

## Not For Sale

Contrary to what some people may think, it is **Not for Sale!** Perhaps those with a lot of money think they can afford it, but they cannot. In fact, with all the money in the world, they would still not have enough because, it is **Not for Sale!** What about influence such as political or religious influence? No, that will still be insufficient because, it is **Not for Sale!** You may know or have heard of someone who could use, as we say, sweet talk to get what they want but, once again, that will not work because it is **Not for Sale!** There are those who believe that if one works hard enough and long enough and earns enough merit points, then those points may be counted towards an object to be purchased. Well, in this case, that will not work because it is **Not for Sale!** About now you may be wondering what it is that is not for sale so, please allow me a couple minutes of your time to briefly explain.

What is not for sale is salvation! When we talk about salvation, we are talking about being born again. To be born again is a spiritual birth, something is absolutely required for people to go to Heaven when their physical body dies. When born, all people are dead in trespasses and sin. It all began in the Garden of Eden when Adam disobeyed God and ate fruit from a tree that God had told him he was not permitted to eat from. The sin was disobedience and that is when sin came into the realm of humanity. “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.” {Romans 5:12} Every one of us has a sin nature and, as a result, various acts of sin are committed. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” {Romans 3:23} and anyone who says that they do not have a sin nature, they are calling God a liar. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” {1 John 1:8}

Because we are born dead in trespasses and sin, God said that we **MUST** be born again {saved} if we expect to go to Heaven. “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” {John 3:3} Repentance [not just being sorry for sin but turning from it and turning to God. Taking God’s side against sin!] is absolutely required. “[*Jesus speaking*] I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” {Luke 13:3} when people do repent and call on God for forgiveness, He hears and forgives them. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” {Romans 10:13} And, **ALL** of this is by God’s amazing grace and not of anything that we have done. “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.” {Ephesians 2:8-9} “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;” {Titus 3:5-6} Salvation, being born-again, forgiven [*pardoned*] is accomplished all and only by the Lord Jesus Christ, the result of His death on the Cross of Calvary. In other words, He has redeemed the repentant sinner. “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: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.” {1 Peter 1:18-21}

Now then, if you are wondering why God should do this for you and I, the answer is simple – **HIS LOVE FOR US!** “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” {Romans 5:8} “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} The forgiveness of sin and salvation are **Not for Sale** because they are gift of God. “For the wages of sin is death; but the **gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.** [*emphasis added*]” {Romans 6:23}

Can we believe and trust God for what He said? We have His promise that we can! “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ... 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.” {1 John 5:11,13}

Friend, if you do not know Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then I encourage you to repent of sin and by faith alone, trust Him as Saviour today.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/Nov 2020