

SALVATION BY GRACE

REPENTANCE FROM PRIDEFUL HEART ATTITUDES

UNBELIEF <i>ACTS 17:29-31</i>	SIN(S) <i>MATTHEW 9:13</i>	DEAD WORKS <i>HEBREWS 6:1-2</i>
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TURNING BY FAITH TOWARD GOD		
THE TRUTH <i>2 TIMOTHY 2:25-26</i>	HOLINESS <i>1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-7</i>	GOOD WORKS <i>ACTS 26:19-20</i>

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOSPEL

<p>It is the prideful heart that prevents him from experiencing the saving grace of God. We can easily see this by observing the ignorant state of unbelief most people are in as pertaining to the Gospel. According to the Word of God, Jesus Christ is not merely one of many ways whereby one may come to know the Father. He is, in all actuality, proclaimed to be the one and only way! (<i>John 14:6, 1 Corinthians 16:22, Philippians 2:9-11, 1 John 2:22-23, 5:19</i>) And the two facts that make this proclamation so believable and irrefutable are Christ's literal death and resurrection. (<i>1 Corinthians 15:3-5</i>)</p> <p>It is the choice and responsibility of each and every human being to either accept or reject these two basic facts that make up the essence of the Gospel. As long as one chooses to reject these truths, it is impossible for him to ever be in an acceptable relationship with the Lord. (<i>Romans 3:3-4, Hebrews 11:6</i>) However, if an individual does truly place his faith and trust in the reality of who Christ is and what He did, God's wonderful grace will be his. (<i>Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 1:13-14</i>) According to 1 Timothy 3:16, Jesus Christ was indeed the very Person of God manifest in the flesh. His birth and ultimate death proved to all that Jesus was an actual man, while His glorious resurrection three days later declared boldly to the world that this man was also Divine. (<i>Romans 1:1-4, Matthew 1:21-23</i>)</p> <p>Before a person can become a Christian, he must absolutely repent of his unbelief regarding the Gospel. Repentance is a change in the way one thinks about certain things with his heart and mind in order to embrace the ways of the Lord. (<i>Acts 20:20-21</i>) God is good, and His will is that all men would come to the knowledge of His saving truth. (<i>1 Timothy 2:3-4, Titus 1:1-2</i>) Because He is so good, His desire is to lead every last sinner to the very repentance necessary in order to be saved. (<i>Romans 2:4</i>) This process is ultimately accomplished through the convicting work of the Holy Spirit in one's life. (<i>John 16:8, 2 Corinthians 7:10</i>) Those who fail to submit to God's command to repent will perish in a literal and eternal lake of fire. (<i>Luke 13:3, 5, 2 Peter 3:9, Revelation 9:20-21, 21:8</i>)</p> <p>An unregenerate man, therefore, must change his way of thinking in relation to his unbelief and turn by faith to an acknowledgement of these basic, yet profound facts as to the reality of who Jesus was and what He truly did. Because until he does, he will never be in a position to receive the good news as to the reasons why our Lord and Savior had to die and rise again. (<i>Proverbs 1:7, 9:10</i>)</p>	<p>Another manifestation of a lost man's prideful condition is the unwillingness on his part to admit his wicked, sinful state. And unless he repents of this as well, it will be impossible for him to be converted. A person does not become a Christian by simply intellectually accepting the identity of Jesus Christ or the reality of His death. (<i>John 2:23-25, 1 Corinthians 15: 1-2, James 2:19</i>) There must also be an awareness and understanding as to why He had to die. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that all of us have sinned, as we have all descended from Adam. (<i>Romans 5:12</i>) The penalty for that sin is an eternal separation from a righteous, holy God. (<i>Romans 3:23, 6:23</i>) Any person who is too prideful to agree with the Lord on this all-important issue is not ready to be saved. (<i>1 John 1:8, 10</i>)</p> <p>As a man, Jesus Christ died a complete sinner's death, though He Himself never once transgressed a single law of God. (<i>2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 1:21-24</i>) In a very literal sense, the eternal wrath and punishment that all of us deserve was imputed to God's Son that day while He hung upon the cross. (<i>Matthew 26:39, Revelation 14:10</i>) And the precious blood which our Savior shed completely satisfied the righteous judgment of God. (<i>Romans 3:25, Hebrews 9:22-28</i>)</p> <p>Before one can be saved, he must be willing to agree with the implications of these facts surrounding Jesus' death. He must change his way of thinking about how