

SALVATION

Salvation is the greatest miracle there is. If you worked on this side of the pulpit you would know that full well. There are many people that claim to be saved but there is no godly fruit in their lives. There are many that name Christ on the lips but their hearts are far from Him. **(Matt.15:8-9)** It's not like what is portrayed on tv with satan's ministers saying thousands came down front and got saved at this conference or rally etc. That's just feel good lies. The truth is that it is few and far between that someone actually gets saved. Remember Jesus said there are very few that will enter into eternal life. **(Matt.7:13-14)**

The path to eternal life is difficult and exclusive, requiring intentional faith, while the broad, easy path to destruction is popular. Staying on the narrow path calls for deliberate discipleship, often requiring self-denial and obedience rather than following the crowd.

Salvation refers to being saved, delivered, or protected from harm, danger, or the consequences of sin, often denoting a spiritual rescue from evil, destruction, or separation from God. It signifies forgiveness, restoration, and eternal life granted through grace rather than personal merit. All sin has consequences, being saved from the consequences of sin mentioned here, means the ultimate consequence of continuing in a sinful life, and that is damnation.

The name Jesus means The Lord is Salvation, derived from the Hebrew name Yeshua (a variant of Joshua). It signifies His mission to save people from their sins. The name highlights Jesus' role as the Savior of the world and His humanity as it was a common name during His time. Jesus is our deliverer and our salvation.

Once this world went into a sinful state through the actions of Adam and Eve from then on man has needed a savior. God has always given mankind freewill, we have the freedom to choose to obey God or not. Adam and Eve exercised their freewill when they listened to the devil and decided to do what he said instead of what God said. You can read about how the world went into sin in Genesis chapter 3. The angels in heaven have free will, satan exercised his freewill when he rebelled against God and took one third of the angels with him in the fall. **(Rev.12:4-9)** He then went to work to get mankind to fall also.

Let's read what happened because of Adam and Eve's sin against God:

Genesis 3:9-19 – And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou *wast* naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to *be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What *is* this *that* thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

There is a Mandela Effect where KJV says “it shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel”. It used to say He will crush your head and you will bruise His heel. God cursed the Earth, men, women and He cursed the serpent. There are false teachings saying the forbidden fruit was sex or that there is no way they ate a piece of fruit and all of this happened. It was a literal tree with literal fruit. Those theories are coming from people who don’t know God and cannot understand His Word. All that was needed to live in peace and blessedness was simple obedience to God’s instruction not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. However, God did give them hope because He said He would send a Savior, the One Who would crush satan and his seed.

The only way believing you need a Savior makes sense is to believe God’s Word and that only happens through faith. The more you read and understand God’s Word the more your faith will grow. The pieces of how the world came to be and

Who God is and how we fit into the scheme of things all comes clear through the reading of God's Word. The movies like to portray this big puzzling question, what is the meaning of life? If you read God's Word you will know.

We learn in Scripture that Jesus Himself created all things. **(Colossians 1:16-17, John 1:3)** The Jews looked for their Messiah or Savior for thousands of years before Jesus came the first time. Now we are standing two thousand years on the other side of His first coming looking for Him to come again.

I remember once back when I was a baby Christian and excited and on fire for The Lord I was at my doctor's office. The girl that worked the front desk was very snotty and she happened to be the one who came back at the end of my visit to do my blood draw. I was making chit chat with her and I asked her if she was saved. She quickly smarted back to me, "saved from what"? I could have just died right there on the spot. I'm sure each one of you has had a bad or embarrassing story like that of trying to witness to someone.

As Christians we know the answer to that question is that we have been saved from the devil, we've been saved from eternal damnation but we can't just pop that back to someone who is clueless about Jesus or is just plain old not interested in hearing the gospel message. You cannot force anyone to come to Jesus. Ask The Holy Spirit to help you to have the right words to share to those He brings across your path. If you want to witness to someone, always pray about it first if you can. If someone is put off by you wanting to share about Jesus then just stop, don't push. You can pray for that person in private but you cannot force the gospel on anyone. Pray for God to draw them to Jesus.

