

God's Plan For Salvation

THE word “salvation” means deliverance or preservation and may be applied to material objects and physical or spiritual life. A person who is drowning needs to be rescued (saved), and that requires help from someone else since he (the person who is drowning) is powerless to save himself. Without that help he would drown and his physical life would forever be lost. The same is true of the eternal soul of mankind, for God created man with an eternal soul (Ecclesiastes 12:7). The physical body will die but the soul goes on forever in one of two places—Heaven or Hell. Please allow me to share with you **God's Plan For Salvation**.

I. The Need For Salvation. The Bible is very clear on the fact that mankind is in need of salvation, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23). Man has inherited the fallen, sin nature of Adam (Romans 5:12) and out of that nature commits the acts of sin (Romans 3:10-18; Galatians 5:18-21). Because man is a sinner both by birth and deeds, he is now under the condemnation and wrath of God (John 3:17-18, 36) for as we read in Romans 6:23a, “For the wages of sin is death.” My friend, Christ said, “...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3). Like the person drowning, we do not have the ability to save ourselves, and so in **God's Plan For Salvation** we have...

II. The Remedy For Salvation. In order for man to have salvation, the demand of a Holy God had to be satisfied, and, since man is a sinful creature, he did not qualify. Remember, mankind is imperfect (sinful) and what was required must have been perfect (without sin). The remedy for this was the person and blood of Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary, He was in fact our literal sacrifice (Galatians 1:4; Titus 2:14) and substitute (I Peter 3:18). Christ was a perfect sacrifice for our sins because He was free of all and any sin (I Peter 2:22), and the precious blood that He shed was the full and final payment (Hebrews 9:11-14, 26). He was buried and three days later was bodily raised by the power of God (John 20:1-28; I Corinthians 15:3-7) and today is in Heaven at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 10:12).

Dear one, in **God's Plan For Salvation** we come to...

III. The Way To Salvation. Jesus Christ has already paid the penalty for our sins when He shed His blood on our behalf, but now, by faith, we must accept that sacrifice by receiving Him as personal Saviour. Salvation is a gift of God and must be received by faith; our “good works” will never do (Ephesians 2:8,9). There is no other way to Heaven and eternal life apart from Jesus Christ (John 14:6; 10:9; Acts 4:12). To receive Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, a person needs to repent (to be sorry for the way he has lived and want to change), acknowledge to God that he is a sinner and ask for His forgiveness, and to ask for Jesus Christ to come into his heart and save him. Salvation is by faith—taking God at His Word. When a person does this, how does he know that he has the forgiveness of sin and eternal life in Christ? In **God's Plan for Salvation** we have...

IV. The Assurance Of Salvation. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” (John 5:24).

“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).

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” (John 10:27,28).

Dear one, God has **never** turned away anyone who has, with a broken and contrite heart, come unto Him for salvation. Will you this day, yea this very moment, receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?

-Richard A. Ciarrocca