LET'S TALK ABOUT SALVATION

Men and women are all sinners. Since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden men and women have been born in sin. The Bible says in *Psalm 51:5*: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me". The Bible also says in *Psalm 58:3*: "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies". Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden when they disobeyed the commandment of God not to partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Bible says in *Genesis 2:16-17*:

> 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. *Genesis 2:16-17*

The Bible also says in *Genesis 3:6:*

> 6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. *Genesis 3:6*

Thus, we see that sin of man originated in the Garden of Eden. Sin is a transgression against God or disobedience to the commandments of God as written in the Bible. The sin in the garden led to the immediate spiritual death of all of mankind. Because of sin, we all eventually suffer physical death also. The Bible says in *Romans 3:23*: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;". The Bible also says in *Romans 5:12*: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:". Because of our sin, we are under the condemnation of God and the wrath of God abides upon us. According to *Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:10-12,and Jeremiah 17:9-10,* God sees our sin, our hearts, and our good works from an entirely different point of view than we do. Those passages read as follows:

> 6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. *Isaiah 64:6*

> 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. *Romans 3:10-12*

> 9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings. *Jeremiah 17:9-10*

So, we see that the best of our good works that we have to offer God is as filthy rags. God says that no one is right before God. God says that our hearts are dark and deceitful and that we cannot know it without the intervention of God.

Because of our sin, we are separated from God, we are enemies with God, and we are alienated from God. According to *Romans 5:10*: "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. We see in *Isaiah 59:1-2*:

> 1Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear. *Isaiah 59:1-2*

Colossians 1:20-21 says:

> 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. *Colossians 1:20-21*

We know from *Romans 6:23* that "the wages of sin is death". What this means is that we must pay for our sin with the death of our body, soul, and spirit. In other words, the wages that we are paid for our sin is death. Many folks have the wrong idea about death. They consider death to be the end, but it is not. Death is nothing more than a change of state. When we die, we change from a temporary state to an eternal state. The question is: "Where will you spend that eternity?". Will you suffer for an eternity in the lake of fire? Or, will you rejoice in eternal bliss in honoring and glorifying the God of heaven? The Bible meaning of death is "separation". To die means to be separated. In death, our soul and spirit are separated from our bodies. The Bible also uses the term "the second death". The second death is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire. The Bible says in *Revelation 20:14*: "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death". The Bible also says in *Revelation 21:8*: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death".

The Bible declares in *Hebrews 12:29* that "our God is a consuming fire". *Psalm 9:17* warns us: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God". The Bible ominously states in *Hebrews 9:27*: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" The judgement referred to here is the "Great White Throne Judgement". This judgement is described in *Revelation 20:11-15*:

> 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those

> things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:11-15*

No one has to go to hell. It is an individual choice. The question is: "Will you choose eternal life in heaven or will you choose eternal death in hell?". If you choose to make no choice at all then you choose hell because the Bible says in *John 3:16-18, 36*:

> 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. *John 3:16-18,36*

The Bible says that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked in *Ezekiel 33:11*:

> Say unto them, *As* I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? *Ezekiel 33:11*

That phrase "turn ye, turn ye" means to repent. Repentance is a turning from a life of sin and a turning to God. The Bible says in *2 Peter 3:9:* "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance". There is NO salvation without repentance. Christ said in *Luke 13:3-5:*

> 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. *Luke 13:3-5*

The Bible says in *Acts 17:30*: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:". Repentance is not worldly sorrow. Repentance is Godly sorrow. The Bible says in *2 Corinthians 7:9-10*:

> 9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for

> ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. *2 Corinthians 7:9-10*

Men and women cannot repent of their sin without the power of the Holy Ghost living in them. God gives men and women the power of repentance through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's be clear, you will never repent unto the saving of your soul until you put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When men and women exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost comes to live in them. Repentance cannot be worked up in the power of the flesh. Repentance is a work of the indwelling Spirit of God. Repentance is the evidence of salvation. Through repentance, the lost sinner becomes a new creature. The Bible says in *2 Corinthians 5:17*: "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new".
Now, we have talked a lot about sin, but what is God's remedy for sin. Man has no remedy for , or escape from, the death and condemnation brought about by their sin. The good news is that God has provided a means of deliverance from the penalty of sin. That deliverance, or salvation, can only come through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says in *John 14:6* and *Acts 4:10-12*:

> 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. *John 14:6*

> 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. *Acts 4:10-12*

This means that the only remedy for your sin that God will accept is the Lord Jesus Christ. Without the Lord Jesus Christ, we are lost and dying on our way to hell. It is through God's mercies that He reveals to us that we are lost and without hope outside the Lord Jesus Christ. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because His compassions fail not (*Lamentations 3:22*)". "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (*John 3:16*)." God commended his love to us through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says in *Romans 5:8*: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us". The wages of our sin have been paid by the shedding of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Salvation is not of man. There is nothing you can do to earn salvation. Salvation is not by works. Salvation is by grace through faith alone. *Ephesians 2:8-9* says: "8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast". *Titus 3:5 says*: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;". Salvation is not in the church. That means that you can join every church in the world and still die in your sin

and go to hell. Salvation is not in the baptismal pool. You can walk through every baptismal pool in the world and still die in your sin and go to hell. Salvation is not in some teacher, preacher, or evangelist. Salvation is in the Lord Jesus Christ. According to *Psalm 37:39-40* and *Jonah 2:9*, salvation is of the Lord.

