

God's Gift of Salvation Is for Sinners Only

Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

The Gospel (good news) of salvation in Christ is only for self-judged, condemned sinners. **A sinner is one who disobeys and breaks God's law.** The Gospel is for sinners who realize their need for salvation from their lost sinful condition. The Gospel is for the broken-hearted guilty sinner like Paul who realizes that he is condemned before the Holy God. *1 Timothy 1:15 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.*

Calling All Sinners

Only sinners are called to salvation. People who think that they are good and have false-religious righteousness are not included. False **religion** is self-improvement of the human nature, but **salvation** is God imparting a new nature with the sinner trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior! Jesus illustrated the difference between false religion and salvation when he described the proud religious Pharisee and the humble sinful publican in *Luke 18:9-14 And he [Jesus] spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went*

down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Sinful people are attracted to many types of false religion rather than to the truth of Jesus Christ. Today throughout the world religious people identify themselves as:

- 2 billion Christians
- 1.3 billion Muslims
- 900 million Hindus
- 360 million Buddhists
- 225 million in Chinese traditional religions
- 14 million Spiritists
- 14 million Jews
- 6 million Baha'i

There are many religious names under heaven in which we can find prideful false religion, but salvation from God's righteous judgment of sin can be found only in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Acts 4:10-12 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole... 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Even among those who call themselves Christians are many who simply have a prideful false religious concept of Jesus and who believe in only the facts of Jesus and not personally trust Him as Lord and Savior. Such falsely religious people may do many wonderful things according to man but never really know Jesus as Lord and Savior. *Matthew 7:21*

Not every one that saith unto me [Jesus], Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

All Are Sinners; Not One Is Righteous

Many people in the world are righteous in their own eyes but are really sinners in the sight of God. Jesus says that there are no righteous people in the world: *Mark 10:18 And Jesus said... there is none good but one, that is, God. Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Many people think that they are religious and think themselves good, but God has declared that in all humanity, *There is none righteous, no, not one. Romans 3 10.*

God often permits a sinful person to experience tragedy in order to convict that person of his sins. *Psalms 116:3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. 4 Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. 5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. 6 The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.*

The thief on the cross knew that he was a wicked sinner even by society's corrupt standards, and he turned to Jesus as the only means for salvation of his soul. *Luke 23:42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

God Loves and Saves Sinners

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 1 John 4:9 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. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

God Saves Sinners through Christ

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Matthew 9:12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

God's Righteous Hatred Rests Against Sinners Who Continue in Sin

Romans 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. Luke 12:5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Sinners Must Repent of Thinking Themselves to Be Good

A sinner thinks well of himself until the convicting truth of God's Holy Word touches his heart. *Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

Our natural minds are in the sinful corruption and must be corrected by the Spirit of our Creator and Redeemer. This complete change of mind is called **repentance**, and God commands all everywhere to repent! *Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life... 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.*

Repentance is granted or given by God. God commands sinners to repent and grants sinners repentance. None apart from God's gracious provision would repent. However, repentance remains a human responsibility for each individual. *Luke 13:3 ... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

God Commands Sinners to Repent

Man is a sinful creature in willful rebellion against the Holy God facing both physical and spiritual death due to the wrath of God. We are self-deceived if we think we are living out of our own resources, when we actually are creatures and guilty rebels under judgment who cannot help ourselves. We have chosen to reject God. *Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

Man's necessary response to be united in Christ is to change his mind (*repent*, Greek *metanoeo*) about trusting in anything that he can do, and to turn (*convert*, Greek *epistrepho*) from his rebellion to Christ as Lord and Savior. A person can only become a Christian by turning from a sinful life to Christ and by trusting in Him as Savior and Lord. *Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

Sinners who despise the loving invitation of Jesus as He offers mercy will one day face His wrath in judgment. *Acts 17:31 Be cause he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

Jesus Calls You

Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. You are a sinner and, if you have never done so, Jesus calls you to repentance. Since you know that you are a sinner and you need a Savior, Jesus calls you saying, *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Mark 1:15.*

Repent and believe the Gospel *that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.*

Jesus calls you to repentance. Jesus calls you who are thirsty for His eternal refreshment of salvation from your sins. *Revelation 22:17 ...let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.* If **you will** then **whosoever will** in this Bible verse is describing you. Jesus calls you to repentance!

If You Have Repented and Trust Jesus as Your Lord and Savior, God Says You Should Now –

- Tell others that you have trusted in Jesus. *Romans 10:9 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.*
- Be baptized and added in membership to a New Testament Baptist Church and become a faithful member to show that you are following Jesus. *Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them... 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*
- Read and obey your Bible daily. *1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*
- Attend Sunday School and church to learn more about Jesus. *Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Pastor Gail and Carolyn Terrell



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The Bible is our guide for life, a road map of holiness!

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