

## The Invitation

Probably everyone of us has received an invitation of some sort: an invitation to a family reunion, wedding, sports event, financial planning, etc. For some of the invitations, a RSVP may be enclosed to let the one who sent the invitation know if the recipient will be attending. Even though no RSVP may be enclosed, all invitations require an answer; they will be answered by acceptance, or by non-acceptance; by saying "yes" or by saying "no," by attendance or non-attendance. Sometimes we decline the acceptance of an invitation only to hear later on how good the event was; with regret, we then wish we had attended, but now, it is too late and there is nothing we can do about it. There is another invitation I would like to briefly tell you about, an invitation with eternal consequences.

The invitation is this: if you have not already done so, **YOU** are invited to trust Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. This invitation is offered to all peoples of the world regardless of race, national origin, financial state, intellectual bearing, cultural background, criminal record and/or crimes committed, etc.; **there are no exclusions!** If this invitation is not accepted, for any reason, those who have not accepted will have regrets, eternal regrets. Why?

The Bible, God's Word, tells us that we are all sinners, and that none of us are righteous and that **ALL** of us have sinned: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" {Romans 3:10; 23}; what we justly deserve is death, "For the wages of sin is death;" {Romans 6:23a}. But it does not have to be that way because, as the Bible says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8}. That is really great news for us sinners, but there is more. Even though Jesus has already paid our sin debt when He died and shed His blood on the Cross of Calvary, we still **MUST** repent and receive Him as personal Saviour. One of the places in the Bible we read about this is in John 3:16: "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." Why would God do this for us, a bunch of undeserving sinners? The first part of the verse tells us as we read, "For God so loved the world." Quite honestly, it is so very difficult to understand this but, by faith, we believe it because God said it, and He cannot lie. The condition here is to "believeth in him." What happens if a person does not believe in Jesus as personal Saviour? The answer is, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." {John 3:18} Just as surely as a person can know they are saved, they can also know that they are not, and there is no in-between; it is one way or the other.