

In Jesus Name I pray. Amen

Ps Roger Spackman
Te Atatu Baptist Church
Easter 2008