

You come from all walks of life and backgrounds. Some of you may be of Caucasian, Negro, Latino, American Native, or Oriental heritage. You may have a High School diploma, college degree, or just a GED and your neighborhood may have been in a city, a small town, or wide open country. You may be an enlisted person or an officer, prior service who rejoined, one with time under your belt or just a new recruit. Your service time may be a military career or just for a specified amount of time. None of this is really important but what is important is that you are a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the greatest nation on the face of planet earth. As a member of our Armed Forces you help to defend our country and preserve its freedom, a freedom that was hard fought for and has not come cheaply. Many people just like you have bled and died for America; we owe them a great debt for their service and sacrifice; we owe **you** our gratitude for your service now.

As a member of our Armed Forces you may be called to deployment in another country; some of you may already have had those orders one or more times. Unfortunately, not everyone who leaves the homeland returns for there are hazards along the way; there are those who would seek to do you bodily harm but you go none the less because it is your duty. Friend, I want you to know that America is proud of you for the sacrifice that you make. As former Army from the 1960's and 70's, I personally want you to know that I most sincerely appreciate your service to our country. I must say that I am concerned about you and your safety, and where you will spend eternity when your life on earth is done. Just as you are making a great sacrifice for the freedom of others, so too there is One Who made a great sacrifice for your freedom, your spiritual freedom that is. **Please, do not put this down until you have read it completely.**

Just as our Armed Forces go forth to liberate people held captive by a tyrant, so too there was One who came to set free a people in captivity. Those who are in captivity are men and women, boys and girls who are bound by a sin nature that was inherited from Adam. Born with a sin nature they are a slave to it and commit various sins; some acts are more serious than others. Lying, stealing, murder, rape, gossip, disobedience, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, drinking, law breaking, etc. — it is all wrong and is sin according to God's Word. The results (wages) of sin is death, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans 6:23). There is first a physical death and then eternal punishment in what the Bible calls the lake of fire and brimstone; the second death. When a person leaves this life without having trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, that eternal soul **immediately** goes to the place called Hell where it will remain until the Great White Throne judgment of Jesus Christ. At this judgment the lost soul will hear the final verdict as it is cast into the Lake of Fire where it will be tormented for all eternity. *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* (Revelation 20:15) But it does not have to end that way for the very One who will be doing the judging has also prepared a way of escape. That escape is in the person of Jesus Christ who has already paid the sin debt, **YOUR sin debt!** And why should He do that for you? Because of His great love for you! *"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) Jesus Christ left heaven's glory and came to earth for one purpose, and that was to pay your sin debt. *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10) Friend, Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary to pay the sin debt for all of humanity; that includes you and I. *"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* (Philippians 2:8) It was not just His death but the shedding of His blood, *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"* (Colossians 1:14) *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"* (I Peter 1:18-19) The sin debt question has forever been settled; Jesus paid our debt with His death on the Cross and there cannot and will not be any more sacrifice. As you read these lines Jesus Christ lives and is now in Heaven with God the Father. *"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"* (Hebrews 10:10-12) All that remains for you to do is to repent (taking God's side against your sin) and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, receive Him as your personal Saviour. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (I John 1:9) The Bible makes it very clear that those who trust Jesus Christ as personal Saviour can know for sure that they are saved. *"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 life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."* (I John 5:11-13)

Once a person receives Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, though saved, they do not have a right to live however they want to; we are commanded to live our lives in such a way as to bring honor and glory to our Saviour. *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

I most sincerely appreciate your service to our great country, and I most sincerely appreciate you allowing me these few minutes of your time. It is my prayer that you will receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and then go on to live your life for Him. Time is short and none of us have any guarantee about tomorrow, if it comes. *"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.*” (James 4:14) I respectfully encourage you, right now, to pray and ask God to forgive you, and for Jesus Christ to come into your heart and save you. Read your Bible daily and spend time in prayer. When you can, seek out a good, independent, fundamental Baptist, Bible believing and Bible preaching church. Attend it regularly so that you might be spiritually fed from God’s Word to help you grow spiritually strong.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca ©2011  
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