

God's Plan Of Salvation

Faith In Jesus

(Ro 5:1)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "God's Plan Of Salvation."
 - a. Last week we examined the need to "Hear/Study" God's Word as the first step.
 - i. We noticed people must be willing to "study" God's Word.
 - ii. We noticed people must be willing to "listen" to God's Word being taught.
 - b. Today we are going to look at the next essential step in one becoming a Christian.
 - i. After one studies the Scriptures they will notice who it is about, Jesus.
 - ii. After one studies the Scriptures they will notice the facts and evidence that prove Jesus is the Christ.
 - iii. When one realizes what Christ did for them and that He is the Messiah the next logical and thus natural step is listening to Jesus and putting our faith in Him.
 - c. Jesus in fact makes a plea for us to put our faith in Him.
 - i. **Mt 11:28-30** "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."¹
3. The plea is simple the message is clear and we need to let people know what Christ means.
 - a. Let us examine what Jesus means by "Come to me...and I will give you rest."
 - b. So how are we to "come to Christ?"

I. We Must Put Forth Effort

- A. We have been called to Christ
 1. **Ro 8:28** "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."
 2. **Ga 5:13** "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."
 - i. This calling is not forced but rather an invitation.
 - a. **Ti 2:11** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (NKJV)
 - b. **Ro 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- B. If called by God shouldn't we come, God knows if we are looking for Him
 1. **Je 29:13** "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."
 2. **Mt 7:7-8** "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- C. The Godhead has already put forth the effort now it is our turn
 - 1. **Lk 9:23** "And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

II. The Effort Results In One Believing Jesus Is The Christ

- A. If one is willing to go with an open heart and put the effort in to studying God's Word one will find that Jesus is the Christ
 - 1. Belief which is the first part of faith is not based on blind hope but substance and evidence.
 - i. **He 11:1** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (NKJV)
- B. Belief means knowing Jesus is the Son of God
 - 1. That is why Jesus said belief in Him should lead to eternal life.
 - i. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (NKJV)
 - 2. That is why God said belief in Him would give people the right to become children of God.
 - i. **Jn 1:12** "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"
 - 3. Thus the child of God knows Jesus is the Son of God.
 - i. **I Jn 2:2-3a** "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him..."
 - 4. In contrast the one that does not know Jesus cannot be a child of God.
 - i. There is a large movement that says God accepts, not only every denomination but every religion and therefore everyone.
 - a. "But the real question ought to be, "Why would God torture anyone, for any length of time, much less billions for eternity?" And the answer, i.e., if what Jesus originally taught about God's nature is correct, is that He most certainly will not!" (Rick Lannoye author of the book "Hell? No! Why You Can Be Certain There's No Such Place As Hell" <http://goo.gl/L5DNs>)
 - b. Robert M. writes, "Who would think such a thought that anyone that is not a believing Christian justified in God is going to hell." (Ibid)
 - ii. This however is far from the truth, even for those that don't know God.
 - a. **Jn 14:6** "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
 - b. **Mt 7:21** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."
 - c. **II Th 1:8** "in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."
 - 5. Thus you must know Jesus is the Son of God to have the opportunity of salvation.

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III. The Effort Results In One Being Obedient To Jesus

- A. If one is willing to go with an open heart and put the effort in to studying God's Word one will not only find that Jesus is the Christ but will notice He is worthy of our obedience
 - 1. **Ja 2:14** "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?"
- B. Obedience recognizes Jesus is the Son of God & that He has expectations of us
 - 1. Remember what Jesus said...
 - i. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
 - ii. **Jn 14:21** "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."
 - iii. **Jn 15:10** "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."
 - 2. Remember what John wrote...
 - i. **I Jn 2:3-5** "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him"
 - ii. **II Jn 6** "And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it."
 - 3. No one argues that we must be obedient to Jesus by obeying Him to be saved.
 - i. They question is what defines obedience
- C. Obedience to Jesus is "doing" what He says we are to do
 - 1. So many say this but then turn around and contradict it.
 - i. Look at the example of the false doctrine "saved by faith alone."
 - a. "Keller pointed to Exodus 14:13, where Moses instructed the Israelites to "stand firm" or stand still and "see the deliverance of the Lord." This means, explained the pastor, that the Israelites did not need to do anything in order to be saved. Likewise, there are no works for Christians to do in order to receive salvation. "This is one of the reasons why we have a religion that is absolutely, utterly different than any other religion," said Keller. "Every other religion is like building a bridge." In every other religion, adherents are continuously trying to build a bridge to reach the other side, whether that be enlightenment or salvation, but they never really feel they are there. But in Christianity, there is no process; salvation happens immediately when you believe." (<http://goo.gl/aUjGo>)
 - 2. Observe how Keller forgets something very important in his statement.
 - i. The Israelites were not saved by standing still.
 - ii. The Israelites were to stand still and behold the deliverance of the Lord but then they had to "walk" across to receive that deliverance.

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- iii. Thus we find Keller manipulating the scriptures to try and prove a false doctrine.
 3. This ideology is exactly why James wrote...
 - i. **Ja 2:24** "You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."
 - ii. **Ja 2:26** "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."
 4. The idea that faith in Jesus is somehow simply believing in Him is false.
 - i. **Ja 2:19** "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!"
 5. Even the idea that belief is not a work is false.
 - i. **Jn 6:28-29** "Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.""
 6. Knowledge alone does nothing without action.
 - i. "One can believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ and feel no personal loyalty to Him at all - indeed, pay no attention whatever to His commandments and His will for one's life. One can believe intellectually in the efficacy of prayer and never do any praying."
(<http://goo.gl/FawAw>)
- D. I say all that to say this...
1. When one puts forth the honest effort the true results will be found in that one which is not only a recognition of Jesus as the Christ but a recognition of the need to completely obey (do the work required by) Christ.

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren after one puts an honest effort into studying God's Word they will find the need and urge to put their faith in Jesus.
2. Question: Do you have faith in Jesus?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**