

Stop, Look, & Listen

STOP ... just for a moment to consider your eternal destiny. Man will not live forever, for God's Word, the Bible, tells us that *"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die..."* (Ec. 3:1,2a). Every human ever created will spend eternity in one of two places - Heaven or Hell. Speaking of those who repent of sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ receive Him as personal Saviour, the Bible says *"...to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."* (2 Co. 5:8) Concerning those who have not received Christ as Saviour we read, *"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments..."* (Luke 16:23a) *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* (Rev. 20:15)

LOOK ... at what the Bible says about the sinful condition of man. Man is a sinner by birth and in deed, having inherited the sinful nature from Adam, *"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:"* (Ro. 5:12), and therefore is not good or capable of doing good in or of himself (Ro. 3:10-12). The natural conduct of man is to do that which is evil, i.e., murder, lying, fornication, adultery, stealing, witchcraft, drunkenness, strife, and much more (Ro. 3:13-19; Gal. 5:19-21).

LISTEN ... to the Holy Spirit of God as He speaks to your heart, inviting you to repent of sin and to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. Though man is a lost sinner on his way to the place the Bible calls Hell, there is hope in the person of Jesus Christ, for He alone has paid the penalty for our sin debt by His death and shed blood on the Cross of Calvary (He. 9:14,26; 10:12). Friend, God loves 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."* (Jn. 3:16). Christ died for you, *"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."* (Ro. 5:6). He bodily rose for you, *"And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."* (2 Co. 5:15). He lives for you, *"Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also."* (Jn. 14:19).

Friend, as you **STOP** to consider your eternal destiny, as you **LOOK** at your sinful condition in light of God's Word, will you **LISTEN** to the blessed Holy Spirit of God as He speaks to your heart? Will you not repent of sin, confess it to God, and by faith alone in the Cross work of Jesus Christ receive Him in your heart as your personal Saviour? Those who come to Christ for salvation will be saved, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (Ro. 10:13), having life eternal in Him, *"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."* (1 Jn. 5:11-13). Friend, for the sake of your eternal soul, don't delay, be saved today! Repent of sin and receive Christ as Saviour. Then seek out a good independent, fundamental Baptist, Bible believing and Bible preaching church. Attend it regularly that you might be spiritually fed from God's Word to help you grow spiritually strong.

-Richard A. Ciarrocca