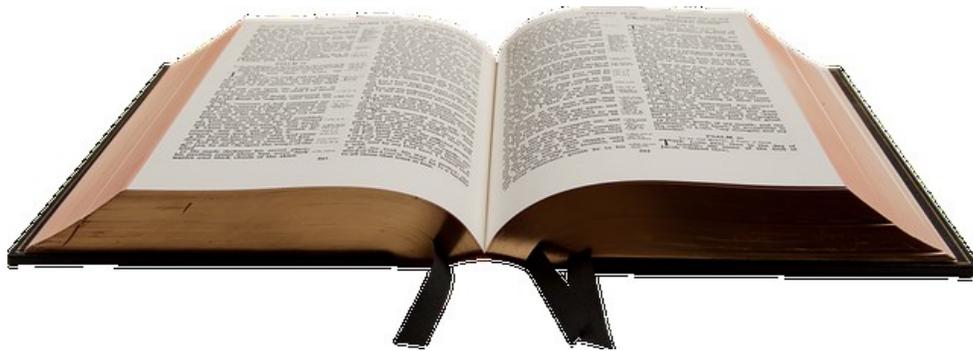


How to Be Saved and Know It

A clear answer straight from the Bible!



By Mike Valles, Evangelist

HOW TO BE SURE OF YOUR SALVATION

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HOW TO BE SURE OF YOUR SALVATION

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The matter of salvation really is not as difficult as people might suspect. On the other hand, it may surprise you to know that many who think they have it all figured out – don't have a clue. This includes many religious leaders, too.

Friend, let me make it plain that *I do not have a new approach*, and neither do I have any new insights other than what others have clearly given before. It is my claim that I am only relating to you *the plain teachings of God's Word – the Bible*. Having been a believer now for many years, I have had plenty of opportunity to have tested both the Bible and my own beliefs, and now want others to know the certainty of having your own sins forgiven and how to be sure that Christ is your personal Savior. Being sure of Heaven does not have to be guesswork anymore.

This explanation that I will give you has 5 things that any person needs to know in order to have eternal life. Here they are explained plainly for you.

I. All Are Sinners before a Holy God

The first thing that the Bible reveals about salvation is that each of us is not where we think we are in relation to God. He makes it very clear that He does not look at sin like we do. This word "sin" is almost a joke to many people today – but it is not a joke to God.

Since we have no way of knowing just how God looks at sin unless He should tell us, He relates His point of view in a way that we can understand. He has given us a number of laws that reveal how we ought to live so as to please Him. We call these laws the Ten Commandments. Through them we have God's measuring stick

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to show us where we stand in His eyes.

The laws are flawless in that they show us the good that God wants us to do. They show us a right way to serve God and our fellow man. Here comes the problem, though, breaking one of these carries with it the sentence of death and the wrath of God! Look at this verse:

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (Ja. 2:10).

God gave us the law so that we might see ourselves as He sees us. It is like a mirror that reveals that we are unable to please Him! In Rom. 3:23, we see where all of us stand before Him:

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

This means we are all guilty! We are all sinners! The Bible also tells us *"there is none righteous, no not one"* (Ro. 3:10).



Now, because we are have broken God's Law and are sinners, God declares that we...

II. All Are Condemned Because of Sin!

The Bible tells us that God is infinitely holy and dwells in a most holy place – Heaven. He is forever separate from sin and sinners. If He were to allow sin into

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Heaven it would defile His Holy Home and would make it less than the Heaven we all look forward to! He must keep sin out and will do so at any cost! His holiness then leaves us in a real predicament – condemned! Once again, the Bible makes this very plain:

"For the wages of sin is death..." (Rom 6:23)

"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" (Rom.5:12)

By this time some of you may be wondering why I am speaking so negatively. No, I am not trying to be unkind – I really do have some very good news for you. But first, like a doctor, sometimes the unkind truth about a patient's condition has to come out before healing can take place.



III. All Are Helpless to Save Themselves!

God then goes beyond declaring our condemnation and reveals one more interesting fact – because we are already condemned, there is no way or anything we can do to change our predicament. We are helpless.

The sensible reason is because our sins of the past cannot be erased by our good deeds of the present! To illustrate it, if you were to appear before a judge in an

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earthly court for a crime that you committed years ago, the sentence is not likely to be lessened merely because of good behavior today! The basic motto is, "If you do the crime, then you'll also do the time!"

His record books are perfect. He is also the perfect witness - He was even there when you did it! He also knows the motive of why you did what you did! Do you remember that the Scriptures declared that *"the wages of sin is death"*?

