



A while back I heard the story of a famous evangelist who sat down beside a man who was traveling on the same train. After a short conversation between the two men, the evangelist asked the other man a very important question, "how is it with your soul?" To the evangelist's question the man replied, "That is none of your business." Was it any of the evangelist's business? He said to the man beside him, "my friend, you are mistaken...that is my principal business." The evangelist knew what every Christian should know: that next to the privilege and responsibility of worshipping God and the LORD Jesus Christ, his God given duty is to tell his fellowman how to be saved for time and eternity.

When the LORD Jesus appeared to Simon Peter, the fisherman, to bestow His saving Grace upon him, the LORD said to Simon and his companions, "**follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.**" (Matthew 4:19). The evangelist was a fisher of men. Every Christian should be.

After the Son of God gave Himself a ransom for all on the cross (1 Timothy 2:6) and was raised from the dead, He showed Himself alive from the dead by many infallible proofs. (Acts 1:3, Acts 10:40-41). Right before the resurrected Christ ascended to sit down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3), He said to Simon Peter and others, "**ye shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**" (Acts 1:8). Peter and the other disciples believed the truth of 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, that they had turned to God, to serve the living and true God; and to wait for His Son from heaven, "**Whom God raised from the dead, Jesus, Who delivered us from the wrath to come.**"

Because the Apostle Paul also believed this truth he reminded some of the ruling disciples in Ephesus of his faithfulness as a witness; how he had served the living and true God. Hear Paul's testimony, "**by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.**" (Acts 20:31). Both Peter and Paul believed that Jesus Christ suffered the agony of Gethsemane and Calvary to deliver sinners from the wrath to come. They

were in dead earnest when they warned unbelievers of the terrible penalty of unforgiven sins and when they presented God's sure remedy for any and every kind of sin.

In 2 Cor. 5:11 we read these words from the heart and pen of the Apostle Paul, "**Knowing therefore the terror (fear) of the LORD, we persuade men.**" "**Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**" (2 Cor. 5:20).

The ambassadors who represent this great nation in other countries are called 'ambassadors extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary'. A minister plenipotentiary is a servant with full power and authority behind him.

Now, pay attention, Christians represent the LORD of Glory, Who is called in the Bible, "**the blessed and only POTENTATE, the KING of kings and LORD of LORDs.**" (1 Timothy 6:15). In Ephesians 1:19-23 we are told that God has made available for Christians His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the heavenlies far above principalities and powers. In 1 Corinthians 3:9 we read concerning Christians, "**we are labourers together with God.**" Moreover Christians are blessed and empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?

Undoubtedly the evangelist was thinking of Romans 10:13-15, as he told his traveling companion of God's love and how Christ had shed His precious blood on the cross to redeem sinners. Note these verses, "**Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the LORD shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? How shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach except they be sent; as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!**" In God's sight the evangelist had beautiful feet. Many Christians, however, will be saved, "**so as by fire**" , and their works shall be burned, and thereby suffer loss. (1 Corinthians 3:14-15).

The evangelist may also have been thinking of James 5:20, ***“he which converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death.”***

We say again, remember the words of the Apostle Paul in his farewell to Ephesus, ***“wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men”*** (Acts 20:26),

“remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”

Both The evangelist and the Apostle Paul could have been thinking of Ezekiel 3:18-19, **God’s** own words:

“When I say unto the wicked, thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life: that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity: but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul.”

Whatever the evangelist’s hearer decided in his heart on that train, the evangelist delivered his own soul. He was quite like the Apostle Paul who said, ***“woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel”***, ***“I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”***

(1 Corinthians 9:16-22). Like the Apostle Paul, the evangelist could truthfully have said, ***“I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.”***

(Romans 1:16). In 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 the Apostle Paul explained the good news (the Gospel) which he had received from Christ, and by which the believing sinner is saved,

“How that Christ died for our sins; that He was buried, and He rose again the third day.”