Romans 10:17 – So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The Word of God first and foremost that brings faith is hearing the gospel message, the good news of what Christ has done for us. Back in the time of the early church many people were illiterate and they didn't have Bibles like we do today. So they were mainly taught orally through preaching and teaching. That's how they heard the good news. We are blessed today to be able to read it for ourselves anytime.

The gospel message is about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Hearing this is how faith comes, faith is a response to the divine revelation of Christ. To truly have faith, you believe Jesus was in the beginning with God and that He is God (**John 1:1**). He left heaven to come here and be our sacrifice. (**Philippians 2:5-7, John 6:38**) He was crucified and He rose from the dead and is alive forevermore seated at God The Father's right hand, a position of highest honor. (**1 Cor.15:4-5, 1 Peter 3:22, Rev.3:21, Matt.22:44, Acts 2:33**)

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Gospel means good news. The good news is all about Christ, Who He is and what He has done for us. Jesus is the Savior of this whole world, for those that come and truly believe in Him. We should never be ashamed of Jesus and boldly share the gospel.

1 Cor.1:18 - For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

To unbelievers what Jesus did is just a joke. They don't reverence or heed God's Word. They think we are fools for believing in someone we can't see and for believing something we weren't there to witness. They think God's Word is nonsense. But we know the truth of what was done for us and the high price that Jesus paid for us, paid with His own life.

I thought I believed in Jesus ever since I heard about Him as a teenager. And in my ignorance I thought that meant I was saved. I went on in my 20's and 30's to live a sinful life away from God. I cussed, didn't give a second thought to what I watched on tv, I was mean to my mom, I was a social drinker, committed fornication, had 2 abortions, was mean to people and would smart off on a dime, was very sarcastic and on and on it goes. That's not a picture of a Christian. Sadly, that's how many so called Christians are today in the church. Really that's a hypocrite and that is why the church looks so unappealing to unbelievers. The church looks just like them because pastors aren't teaching obedience; they aren't calling out sin and teaching how to live a righteous life. They are letting their flocks get a pass by praying a prayer at the altar once and then going away and living a life of sin believing they are saved. The pastor never sits with them

and discusses why they don't see any godly fruit in their lives, never checks on them to see why they aren't growing in the faith.

Real belief in Jesus is not just something you believe in your mind or thoughts, it will come from the heart and your whole life will change. You will no longer be living to please the flesh. Your thoughts and actions will change. Belief, true belief goes hand in hand with obedience to God's Word. If you don't read God's Word something is wrong. I have people try to convince me they are saved and close with God and they don't read God's Word. You don't even know Him if you are not feeding on His word. There are those that don't care to read The Old Testament. That tells me that God's Word does not dwell richly in them. If you really have The Holy Spirit in your life, He will lead you to read the full council of God's Word and continue to do so throughout your life. If you don't pray every day or just about every day, something is wrong. If you don't seek God about your decisions in life, something is wrong. If you don't like talking about God and His Word, something is wrong. When Nicodemus sought Jesus out, Jesus told him you must be born again. **(John 3:1-21)** If your life looks the same as before you came to Jesus, then you have not been born again.

Isaiah 53:5-8 - But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare His generation? for He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of My people was He stricken.

We strayed away like sheep, following our own paths instead of God's. There are false teachings that say Jesus was married and had children and all sorts of things. This passage tells us that He was cut off and had no descendents to come after Him. That is what is being said where it says "who shall declare His generation." Jesus did not fight with His accusers or even talk back, He just humbly did God's will so that we could be saved. He took all our sins on Himself so we could be forgiven and brought back into a right relationship with our Heavenly Father.

1 Cor.6:19-20 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

God paid a high price through Christ for our salvation. Our lives should reflect that we are Christians in our words, actions, decisions, where we go etc. You are the temple of God, His Spirit lives inside you if you are born again. Live a righteous life and submit yourself fully to God.

You cannot pay for salvation. You cannot work for it. You cannot earn it. It is only by God's grace that you can be saved. It is His gift to those that believe in Jesus.

