

God's Plan of Salvation: The Truth of the Matter Part 3 (Slide 1)
Reading John 17:11-17
2 Timothy 4:1-5

Part 1 (Slide 2)

In part one of this series we discussed the Gospel Plan of Salvation according to the scriptures, namely:

1. that one must first hear and upon hearing the Gospel or the Good News about Jesus:
2. they believe and that belief produces faith:
3. and a confession that Jesus is who he says he is:
4. and that believe and confession results in the understanding and the recognition that one has sin:
5. and that one needs to repent of that sin:
and to be cleansed, (part 2):
6. and then that one is Baptized, washed clean with a clear conscience and a restored relationship with God.

Part 2 (Slide 3)

1. In part two we discovered the completeness and the harmony of the entire Bible and that it presents the entire Gospel message from page 1 to the very end of Revelation.
2. We understand that we are separated from God without Biblical Salvation and separation means eternal damnation.
3. We recognize that God is Light and He can have no Part of Darkness, that is; our Sin.
4. We understand that cleansing, washing away of sin is accomplished through our contact with the Blood of Christ through Baptism.

5. We understand that each Apostle takes their authority from Jesus “The Christ.”

From last week's lesson we also learned that all of us have(Slide 4) sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. If all have sinned then it would seem then that Christ’s death was for all man! Can we verify this statement with the Bible? Of course we can.

1 John 2:1-2 (Slide 5)

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

(Slide 6) Well if Jesus died for the whole world does that mean that everyone is saved? If we say no, can we prove that with scripture? If we say yes, can we prove that with scripture?

It’s really important that when dealing with any subject and in using the scripture to answer questions regarding a specific subject, that we use the right context.

Luke Wilson from Targetingtruth.com (I am using several of his thoughts in this lesson), gives a very good illustration on understanding the scripture in context. Now understand that the Bible obviously doesn’t promote the subject we are about to talk about and this was really intended to be a joke.

In his example he says, suppose a man is contemplating suicide but before acting upon it he decides to consult the Bible. In so

doing, he simply flips some pages and they open and he points his finger at the words and reads; (Slide 7) “and he went away and hanged himself.”

Wow, that can't be right, he thought, so he did it again, and the passage read; (Slide 8) “Go and do the same.”

Not again! The third time has got to be a charm, he thinks. So he flips again and it reads, (Slide 9) “What you do, do quickly.”

This is obviously not how we use our Bibles to find answers but it is unfortunately how people use the Bible to try and either refute its truths as mere fables or to challenge sound doctrine, namely, Jesus as the Messiah and God's Plan of Salvation.

Sometimes it is used this way to make it one of convenience in regards to baptism or more to their liking regarding worship. We wouldn't take a “How to Book” and just pick out what we liked or change up or exclude some of the directions. Why do people do that with God's “How to Book?”

Consider the following example of using the entirety of each Gospel. Above Jesus' head when He was crucified, was an inscription (a writing), that Pilate himself commanded that it be placed there and it was to signify what the accusation was against Him.

Matthew 27:37 (Slide 10)

And set up over his head his accusation written, This Is Jesus The King Of The Jews.

Mark 15:26

And the superscription of his accusation was written over, The King Of The Jews.

Luke 23:38

And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, This Is The King Of The Jews.

John 19:19

And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was Jesus Of Nazareth The King Of The Jews.

Luke and John record that the inscription was written in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew! (Verse 20 in John's Record)

Each Gospel account records the same incident but what they write regarding the inscription is different. Some look at that and claim the differences are actually discrepancies and therefore the Bible isn't accurate.

Each Gospel account is different yet they are each true. Mark and Luke do not record Jesus' name; yet it is obvious that He (Jesus) is the one hanging on the cross. So, based on what we read and study of Mark and Luke's accounts as Jesus is crucified, excluding his name would not disqualify them. Looking at each Gospel account through the lens of logic and common sense, we can see what is written: (Slide 11)

"This is Jesus of Nazareth The King of the Jews."

Some people will point to the thief on the cross as proof that Baptism isn't necessary for salvation, Luke 23. In verse 42 of that

chapter, the thief acknowledges that Jesus is who he says he is when he says to Jesus;

Luke 23:42 (Slide 12)

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And Jesus replied;

Luke 23:43 (Slide 13)

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Does that mean the thief was saved? Absolutely. Why aren't we saved then by just acknowledging that Jesus is who he says he is? Well one question we might ask; are you going to wait to know for sure when we meet him for the first time? Is he likely to say to us; "Today you shall be with me in Paradise." Seems pretty risky to me and the truth of the matter is we would be lost in our sin.

Consider a couple of points. (Slide 14) First, The thief was promised Paradise while under the Old Covenant. Second, Jesus is God! Let's look at the second point.

The same authority to offer paradise to a thief on the cross is the same authority Jesus has to forgive sins.

Matthew 9:1-2 (Slide 15)

Jesus got into a boat, crossed the sea, and came to his own city.

2 Some people brought him a paralyzed man on a stretcher.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Cheer up, friend! Your sins are forgiven."

