

WHAT'S
Really
the Issue with My
SALVATION?

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The need to be saved or at least the assurance of a saving relationship with the divine is inherent in every human being. Unfortunately, we often get so deep in sin and mess up our lives to the point that we think we have gone too far to be forgiven and accepted by God. This unfortunate situation has driven so many people far away from God into man-made and demonic alternatives that never satisfy human hunger for real and meaningful experience. As a result, some people perceive themselves as the worst of sinners, who deserve no mercy from a just and holy God. Fortunately, Christ did not die for the righteous but for sinners. When accused of relating with sinners and publicans (very corrupt group), Jesus

responded with these words: "Healthy people don't need a doctor – sick people do. I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough" Mark 2:17 NLT. Paul puts it this way: "This is a true saying, and everyone should believe it: Christ came into the world to save sinners – and I was the worst of them all" 1 Tim 1:15.

Does Anyone Care?

In the moment of our deepest spiritual and moral failure, we are often tempted to conclude that no one cares about us. We lose sight of who God really is, and reduce Him to an angry god waiting to descend on its subjects who have violated its covenant. At the peak of Israel's rebellion, gross wickedness, and total avarice, God responded through His servant

What's Really the Issue with My Salvation?

Jeremiah: "I have loved you my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself. I will rebuild you, my virgin Israel. You will again be happy and dance merrily with tambourine. Again you will plant your vineyards on the mountains of Samaria and eat from your own gardens there." Jer 31:3-5 NLT God does care about you more than you you may ever know (Hebrews 4:15).

No one is good enough to be accepted on the basis of his or her personal effort: "For all have sinned and fall short of God's glorious standard" Rom 3:23 NLT. "We are all infected with sin and have become impure. When we proudly display our righteous deeds, we find they are but filthy rags." Isa 64:6a. What we really deserve as a

What's Really the Issue with My Salvation?

natural consequence for our sin is death (Rom 6:23), nevertheless, "God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Rom 5:8. In fact, He did not spare His only Son, "but gave him up for us all..." Rom 8:32.

God Cares

If you are still in doubt of this great love - thinking you've done so wickedly to be accepted, here is what Jesus says: "For God so loved world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:16 NIV. This promise is for WHOEVER believes and that could be you. God has instituted only one authentic means for the salvation of humanity – Jesus Christ. If only you would believe and surrender your life

What's Really the Issue with My Salvation?

to God through Jesus Christ.

The scripture declares, "There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them" Acts 4:12. The reason is this: "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sin against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others" 2 Cor 5:19. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death" Rom 8:1-2 NIV. The law of sin is this: "The soul who sins shall die..." Eze 18:20a NKJV. And the "wages of sin is death..." Rom 6:23a NLT. But God in Christ has given the gift of eternal life (Rom 6:23b) to all who believe.

What's Really the Issue with My Salvation?

Salvation is this simple and yet marvelous, "But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God" John 1:12 NLT. You can also be accepted, the choice is yours!

Finally

My beloved, the point of this article is to bring to your knowledge and/or reassure you that YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO BAD TO BE ACCEPTED BY GOD. If Paul who considered himself the worst of sinners (1 Tim 1:15) could be accepted and became very useful to the body of Christ (the church); if David could be forgiven of adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11 & 12); if Peter could be forgiven of denial of Christ (Matt 26:69-75); if the criminal on the cross could be forgiven (Luke 23:40-43); then you too can be forgiven

What's Really the Issue with My Salvation?

and accepted by God. In fact, if we were good, there wouldn't have been pain, sorrow, betrayal, hate, greed, sickness, diseases, weeping, and there wouldn't have been the need for God to incarnate humanity and die the shameful death on the cross. But, because all humanity has sinned and fallen short of God's standard (Romans 3:23), He invites you and me to "Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD, Though your sins be as scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, They shall be as wool" Isa 1:18 NKJV. God is very willing and ready to save you, He says: "As surely as I live, says the sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your

What's Really the Issue with My Salvation?

wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?" Eze 33:11 NLT. The choice is yours; today you can choose to be saved. It's simple!

Sincerely ask God to forgive you of all your past sins and prayerfully invite Him into your life as your LORD and personal saviour. Ask for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifested in your life. Perhaps, you have never done this before and wondering how and where to begin. Just begin right where you are. God is present and waiting for you. No special preparation or form is needed, just talk to Him by faith (believing He is) as you would to a friend, and you're already on the way into a journey of everlasting joy and fulfilment. Please, do not procrastinate, **DO IT NOW** and be blest for the rest of your life.