

## Salvation, Who Can Be Saved?

Are there any limitations on who can be saved or, as we say in a more common phrase, born again? Has a person committed a sin or sins too grievous to be forgiven by God? Is it possible for a person to be so religious and righteous as to not need God's forgiveness? There are people in this world that believe, because of things they have done, that God would not or could not forgive them. Well, here are eight people who may have thought the very same thing.

1. A Japanese fighter pilot.
2. A baseball star.
3. A drunkard who sold the shoes of his dead baby for money to buy booze.
4. A thief
5. A murderer
6. A prosecutor and persecutor of Christians who consented to their death.
7. A religious man of renown.
8. A slave trader and drunkard.

All of these people had one thing in common; they repented of their sin and were forgiven by God as they trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Who were these people?

1. The Japanese fighter was **Mitsuo Fuchida**, the pilot who yelled "Toro, Toro, Toro" as he led the attack on Pearl Harbor.
2. The baseball star was **Billy Sunday**, a man who heard the Gospel message and trusted Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Sunday became a great preacher of the Gospel and held evangelistic meetings everywhere that were attended by thousands.
3. The drunkard was **Mel Trotter**; he too became a preacher of the Gospel and founded The Mission Sunday School. Trotter was instrumental in seeing a number of ministries started and seeing thousands of people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
4. The thief was a man named **Pasha (Paul) Tichomirow**, a Russian who at a very early age fell in with a band of robbers who robbed and killed. His nickname was Greasy, Greasy the robber; he became a preacher of the Gospel. His story is told in a booklet, "*Greasy the Robber*."
5. The fifth man was **Mincaye**, an Auca Indian (now called Waodani) who speared to death missionary Nate Saint on January 8, 1956. Saint, along with four other missionary men, were killed by the Auca's. Later, Mincaye was gloriously saved and has been a radiant testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ. Mincaye traveled extensively with Steve Saint, the son of Nate, as they have gone all over the world telling others of the grace of a forgiving God. As of this writing, he is still alive.
6. The sixth man was Saul, **Saul of Tarsus**, the man who had such a hatred for Christians that he traveled great distances with orders to arrest and put them in prison and later to be executed. On the road to Damascus Saul had an encounter with Jesus Christ, repented for his sin, and was forgiven and saved. He became the Apostle Paul, the greatest missionary the world has ever known.
7. Our seventh man is **Nicodemus**, a religious ruler of exceedingly great learning. In spite of his being so religious and obeying the Law, he realized that his religion could not save him, but that Jesus Christ could - and He did!
8. The man who began drinking at an early age and later became a slave trader, one who bought and sold people; who was he? This was none other than **John Newton**, a man who was gloriously saved when he repented, became a preacher of the Gospel, and wrote the song, "Amazing Grace."

The Apostle Paul said of himself, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." {1 Timothy 1:15} If this man, considering all that he had done AGAINST and to Christians, considered himself to be the greatest of sinners and yet forgiven and saved by the Lord Jesus Christ, if God was willing to save a man like this, then what about those in our day and age?

Multitudes upon multitudes of people from all walks of life and from all over the world, some who were the most wretched of wretched sinners or the most religious of religious; people who came under the influence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, people who repented of their sinful condition and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus, they received Him as personal Saviour.

To ask the question, "Salvation - who can be saved?" is valid and the answer is so simple that even a child can understand it. The answer is, **ANYONE** who truly repents of their sin and calls upon the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness can and will be forgiven and saved. Jesus **PROMISED** that ". . . and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." {John 37b} The Bible also tells us, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} Saved, **NOT** just for "today," but for all eternity! In God's Word we read, "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} When a person believes on Jesus Christ for salvation, they are not only saved, but they are also sealed by the Holy Spirit; {Ephesians 1:13} it is not possible to lose salvation. This does **NOT** mean that we have a right, or license, to live any way we want to; as Christians, we have a responsibility to live our lives in such a way that we bring honor and glory to our Saviour because He redeemed us from the bondage of sin with His precious blood. {1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:18-19}

Friend, I do not know anything about you or what you may have done but, this one thing I do know, God loves **YOU** so much and He wants to forgive and save you. {John 3:16} Will you please repent and bow your head and ask for God's forgiveness; for Jesus Christ to come into your heart and save you? He will do that if you repent and call upon His name.

For those who know Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, it is so important to read God's Word daily, to go to Him in prayer, to faithfully attend a good Bible-believing and Bible-preaching church where they can be spiritually fed and have fellowship with other Christians.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2016