Notice carefully just how many sins it is that brings this damnation about - it says *"sin"*, not *"sins"*! That means only one! Consider for a moment just how careful His records are:

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matt. 12:36,37).

Jesus testifies here that all men shall give account for their sins – all of them. Yes, even for their *"idle words."* Even for words that they never really meant to say, or, perhaps words that were angrily spoken under the heat of the moment. It's all there - nothing is left out. In other Bible passages we are told that even our thoughts are recorded. Now, with such a complete record against you, who can hope to stand in the judgment of God?

Since I am sure that some of you may be thinking about the possibility of good works helping you to get to Heaven, consider the following verses:

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, **Not of works**, lest any man should boast"* (Eph. 2:8,9).

*"Therefore **by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin"*** (Rom.3:20)

*"Knowing that **a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified"*** (Gal. 2:16)

*"But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...**"* (Is. 64:6)

If an average person commits, say, as few as three sins a day, then that would add up to roughly 1,000 sins per year! By the time someone turns 20 years old, that's 20,000 sins! When they are 40, that's about 40,000 times that **God's law has been broken!** What would an earthly judge do if a person had even 100 charges against them?! Would there be any hope! Remember that it only takes one sin to never be allowed into Gods' perfect Heaven! Would an earthly judge declare, like so many

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people do, "You're not so bad!", if they had 40,000 charges against them! Of course he would not! How can God overlook it?

The reason that our works cannot wash away or atone for our sin is that there is no substitute for a death penalty in God's eyes! God Himself made the decree that *"the soul that sinneth, it shall die;"* and *"For the wages of sin is death..."* Nothing but the death of the guilty party can erase sin!

This is the uniform teaching of **every sacrifice** that was ever given in the Scriptures! Moses, who penned the Ten Commandments from God, also wrote that: *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul!"* (Lev. 17:11). It was through the death of an animal that a temporary substitute could be found for the transgressor. God permitted this temporary situation until He was ready to provide **a permanent answer for our sin.**

IV. Christ Died As The Substitute For All!

In spite of the fact that our own sins condemn us, God had no intention of leaving us without hope. Although we all are rightfully condemned, God still loved us. A familiar Bible verse tells us:

"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"
(Jn. 3:16).

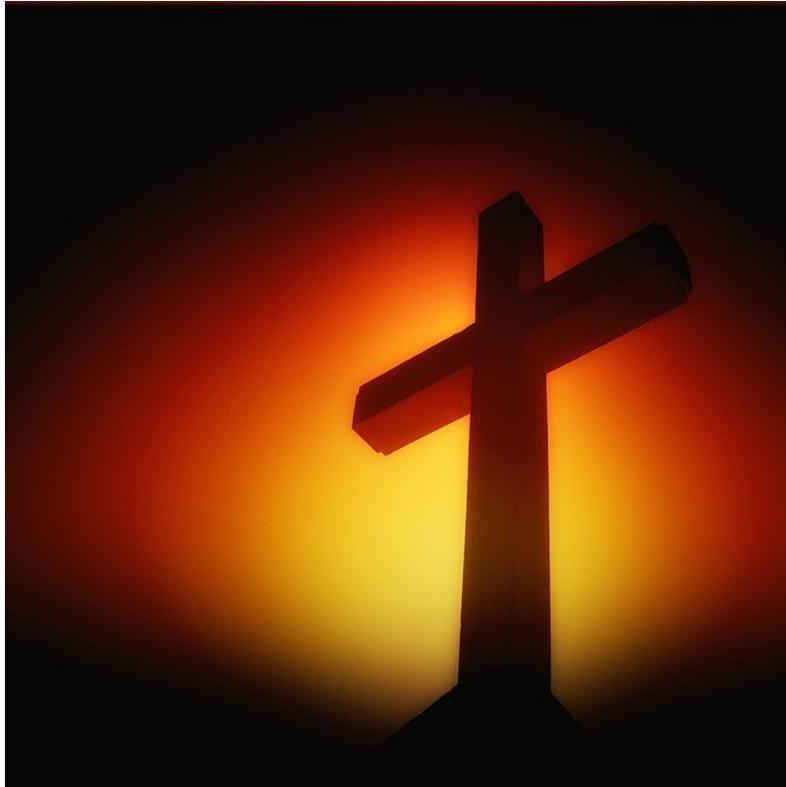
The Bible goes on even further and tells us that He *"is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (II Pe. 3:9). God's love led Him to provide for all mankind the only way that all our sins could be paid.