THE SAVING OF THE SOUL

In Hebrews 10:39 we read these words, ***“we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them who believe to the saving of the soul.”***

Millions have heard God’s saving message, who have not believed unto the saving of the soul. When the Apostle Paul had preached God’s saving message, Christ’s vicarious death and bodily resurrection, to the sinners in a large city, the result is recorded in Acts 17:32-34, ***“Some mocked, Others said, we will hear thee again of this matter, however, certain men believed.”***

When the Apostle Paul preached to King Agrippa, he reminded the king that he knew these things. (Acts 26:26). Paul did his utmost to persuade Agrippa to be reconciled to God. In Romans 5:10 we are told that we are reconciled to God through the death of Christ. We are told this again in Colossians 1:20-21 where we read that Christ made peace by the blood of His cross, to reconcile sinners to God. Then he added, **“and you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.”** These reconciled sinners believed unto the saving of their souls.

When Paul had faithfully presented the message of salvation to Agrippa, the king said unto Paul, **“almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”** (Acts 26:28). Paul could then have quoted to Agrippa Proverbs 29:1, **“he, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”**

God gives the lost children of Adam the choice between ‘remedy’ and ‘destruction’. And be assured, that to be ‘almost’ saved is to be ‘altogether’ lost. Remember that!

Paul preached to another Roman ruler by the name of ‘Paulus’, or Paul; and he was wonderfully saved, as we learn in Acts 13:5-15. Paul preached to another Roman ruler by the name of Felix. “And as Paul reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, **“Go thy way for this time: when I have a convenient season I will call for thee.”** (Acts 24:25-27). Do you suppose the convenient season and the call ever took place? Felix might be included in the ‘fearful’ of Revelation 21:8, **“the ‘fearful’, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in The Lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.”** ...Note that the ‘fearful’ and the ‘unbelieving’ head the list.

When the wicked Philippian jailer trembled with conviction, and was indeed ‘fearful’, he cried out, **“what must I do to be saved?”** And Paul replied, **“Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”** (Acts 17:26-32). Just think of this: that guilty sinner, who had sinned for years, was saved in less time than it takes to relate the story. In Acts 13:38-39 the Apostle Paul proclaimed this good news for sinners, **“b e it known unto you, that through ‘THIS MAN’ (Jesus Christ) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him all who believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”**

If you will carefully read Romans 3, you will find Acts 13:38-39 thoroughly explained; with the conclusion in Romans 3:28, **“therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by Faith without the deeds of the law.”**

To be justified by Faith in Christ, is to be at peace with God (Romans 5:1), and to stand before, God pardoned, having His Divine righteousness. Because of God's Grace and Christ's redemptive work, the believer stands before God as though he has never sinned one time in word, thought or deed. This is what it means to be Justified freely by God's Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, as we read in Romans 3:24-26. This is the meaning of Romans 5:20, "**where sin abounded Grace did much more abound**" but according to the next verse, "**that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might Grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our LORD.**"

When we read in 1 Timothy 1:15, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners God had His servant add this to the statement: "**it is worthy of all acceptation.**" It is worthy of the acceptation of all. God says, "**Come now, and let us reason together, saith 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.**" (Isaiah 1:18). Are you too busy to stop for a little time of reasoning with God? Think of 1 Timothy 2:4-7, that God will have all men to be saved by Faith in His Son and the 'ransom' that Son accomplished for lost, ruined humanity.

After you read Hebrews 9:27 and Hebrews 10:31, "**it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment,**" and, "**it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God,**" turn to John 3:17-18, and, 1 John 10:28-31, and read the most wonderful 'good news' that members of the human race have ever heard, "**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.**"

Now note Christ's words in John 10:28,

"I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand."

These are the words of the loving, compassionate Saviour, Who said,

"come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

(Matthew 11:28). But remember also that this is the same Christ Who said,

"the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son."

(John 5:22).

