

I Want You To Know – Various Scriptures

I hope you share in that joy and happiness of having your sins washed away – there's certainly no better time to celebrate it

My name is Rob Willey; I'm the SP here at HBC; And if this is your first time with us, I'm glad you're here to worship with us

- As I was thinking about Easter this year, one thought kept coming to the forefront of my mind; The thought that . . .
If I only had one chance to speak to u, one shot to tell u something – which may very well be the case for some of you . . . What would it be?
What would I want you to hear before leaving? What would I want you to *know*?

So I'm going to dispense with the clever little introductions, and lame jokes, and disingenuous efforts to make you think we're best friends – and get at it
Are you good with that? Then let's get started by turning to Gen 1:26-27

Pray – Use my words to awaken faith and change hearts

Convict those in sin; Convince the skeptical; Compel the stubborn

I want you to know, first of all, that no matter who you are . . .

You are made in God's image – and loved immensely (Gen 1:26-27; Jn 3:16)

Gen 1:26-27 says – *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*

Us and our referring to the triune nature of his being

One God, existing and manifesting himself in 3 persons – Father, Son, and HS

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Which means you and I are representative of God, as made in his *image* . . .

And we're similar to God, as made after his *likeness*

Similar, in that we are uniquely endowed with a measure of his attributes

Like a heightened ability to think logically and reason abstractly

And communicate in complex ways; Or feel a variety of emotions at the same time

Or be creative; And know right from wrong; And last but not least, we have a soul

Enabling us to *commune* w/ God, and enter into a relationship w/ him

You are made in his image

- Which is an act of love – immense love; He didn't have to do it this way
He didn't have to mark us with his image, or fashion us for his presence

But he did, b/c he *is* love the Bible says (1 Jn 4:8); That's the nature of his being

So much so, that when Adam and Eve broke communion with him, he gave his only

Son to repair it

That's **Jn 3:16** – *God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Should not perish, but be with him, and reconciled to him, for all eternity

It's love enough to create us in his image in the first place – with all the blessings that go along with it; But it's even greater love to fix things, when *we* messed them up *****

I want you to know, that you are made in God's image – and loved immensely

Not only that, but . . .

You are known by God – and meant to seek him (Ps 139:13-16; Acts 17:26-27)

Ps 139 (522); This is where King David starts by telling us that God is all-knowing and present everywhere, and then gives us an example in v13-16, saying . . .

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth [a poetic metaphor for the darkness and secrecy of the womb]. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

I want you to know, based on that Scripture, that you are *known* by God – every single one of you; this doesn't just apply to David

The Psalms were written to help us give expression to our hearts, and articulate the great truths of *God's* heart; Of which, this is one

So having formed each and every one of us in the womb . . .

And having seen you before you ever took shape . . .

And having recorded the number of your days before you ever took your first breath . . .

You are known by him completely and intimately, whether you realize it or not

He knows your thoughts; He knows your secrets (Ps 44:21); He knows your fears

He knows when you rise up and when you sit down (Ps 139:2)

He knows your words before you ever speak them; And he knows your heart

I want you to know, that far from being a faceless name on a list, or a random configuration of molecules – you are *known*, by *God*

And meant to seek him

- **Acts 17:26-27** says – *He [God] made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him.*

God not only knows you intimately, but determined that you should be alive at this time, and in this place – so that you would seek him and find him

That's why you're here; That's why you're alive *****

That may even be why you're in this service – to seek God and find him

Which is so very important, b/c . . .

You were born a sinner – and face the consequences (Rom 3:23; 5:18-19)

That's the implication of **Rom 5:18-19**, that says . . .

One trespass [referring to Adam's sin] led to condemnation [judgment] for all men . . .

[And] by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners

There it is – by virtue of Adam's sin, *we* were made sinners; All of us

When Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden, they became sinners, and passed that nature down to everyone else

Which means *you*, were *born* a sinner; B/c you inherited a sin nature *****

Not only that, but you *are* a sinner b/c you've sinned; A lot

Rom 3:23 says – *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Every single one of us has thought, said, and done a multitude of wrong things – leaving us far short of God's standard of righteousness, his glory; Everyone

And if you say that's not true of you, if you say you have no sin – you deceive yourself, and the truth is not in you (1 John 1:8)

You sin just by saying you don't sin; Just by failing to admit it

God made man upright the Bible says, *but they have sought out many schemes* (Eccl 7:29)

And **Eccl 7:20** says – *Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.*

You were *born* a sinner b/c you're human; And you *are* a sinner b/c you've sinned ****

- The result of which, is that you face some very grave consequences
Consequences like *separation* from God – b/c God in his perfect holiness, cannot, nor will not, accept you or tolerate you in your sinfulness
It's one of *the* primary lessons of the OT, carried through into the New

It's like the separation *you'd* make between yourself and a rotting rat under your house
You'd do everything in your power to get it out, wouldn't you? And remove it from your presence as far away as possible; Forever
And the same is true of God and you, in your sin – you face eternal separation

Worse yet, you face his *condemnation*; His wrath

His wrath as a result of your rebellion; His righteous anger as a result of your failure to seek him; His displeasure with your rejection of his immense love for you

In your sin and sinfulness – you face God's condemnation (Jn 3:18)

The wrath of God remains on you the Bible says (Jn 3:36)

All of which results in hell – the place where separation and condemnation meet

Described in the Bible as the lake of fire, where sinners are tormented day and night forever and ever – in sorrow, darkness, weeping, anguish, thirst, and loneliness

As hard as it may be to hear – I want you to know the truth

I want you to know that you were born a sinner – and face the consequences

But here's the good news . . .

