

REPENT YE AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

We have already heard perhaps of God's love for us when He prepared the Atonement through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, but now we want to show the human side or what we have to do to receive this Salvation.

Salvation is an individual matter with individual responsibility to receive it or reject it. Jesus said, "If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink." John 7:37. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17.

"Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him". Rev. 3:20. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem-How often would I have gathered thy children together and ye would not! Behold your house is left unto you desolate. " Matt 23:37,38. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation" Hebrews 2:3.

Salvation is the most important subject in the world... It should concern everyone of us, for without it our souls will be lost forever, and since it is offered to us conditionally, it is then important that we understand these conditions in order that we may approach God in an acceptable manner and receive this greatest of gifts.

A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Sin produces spiritual death to the soul. "Your sins have separated between you and your God." Isaiah 59:2 and this separation is death. Eph. 2:1 Sin hardens the heart. Heb. 3:13. Even the mind and conscience are defiled. Titus 1:15.... and the results: That person will have no fear of God. Such people must be spiritually awakened from this condition. The true preaching of the Gospel of Christ is designed to produce this spiritual awakening and bring the soul to life again. The individual will be aroused to see his condition of being dead in sin and trespasses, and he will feel God's condemnation resting upon his guilty soul, till he cries out like the jailer: "What must I do to be saved" Act 16:30.

GODLY SORROW

The sinner must give up the love of sin and have godly sorrow that worketh repentance to salvation. The godly sorrow will create a deep sense of regret for the wrong committed. This kind of sorrow worketh repentance.

Repentance means forsaking of sin, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thought and let him return unto The Lord, and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7.

All evil habits and sin must be utterly forsaken, then God will deliver the individual from the power of sin, but there must be willingness in the sinner to abandon all his sins, before God gives him the power to do so.

People, who think that they have received divine pardon without forsaking their sins, are deceived, regardless of how much they pray, except they repent and forsake all their sins they will be lost forever! "If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear me." Psalm 66:18.

God requires that confession of sin be made. He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Prov. 28:13. We must confess first our sins to The Lord. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. 1 John 1:9. Sometimes we also have to confess to men the wrong we have done to them. This was taught by Jesus in the sermon on the mount. Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matt. 5:23, 24.

The Bible teaches that If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he robbed, walk in statutes of life, without committing iniquity, he shall surely live, he shall not die. Ezek. 33:15. So God clearly requires those who desire life to set right their former wrongs, and then to walk before God without committing iniquity anymore. This is not a popular saying or sermon in some churches, but it is God's Word and must be obeyed to be qualified for heaven.

You can't continue to keep that your sin partner and profess to be a Christian, neither can you remain in robbery, prostitution, darkness, lying, adultery, fighting, worldliness and all forms of immoral life and perversion as it is seen today and profess saved. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 2Tim 2:19 Except ye repent ye shall likewise perish Luke 13:3,5. Zachaeus gave half of his goods to the poor to settle his accounts of things he had stolen from men, but when he did that, Jesus said: "THIS DAY is SALVATION come to thy house!" Luke 19:2-11. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of The Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" Rom 6:1-4 You need to give up your sins before you can be saved.

Jesus said, "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matt. 6:14, 15. Jesus set us an example when dying on the cross. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The salvation of Jesus Christ leaves no place in the human heart for that which is evil, sinful, bitterness, hardness, hatred and enmity-therefore all these must be forsaken. "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." 1Pet 2:1-2

Having met all the previous conditions, now the way is open for the seeker to find true access to God. "Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." Matt. 7:7. "The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him, for whosoever shall call on the name of The Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:12.

"Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:21. (This is important in order to be forgiven and redeemed!) But if the heart is rebellious and unwilling to measure to the requirements laid down in the Word of God of forsaking all sin, saving faith will be impossible. But complete obedience to the Word places us on believing ground, where prayer and faith become perfectly natural and easy.

Do this now as urgently and correctly as you carry out a doctor's instruction. Turn away from all sins and decide in your heart never to go back to them any longer. Tell God to forgive and cleanse you. He will answer immediately if you pray with faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ He will change your life and set your feet on the path of godliness and righteousness. Then, eternity with God in heaven will be yours. Take the step now by praying this prayer;

Father, I come to you as sinner in need of mercy. I believe that Jesus died to save me from sin and the penalty of it. Therefore, I surrender myself to Him. Lord Jesus, come into my heart and become my personal Lord and Saviour now. Change me and give me the power to go and sin no more. From today, I will live the rest of my life for your glory. I renounce all works of darkness and ask you to fill me with your righteousness. Thank you for hearing me, in Jesus' name I pray.

Three things will help you.

1. Pray everyday.

2. Read your Bible everyday.
3. Join the fellowship of the saints of God.