



The Blood of Jesus has all the Salvation we need.

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Man is lost in sin and in Jeremiah 10:23 we learn that man does not have the ability to save himself. However, God has the ability to save us and He has made salvation available to all men (Titus 2:11).

Unfortunately many people and most denominations teach various conflicting ideas about salvation. We need to understand that God has a single plan for us to be saved. Listen to Paul's explanation of this one plan in Ephesians 4: 4-6:

There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

God has revealed this one plan for us on the pages of his New Testament. Beginning with this lesson we want to explore and examine God's plan for our salvation in light of the New Testament by looking at why we need a plan of salvation and what God has done to make salvation available to us. In future lessons we will discuss what we

must do in order to receive this salvation. Let's begin by looking at why we need a plan of salvation. We need a plan for our salvation...

Because Man Is A Sinner. The apostle Paul tells us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). But what does it mean to sin? John describes and defines sin for us in 1 John 3:4 when he says, “sin is lawlessness” or “sin is a violation of the law.” This means we sin when we break the law of God; when we do something God tells us not to do, or when we don't do something God tells us to do. Putting this in the context of Romans 3:23, we learn that every person has broken the law of God, that is to say, every person has either done something God tells us not to do or failed to do something God tells us to do. Therefore, we need a plan for our salvation. But, to help us understand the severity and seriousness of our sins, we must understand we need a plan for our salvation...

Because Sin Leads To Death. The Bible is clear that the result and consequence of sin is death (Genesis 2:16,17; Romans 6:23; James 1:14,15). The Bible also tells us that death is a separation. Physical death is a separation of the body and the spirit (James 2:26). And spiritual death is a separation of the sinner from God (Isaiah 59:1,2). A sinner who does not receive salvation according to God's plan will

be separated from God for all eternity (Matthew 7:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:9). Next, consider that we need a plan for our salvation...

Because Goodness Alone Cannot Save A Person. Being a good and moral person cannot save a person. In Acts 10 Luke introduces us to a man named Cornelius. And in verse 2 he tells us that Cornelius was “a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.” Without doubt this is the description of a good and moral man. But Cornelius was not yet saved. You see, the angel told Cornelius to “send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household” (Acts 11:13, 14). If Cornelius would obey the message of Peter he could be saved (Acts 10:48). No, we cannot be saved just by living a good and moral life; we need God's plan for our salvation. And, lastly, consider that we need a plan for our salvation...

Because We Must Do What The Lord Commands. Only those who do the will of God will go the heaven (Matthew 7:21-23). Only those who are obedient to Jesus will be saved (Hebrews 5:9), while those who are not obedient will not be saved (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

We need a plan for our salvation. We cannot save

ourselves. Only by knowing and obeying God's plan for salvation can we have the hope of an eternal home in heaven!

God's Great and Glorious Grace

God's made salvation available to all people (Titus 2:11). Let's consider how he has done that.

God Sent His Son. God sent Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins, “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” (1 John 4:10). God sent Jesus so that we would not perish, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). God sent Jesus so that we would have everlasting life, “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” (1 John 4:9; cf. John 3:16).

God Bestows His Grace. Justification before God comes by his Grace, “For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith” (Romans 3:22-25). Salvation

comes by God's grace, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8,9). Eternal life is the free gift of God, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Jesus Shed His Blood. We have redemption through the blood of Jesus, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

Jesus' blood is no ordinary blood, “And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot” (1 Peter 1:17-19). Christ's purpose in coming to earth was to bring salvation to the lost, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

The Holy Spirit Revealed God's Will To Man. Salvation is found in the teaching of the good news, the gospel of Christ, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the

power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). This gospel of Christ was revealed by the Holy Spirit, “the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit” (Ephesians 3: 1-7; cf. John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12,13; 2 Peter 1:19-21). This is how the Holy Spirit works today; not by miraculous intervention.

Conclusion

God has done everything necessary to extend his grace and mercy to all the earth, including you. The question now becomes, “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 2:37; 16: 30). Please read else elsewhere in this bulletin for the steps of salvation.*

*Bible Steps to Salvation

Believe – Heb. 11:6; John 8:24

Repent – Acts 17:30; Acts 2:38

Confess – 1 Tim. 6: 12; Acts 8: 35-38

Be Baptized – Acts 10: 48; Acts 22: 16