

***"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16***

## **"ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR JOURNEY INTO ETERNITY?"**

[The above title asks an important question that might seem unimportant to some, but to those who are looking forward to the blessed hope of eternal life, it is a question of great concern FS]. If you were to die in the next few seconds, would you know for certain that you would be with God eternally? In (1 John 5:13) we read ***"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."*** From this passage we learn that we can know for sure that we can have eternal life.

So if it is possible to know, wouldn't you want to know that you can have eternal life? I would want to know. Suppose you come before Jesus on judgment day, and He asks, ***"Why should I let you into heaven?"*** How would you answer Him? Some might answer...

- "I kept the Ten Commandments"
- "I attended church regularly"
- "I was a good moral person"
- "I was a good neighbor"

These and similar answers imply an understanding that salvation is earned. Yet it is clear that the good news (gospel) of the Bible is that eternal life is a gift from God. ***"...the gift of God is eternal life..."*** (Romans 3:23). As a gift, it is not something we earn or deserve! But why is eternal life a gift? The answer lies in understanding man's problem with sin.

### **The Need of Grace**

## **HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR BIBLE TODAY?**

Why does man need the grace of God? Because the Bible teaches all have sinned. Sin is violating the law of God (1John 3:4). Sin is failing to do what is right (James 4:17). The Bible describes that the consequence of sin is death (Romans 6:23), but what kind of death? According to the scriptures it is everlasting separation from God! (Rev. 21:8). While everyone is guilty of sin and deserving of death, still there is hope.

### **The Solution of Grace**

In mercy God offers the gift of eternal life, and this is proved through the death of His dear Son. Out of love, God sent Jesus to be a sacrifice for our sins. On the cross, Jesus paid the price for our sins! Through His death, Jesus made eternal life possible! (Rom. 6:23; 5:8; 1John 4:9-10).

Friends what wonderful love, what a wonderful gift! Yet sadly few receive the gift of life, why, because many will not look for it (Matt. 7:13-14). Many have not done the Father's will (Mt 7:21-23). Some do many things in the name of Jesus Christ, but remember; doing good things does not merit eternal life. Only those who do the Father's will have eternal life! (1 John 2:15-17).

What is the Father's will, that we might receive the gift of eternal life?

### **The Reception of Grace**

The reception of grace begins with belief in Jesus. We must believe in Him whom God has sent (John 6:28-29, 40). But believing in Christ involves more than mental consent (John 12:42-43). A faith which does not express itself in action is a faith that is dead (James 2:26).

How are we to express our faith in Christ? We must:

## REPENT OF SINS

Jesus requires repentance (**Luke 13:3; 24:46-47**). True repentance involves a will to change, a change of heart which will result in a change of life. A change brought about by sorrow for our sins (**2 Cor 7:9-11**). In repenting, we decide to turn from sin and turn to God!

## CONFESS FAITH IN JESUS

Together with faith, confessing Jesus leads to salvation (**Romans 10:9-10**). Confessing Jesus means to acknowledge Him as the Son of God (**Acts 8:37**). We are to confess Jesus before others, and He will confess us before God (**Matt. 10:32-33**).

## RECEIVE CHRIST IN BAPTISM

Note first these spiritual truths that are in Christ:

- All spiritual blessings are IN Christ (**Eph. 1:3**)
- Salvation is IN Christ (**2 Tim 2:10**)
- There is no condemnation IN Christ (**Rom 8:1**)
- Eternal life is IN Christ (**1John 5:11**)

All these blessings are IN Christ. Friends it is one thing to believe IN Jesus, and quite another to get INTO Jesus. How does one get INTO Jesus? The same way you get into a coat, by putting it on. We get INTO Jesus by putting Him on in baptism (**Gal. 3:26-27**). By reading Galatians 3:26-27 we learn ,that as many as are baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, and those not yet baptized into Christ, have not yet put on Christ. If we have not PUT ON Christ, we are not yet IN Christ.

One might ask what baptism is. According to the word of God it is, an immersion (burial) of the believer in water (**Acts 8:35-38**). Administered to

the penitent for the remission of sins (**Acts 3:38**). In which we are:

- Baptized into the death of Jesus (**Rom. 6:3**)
- Buried with Him into His death (**Rom. 6:4a**)
- Raised with Him that we might walk in newness of life (**Rom. 6:4b**)

A working of God in cooperation with our faith (**Col. 2:11-13**), in which our sins are cut away and we are made alive, forgiven of all sins. Baptism is not a work of righteousness done to earn salvation, but an act of faith submitted to in order to receive God's grace and mercy (**Tit. 3:5**).

## REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS...

Jesus expects us to learn and follow Him after baptism (**Matt. 28:19-20**). Jesus promises the crown of life to those who remain faithful and loyal to Him (**Rev. 2:10**).

Two examples confirm that this is how God's gift of grace is extended:

1. Peter on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:36-42, 47**).

2. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch (**Acts 8:35-39**). Read what the people were told to do in order to receive forgiveness of sins (the gift of eternal life). If you are willing to place your faith in Jesus, repent of your sins, and confess your faith before others, then let these words move you to respond in the proper way. **"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord"** (**Acts 22:16**). by Mark Copland

Yes, why wait, when you can put on Christ in baptism and prepare yourself for your "journey into eternity"?

**HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR BIBLE TODAY?**

This article is based on an outline entitled "Are You Ready for Your Journey into Eternity by Mark Copland?"

**Private Bible studies available anytime!!**

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***Schedule:***

*Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 AM*

*Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00AM*

*Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM*

*Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:45 PM*

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"For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ" (ESV).

**Support faithful gospel preaching this week!**

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