Eph.2:8-10 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

When you receive God's gift of salvation, you receive an impartation of The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One Who helps you to begin to grow in the faith as you read God's Word and pray daily.

Jesus is the only way to God The Father. **(1 Peter 3:18, 2 Cor.5:21)**

Acts 4:12 - Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

Jesus is the only way. He is the One Who the world hates. If you are confused thinking maybe you should believe Islam, or Judaism, or Buddhism, or Hinduism just remember this, Jesus is the only one who is truly hated and fought against in this world. He is The only way to heaven, to The Father and to eternal life.

I want to take a moment to explain something about God. Most everything He has promised us is conditional upon obedience. People say all the time to people who don't know Jesus or God, God loves you or Jesus loves you. Yes, they love Their creation. They love each one of us unconditionally. Now that doesn't mean that just because they love you, you are going to heaven. We all have free will and

we make our decision where we will spend eternity while we are alive on this earth. God gave His only begotten Son so that you could be saved and spend eternal life in heaven with Him one day. **(John 3:16)** However, you can decide you don't want Jesus in your life, don't want to submit to Him or obey Him. When you do that, God still loves you but He will allow you to go to hell and ultimately to be thrown into the lake of fire because you didn't want His plan for your life, you did not want His Son to reign over you. You choose where you will spend eternity and when you die there are no do-overs, no purgatory, no second chances. And if you choose hell, when you end up in torment you will realize all the opportunities God gave you to come to Him. He reached for you and you rejected Him time and again. He is very patient but He does have a limit where He will no longer draw you to Christ, He will walk away and leave you to your life of sin.

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

God does love each one of us unconditionally but we have a choice to make. He will never force anyone to come to Jesus but He will draw you. **(John 6:44)** If you're not saved and listening to this sermon right now, He's drawing you.

Belief in Jesus is more than just believing in your mind that He is real or came here or died on the cross. Sadly, most people think that's all it means to believe. True belief in Him means your whole life will bow down to Him, you will seek Him in everything and He becomes your life. I gave a sermon entitled "Believe" in 2023 which might interest you if you are unsure of what it means to believe in Jesus. It must be heart knowledge and not just head knowledge.

Romans tells us the process of salvation.

Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

God knows when faith is present in your heart. When you get saved, you need to confess it to those in your life and especially to the person who was beneficial in leading you to Christ. Don't ever be ashamed of Jesus. **(Luke 9:26, Mark 8:38, Matt.10:33)**

CLOSING

When you pray the prayer of salvation you pray to Jesus. Let Him know you believe He died on the cross for your sins, was buried and has risen and is alive forevermore seated at God The Father's right hand. Ask Him to forgive you of all your sins. The things that stand out on your mind, confess them to Him. If you aren't sure what to confess, think of it this way, sin is all the bad things we have done. Ask Jesus to help you to live for Him all the days of your life. As you grow in Christ you will want to seek the baptism into The Holy Spirit.

Anytime you think of sins you have not confessed to God, call them out to Him in prayer and ask His forgiveness. That will help you to have a clear conscience because The Holy Spirit is bringing those things to your mind. As you live your life, when you mess up and sin, be quick to ask God for forgiveness and repent which means to stop the sin. We never reach a point in our Christian lives that we don't continue to ask for forgiveness. **(1 John 1:9)** I ask God for forgiveness of my sins daily, I may not have specific things to call before Him but I ask anyway, sometimes we have thoughts so quickly we may not even realize a wrong thought zipped through our minds. It's a good practice to stay in, asking forgiveness daily.

If you pray the prayer of salvation but you are not sincere, then you will not be saved. If you are not torn up about your sin against God, you are not sincere. If you think worshiping Jesus and seeking Him is silly or beneath you, you are not saved. Your life should change after you are saved, you should begin to produce godly fruit in your life. **(Matt.7:16-20)** If you are like Trump and think you have nothing to be forgiven for and don't need any forgiveness, then just like Trump, you are not saved.

We want to see souls sincerely saved through this ministry and if we have been instrumental in leading you to Christ, we'd love to hear from you.

PRAYER