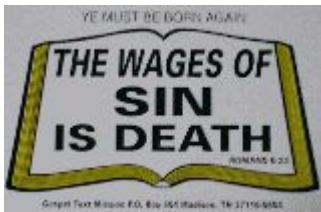


# HOW TO BE SAVED

*EPHESIANS 2:8*

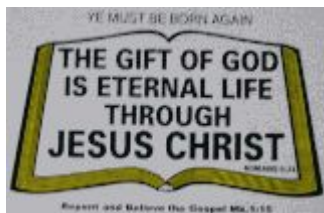
*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast."*



The Holy Scriptures only can reveal to us the way of salvation; or, as to how men and women can be saved. However, they had rather make its own plans and try to be saved its own way. There is a common belief in men's minds that as long as we are sincere it doesn't make much difference what we believe. But does it make a difference? Do you think that God Almighty is so soft and compromising that He would set aside His Holy plan and accept ours just because we might be sincere? Certainly not; and don't

ever get it into your mind and be so deceived as to think that God is a softy. It is so true that God is very gracious, merciful and longsuffering, but nevertheless, He does not accept anybody on their own terms. Quite to the contrary; He says through His prophet: **"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy; and to our God for he will abundantly pardon."** Isaiah 55:7. So in light of this Scripture, and, of course, many others, man must lay aside his ways and thoughts and turn to the Lord for the pardon of his sin. More in detail:

## 1. Before men can be saved they must realize the need of a Saviour.



Certainly we have a Saviour, and He can save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. (Hebrews 7:25) He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no man can come to the Father but by Him. (John 14:6) But men don't get the benefit of His saving power until they can see the need of it and will come to God by Him. Jesus came into the world to save sinners, the Scriptures tell us; Paul the apostle says: **"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save**

**sinners; of whom I am chief."** 1. Timothy 1:15. Jesus went to the cross to suffer and shed His precious blood; but those who do not see the need of this blood of the Covenant but trample under foot the Son of God, can't receive any benefit from this great provision; but will only suffer the dreadful punishment pronounced on those who reject. **"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace."** Hebrews 10:29

## 2. CONVICTION BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Men can not come to Jesus Christ for salvation without the Holy Spirit convicting him of his sins. Jesus said in referring to the Holy Spirit, **"and when he is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment."** John 16:8. A sinner just doesn't make any effort to come to Jesus Christ until he has been reprov'd, or convicted of sin; and

this is what the Holy Spirit does when the sinner hears the word of God and believes it to be the Truth. His coming to Jesus is not just a decision he makes in his own mind, it is not by his own will and strength, but it is the power of God working through His precious means that draws him to Jesus Christ. Listen to this, the words of Jesus, **"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him; and I will raise him up at the last day."** John 6:44 When a person gets convicted of his sins he is more than willing then to come to the Saviour, because he wants forgiveness and the blessed relief that only our Lord can give. And what a wonderful relief it is to be set free from sin and death! I have seen people laugh and make fun of the preaching of the Gospel, until the Holy Spirit began to work convicting them of sin, and then I could see a change of attitude. It just makes a lot of difference when a person sees his sins begin to roll up in front of him like mountainous waves on the sea. He doesn't see himself anymore as the good guy, but he sees himself as a wretched sinner deserving of eternal hell.

### **3. REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD, AND FAITH TOWARD OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

The Apostle Paul told the Ephesian elders whom he had kept back nothing that was profitable unto them; and this is what he taught them: **"Testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance toward, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."** Acts 20:21. When a person is truly convicted of his sins he becomes sorry for his sins, and this is a sorrow of a Godly sort, it is something that God has worked in him; and in this condition of heart he turns away from sin and turns to God. The Bible says that godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of (2. Cor. 7:10). Somebody walking down the aisle of some church with a broad smile on his face is not repenting, even if the preacher greets him with a big smile on his face, too. A man who is repenting is troubled about his sins, and he wants, above everything else, to get rid of this load on his heart. He really hates his sins at this point, and so he turns from his sins and turns to God, putting his faith, or trust, in Jesus Christ. One who believes from the heart is saved, not just in the head, but in the heart. **"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."** Romans 10:10. **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved,"** Acts 16:31. I sincerely pray that you will trust the blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins, but now is risen and alive, and He will soon return, according to the word of God, to rapture His church, so those who are risen with Christ will ever be with Him. What a comfort that is for those who have turned to the Lord by receiving the gospel of Christ by faith! 1. Thess. 4:13-18. !. Cor. 15:1-4.

