

Salvation Is Not Free!

Over the years we have heard it said that there is no such thing as a free lunch. What does this mean? It means that someone, somewhere, at some point in time paid for it. Here's an example: you and a friend go out to eat and your friend pays for both of you; you got a free lunch but your friend paid for it so it was free to you but not him. You find some money on the ground; it is free to you but not the person who lost it. For education, you may go to a school where you do not have to pay anything so, it is free for you but, wait a minute, it really was not free because somebody, somewhere, at some point in time paid for it because they gave the money to make it possible. So you see my friend, there is no such thing as a free lunch; **NOTHING**, absolutely nothing in life is really free!

Now then, think with me for a couple of minutes about the matter of the Christian faith and salvation or, as we sometimes say, "getting saved" or "born again." It may shock some people to learn that salvation is really not free. Oh yes, it may be free to the one who gets saved but, that was only possible because someone paid to make it possible. When we talk about "salvation", "getting saved", or getting "born again," we are talking about people repenting of sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, they trust Him as personal Saviour. We often talk about the free gift of salvation but, in reality, it really is not so free. Granted, our salvation is or was free to us; however, at least two other people paid a great price to make it possible. Who are they? Please allow me to explain.

The first person who paid the price for our salvation was God the Father; He paid because He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be our sin bearer on the Cross of Calvary. "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} Shortly before Jesus Christ was crucified He prayed to God the Father: "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." {John 17:1-3} In John 17:5 Jesus Christ clearly said that He existed with God the Father in eternity past when He said, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

The second person who paid the price for our salvation was Jesus Christ himself. There are many verses in the Bible that tell us this but, I will share just a few. **Christ came to earth to be our Saviour:** "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." {John 3:17} **Christ as our substitute:** "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" {1 Peter 3:18} **He bore the sins of all:** "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." {1 Peter 2:24} **Christ was the Lamb of God:** "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." {John 1:29} **Our salvation was and is secured by what Christ did on the Cross of Calvary:** "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:" {1 Peter 1:18-19} In the Old Testament, Israel complained against God and Moses and, because of this, "And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died." {Numbers 21:6} To get physical deliverance {salvation} of the people, God told Moses to make a serpent of brass and to put it on a pole that was to be raised up high. The result was, "And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived." {Numbers 21:9} In the New Testament with reference to Christ, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." {John 3:14-16} In Numbers 21 when the people looked to the brazen serpent on the pole and believed God by faith, they were physically saved. It also implied repentance on their part because they believed God and did what He said. Today people are saved when they repent of their

sin and, by faith alone in the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary. Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is very much alive today and, at this very moment, He is in Heaven at the right hand of God the Father. "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 10:11-12}

So you see my friend, even though salvation is free to us, it is not free because it cost God the Father and God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God offers this salvation as a gift {Romans 6:23b} to all who will repent of their sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, receive Him as personal Saviour. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} Salvation is a free gift offered by God; it cannot be earned by works of any kind because it is all of grace. "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} "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 5:13}

Have **YOU** received this free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ? If not, why not repent of your sin and trust Him today!? "What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be; Someday your heart will be asking, "what will He do with me?""

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2017

All Scripture references are KJV