

Things we want EVERYONE to know

Psalm 78:7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

I. We want every person to know:

A. Each person has been born naturally into the family of Adam, has inherited Adam's sinful nature of rebellion against God, and is dead to spiritual understanding.

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned... 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

B. Each person must be born again of a spiritual nature in order to become a child of God, and to be saved from eternal spiritual death which is an everlasting punishment in hell and separation from the righteous God of creation.

John 3:3 ... Verily, verily, I [Jesus] say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he can not see the kingdom of God... 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

See also Mat. 25:41; II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 21:8.

C. No one can do any good works that merit salvation from God's righteous judgement and an everlasting punishment in hell.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...

D. Salvation is not limited to one special race or nationality. Jesus Christ loves sinners and suffered a horrible atoning death that propitiates (satisfies) the justice of God and reconciles to God all who shall ever believe in Christ.

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his love to ward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being recon-

ciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that who so ever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

See also Isaiah 53:6. Hebrews 2:9.

E. Only those who repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved from God's righteous judgement and an everlasting punishment in hell.

1. Repent—repentance is acknowledging your sinful nature, being sorry for your sin, and looking to God for mercy, forgiveness, and satisfaction (propitiation) of God's judgement by cleansing through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out...

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Acts 17:30 ...God now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because 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.

II Cor. 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

2. Believe (have faith)—To believe and have saving faith is to have complete confidence with total trust and commitment in Jesus Christ to deliver you from the penalty and power of sin, and to keep you from going to Hell and to take you to Heaven. To be saved means to be eternally safe and secure in Christ.

Acts 16:30 ...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.

John 3:18 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.

3. Repentance and faith are simultaneous graces of God. To repent you must change your mind concerning trusting your own good works and judgements. To believe, you place complete confidence and trust in the

object of your faith, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:15 ...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

F. In salvation, God delivered the believer from the PENALTY of sin, does continue to deliver the believer from the POWER of sin, and will yet deliver the believer from the PRESENCE of sin. In so great salvation, the believer becomes a Christian (follower of Christ).

II Corinthians 1:9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: 10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.

Heb. 2:3 How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.

II. We want every Christian to know:

A. Each believer has been born again spiritually as a child of God, and can know that he has eternal life in Christ. In the new birth, a sinner is saved and becomes a new creature in Christ.

II Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; be hold, all things are become new.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

1. The Holy Word of God gives the believer knowledge that his salvation in Christ truly satisfies the justice of God and eternally reconciles the believer to the righteous Creator of the universe. Bible study gives the believer confidence of eternal life in Christ.

I John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.

2. The Holy Spirit bears an internal witness to the believer's soul, and the Christian can know as surely that he is a born again child of God.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God... 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

3. The providence of God (works of God in His creation) confirms that a believer is a child of God. God protects His children so that good comes out of all circumstances.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

4. The works that the Christian does give him assurance of his salvation. A tree is known by its fruit. The works of the Christian are not the cause of his salvation, but are the result of his salvation. The believer works out that which God has worked in his soul.

Matt. 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit... 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

See also II Tim. 1:12; I John 2:3,5; 3:14; 5:10-13.

B. Each believer is eternally secure in Christ and will never lose his new birth which has made him a part of the family of God.

1. Jesus promises that a believer cannot become unborn spiritually.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

2. Christians are called the Lord's sheep, and Christ promises that His sheep are safe.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Rom. 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C. In this life the Christian still has Adam's nature of rebellion. This Adamic nature in the Christian can still yield to temptation and sin against God; however, God's grace gives victory over temptation.

Romans 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do... 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye can not do the things that ye would.

1. The believer is indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God Who quickens (makes alive) spiritually and leads the Christian in Godly living.

Rom. 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

I Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

2. The Christian will be chastened by the Lord when he sins against God. God chastens as a perfect loving father who chastens his children in order to cause them to be have righteously.

Heb. 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth... 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

3. When the Christian sins against God, his fellowship with God is broken; but his relationship as a child of God is never broken. The sinful Christian can have his fellowship with God restored by confessing his sins to the Lord.

I John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive our selves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

- D. The Christian is rewarded for faithful service.

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

1. The Christian life is full of spiritual rewards, even though the Christian life may not be full of material possessions.

Matt. 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven.

II John 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

2. Jesus is coming again to reward the faithful. Revelation 22:12 And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

III. We want every Christian to do:

- A. Be baptized to show you are following Christ.
 1. Baptism follows salvation.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized... 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

2. Baptism is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Baptism is a picture like unto the truth of the resurrection. The resurrection shows that Jesus was all He claimed to be.

Rom. 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead... 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized unto Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- B. Be faithful to assemble together in church.

1. The word church means assembly. Every Christian should join a church that is true to the teachings of Christ.

Acts 2:47 And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

2. God created man with social needs that include fellowship with others. For this reason, God created woman and provided children for the family with brothers and sisters. Like wise, the Christian of the new birth needs fellowship with other Christians in the family of God, and Christ established His churches for fellowship, service, and worship. God directs Christians to be faithful to assemble themselves together in the Lord's churches, especially as we see the day of the Lord's return approaching.

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.

- C. Study the Bible.

1. Read the Bible daily and have a regular pattern of Bible study.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

II Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth... 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is

profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

- D. Pray for God's help and leadership.

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

See also Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 11:9-13.

You must comply with these conditions if you expect your prayer to be answered:

1. Pray in Jesus' name, by His authority as He would ask it.

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

2. Pray that God be glorified in Christ. By studying the Bible and seeking God's will, you can know for what you have a right to ask, and the Holy Spirit of God will help you to pray.

Rom. 8:26 Like wise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which can not be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

I Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

- E. Give faithfully to the Lord. A tithe (one-tenth) of the Christian's income is to be given to the Lord, and offerings should be given as God blesses the believer.

I Cor. 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.

Malachi 3:10 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

II Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

- F. Do that which is good and righteous before God. Should you have this habit, partake of this entertainment, accept this job, marry this person, take this trip??? For the continuing joy of fellowship with your heavenly Father, do only that which is for the glory of God.

I Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

- G. Be a testimony and witness for Christ.

Matt. 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

1. The Lord's churches are given this great commission.

- a. The apostles were the first members of the first church that Jesus started.

I Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles...

- b. The first church received the great commission from Jesus.

Matthew 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

2. As a faithful church member you are to partake of this commission.

I Peter 3:15 ...and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

Romans 10:11 or the scripture saith, Who so ever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

I Timothy 4:12 ...but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

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