> 39 But the salvation of the righteous *is* of the LORD: *he is* their strength in the time of trouble. 40 And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him. *Psalm 37:39-40*

> 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD. *Jonah 2:9*

Now, the question arises: "What is salvation?".
Salvation is the deliverance of your soul and spirit from the penalty for sin, which is eternal death (also called the second death). For the Christian, the resurrection is the redemption of our dead physical bodies at the time of the rapture. Salvation comes through faith in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. According to *1 Corinthians 15:1-4* the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:1-4* says:

> Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

In order to be saved, you must personally believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins; that your sins were buried with Him; and that through His resurrection you have the power to go forth in the newness of life. This personal belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is also referred to as faith. From *Hebrews 11:1* we see: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". From *Romans 6:1-4*, we know that baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. For the believer, baptism symbolizes the death of the old nature, the burial of that old nature, and the resurrection unto a newness of life. *Romans 6:1-4* says:

> What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 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. *Romans 6:1-4*

Now that we know what salvation is, how is it that we come to salvation. According to the Bible,

we must be drawn by God, we must come under conviction of the Holy Ghost, we must exercise faith, we must be brought to repentance by the Holy Ghost, we must be regenerated (born again) by the Holy Ghost, and we must publicly confess our sin of unbelief before men. The Bible says in *John 6:44:* "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day". According to *John 16:7-11* and *Romans 10:17*, God uses the convicting power of the Holy Ghost and the word of God from the Bible to draw the lost sinner unto the Lord Jesus Christ. *John 16:7-11* says:

> 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. *John 16:7-11*

Verses 8 and 9 in John 16 tells us that God reproves, or convicts, the lost sinner because they believe not on the Lord Jesus Christ. To say that one believes not on the Lord Jesus Christ is the same as saying they lack faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith comes through the teaching and preaching of the word of God. *Romans 10:17* says: "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". That is why we have prepared this information from the Bible on sin and salvation. We want you to hear from the word of God what God has to say about your sin and its penalty and your need for repentance and salvation. We sincerely hope that having received this information from the word of God that by faith you will ask God to save you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you will exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, God will grant you repentance unto salvation. Gods says in *John 3:3-8* that you cannot enter the kingdom of God (heaven) except ye be born again. *John 3:3-8* says:

> 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. *John 3:3-8*

To be born again means to be spiritually reborn from above by God the Holy Ghost. It means to be regenerated by God the Holy Ghost. It is life from death. The Lord Jesus Christ was resurrected from death by the power of the Holy Ghost that ye might have life. That same Holy Ghost resurrects you from spiritual death through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Ghost. *Titus 3:5* says: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved

us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;". If you are a Christian, the rapture will be the time for the resurrection or changing of your body. The rapture is the redemption of your body (*Romans 8:23*) at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*).If you die before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, your vile body will be resurrected and changed. If you are alive when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, your vile body will be changed so that it can enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Ye must be born again!

The final event that must take place in your salvation is public confession. The Bible says in *Romans 10:8-11:*

> 8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. *Romans 10:8-11*

If you will be honest with God, confess the Lord Jesus with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God raised the Lord Jesus from the dead you will be saved. The Bible also says in *Matthew 10:32-33:*

> 32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. *Matthew 10:32-33*

If you will by faith confess the Lord Jesus Christ, you will find that Bible believing Christianity is not some dead, ritualistic religion. Religion is man's attempts to get to God. Christianity is not a religion, but is instead an eternally living reality. Christianity is the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ dwelling in you through the ministry of God the Holy Ghost who indwells every born again believer. The apostle Peter said in *1 Peter 1:3-5*:

> 3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. *1 Peter 1:3-5*

The Bible says in *2 Corinthians 6:2*: "behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation". Today can be your day of salvation. It is most important and most urgent that you not play games with God. If you do not put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of your sin, and turn to God, there will come a day when God will stop dealing with you about your sin and you will die in your sin and suffer eternally in hell. If you were to die in a car accident today, or die of a heart attack today, would you find yourself in hell after having forfeited one last opportunity to receive the

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Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. How about it friend, *James 4:14* says: "Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away". In the next split second, you could be breathing the flames of hell. *Isaiah 33:14* makes a statement and then asks a question:

> [14] The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings"?

The answer is that all those who do not receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour will dwell in the everlasting burnings of the devouring fire. And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night.....*Revelation 14:11.* Will you be the one that dwells in the everlasting burnings of the devouring fire?!?