

## **GOD'S DESIRE FOR YOU**

God wants you and me to be saved! How can we know this? The Bible tells us so. In reference to God, the Bible says, *"Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:4, NKJV). The Bible then declares that Jesus the Christ is the one mediator between God and men, and He gave Himself as a ransom for all of us (1 Timothy 2:5,6). That is great news.

## **GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU**

What would motivate God to want us to be saved? His great love for us. *"But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). Have you also heard or read the message of 1 John 4:9? It says, *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."*

## **GOD'S GRACE FOR YOU**

Would it be safe to conclude that God's grace made our salvation possible? Absolutely! *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8). It is clear that without God's grace man could have no chance to be saved. Just what is grace? It is unmerited favor, that is, kindness that we cannot earn. By God's grace He gives us that which we do not deserve. Is it possible for you and me to earn our salvation? No! Can we be saved by our good moral deeds? Never! Would it be possible for us to devise our own scheme or "checklist" of actions whereby we might save ourselves? Still, the answer is "no."

## **GOD'S SAVIOR FOR YOU**

Here is the "picture" that the New Testament gives us: God, because of His love for us, desires for all men to be saved. Thus, by His

grace He sent His Son to this earth. And what was the point in sending Jesus? *"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief"* (1 Timothy 1:15). Why was the Son of God given the name "Jesus?" Simply because "Jesus" means "Savior," as we see in these words: *"... and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21).

## **OUR GREATEST NEED**

Do you know how the Bible defines "sin?" It says that *"sin is the transgression of the law"* (some versions read *"sin is lawlessness,"* 1 John 3:4). Thus, a "sinner" is one who transgresses the law of God. Well, just who fits into the category of "sinners?" The Bible's answer is too plain to miss: *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

Man's greatest need is to be saved from sin. You see, sin causes men to be separated from God, as it is written: *"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear"* (Isaiah 59:2). The horrible consequence of committing sin is to be separated from God.

Does this not put us into a hopeless situation? Without Jesus, yes. But through Jesus there is hope! Remember, Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And just how did He accomplish this? By dying on the cross of Calvary and shedding His blood in order that our sins might be washed away. Through Jesus' blood we can be justified or reconciled to God. Hear these words: *"Much more then, being now justified by his (Jesus') blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son ..."* (Romans 5:9,10).

But isn't there some other way to receive the remission of sins and be reconciled to God? No.

Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* (John 14:6).

## **WILL ALL MEN BE SAVED?**

If Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all, does this mean that every person will be saved and go to heaven? Listen to what Jesus said about this: *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it"*(Matthew 7:13,14). Jesus further said, *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 7:21).

## **WHAT WILL YOUR RESPONSE BE?**

Jesus invites all men unto Him for salvation, saying, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). Please understand that the God of heaven forces no one to receive the grace that He extends to us through Jesus. Each of us has the freedom of will or choice to either accept or reject God's grace, love, and salvation. God calls or draws men to Jesus through the teaching of His word, the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14; John 6:44,45). As you and I hear that gospel message, it is then up to us to either receive it or reject it. What will your answer be? Are you right now a receiver or rejecter of the spiritual life and salvation that God offers you through His Son?

## **WHAT MUST YOU DO TO BE SAVED?**

You mean there is something that a person must do in order to be saved? Yes. But isn't salvation a gift? It certainly is (Ephesians 2:8). However, it is a *conditional* gift. This simply means that God grants us salvation only when

we comply with the conditions that He has set forth in His word, the Bible.

We must not forget that we have “*redemption through his (Christ’s) blood, the forgiveness of sins*” (Ephesians 1:7). Thus, if the question is, “WHAT can wash away my sins,” the answer is “the blood of Jesus Christ.” But if we ask, “WHEN does the blood of Jesus wash away a person’s sins,” that is an entirely different question.

Perhaps you have heard or read something like this statement: “In order to be saved from your sins, all you need to do is pray to Jesus, confess your sins to Him, and receive Him into your heart as your personal Savior.” Without doubt, this is a very popular idea that millions have accepted. But do you know what? Such an idea is nowhere to be found in the Bible. It is just not in there! If that is the case, then why do so many spread such a teaching? Good question!

The truth is, if one will take time to study the New Testament of our Lord, he will learn that the following are the actions that one must take in order to have his sins cleansed by Jesus’ blood:

\* **Hear the gospel preached:** “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). First hearing, then faith.

\* **Believe in God’s existence:** “But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

\* **Believe in Jesus as the Son of God:** “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).

\* **Repent of every sin:** “The Lord ... is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). “Repent” does not mean to simply say, “I am sorry,” but rather it

means to change one’s mind. In the process of genuine repentance, after one has sinned against God he will: 1) Regret what he has done/be sorry for it; 2) Determine in his heart to not repeat this mistake (i.e. he will change his will); and 3) Change (reform) his life.

\* **Confess faith in Jesus:** “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10).

\* **Be baptized:** “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). The Bible does *not* teach that one should be baptized after he is *already saved*, or that one ought to be baptized as an outward sign to show that he *has been saved already* by faith prior to baptism. Jesus Himself said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). According to these words of Jesus, who shall be saved? One that just believes? No. One that is just baptized? No. Rather, one who believes AND is baptized. Note: In the New Testament the word “baptism” means an immersion, not a sprinkling or pouring of water.

\* **Continue to be faithful to Christ.** Being “baptized into Christ” (Galatians 3:27) is not the end of one’s spiritual life in Christ, but only the beginning. After baptism one must live a life of faithful service to the Lord. He does this by living in harmony with His teachings. Following Jesus is no small matter, but rather a life-long commitment.

Like we said, **God wants you to be saved!** What about you? Do you want to be saved? If we can help you in your understanding or obedience of the Lord’s will, please contact us.

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Service Times: Sunday at 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

This booklet was written by Roger D. Campbell.

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