

SEED & BREAD

FOR THE SOWER --- ISAIAH 55:10 --- FOR THE EATER
BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGE
FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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YOU NEED A SAVIOR

The basic needs of mankind are usually thought to be food, clothing, and shelter. That these are necessities all will admit, but even after these have been amply supplied, his most basic need still remains. He still has need for a Savior. This need is one to which the human mind gives constant witness. The individual man has been so constructed by the Creator that he cannot have peace of mind, rest of heart, and quietness of spirit until he is linked up with his Creator by means of a divinely provided Savior.

This unfulfilled need of a Savior is the explanation of the constant dissatisfaction of most men, their ceaseless activity, their restlessness of heart, their constant search for pleasure. They try to still the voice of conscience by listening to a thousand other voices. All thoughts of God must be crowded out and replaced by other thoughts. Man ever strives to bring himself to that state of mind which is described in scripture as being: "God is not in all his thoughts." He must create a constant din of activities above which the voice of conscience cannot be heard. For above all else, conscience continually tells man of his need of a Savior. This is your greatest need, your most important need.

There are many reasons why you need a Savior, but the chief one will always be your standing and state in the sight of God. This truth is expressed in simple, easily-understood words spoken by the Apostle Paul when he said of all men in Romans 3:22,23: "There is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." These words become plainer still when we recognize that to "come short" is to *lack*, and that "glory" has to do with *esteem*. For example, the esteem in which we hold a person is the glory we

will give to him. If we esteem him to be upright and honest, this is the glory we will give him when the occasion arises for us to speak concerning him. Thus Paul's statement literally tells us that there is no difference, all have sinned and are lacking the esteem of God.

The lesson all should learn here is that while we may be highly esteemed by our friends, family, and fellowmen, yet because we are sinners we are lacking the esteem of God. You may be extolled in life or at death as having been a good citizen, good father, and good churchman, but you are still lacking the esteem of God. Your children may esteem you highly as a good mother and your husband may praise you as a good wife, but you are still lacking the esteem of God. Something must be brought into your life, there must be some definite act of yours that will bring you to God's favorable attention that will result in Him esteeming you for what you are and what you have done.

As to what this is there can be no question. Your neglect of the God-appointed Savior must cease. You must appropriate God's great provision for your great need - your need of a Savior. You must be able to stand before Him as a sinner who has a Savior - not a sinner without one. This will cause Him to esteem you as a believer, and you will no longer lack the esteem of God. It is your crying need that you bring-yourself to some final dealing with God in regard to this. Truly, you need a Savior.

Another positive reason why you need a Savior is seen in the fact that death is working in you and you are dying. Apart from divine intervention the death that works in you will reach its end and your life will be over and gone. This is a fact that few want to face, and many will not like being reminded of it, but it is an inexorable fact and the death rate is still one apiece. "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Heb. 9:27). In view of this you need a Savior who can rescue you from the fate and fact of death and give you another life to take the place of the one you are using up little by little, day by day.

Those who are advancing in years, who now realize that there is more sand in the bottom of the glass than there is in the top, should give careful thought to this fact. Senior citizens need more than a hobby. They need a Savior. Do you think that within yourself you have power to turn over the

glass so that another life will run through again? Do you think that in death you will automatically be given another life to take the place of the one that is used up and gone? Certainly not. You need to make contact with a Savior who is the author and giver of life. To have such a Savior is to have the guarantee of another life. Truly, you need a Savior.

THE SAVIOR YOU NEED

Of course, the Savior you need is the One that God has provided. No one else will do, and even to consider another would be to slander God's provision. The Virgin Mary spoke of "God my Savior" (Luke 1:47), a phrase that tells us that our Savior should be no one less than God Himself. Happy indeed is the one who can say: "Thou art my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation." We have come to maturity when we can say in truth, "My Savior is my God, and my God is my Savior."

Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah declared: "I, even I, am the LORD (Jehovah); and beside Me there is no Savior" (Isa. 43:11). Again He says, "Who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD (Jehovah)? and there is no God else beside Me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside Me. Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isa. 45:21-22). In view of these declarations it is evident that the Savior we need can be no one else and no one less than the mighty God, the Creator, that Jehovah who is seen on every page of the Old Testament and comes to us in the New Testament as the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Savior that will fulfill our need must be the Savior of sinners. "They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance," are the words of the Lord Jesus concerning this. (Luke 5:31). We go to physicians because we are sick and we should fly to the Savior because we are sinners. It is declared in Scripture that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1: 15). Titus speaks of "the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2: 13), not two beings but one. The two titles here are appositional (one defines the other) and should read "the great God even our Savior Jesus Christ." If Jesus Christ is not "the great God", if He is not Jehovah, then He cannot be our Savior since long before this Jehovah declared that there is no Savior except Himself.

The Savior you need is the Lord Jesus Christ. He was born to be a Savior (Luke 2: 11); He was sent to be a Savior (1 John 4:14); He is called "God our Savior" (Titus 1:3,4), and in the same sentence He is spoken of as "the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior." Thus our Savior is our God and our God is our Savior.

In receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior we are not putting our trust in a peasant who lived in Palestine two thousand years ago. We must not form our opinions of Him from one short period of His long history. The "days of His flesh" is not even the place to begin to understand Him. The record God has given to Him and which we are required to believe in order to be saved does not begin with a babe born in Bethlehem. It begins with His first recorded act, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). This Creator is called the Word (Logos) in John 1:1 and is declared to have done the total work of creation in John 1:3. And it was this Word, this Creator, who was made flesh and dwelt for thirty-three years as a man upon earth. This is our Creator, this is our Lord, this is our Savior - a capable Savior, an all-sufficient Savior, one who is able to save *unto* the uttermost all who come *unto* God by Him.

The simplicity of God's plan of salvation for the sinner and the infallibility of the Word of God should result in the conclusion that a sinner can be saved by Jesus Christ, and that the believer in Christ Jesus should know that he is saved. If we have turned from our own works and merit to a complete dependence upon the all sufficient work and merit of Christ, we should have this knowledge and assurance. If we have put our trust in Him for our salvation, if we have received Him as our Savior, then we must either believe Him to be what He claims to be and do what He claims to do or else believe Him to be incapable and untrue. Remember, salvation depends on the Savior.

Since by the Word of God you have been shown your need of a Savior, and Jesus Christ has been shown to be the Savior you need, then your next step is to make Him your personal Savior. If your mind has been exercised and your heart stirred, consider this to be the work of God's Holy Spirit. You are being helped in a matter that is very dear to the heart of God. Why not deliberately decide that you will believe in God, that you will from this hour

forth be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ? Let this be your confession of faith in Him, and let your first confession of faith be the most important one. This should be the one you make to God, and to Him alone. Public declarations can come later, and they should follow, but your original confession of faith in Jesus Christ should be your personal dealing with God.

As a preparation for this confession I would suggest 'that you read through the Gospel of John, paying close attention to every occurrence of the word *believe*. You will find it there just as it has been set forth in this message-that to all sinners who need a Savior, Jesus Christ is the Savior you need.

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