

## Salvation in Jesus Christ

### Humanity in a Sinful State

It doesn't take much to convince a person that there is something wrong with the human race. A simple glance at the news headlines is enough proof. Not only the world news of wars, poverty, corrupt governments, and the like, but the local news of crimes, murders and inexcusable behavior. Something is definitely wrong with the human race.

For centuries man has been like this. The only difference now is that we have global communication and can read about it. It didn't take long for man to become like this. In the most ancient text in the Bible we read of man's first crimes. The first murder was recorded in the book of Genesis in chapter 4. Prior to that, in Genesis chapter 3 we read of lies and deceit.

It doesn't take much to bring most people into agreement that there is something wrong with the human race. But things take on a completely different tone when we try to convince an individual that there is something wrong with them. It's one thing to say that sin has corrupted the human race and we need a solution. It's rather a vague statement and no one particular individual is singled out in such a statement. But it's an entirely different matter when you look someone in the eye and tell them they are a sinner and need salvation.

I believe what the Bible says is true in Romans 3:23 that man has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Each one of us is born into this sinful state. We live a life of sin whether we know it or not.

God has given us the measuring stick whereby we are judged: The 10 Commandments. These commandments are perfectly spelled out in Exodus chapter 20. They are very simple and most people know at least a few of them. "Thou shall not lie" and "Thou shall not steal" are only two. Stop and think about it: Has anyone ever kept even those two? The answer is "no". How do I know this? Because God says so in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God".

As sinners, we have offended a holy and just God and we deserve to be punished. The Bible tells us the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23).

### Solution to Mankind's Sinful State

What is the solution for our sinful state? Did God leave us to work it out ourselves?

For hundreds of years mankind has created religions to atone for their sins. Every religion requires their followers to work their way to salvation. Some require their followers to take on lengthy devotions and prayers as a means of salvation. Others require some type of action or sacrifice. Others deny the existence of sin altogether and say that sin does not exist at all.

We read in the Bible a completely different solution, one that is born out of love for lost humanity.

John 3:16 reads "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life".

God, in His love for us, did not leave us in this sinful state condemned to die as sinners. He made the way possible to account for the penalty of our sins and to forgive us. He did this by sending Jesus Christ to die as a sacrifice to pay the penalty required of us. Jesus died in our place. He was sinless and yet He took our sins so that we might become without sin (2 Cor 5:21).

Salvation comes thru Jesus Christ alone. The Bible is clear when it says in Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." There is no

other name that will save us except the name of Jesus.

Further, there is no works that we can do to add to what Jesus already did for us. Ephesians 2:9 reads "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." Jesus did it all for us.

### How Can I Be Saved?

Jesus last words on the cross were "it is finished" (John 19:30). His work of salvation is finished for us. Now it's your part. There is something required of you. In Acts 2:21 we are told to "call upon the name of the Lord and we will be saved". You must make a decision to call upon the Lord.

You must first recognize that you are a sinner, that you have offended a holy and righteous God. You must realize that there is no solution for your sin except what God has to offer.

You must call upon Him to ask His forgiveness. Your sins are against God. You have broken His commandments. He is the one you need to turn to for forgiveness.

You must believe that Jesus died for your sins and call upon Him to wash away your sins and forgive you. You must believe what the Bible says is true, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow (Isaiah 1:18).

You must call upon Jesus and make a decision that He will be your Lord, your master and your savior. You must ask Him into your heart. In Revelations 3:20 we read "If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me." Jesus says that if anyone invites Him into their heart, He will come and make His home there.

At the very moment Jesus comes into your heart you are born again. John 3:3 says "unless a man be born again He cannot see the Kingdom of God." At this very moment you become a new creation in Christ Jesus, the old has gone and the new has come (2 Cor 5:17).

### God Will Help You

As you begin your new life in Christ, God will help you. Jesus said in John 14:16,17 "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth."

We read in Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. God will send the Holy Spirit to live inside you and enable you to live a life pleasing to God in obedience. The Holy Spirit will lead you in your thoughts and actions. He will convict you of the sinful habits that must be abandoned. He will strengthen and encourage you. He will instruct you in God's word.

God has wonderful plans for you, to bless you and give you a prosperous future (Jeremiah 29:10-11). It all starts when you become born again through salvation in Jesus Christ. Trust Him to lead you and guide you each day. Read the Bible to know His word. Get involved with a Bible based church that believes in salvation. Continue to thank God for what He has done through salvation in Jesus Christ.

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