

God's Plan for Your Salvation

Where it all started – The fall

Dear friend, you may be wondering why anyone should bother himself about God's plan for man's salvation since many people don't even believe that there's anything that man needs to be saved from. However, the word of God (the Bible) gives us precise reasons to believe that everyone needs salvation.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom3:23)

I understand that many people think they are good enough, but that's because they are comparing themselves with other individuals. If you compare yourself with God's standard, you'll realize that you have 'come short' of that standard. To be more precise, you are not a sinner because you commit sin. Rather, you commit sin because you are a sinner. When Adam and Eve (our first parents) sinned against God by breaking His law, the human nature became corrupt by sin. Consequently, every one of us was born with a tendency to sin.

"...sin entered the world through one man[Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12, NIV).

"...through the disobedience of one man [Adam] many were made sinners" (Romans 5:19).

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..." (Isaiah 53:6).

That's why being a good person does not exempt anyone from God's plan of salvation because according to God's standard every one of us is guilty of breaking His laws. Nonetheless, God came up with a brilliant plan to save man from sin and eternal death. God's plan began at the fall of man; it was motivated by God's love for us; it is centered on Jesus' sacrifice and based on faith in Jesus.

God's Love – The Motivation

Because of His great love for us (Ephesians 2:2) God had to do something to redeem us from our sin.

"Greater love has no one than this that He lay down His life for His friends" (John15:13, NIV). Many people do not believe that God loves them. They think God is not different from their earthly parents who treat them with such bitterness and rancor. However, the Bible is clear on this: God loves us. Maybe you are one of those who think that God cannot possibly love you because of your weaknesses, addictions or all the mistakes you've made in life. Friend you have to understand that God loves you irrespective of what you've done. God's love is not based on performance. You cannot do anything to make God love you better or worse than He already does.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John3:16-18, NIV).

You see, the above Bible verse reveals that God so loved the **world, everyone everywhere, Black, White, Hispanic, Latino, Caucasian, etc.** And God proved that He loves us by sending Jesus Christ to die for the sins of the entire world.

“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8, NLT).

Before you were born God already loved you. Before you ever committed any sin, got involved in addictions, gang life, gambling, pornography, sexual immorality or prostitution, God loved you. You have to understand that God does not love us because we are loveable, rather God loves us because He is love (I John 4:8). So, in spite of the mistakes or bad choices you have made, God still loves you because His love is unconditional. Maybe you were raised in a dysfunctional family, or you went through a divorce or your parents did not give you the love that a child so desire, I am telling you today that God’s love for you has not changed.

God’s desire is that you would accept the love he is offering to you. Allow Jesus to come into your heart and mend your broken life. There is no use to keep trying to find love and satisfaction in sex, addictions, money, or academic achievements, because true love and satisfaction in life comes from Jesus. God wants to fill that void in your heart. Allow Jesus to come into your heart and live through you.

It is Finished – The Sacrifice

On the cross the Lord Jesus cried out, “**...it is finished...**” (John 19:30). In the Greek, that phrase means ‘**paid in full**’. The price of our sins has been paid in full by the sacrificial and atoning death of Jesus on the cross.

“This is how God showed His love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (I John 4:9-10, NIV).

*“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours **but also** for the sins of the whole world” (I John 2:2, NIV).*

*“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **by whom we have now received the atonement**”. (Rom 5:11, KJV)*

This actually means that on our behalf, Jesus took the punishment we were to receive because of our sins (Isaiah 53:5). He was sinless, yet He suffered as a sinner because He was doing it for us, He took our place. He endured all the pain, accepted the insults and bore the shame of being paraded as a criminal all because of His love for us.

“God made Him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (II Corinthians 5:21, NIV)

Jesus’ sacrifice has pacified the anger of God on our behalf. God is no longer angry with you for your sins because Jesus has paid the price of your sins. All God expects from you is to receive Jesus into your life and live through Him.

Come unto Me – The Invitation

Jesus issued a universal call in the Book of Matthew 11:28, “*Come unto me, **all** ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*”. The call is for **all**; salvation is for all; because His love is for all. All who labor under the weight of sin, and trust in their own self-righteousness, the call is for you. For all have sinned and come short of the standard of God (Rom 3:23). Everyone qualifies for this invitation. God has no favorites.

“For God does not show favoritism” (Rom 2:11).

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever** believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).*

The invitation of God to salvation is universal; it has no cultural, territorial, political, financial, educational, racial or social restrictions.

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never drive away” (John 6:37, NIV). Rest assured that Jesus will never reject you.

Faith in Jesus – The Condition

Friend, God has already made room for everyone’s salvation. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. By His grace God has made salvation available to everyone. *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11, NIV).*

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is not only the revelation of God’s love to world, but He is also the revelation of God’s grace to all humanity. *“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17, NIV).* So, the grace of God is available today through Christ.

If the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, why are all men not saved? The answer is found in Ephesians 2:8–9, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast”*. The grace of God alone cannot save you; otherwise everyone will just be saved automatically without their participation. God has already provided His grace through Christ but your responsibility is to believe in Jesus in order to be saved. It is your faith in Jesus that activates the grace of God to work your salvation.

*“**whoever believes in Him**[Jesus] shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).* It is so simple that most people miss it. “You mean all I have to do is to believe in Jesus and I will be saved”? – Yes, that’s all.

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household” (Acts 16:29-31).

This is so simple that you need someone to help you to misunderstand it. God does not require for you to go through any ritual in order to be saved, all you need to do is believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. Believing in Jesus means that you put your trust on the sacrifice of Christ as a means for your salvation and nothing else.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Rom1:16).

“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved” (Rom10:9-10).

The choice to accept the Lord Jesus as Lord and Savior is the best choice anyone in the world will ever make. Will you make that choice today? I urge you to do so, because tomorrow may be too late.

Take the step – The prayer

It is often said that procrastination is the thief of destiny. Today is the acceptable day, today is the day of salvation (II Corinthians 6:2). You need to take the bold step of asking the Lord Jesus to come into your

heart. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). He is just a prayer away. He is right here with you. If you believe in the Lord Jesus and you want to ask Him to come into your life just pray this simple prayer from the depth of your heart:

*Lord Jesus, I believe that You died to save me from my sins;
I acknowledge that I am a sinner and I cannot save myself;
Lord, I ask you today to come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior;
Lord, I surrender my life to you, come and live through me; empower me to live for You;
Thank You Lord for saving me, in Jesus name I pray, Amen!*

Praise God! I am so excited for you. If you prayed that simple prayer in faith, I believe the Lord Jesus has just come into your life; you are now a child of God. You are now born again.

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” (John1:12).

Becoming born again in your spirit is like becoming a new born child. You need support to survive and grow. That is why God urges us to fellowship (Hebrews 10:25). I strongly encourage you to prayerfully consider joining a church that is devoted to studying the Bible and spreading the good news of God’s grace to mankind. God bless you.

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