

God's Plan Of Salvation

Walking In The Light

(I Jn 1:6-7)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "God's Plan Of Salvation."
 - a. I have tried to present each lesson from the standpoint of "what a non-Christian needs to understand concerning each point.
 - b. With that in mind we have looked at so far...
 - i. Hearing God's Word **Ro 10:17**
 - ii. Faith in Jesus as Lord **Jn 3:16; Jn 14:15**
 - iii. Repentance **Ac 17:30; II Pt 3:9**
 - iv. Confess Jesus as Lord **Mt 10:32; Ro 10:9-10**
 - v. Baptism for the remission of sins **Ac 2:38; Ac 22:16; I Pt 3:20-21**
 - c. Tonight we will finish up this series with the last step necessary for one to get to heaven.
 - i. That is to "Walk In The Light."
3. After one has their sins washed away, there becomes a reality which is that this babe in Christ must not stay a babe but grow in the knowledge of the Word.
 - a. **I Pt 2:2** "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation"¹
4. Too many people don't understand this vital step; because of this they fall away.
 - a. Look at the parable of the "Sower & The Seed" (**Mt 13:1-9**).
 - i. There are four grounds mentioned.
 1. Path where the birds snatched up the seed.
 2. Rocky ground where the seed sprouted and had no roots and withered away.
 3. Thorny ground where seed sprouted and grew up but the thorns choked it out.
 4. Good ground where the seed sprouted and grew up and multiplied.
 - b. Notice that in the last three grounds the seed **sprouted**.
 - i. We find two things that will keep those that become saved, saved.
 1. The first is no knowledge of the scriptures.
 - a. **Ho 4:6** "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."
 2. The second is no knowledge of the world's deceitfulness.
 - a. **He 3:13** "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."
5. There is a sound reason why God asks us to strive for perfection it's because it is only this that keeps us from stumbling.
 - a. **Mt 5:48** "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."
6. So what are some steps non-Christians need to know concerning striving for perfection?

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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I. Christians Must Recognize God

- A. Christians must always keep in mind God's relevance
 - 1. It is He that created us.
 - i. **Gn 2:7** "then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."
 - 2. It is He that cares for us.
 - i. **Ro 5:8** "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
 - ii. **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."
 - 3. It is He that is GOD!!!
 - i. **Dt 10:17** "For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe."
- B. Christians must always keep in mind the need for reverence
 - 1. We are the creation not the Creator.
 - i. **Is 29:16** "You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?"
 - ii. **Ro 9:21** "Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?"
 - 2. God is the Holy One.
 - i. **Ps 99:5** "Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!"
 - ii. **Rv 4:8** "And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!""
- C. Christians must always keep in mind they are rich
 - 1. They are abundant in blessings.
 - i. **Ep 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"
 - 2. They are abundant in love.
 - i. **I Jn4:8-10** "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

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3. They are abundant in our needs.
 - i. **Mt 6:31-33** "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
 4. Thus no matter their state they are rich.
 - i. **Rv 2:9** "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich)..."
- D. If Christians will always keep in mind...
1. How important God truly is.
 2. How magnificent God truly is.
 3. How blessed they truly are.
 - i. They will be a step in the right direction concerning walking in the light.

II. Christians Must Recognize Ourselves

- A. Christians are unworthy servants
 1. **Lk 17:10** "So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"
- B. Christians still transgress
 1. **Ro 3:23** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
 2. **I Jn 1:8, 10** "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."
- C. Christians are not self sufficient
 1. We need a Savior.
 - i. **I Pt 2:24** "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."
 - ii. **I Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
 2. We need a Redeemer.
 - i. **Ps 19:14** "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."
 - ii. **Is 59:20** "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD."
 - iii. **Ga 3:13** "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree""

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III. Christians Must Recognize God's Law

- A. Christians must be diligent in their studies and knowledge of God's Word
 - 1. **II Ti 2:15** "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (KJV)
 - 2. **Ja 1:18** "Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."
- B. Christians must strive for excellence in the Law of Christ
 - 1. Excellence in virtue or honesty
 - i. **Ep 4:28** "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need."
 - 2. Excellence in knowledge
 - i. **I Ti 2:3-4** "This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
 - 3. Excellence in self-control
 - i. **I Co 9:27** "But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."
 - 4. Excellence in perseverance
 - i. **Rv 3:10-11** "Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown."
 - 5. Excellence in godliness
 - i. **Ti 2:11-12** "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age"
 - 6. Excellence in brotherly affection
 - i. **Ro 12:10** "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."
 - 7. Excellence in love
 - i. **I Co 13:13** "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

CONCLUSION

- 1. Brethren we must impress upon those that have an open heart to God's Word what the Christian must recognize; which is the need to be a **faithful** child of God.
 - a. **He 11:6** "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."
- 2. Question: Have you been "walking in the light" and striving for excellence in Christ?
 - a. If not why not?
 - b. If so continue therein.

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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**