Salvation

Invocation

Responsive Reading

Salvation

 Who is going to Heaven, and what does it take to get there? These are the questions that we all need to understand the true answers for. It is our goal for life. If we gain salvation, life was worth living but if we don’t, we might as well have not lived. Jesus said of Judas Iscariot, it would have been better if he had never been born. Salvation is everything, with it we have Heaven and an eternal existence in a wonderful place with wonderful people and an incredible God as our Loving Father wanting to take care of us. The Bible does not leave us clueless in this matter.

  John 3:36 He that believes on the Son has everlasting life: and he that believes not the Son shall not see life;

  John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. **18** He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **19** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** For every one that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. **21** But he that does truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

 John 3:3 Jesus said, Truly, truly, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

 John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Marvel not that I said unto you, You must be born again.

 Jesus is very plain, we must be born into the human race and then born again spiritually. The spiritual rebirth come when we come to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us for our sin and to create in us a clean heart, one that is at peace with Him. We need to come to God for this change.

 Jesus came to this world to get a family for God and everyone is welcome but they must choose and it is God who knows the heart, therefore He makes the final decision as to who will be saved.

 John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them he gave the power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: **13** Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

 Psalms 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **8** Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* you have broken may rejoice. **9** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. **10** **Create in me a** **clean** **heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.** **11** Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your holy spirit from me. **12** Restore unto me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me *with your* free spirit.

 This is David’s prayer to God. God and only Him can create in us a clean heart. This is coming to the light. Jesus is the light of the world. We need to come to Him.

 Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

 Contrite is an old English word, it means crushed, pulverized. If we come to God all proud and full of ourselves, we won’t find forgiveness but if we come, crushed and down, He will pick us up. God sees our true heart. This is why salvation is up to Him.

 Be fore I became a Christian, being around people who always did what was right, was an irritation to me. I couldn’t understand them. To be in Heaven with this kind of people, I would not have been comfortable there. God knows who will be happy there. We need to be at peace with always doing right.

 John 3:8 The wind blows where it will, and you hear the sound thereof, but cannot tell from where it comes, and where it goes: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

 We see the changes in the lives of new Christians, their desires change and usually their friends and their habits.

 When we are born again the fruits of the spirit begin to grow in us, they are the spirit of Heaven, God’s ways.

Gal 5:22 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **23** Meekness, temperance.

 The bottom line is the question, what about me, do I have salvation? Our relationship with God is a personal thing. Others can’t do it for us. We have to go to God ourselves.

 Phil 2:12 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

God is loving and forgiving and accepting and He wants us.

 John 4:23 But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for **the Father seeks such to worship him**.

 God is not here to keep us out if Heaven, He is trying to get us in. Jesus died a very painful death on the cross to give us forgiveness. He went the extra mile for us. Surely, He will do anything simple to make Heaven possible for us. God wants a family and that is what we are. He says I have loved you with an everlasting love.

 Years ago when I was a boy, we didn’t have much money, so to spend money on fireworks was considered foolish, after all it all went up in smoke and your money was gone, it didn’t do any good. My dad grew up in a little town in Montana, 200 miles from where we lived. Quite often we went there to visit his parents and family. One 4th of July, I got the chance to go there with my dad a day ahead of the rest of the family. So, I would be on my own without my siblings for a while. I snuck off and took some of my money and bought some fire crackers, a pack of 100. Then I hid them in my clothes that I was taking on the trip. When we got where we were going, my uncle said we need to get this boy some fire crackers. So, we went to a stand and he bought me a pack of a hundred and a punk. I was walking in high cotton. Things were good. We would never light the string, that was wasteful, we would do creative things. One of our favorite things was to take a tuna fish can and put a little water in it and then we would get a smaller sausage can and put a whole in it. Then we would push a fire cracker into the whole so almost all the cracker was inside of the can. Then we would light it and get back. When the fire cracker went off, the little can would fly high into the air. Then we would gather up the pieces and do it again. I knew what to do, so, I went and did this for a while by myself. Strange as it might sound, it didn’t seem fun. There was no one else to ow and awe over what had just happened, it was empty. This is God’s problem, He wants and needs a family to enjoy. We are to be that. The problem is simple, we can’t live in eternity with sin, it is destructive. We were born into a sinful nature and we have to be born again with a spiritual nature that can enjoy eternal life. Jesus came to help us with that, get rid of our sin and make us over. He is on our side and He wants the best for us, we just need to go to Him.

 In closing. Salvation is offered to all. To be able to live with God, we have to have a spiritual nature rather than a carnal one. Because we are born with a fallen nature, we have to be born again in order to live in Heaven. We can only be born again with a new nature if we go to Jesus and let Him create in us a new nature. God knows our heart. He knows whether or not we are sincere. God seeks people who want to worship Him in spirit and in truth. We need to come to God with a crushed spirit and He will accept us. God is on our side. He is trying to help us but He will never force His ways on us. God is looking for a family who loves Him and that is us.