From the Beginning to the Gospel

Twenty-five steps, one after the other. Follow the arrows.

I THE BEGINNING

Where the chain starts

1 The universe has a beginning.
"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Gen 1:1

2 Whatever begins has a cause.
"For every house is built by someone; but he who built all things is God." Heb 3:4

3 That cause is the Creator. Rom 1:20

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II THE LAW

The Creator's rules

4 The Creator has the right to set the rules.
"The earth is Yahweh's, with its fullness." Ps 24:1

5 We live in his universe, so those rules bind us.

6 Whoever breaks any of them deserves punishment. Jas 2:10
"for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" Rom 3:23

7 We do not want the punishment. But a just Creator must punish broken law.
"The wages of sin is death." Rom 6:23

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III THE PROBLEM

What we cannot do

8 Good deeds done now cannot undo what is already done. The law is already broken. Gal 3:10

9 So I cannot pay my own penalty with my works. Gal 2:16

10 The only way is for someone else to take the punishment in my place.
"Yahweh has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isa 53:6

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IV THE SUBSTITUTE

What God has done

11 Out of love God sent his Son Jesus. He lived a perfect life, breaking no law, and died on the cross, taking the punishment we deserve. John 3:16 · 2 Cor 5:21 · 1 Pet 2:24

12 So we can be declared free. Jesus took 100% of the punishment, and 0% is left for us. 1 Pet 3:18
"The punishment that brought our peace was on him." Isa 53:5

13 So we may enter heaven. No condemnation remains. Rom 5:1 · 8:1
"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." Rom 8:1

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V THE GIFT

How it is received

14 It is a gift.
"it is the gift of God, not of works" *Eph 2:8–9*

15 It can be a gift only if it asks no work of us. *Rom 4:4–5 · 11:6*

16 When God asks why you should enter heaven, the answer is: "Because Jesus took the punishment I deserve."

17 If we answer, "because of what Jesus did, and because I was a good person," we are trusting partly in ourselves. That is not the gift, for the gift is wholly his. *Rom 4:4–5*

18 To be righteous before God by deeds, we would need a life without one breach. No one can live it. *Gal 3:10*

19 So it is 100% Jesus and 0% our deeds.

20 To say "half Jesus, half me and my works and obedience" is to say that his work was not enough. But on the cross he cried, "It is finished." *John 19:30*

21 No baptism, no church attendance, nothing else is the price of welcome. These are good gifts, and they follow. They are not what saves. *Rom 11:6*

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WHAT FOLLOWS

The fruit, never the price

22 We are saved for ever by what Jesus did, and out of gratitude we want to do good. *Eph 1:13–14*
"you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit" *Eph 1:13*

23 But good works will not carry us into heaven. They are the fruit of the gift, never its price.
"created in Christ Jesus for good works" *Eph 2:10*

24 We are promised heaven through trusting that Jesus took our punishment in our place. *John 3:16*

25 Trusting is simple. It is not a labour, but resting on what he has done. *Rom 4:5*

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THE WHOLE OF IT, IN ONE LINE

100% Jesus	**0%**
What Jesus did	*What I add*

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THE ANSWER

When God asks, "Why should I let you in?"

"Because Jesus took the punishment I deserve."

"we have peace with God" *Rom 5:1*

"no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" *Rom 8:1*

"whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life" *John 3:16*