Is the man's sins forgiven? Absolutely.

Where did Jesus get this authority? Simple, He is God! How do we know that? If we say in the scriptures, then where does it say Jesus is God?

John 1:1-3 (Slide 16)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

He says this Word was in the beginning, that is the creation, this Word was with God and in fact, the Word was God. Everything was made by him. That is, the Heavens, the Earth and all that is in it including man. Therefore, everything is his and he has authority and rule over it.

How do we know the Word was Jesus?

John 1:14 (Slide 17)

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

He did not cease being God once he became flesh.

Jesus says He came and fulfilled the Old Covenant and brought the New Covenant.

Matthew 5:17 (Slide 18)

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

This also proves the totality of the Bible because it has the same message throughout. It is all the inspired word of God. Proven by scripture regarding Christ, this same Jesus.

Psalms 119:160 (Slide 19)

The sum of Your word is truth,

And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

To understand these principles and Christ's authority we will need to answer these questions;(Slide 20) If Jesus fulfilled the Law that is, the Old Testament, what is the New Testament? When Jesus was living on the earth, which covenant was he living under, the old or the new? We would have to say the Old. In fact, we can say that Jesus, as the Messiah, was the one who would transition us all into and under the New Covenant. If this is the case, and it is, the New Testament and its laws did not take effect until after his death.

To explain this principle, let's look at it from this perspective. The word testament in the Greek could be rendered as either

testament, covenant, or will. We probably understand it better with the rendering as “Will.”

(Slide 21) Before we die, it’s advisable to create a last will and testament. A will is a legal document that is recognized by our legal system as to, according to our wishes, how our assets will be distributed after our death.

Here is an example. Now I have never really been a collector but as a kid we used to have several electric race cars. We would spend hours racing those cars around an electric slotted track. My older brother spent a lot of time “souping up his cars.” We really had a lot of fun with those cars and the track.

As an adult, I have collected several of those old vintage cars, and even some new ones and some customized HO slot cars. My oldest grandson just loves those cars. I have told him that when I die he will inherit some of those cars. Of course he wants all of them and often wonders out loud, “when will that be Papa?” I don’t think he’s in a hurry for them. At least I hope not!

But while I’m alive, those cars still belong to me. If I choose too, I can give my grandson some of my cars. That, by the way, is how Jesus could give life to the thief on the cross, it was His to give and He gave it to him by His own choice.

John 14:6 (Slide 22)

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” He has control over “Life.”

We understand that my last will and testament won’t take effect until after my death. When I die what my will states, its laws so to

speak, take effect. The same principle applies to the gift of salvation God has given us through his son. The conditions regarding Salvation after Jesus' death on that Old Rugged Cross are now in effect.

Hebrews 9:16-17 (Slide 23)

For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. **17** For a covenant is valid *only* when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

The New Covenant and its terms and conditions then, has taken effect after Jesus' death on the cross. Therefore, in order for man to have salvation and gain Heaven, the conditions of the New Covenant must be met. It is the Lord's Will!

We started this lesson asking who Jesus died for and using scripture we answered the question by learning he died for all. Then we asked, does that mean all have been saved? Using scripture we can answer no.

Matthew 7:14 (Slide 24)

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Where many people feel that Heaven is inclusive, the terms and conditions of the New Covenant (His Will) states that it is exclusive. Only those who have met the Terms and Conditions will inherit eternal life.

(Slide 25) What then must I do to meet those terms and conditions and to be saved?

Hear

Believe

Confess

Repent

Be Baptized

(Slide 26) Truth is never popular simply because it exposes the Lie!

Jesus in his prayer in John 17 said man would hate his disciples because of the truth! I don't know if man has ever lived in a day and age where truth is more hated than it is today.

He prayed; "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

Men have created their own truth and it is to their own destruction!

Paul told Timothy a time would come that men would not endure (listen) to sound doctrine. I like to think that sound doctrine is another way of saying; use common sense. But sensuality and evil desire has distorted the truth for a great many people today and they will die in their sin without meeting the terms and requirements of the New Covenant for Salvation!

We were prompted to present this lesson to address the believer and not the non-believer, to expose the Lie and Tell the Truth that those that ask Jesus into their hearts or say a simple prayer for salvation are not saved, but lost!

That is the false doctrine of today!

What have we learned? (Slide 27)

1. We learned the reason we need the Blood of Christ for Salvation: Because sin separates us from Him and that leads to spiritual death.
2. We've learned salvation is through Jesus and it requires that washing, namely Baptism and being washed clean of the dirty stains of sin.
3. We've learned the intent of the Apostles' teaching and the inspired word of the Bible was to reconcile us back to God by His Plan of Salvation.

(Slide 28)

4. We've learned to use the entirety of the Bible within context as we search the scripture for answers.
5. We have learned the New Covenant with its requirements for salvation didn't take effect until after the Death of Jesus on the Cross.
6. We have also learned that we belong to Him and we always have. We are His to do with what He wishes!

Invitation