

# Do I Need to be Saved?

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Christians are pretty good at telling folks
  - 1. they need to be saved
  - 2. and how to be saved
  
- B. But what Christians are sometimes not as good at telling people is
  - 1. what they need to be saved from
  - 2. and why they need to be saved
  - 3. It is said that Mark Twain once responded to a Christian who ask him if he was at peace with the Lord, "I was not aware that we were at war."
    - a) That could be the response of a great many folks
    - b) They feel no anxiety
    - c) feel safe and unthreatened
    - d) Go about their daily lives unaware of the fact that ...
      - (1) ...they are at odds with the Creator
      - (2) ...that they need rescue
  
- C. So, this morning I'd like to lay out some common questions in the world around us in response to our warning that they are lost
  - 1. First of all, to speak to those here or online about a serious and urgent spiritual need you have
  - 2. Second, to hopefully help Christians remember the mindset of the lost in the world and provide a few answers to share with them

## II. One of the most basic questions is "OK, BUT SAVED FROM WHAT?"

- A. The idea of being saved is being rescued, so saved / rescued from what is a very legitimate question
  - 1. In a nutshell, the Bible tells us
    - a) that we all sin — "All men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)
    - b) and that the "wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23)
  - 2. It's not talking about physical
    - a) All men will die (Heb. 9:27)
    - b) Not ceasing to be — death is separation of the soul from the body
  - 3. It's talking about spiritual death
    - a) This spiritual death is not ceasing to be
    - b) "Death" means separation — in the spiritual world it is the separation of the soul from God —
    - c) which is another way to say Hell
  
- B. And Hell isn't some kind of party place

1. A lot of bravado is spoken about going to party with friends
2. It's no more a party place than a Russian gulag
3. Only it is much, much worse
4. And what's even worse, it is eternal — no hope of escape, ever
5. It is the destination of all the lost

- C. But the good news is that God didn't want that for you or anyone,
1. so He sent His Son to die on the cross to take the punishment that we deserved
  2. RESCUING US / SAVING US FROM HELL
  3. So, when someone asks you if you've been saved, that's the primary rescue or salvation he's talking about
  4. And in a secondary way, he also talking about the new kind of life here and now that Jesus leads us to — righteous, holy, true, noble
- D. Do you need rescue? Yes, from Hell.

### III. Now, to that, a lost one may respond, **"I AM NOT REALLY THAT BAD, AM I?"**

- A. You may be a pretty good person, compared with the rest of the world, but that's not really a very high standard
- B. Here's what the Bible says, "All men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)
- C. And here's another crucial piece of information, it only takes one sin to condemn us
1. Yes, I know that's probably pretty surprising to you
  2. We'd like to be measured by a "good enough" scale
  3. But that's not the way that God Himself set it up
    - a) 1 Pet. 1:16 — "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
    - b) His holiness is the standard
    - c) Rev. 22:27 — "and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it [Heaven], but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."
- D. So, you may be a pretty good person, but the truth is that even with only one sin you're bad enough to not go to Heaven
1. This doesn't mean that those of who are Christians are perfect or sinless
  2. It is only to say that we are forgiven — and that makes all the difference
- E. You may be good, but it is not good enough; you need forgiveness

### IV. **BUT I DO BELIEVE IN JESUS, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?**

- A. I know this is a really popular point of a lot of popular preachers these days
1. Believe in Jesus

2. Say the sinners prayer
3. And you're good to go
4. But FAITH ALONE is only SOME of what the Bible commands; it is not the SUM

B. The problem is that you can't find that "FAITH ALONE" path to salvation anywhere in the Bible

1. Read through the book of Acts and you'll find...
  - a) That Jesus died on the cross to pay for the sins that you and I have committed, and to benefit from this sacrifice...
    - (1) We are commanded to believe in Him as the Son of God
    - (2) We are commanded to repent of our the sins in our lives
    - (3) We are commanded to confess — not sins — but that Jesus is Lord
    - (4) We are commanded to be immersed in water in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins
  - b) If you have done these things, knowing what your doing with a sincere heart, you are saved
  - c) NOWHERE WILL YOU FIND ANYONE WHO SAID "THE SINNER'S PRAYER" AND WERE SAVED
2. Instead, the examples point over and over again to baptism as the cross-over point from being lost to being saved

C. Faith alone isn't good enough, it is SOME, but not the SUM

#### V. **CAN'T I JUST BE A BETTER PERSON, DO GOOD, AND NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH CHURCH?**

A. There's a couple of things here that I want to address

1. First the idea of just being a better person and doing good is a fairly popular idea,
  - a) With good deeds on one side and bad deeds on the other, we just heap up deeds on the good side and we're back in God's good graces again
  - b) The problem has always been, however, that good deeds aren't "extra credit" things, but things we ought to have been doing all along
    - (1) While what you are suggesting is a kind of repentance, and repentance is good
    - (2) it doesn't, it can't go far enough, because repentance is about what you resolve to do in the future...
    - (3) ... repentance alone doesn't really pay for the sins you've already committed
    - (4) The debt of sin still remains — Col. 2:14 speaks of "...the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us."
    - (5) Like faith alone, repentance is not enough; it is only SOME of what we must do, not the SUM

B. Don't be fooled into believing

1. some kind of an "I'll be good" sort of bogus salvation
2. There's no such thing in the Bible

3. Such “salvations” are manmade “salvations” — they are no salvation at all

C. “I’ll be better” salvation isn’t good enough; not the SUM

#### VI. **OK, I’ve been BAPTIZED, CAN I NOW JUST GO ON WITH MY LIFE?**

A. Not if you’ve really repented

B. Being saved is not a “one and done” sort of thing — it is a lifelong commitment

1. There were some in the early church who fell away and lost their salvation with persecution, worldliness, and weariness

a) Demas — 2Tim. 4:10

b) The entire book of Hebrews warns

c) Many of the church of Revelation were in danger

2. Gal. 2:20 — “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

3. Rev. 2:10 — “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. “

C. You must be faithful

#### VII. **IS IT REALLY THAT SERIOUS?**

A. Yes

1. God was serious enough about it to send His only Son to die for us

2. Jesus was serious enough about it to suffer unimaginable pain, humiliation, and death to rescue us

3. Hell is terrible beyond imagination

4. Heaven is wonderful beyond imagination and worth any cost

B. And life is incredibly short and uncertain

#### VIII. **CONCLUSION**

A. Do I need to be saved? — Well, let’s see...

1. Saved from Hell? YES!

2. Were you depending on being a good person? — You may be good, but it is not good enough; you need forgiveness

3. Were you banking on faith alone or the sinner’s prayer? — Faith alone isn’t good enough; it is SOME, but not the SUM

4. Have you been thinking that a promise to be better will rescue from God’s punishment — “I’ll be better” salvation isn’t good enough; not the SUM

5. The remedy continues to be forgiveness on God’s conditions

6. Even if you were once saved, you might have fallen away — you’ll know that better than anyone else — Be faithful

- B. Do you need to be saved?
  - 1. If you do, come, while we stand and sing