THE GREAT SIN OF UNBELIEF

Now let us prayerfully, seriously consider 1 John 5:10-13, ***“he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar: because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. 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 who believe on the NAME of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life.”***

When we have read John 3:36 with the above statements from God’s Book, we shall surely know that the most moral, respectable person, just as like the vilest criminal, is unsaved because he is an unbeliever, because he has not received the LORD Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

The Bible teaches that sinners suffer the sorrows of the second death because of their evil, ungodly deeds, but in the final analysis, what it all boils down to is that they will experience ‘after death’ judgment, the wrath of God, because they refuse God’s all sufficient remedy. Note John 3:36, ***“he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him.”***

What do you think was in the mind and heart of almighty God when His only begotten and well beloved Son, cried, ***“My God! My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”*** That Son was nailed to the tree, wearing thorns, the emblem of the curse. Consider these two questions: ***“if the righteous scarcely (with difficulty) be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?”***

(1 Peter 4:18). We read the answer here: Revelation 21:8. The other question

“How shall we escape

(Revelation 21:8),

if we neglect so great salvation?”

(Hebrews 2:3).

When we read Romans 5:20, ***“where sin abounded Grace did ‘much more’ abound,”*** when we read in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 that adulterers and drunkards and idolaters and extortioners were washed, and sanctified and justified in the NAME of the LORD Jesus, and by the Spirit of God, we know that the sins which we call ‘immoral habits’ are not unpardonable. Hear the testimony of one of the outstanding Christians of all times, the testimony of the Apostle Paul, who said that he was before he was saved...

“a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the Grace of our LORD was exceeding abundant with Faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a Faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance

that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

(1 Timothy 1:12-15).

Hear another testimony of this same converted sinner, in 1 Corinthians 15:10, ***“By the Grace of God I am what I am; and His Grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain.”***

Then he added these words in Romans 11:6,

“and if by Grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise Grace is no more Grace.”

Listen to the Apostle Paul, ***“saying that bonds and afflictions abide me: but none of these things move me, neither count my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the LORD Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the ‘GRACE Of GOD’.”***

(Acts 20:23-24). Note again the

testimony of this faithful, fearless, spiritual, uncompromising servant of the LORD, as recorded in Galatians 1:1 and Galatians 1:12, ***“But***

I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is not after man: For I neither received it of man, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

After this messenger of the Grace of God wrote to the Romans, ***“being justified freely by God’s Grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”***

(Romans 3:24-26), he wrote to some saved sinners, who had a very dark and ugly past, people who had been dead in sins, by nature the children of wrath (Ephesians 2:1-3), alienated from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18), hopeless infidels and atheists (Ephesians 2:12).

“By Grace ye were saved through Faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created ‘IN CHRIST JESUS’, unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

(Ephesians 2:8-10).

The sins of no sinner are unpardonable, BUT, they are surely unpardoned until they are pardoned!

They will not be pardoned by the God of all Grace (1 Peter 5:10), whose Grace hath appeared and provided salvation for all men (Titus 2:11), so long as the unsaved sinner continues to be an unbeliever and refuses the more abounding Grace of God, which reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our LORD. (Romans 5:20-21).

The LORD Jesus Christ declared that the work of the Holy Spirit with sinners was to convict them of their sin of unbelief, ***“because they believe not on Me.”*** (John 16:7-9). The Holy Spirit works to convict and convince sinners that they need the Gospel of the Grace of God to save them from the after death judgment (Hebrews 9:27), called in 1 Thessalonians 1:10, ***“the wrath to come,”*** in Acts 24:25, ***“the judgment to come,”*** and explained in Revelation 21:8.

Salvation from the after death judgment means also eternal salvation and glory in heaven with the LORD and His blood-redeemed people. “That in the ages to come God might show the exceeding riches of His Grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:7)

So There You Have it! In part 2, we will discuss, **“FAITH AND GOOD WORKS”**.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” Acts 16:31, while there is still time!

So There You Have it!

Spread this message to everyone you know, far and wide. **The time is short**

Grace be to you and peace, from God: our Father, and The LORD Jesus Christ.

In The LORD Jesus Christ,
[The Lion and Lamb Ministry](#)

Pastor David Picos, D.D.

Minister and Ambassador for Christ in the Ministry of Reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-20)

[Subscribe Here to the LLM Newsletter](#) , [Follow LLM on Twitter](#) , [Subscribe to LLM on Youtube](#) , [LLM on MySpace](#) , and [FaceBook](#)

{jcomments on}