

salvation:

Written By: Victor Cross

According to the Scripture there is coming a day when the LORD Jesus will come and on that day all people will be judged by Him. Then, the saved will enter into Heaven to spend eternity with the Father and LORD Jesus. Those who are not saved, those whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life will be separated from GOD forever and cast into the lake of fire, (*Revelation 20:11-15*). It is the Father and LORD Jesus' will for all to be saved, and go to live with them forever in Heaven, (*John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15*). This is why Jesus came to shine the light of the salvation of GOD into this world. Jesus stood and gave the call many years ago that still rings forth today in *Matthew 11:28-30* where He said, "*Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*"

No one knows the day He will come so we must prepare now. The LORD Jesus just before He ascended back into Heaven, sent His apostles out into the world to proclaim the way of escape, the way of salvation. Now the question arises, how can people respond to the great invitation and come to Jesus? Through the inspired message the apostles shared, the Gospel, they told the way one is able to be saved and have their name written in the Lamb's book of life. The apostles also told the people how it is that one may remain saved, never having to fear being removed from the Lamb's book of life?

What a blessing it is, that GOD has given to the whole human family the blessing of a way of escape from sin, the means and way of salvation. We know according to the Words of GOD, the Bible, that all people have sinned and fallen short of the glory of GOD, (*Romans 3:23*). We also know from the Bible that sin brings death, and separation between GOD and man, (*James 1:15; Isaiah 59:1-2*). What a glorious passage of Scripture is *Romans 8:1-2*, "*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*" This brings us to the heart of the matter. Since all have sinned and have become separated from GOD, how can a person enter into Christ Jesus and the freedom from condemnation?

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The answer is found within the Gospel of Jesus Christ, *Romans 1:16* "*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*" What then is the Gospel? Some will say, the good news, and while it is truly the good news, that does not tell us what the good news is. So let us look at the definition of the Gospel within the Scripture.

Let us begin with the hopeless state of the human family from *Ephesians 2:1-2*, "*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*" When GOD created Adam, He told him not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day that he ate, he would die, (*Genesis 2:17*). So in *Genesis 3* we see Adam and Eve ate of the fruit, and death followed because of their sin. In *Romans 5:12* we find death has spread to all people, because all sinned.

In *Ezekiel 33:11* we find GOD does not want all to die, but to come to repentance and be saved. Although, since GOD is a righteous and just GOD He cannot just look the other way, and

act like sin never happened; there had to be a price paid that was acceptable, one that could be paid and bring forgiveness of sin, (*Luke 24:46-47; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*).

This brings us to Jesus Christ the Son of GOD, and Savior. *Romans 5:8* reads, “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” Jesus came and He gave His life as a substitutionary sacrifice to GOD on our behalf. He paid the price for sin we all owe, but could never pay.

Christ died for us! As was written in the old hymn, “Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.” How does a person take hold of this great gift? How does one apply the blessed sacrifice of Jesus’ blood to themselves? How can we enter into the state of no condemnation?

In *Acts 2* we read that when Peter told the people that they had crucified and put to death the Son of GOD; they asked Peter and the other apostles, “*Men and brethren what shall we do?*” Peter replied, “*Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*” (*Acts 2:38*). In the remainder of *Acts two* we see that all who believed, and received the message, were baptized, and were added to the saved by Jesus Christ the LORD (*Acts 2:41-47*). For further study, consider *Romans 6*. You see, we find there, it is in baptism we are joined to Christ within His death and Resurrection.

This brings our minds back to the great invitation of the LORD in *Matthew 11:28-30*. “*Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*”

Therefore, this is the way a person enters into Christ Jesus, and into the state of no condemnation. But, this is only the beginning of the Gospel message, there is more to come. Before we go further let us consider a few things as a review. As we have seen, people are called by the Gospel message that salvation is in Christ Jesus, because He paid the price that was demanded in order to forgive sins, when He gave His life upon the cross. Isaiah the prophet spoke in the long ago of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in *Isaiah 53*. Isaiah says, that Jesus was pierced through for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, chastised for our well being, so that He could render Himself as a guilt offering for us. The book of Hebrews speaks greatly on the subject of Christ’s sacrifice, and His ability to perfectly cleans a person from sin, unlike the blood of bulls and goats, that could never take away sin.

With all of this being said, here are the steps one must take to be saved by GOD, cleansed by the blood of Jesus, and added to the body of Jesus Christ. Being connected to Him through baptism into His death, and resurrection, to rise from that watery grave to live a new life. Saved! Free from sin! Obtaining and continuing in the state of no condemnation.

- First, one must Hear, learn the great Gospel message of the offer of salvation through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus. *Romans 10:15; Romans 10:17:*
- Second, one must believe the great Gospel message, that Jesus is the savior, the Son of GOD sent into the world to pay the price for sin. *Mark 16:16; John 8:24:*
- Third, one must confess that Jesus is LORD. *Romans 10:9-10:*
- Forth, one must submit to the Gospel call to be baptized, allowing GOD to wash away your sins, and add you to the Body of Christ, the Church. *Acts 22:16; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12; 1 Peter 3:21:*
- Fifth, one must then live faithfully until death, *Revelation 2:10; Philippians 3:8-14; Jude 3:*

- Also, as you live by faith in Jesus Christ, and His saving sacrifice, sin may knock you down from time to time. But glory be to GOD as is seen in *1 John 1*, when a Christian sins, he or she can confess their sins to the Father, and He will forgive. Rising again pressing on toward the goal of not being conformed to this world, but being transformed by the renewing of our mind. *Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:24*:

What a blessed gift that GOD has offered! What a beautiful love has been shown! Will you come to Jesus for the cleansing blood? Will you be washed in the blood of the lamb? Will you give your life to GOD? Will you be added to Christ and His Church? Today is the day of salvation; tomorrow may be too late!