

God's Plan of Salvation: The Truth of the Matter Part 2 (Slide 1)

Reading: Isaiah 59:1-9

Last week we looked at what we believe in the church of Christ is God's Plan of Salvation through Hearing, Believing, Confessing, Repenting, and Baptism. (Slide 2) The intent of these lessons is to point out this Doctrine as True and not false, as some claim, by using the Holy Bible.

But first, It is important to note the necessity of God's Plan of Salvation and the why. Isaiah 59:2 says (Slide 3)

"But your iniquities (sin) have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

Because God is Holy he cannot have any part of our sin. His Holiness and our sin are polar opposites like positive and negative, light and darkness, and his face turns away from us if we walk in darkness. That is; if we live in sin or remain in sin.

1 John 1:5-7 (Slide 4)

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Notice the word cleanseth in verse 7 and with that in mind, skip to verse 9 of 1 John 1.

1 John 1:9 (Slide 5)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

That original Greek word, that is; the language the New Testament was written in, comes from **katharizo** (Slide 6) in the Greek. It is defined as "to cleanse" to (make) clean, purge, purify. If you're dirty you take a bath to wash away the dirt. How does this cleansing take place?

He says in verse 7 by the (Slide 7) blood of Jesus Christ. How would we be cleansed by his blood by simply asking him into our heart? Logically thinking, we wouldn't be cleansed. We would still be in darkness because nothing has been washed. (Arise and wash away thy sins, Acts 22:16). This cleansing requires contacting the blood and the message is that this cleansing occurs through baptism. (1 Peter 3:21)

Until then we still walk in darkness. Our sin separates us from God. Who has sin and How serious is this separation from God?

When we look at the scripture it seems clear that no one is without sin.

1 John 1:8-10 (Slide 8)

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Romans 3:23 (Slide 9)

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

How serious is this separation?

Romans 6:23a (Slide 10)

For the wages (what we've earned) of sin is death;

How can we overcome this devastating judgment caused by our own sin? We can through obedience to God's will!

Romans 6:23b (Slide 11)

but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

How do we receive that gift? By the cleansing of his blood.

Those that claim the church of Christ's doctrine regarding salvation as false try and prove their doctrine with scripture. However, they proclaim it by selecting and pulling scripture, without using the complete message from the Bible. In the coming lessons, we are going to prove our doctrine with the completeness of the inspired word.

First we need to understand that the Bible is one complete Book. From Genesis to Revelation and is a book regarding God's Plan of Salvation.

(Slide12)

But before we do that, let's make another point regarding what the church of Christ believes versus what many teach regarding salvation and that is; pray this simple prayer for salvation. Which by the way can't be found in scripture.

Let's suppose a son comes to his father and says "Dad, can I spend the night at Johnny's house tonight?" And the Dad replies, "You know

son, you have several obligations tomorrow and I expect you to help with chores in the morning, so the answer is no.”

Then the boy goes to his mother and asks the same question only with a slight twist that touches the heart strings of his mother. “Mom, may I pretty, pretty, pretty please spend the night at Johnny’s house tonight?” And she buys into it and says; “Yes you may.”

It seems innocent enough. However, when you further analyze the situation you realize that his mother has just disregarded the authority of the father or is completely oblivious to what the father may be thinking. There is bound to be conflict between the parents or simply no connection between the two. Neither makes any sense.

Jesus himself said when the Pharisees claimed he got his power from Beelzebub, using logic and common sense He says:

Matthew 12:25 (Slide 13)

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

Jesus told Nicodemous

John 3:3-5 (Slide 14)

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Mark 16:16 (Slide 15)

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

It seems from these verses that the Savior himself is saying without Baptism there isn't any Salvation!

Paul says in:

Romans 10:9-10 (Slide 16)

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart *a person* believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

He doesn't mention Baptism at all. Can we conclude that Paul has more authority than the author of Salvation or isn't connected with the Master Teacher, the Savior of Humanity? Is he disqualifying Jesus' authority and his command for Baptism?

"God forbid!" Common sense tells us otherwise. Paul, without saying it, is saying that if people reach the steps of believing and confessing that these will result in obedience to the Gospel Plan of Salvation through baptism, the thorough cleansing of the Blood of Christ.

The idea of God's Plan of Salvation is one of Harmony not confusion or the canceling of authority. Especially that of the "Christ" and to try and do otherwise would be like trying to cancel every page in our Bible.

From this lesson we've learned: (Slide 16)

1. The fall of man is sin and that sin separates us from God.
2. God can have no part of darkness, which is our sin.
3. The perfect Plan of Salvation is Harmonized together in the completeness of scriptures.
4. That harmony was brought about by the cleansing Blood of Christ which cleanses man of sin through the washing, that is; through baptism.

5. Paul carried the same message of Salvation as did Jesus The "Christ."

Next week, Lord Willing, we will continue this study using the complete scripture to further understand the fluidity of the inspired word regarding Biblical Salvation.

Invitation