wicked he actually is in the sight of the Almighty. (<i>Luke 24:45-47</i>) He must not only understand and admit that he deserves a literal burning hell, but there needs to be a true brokenness in relation to those sins. (<i>2 Corinthians 7:10</i>) And if a person is truly expecting to receive full pardon for all past, present and future sins, then it only makes sense that his repentance will be in relation to all of those sins as well! (<i>2 Corinthians 7:11, 1 Peter 4:1-4</i>)</p> <p>In short, the Lord Jesus Christ wants to apply His death to the hell-bound sinner so that he can die to sin's control in his life once and for all in order to live a life of holiness after he is saved. (<i>2 Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 4:20-24, 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2 Peter 3:11</i>) Such an individual, therefore, who is ready to receive the Lord, should have no problem turning by faith to Him and surrendering to His control. However, failure to humbly change one's way of thinking and agree with the Lord about the reality of sin in his life will result in a failure to receive the saving grace of God. (<i>James 4:6-10, 1 Peter 5:5-6</i>)</p>	<p>A third condition often found within the prideful heart of man is a steadfast belief in one's need to perform dead religious works for the securing of eternal life. This too must be repented of before a person can be saved. The New Testament plainly teaches that a man is justified freely and completely by God's grace, through the finished, redemptive work of Jesus Christ. (<i>Romans 3:20, 24, 28</i>) The person who fails to recognize this truth is not in a position to be born again, as he is actually guilty of frustrating the very thing he needs in order to be genuinely saved – God's grace. (<i>Galatians 2:16, 20-21</i>)</p> <p>As already mentioned, an individual does not become a Christian by merely accepting certain facts pertaining to the death of the Savior. The same is also true in relation to the resurrection. There must be an awareness and understanding as to why Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The Bible makes it clear that as powerful as it was, the death of Christ alone is incapable of saving one single soul from hell. (<i>1 Corinthians 15:14, 17</i>) According to Romans 5:9-10 and Hebrews 7:25, we are saved from God's eternal wrath through the resurrected life of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since He is eternal life, we actually receive eternal life the precise moment we receive Him into our lives by faith. (<i>Colossians 3:1-4, 1 John 1:2, 5:11-13, 20</i>) Consequently, if we have not called upon the resurrected Lord, we cannot proclaim to others that we truly know Him at all! (<i>Romans 10:9-10, 13, 2 Corinthians 5:16</i>)</p> <p>Although the lost sinner must realize that his works can never save him, he should not, on the other hand, be left with the impression that the Christian life he is contemplating is somehow void of obedience and submission. Quite the contrary is true! Before our encounter with the Lord, we are all guilty of serving the wrong master. (<i>Romans 6:17</i>) The very reason God desires to impart to us this life is so that we can abandon such self-serving existences and truly live lives for Him. (<i>Romans 14:7-9, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15</i>) One day every Christian will stand before the Lord as a servant and give account as to how faithfully he served Him in this life. (<i>Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10</i>) Salvation will not be the issue on that day, but loss or gain of rewards most certainly will. (<i>Luke 19:12-26, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Hebrews 11:35, 2 John 8</i>) The truly repentant sinner, therefore, will experience a change in the way of thinking in relation to his general misconception of past and future works. Though he should have no problem understanding that his own works (past, present or future) can never save him, he should nonetheless be willing to confidently call upon this new Lord and Master with the anticipation of discovering what good works He has in store. (<i>Ephesians 2:8-10, 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-8, Hebrews 9:14</i>)</p>
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THE EVIDENCE OF GRACE		
<p>“For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (<i>Romans 6:10-11</i>)</p>	<p>ABSTINENCE <i>1 JOHN 3:4-10</i></p>	<p>OBEDIENCE <i>1 JOHN 3:14-21</i></p>

<p>CONFIDENCE <i>1 JOHN 3:1-3</i></p>	<p>“I AM A SON OF GOD”</p>	<p>“I AM A SERVANT”</p>
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ASSURANCE OF SALVATION