In response to our need for a Savior, God sent His own Son Jesus Christ to suffer the horrible death of the Cross, that on it His blood might be shed for all our sins! When Jesus was introduced by John the Baptist, John declared Him as *"the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"* (Jn. 1:29). The Scriptures had declared centuries earlier that this would be one of the reasons for which He would come:

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes

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we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all...Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities" (Is. 53:5,6,10,11)



It was Jesus Christ Himself that was the FINAL SACRIFICE that God would accept! No other sacrifice could be greater than His spotless Son! Every other animal sacrifice symbolically pointed to this One Sacrifice! Even in Abraham's day, roughly 2,000 years before Christ, God allowed him to understand that "*God will provide **himself** a lamb for a burnt offering*" (Gen. 22:8). In other words, God would come in Person and become the Sacrifice that He Himself demanded of our sin! How could God possibly show greater love than this?!

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

His work on the Cross enabled Him to pay for all the sins of the human race. The sinner can now be allowed to go free of the wrath of God. The price is paid – there

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is no more debt. Because Jesus Christ took the penalty that we should have paid, we may go free.

From the cross itself, a little before He committed His Spirit into the hands of the Heavenly Father, He cried out, *"IT IS FINISHED"*! With these three words He boldly declared that the thing He came to do has now been accomplished. What was that one thing?! As the Lamb of God, it was to take *"away the sins of the world."* This cry declared that no more payment was necessary – simply because there are no more sins to be paid for!

But there is one more thing...

V. CHRIST'S PAYMENT MUST BE PERSONALLY RECEIVED

Only one thing remains – and that is to personally receive the gift of pardon from God. He has done all that He could, now the choice is yours. He will not force you to be saved contrary to your will. The invitation has been given – will you receive now the pardon that is in Christ Jesus on behalf of your sins?

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (Jn.1:12).

You must, by your own choice, receive Him to be your only Savior. Christ said:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6)

It is God Himself that invites you to *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Is. 1:18).*

God wants to pardon you – He is more than ready; but He wants you to *"reason"* with Him. In other words, be honest about what you have done – you have willingly sinned against Him many times. Tell Him that you are sorry for going your own way which you knew to be contrary to His laws. Now desire to obey Him and serve Him the way He wants you to. Because of these sins, we are told:

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Ac. 3:19).

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He is ready and waiting to grant forgiveness, to receive you into His own Family, and give you everlasting life if you would but call on Him and ask Him for it. The above verse shows us that there are two simple things necessary: *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted..."*

To *"repent"* simply means to change your mind about the way you look at sin. See it now the way that God sees it. React to it the same way – with abhorrence and distaste. It can only send you to hell! It means to tell God you are sorry for the sins of your past and ask Him to forgive you of them now. This is but the first part – remember, though, that there is more.

The second part says: *"be converted."* This means to become something that you are not. Reform, however, is out of the question – because all of our *"righteousnesses are as filthy rags."* No, this is not something that you do, it is what God does to you and for you! He must change your heart. He does this by coming in to dwell with you. When He does that, He gives you a new nature that is able to serve Him. Listen to this verse:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"
(Rev. 3:20).

The Lord Jesus Christ stands at the door of your heart right now, on the outside. As long as He waits there He is not your God, your Lord, or your Savior. You must ask Him to come in and be your Savior. He will not knock at your heart's door forever - *"today is the day of salvation"* (2Co 6:2).

If you are serious and want Him to save you now, I invite and encourage you right now to bow your head before Him, and receive Him into your heart as Lord (Boss) and as Savior. He is waiting for you to call. Here is a prayer that ought to express the sincere desires of your heart. If you are tired of your sin, and want Jesus to become your Savior today, then, please pray this prayer right now...

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner and have sinned against You many times. I deserve to go to Hell for my sins. Please forgive me for all the wrong I've done. I know that You sent Your Son Jesus Christ, to die for me so that He could pay the debt I owed. He was my Substitute. I accept His payment as the only payment for my sin. I ask You to forgive me and I want Jesus Christ to come and live in my heart. Change me so that I want to serve You better. Thank You for giving me the everlasting life that You promised. Amen.

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I sincerely hope that you have personally received Him as your Savior today. If you have, please let me know, via email, that I might be able to send you some materials, or further links to help you in your new life with Christ.

I'll be waiting to hear from you!

E-Mail: EvangMValles@Mail.com.

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath [eternal] life; and he that hath not the Son hath not [eternal] life" (I Jn.5:11,12).

May God bless you today!

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