

Too Bad to Be Saved?

Joseph Stalin, Adolph Hitler, Adolph Eichmann, Benito Mussolini, Vladimir Lenin, Roman emperor Nero, Saul of Tarsus; exactly what do all these people have in common? All these people were extremely wicked beyond imagination and all were guilty of murder. Six of these people died and went to hell; they are there today and for eternity. One person died and went to Heaven and is there today and for eternity. Why the difference for who went where? Please allow me to briefly explain.

Six of these people were very wicked and they died without trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour; however, the last person, Saul, did. Saul was a deeply religious man and at one time was a persecutor of Christians. Because of his religion, he was a Pharisee, he hated Christians so much that he went out of his way to have them arrested and put to death. To do this, he would get arrest warrants and travel to different towns looking for Christians and, when he found them, he would take them back to Jerusalem where they would be tried and put to death. All of this changed when he had a personal encounter with the risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" {Acts 9:3-6} It was at this point of time in his life that he repented of sin and trusted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Later in his life he said that, "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} Someone said, "This does not mean that he had been the greatest of sinners in all respects, but that in some respects he had been so great a sinner, that, on the whole, there were none who had surpassed him." Saul, now called Paul, considered himself so great a sinner because of how he had persecuted Christians. It was the love of God that gripped Saul's {Paul} heart bringing him to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. He understood that when Jesus shed His innocent blood and died on the Cross of Calvary, He was in fact paying his sin debt so that he could be forgiven and saved. It was this same Jesus, **THE** bodily risen Saviour, that he met on the road to Damascus. As far as we know, Stalin, Hitler, Eichmann, Mussolini, Lenin, Nero all died and went to hell because they did not repent and trust Jesus as Saviour. But, Paul did, and he went to Heaven. **Were any or all these people too bad to be saved?** The answer is no, they were not and, how do we know this? The Bible has the answer. Please consider a few verses of Scripture.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever** [*this means anyone*] believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16}

"For whosoever [anyone] shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13}

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." {2 Peter 3:9}

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever [anyone] believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." {John 3:14-15}

"And whosoever [anyone] liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" {John 11:26}

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever [anyone] shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Acts 2:21}

"But God commendeth his love toward us [*that is everyone*], in that, while we [*every person in the human race*] were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." {Romans 5:8-9}

After Saul {Paul} trusted Jesus as Saviour, his life changed because he was now a new, spiritual creation. "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." {2 Corinthians 5:17} It is the power of God in the person of God the Holy Spirit that makes all the difference in the life of a person once he is saved. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price [*the blood of Jesus*]: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." {1 Corinthians 6:19-20}

So, you see my friend, **no one is too bad to be saved**, not even you! The difference between those who repent of sin and trust Jesus as Saviour is this, “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 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 3:17-18} Saul {Paul} believed and the others did not. It was not religion that made the difference; it was Jesus Christ. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” {Acts 4:12}

And now you know that there is not anyone too bad to be saved. Friend, will you repent and trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour today?

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/May 2020

All Scripture references are KJV