You can be saved – and reap the benefits (1 Tim 2:4; Rom 8:1)

Saved from hell, saved from God's wrath, and saved from being separated from him

You can be saved; And that's exactly what he wants

1 Tim 2:4 says that [God] *desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

And again in **2 Pet 3:9** it says that [The Lord] *is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

That everyone should come to a place of turning *from* sin, to God*****

He made you, he knows you, he loves you – and he *wants* to save you

No matter *what* you've done; No matter *who* you've hurt; No matter *how* bad you've been; No matter how much you've sinned . . .

You're not too bad to be saved for good; And reap the benefits

- Benefits like being *forgiven* of your sins – no longer having them held against you
When God saves you – he *cancels* your record of debt (Col 2:14)
Your slate is wiped clean, and your offenses removed as far away as the east is from the west the Bible says (Ps 103:12)
Your soul is washed white as snow, and cleansed of all unrighteousness

Not only that, but you're *released* from all condemnation; all judgment

Rom 8:1 (944) – *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus* [those who are saved; those who have entered in to the secure realm of his rule and reign].

There's no condemnation; God lifts his sentence of judgment, never again making you the object of his wrath

Never again condemning you to hell, and an eternity apart from him

You're released; Free from condemnation

And *free* from bondage

When God saves you, he breaks the grip of sin in your life

He breaks the chains of your guilt; And your enslavement to wickedness

And your fear of death; And the uncertainty that makes you live in fear of life

You can be *free* from *all* of that – free from bondage

To live life to the full

Life, with the power and presence of God's Spirit within you, never to leave you or forsake you . . .

And the confident assurance that you'll live forever in *his* presence someday

So yes, you were born a sinner and face the consequences, but you can be saved and reap the benefits

Benefits like the forgiveness of your sins, release from condemnation, freedom from bondage, and life to the full for all eternity

IF you believe, repent, and receive

If you believe in Jesus, and what he did to save you

If you believe that he's the Son of God, God in the flesh as the Bible says . . .

And died on a cross, to bear your sins and your condemnation so you wouldn't have to

And then rose again that first Easter, so that you could too – spiritually *and* physically

some day

If you believe in Jesus, and that what he did, he did for *you* – you can be saved

- This summer we're going to Colorado for a family reunion, and we're staying at the same place we stayed 7 years ago
And I'm already having flashbacks of the high ropes course, where I found myself standing on the top of a telephone pole, 30 feet in the air . . .
Wondering what in the world I'm doing here

And in order to get down, I had to jump – trusting that the 4 or 5 people on the ground who had a hold of my rope, would hang on so I wouldn't hit the ground

And I'm here to tell ya', my faith was tested

Sure, they told me they'd pull through . . .

But it wasn't until I jumped, that I really *believed* them, and was saved

And that's the same kind of belief *you* need, in order to be saved

Not a mental ascent to the *facts* surrounding Jesus at Easter . . .

But an "all out, all in, I'm giving my *life* to him" kind of belief

You can be saved if you *believe* in Jesus

- And second, *repent* of your sins

Which means *confessing* to God in genuine sorrow, that you've sinned, and are sinful . . .

Asking him to forgive u; And *committing* to turn fr your sin in the strength he provides

Which he will, if you're convinced that living *his* way, is better than yours

He'll forgive you, and he'll help you; If you repent

It's like turning a boat around that's headed South on autopilot

If you don't change the boat's "mind," if you don't change how the boat "thinks" . . .

If you don't change the autopilot to go North, your efforts to turn it will be for naught

True repentance is marked not only by a confession of your sin in godly sorrow, but a

new direction toward holiness – b/c you're convinced that's best

- And finally, you can be saved if you *receive* Jesus as Lord of your life

As master of your destiny; Captain of your heart

He said in **John 14:23** – *If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

You can be saved if you make *your* heart, *his* home

And the Apostle Paul says in **Rom 8:9** – *Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ*

[dwelling within them, that is] *does not belong to him.*

IOW no Jesus, no salvation; No Jesus, no life; No Jesus, no benefits

You have to believe, repent, and *receive* him (**Summary**)

Otherwise you'll continue to face the consequences, and forever miss the benefits

Prayer – As you bow your head and quiet your heart, this may very well be the day of your salvation; And if it is, don't miss it

The Bible says – "*Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near*

If your heart's pounding within you, and you know you're a sinner and want to be

saved – reconciled w/ the God who made you, and loves you, and knows you . . .

If that's you, I'm going to lead you in a prayer right now – a prayer of salvation

- Just call out to God in the quietness of your heart, and say something like this . . .

"Lord God, thank you for loving me in so many ways

I know that I'm a sinner, and need your forgiveness – I admit it

And I *believe* that when Jesus died, he died in my place, for my sins – so that I wouldn't have to; And rose again for my life, so I could too

So I could be saved and reap the benefits; I believe

So please God, forgive me of my sin, wash me white as snow, and break the chains of my guilt – I *repent*

Please come into my life and take full control – I *receive* you now, as Lord and Savior"

If you just prayed that prayer with me . . .

Will you raise your hand and look at me, and wait for me to acknowledge you?

I'm not going to call you out or ask you to come forward or anything like that . . .

I just want to rejoice with you, and pray for you; Is there anyone?

- "God, thank you for lavishing us with the riches of your grace – you are so good

We rejoice with the host of heaven over these new brothers and sisters in Christ

Seal them with your Spirit; Fill them with your love; Fuel them with your word . . .

And knit our hearts together in the days to come

We revel in your goodness and greatness – especially the resurrection of your Son, our Savior, Jesus

In whose name we pray, amen"