### **THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE SINNER'S CONVERSION**

**"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."** Psalm 122:1. Whether or not you believe as we do, we would just the same, invite you to come and hear God's word proclaimed. If you are not saved, you need to get under the sound of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. (Romans 1:16) If you come and feel God dealing with your heart, and you want to come and get on your knees and ask the Lord to save you, we would be glad to get on our knees and pray with you and for you until you are saved and know it. If you are saved and not attending a church where the word of God is faithfully taught; then we would invite you to write us and we help you locate a Bible-believing church in your area where you can hear the word of God so that you might grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **POINTERS FOR SAVED PEOPLE**

1. A truly saved person is **SOLD OUT** to the Lord:

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a*

*living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:2.  
"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."  
Matthew 16:24.*

God is not pleased with shallow professions, Sunday morning Christianity and feel-good religion. Following Jesus comes at a cost. For example, it might be persecution or rejection by others. All areas of life need to be sold out - surrendered - to God including your music, your finances or your spare time activities.

2. A truly saved person lives in **SANCTIFICATION**:

*"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."*

1. Thess. 4:3.

*"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner conversation." 1. Pe.  
1:15.*

Do you believe that since you've been saved, the Holy Ghost came to dwell within you? Then if the Spirit that is within you is holy, how should your outward person be? Be holy! Abstain from sin! Become more Christ-like!

3. A truly saved person is **SEPARATED**:

*"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 2. Cor. 6:17.*

*Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God."  
Romans 1:1.*

You are separated unto God, therefore you need to separate yourself from some things. You can't serve two masters. If you're a child of God you must separate yourself from worldliness, certain things, places, people, associations, etc. The admonitions to abstain from sin in the New Testament are too numerous to mention.

4. A truly saved person is **STABLISHED** in the faith:

*"Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Colossians 2:7. You need to be established or stable in what you believe rather than wavering or always liable to change. Do you really believe what you believe? Are you established in what you believe or are you going to renounce what you believe at the slightest pressure? When a skeptic questions your faith, will you be stablished?*

5. A truly saved person **SERVES**:

*"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."  
Ephesians 2:8-10.*

*"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:14.*

We are saved to serve! We can not save ourselves through serving God. We are saved by grace through faith. However, we work and serve because we are saved. Good work, therefore, are not a way of salvation. They are the effect of salvation. We are saved to serve God!

6. A truly saved person **STUDIES** the Scriptures:

*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2. Timothy 2:15.*

*"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica , in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11.*

If you're saved and love God, don't you want to know more about Him and how He is? God has given us an inspired book, so why should a Christian not read his Bible? Wouldn't it be

unthankful and ignorant, to ignore the book that was given to us by God's inspiration? It is scary when people say they're saved and don't study the Bible. The Bible commands us to study, to rightly divide, and to search the scriptures. The early Christians did just that. There are no excuses for unfaithfulness to the Lord.

7. A truly saved person is **SATISFIED** in Christ:

(That's the Christian alternative to false "self-satisfaction".)

FALSE satisfaction in the Laodicean church: *"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."* Rev. 2:17.

You should not be satisfied when you are backslidden, deep in sin, deceived by false doctrine, apathetic to God's word, and not in a Bible-believing local church.

REAL satisfaction of the believer: *"And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."* Col. 1:10.

*"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink: but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."* Romans 14:17.

*Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1.

*And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."* 1. John 2:28.

**"I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE NOR FORSAKE THEE" (Hebrews 13:5)**

God is with us in our sorrows. There is no pang that rends the heart, but what Jesus has been with us in it all. Feel you the sorrows of poverty? He "had no place to lay his head." Do you endure griefs of bereavement? Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus. Have you been betrayed? Do you not forget that He too had His familiar friend who sold Him for the price of a slave. On what stormy seas have you been tossed which have not reared about His boat? Never grieve of adversity so dark, so deep, apparently so pathless, but what in stooping down you may discover the footprints of the Crucified One. In the fires, in the darkness, in distresses He cries, "I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy companion and thy God." - COPIED -

Father,  
please hear my plea.  
Give assurance you listen to me.  
Can you wipe this tear from my eye?  
Give me a reason not to cry.  
My life is filled with so much sorrow.  
I no longer care if I live till tomorrow.  
I once was happy and could not wait.  
Till I would meet you at Heaven's Gate.  
But something has happened inside of me.  
Which caused me to wonder about eternity.  
I realize now where I went astray.  
I neglected your word at the start of each day.  
I am so sorry with all my heart.

And I pray that we will never part.  
I beg of you to take me back.  
And give me strength which I do lack.  
I thank you for your precious Son.  
It's in His name by whom I come.  
Amen.

*A Prayer  
By John Carpenter.*