

What Salvation Is And Why We Need It

Part 1

By Pastor Art Watkins

In 1 Timothy 2:4 Paul wrote: Who (God) will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

In John 3:16-17 he wrote: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

In 1 Timothy 1:15 he wrote: This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

After reading these verses it is very obvious that God will have all men to be saved. God is not willing that any should perish. God does not delight in the suffering of the lost in hell. God does not want you or anyone to go to hell. God wants to save you and make you one of his own. God wants you to live with him forever in the coming glorious kingdom of God.

If God will have all men and women to be saved, we must ask the question; what do we need to be saved from and how can we be saved? Those are the two most important questions you could possibly ask in this life, for the answers will determine where you will be a million years from now. This is not an exaggeration. It is the truth and I will attempt to answer these two questions in these articles and books.

What We Need To Be Saved From

What do we need to be saved from? I asked a lady if she was saved once and she said yes; I save green stamps. So we must define what we mean when we use the word saved. Many people today are not saved simply because they do not know of anything they need to be saved from. They do not feel they are

in any kind of danger. So when I tell someone they need to be saved, I must tell them what they need to be saved from otherwise they will be confused. I am convinced that when people really see what they need to be saved from, more than likely they will get saved. Once a person sees the danger they are in, then they will be more than willing to be saved.

The word salvation means: deliverance, rescue, escape, liberate or to set free. When you look at its definition it implies there must be some kind of danger or hazard or risk jeopardy or peril we need to be saved from. If a doctor prescribes a medicine for you that implies you must be sick you have some type of physical problem. The fact that God will have all men to be saved implies we must be in some type of danger and peril and jeopardy.

But what is the danger and peril we need to be saved from? The answer is: **Sin and the penalty of sin.** We use the word sin all the time, but what is sin and what is the penalty of sin? If you ask 10 people what is sin, you may get 10 different answers. If you ask people what is the penalty of sin, many people do not know there is a penalty for committing sin. Today, people laugh about sin and make jokes about it and sin is not taken seriously. The fact that there is a penalty attached to sin seems ridiculous to many people. With God sin is very serious and I am convinced that once you see what sin is and how serious it is, then you will understand the penalty. And once you see the penalty of sin, then you will see what you need to be saved from.

The Definition of Sin

What is sin? In 1 John 3:4 he defines what sin is: He wrote **Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.**

John says that when we sin we transgress the law. He says sin is the transgression of the law. In other words, when we break the law we commit sin. But whose law is he writing about? The Law of God. God has a Law and most of us are familiar with it; it's called the 10 commandments; not the 10 suggestions, but 10 commandments. When we break those commandments we sin against God. Take a look at the 10 commandments.

(1) Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

(2) Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.

(3) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

(4) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

(5) Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

(6) Thou shalt not kill.

(7) Thou shalt not commit adultery.

(8) Thou shalt not steal.

(9) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

(10) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

*The 9th commandment says: *thou shalt not lie*. Let me ask you this question and be truthful: Have you always told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? If not, what does that make you? doesn't that make you a liar?

*The 10th commandment says: *Thou shalt not covet*. Have you ever coveted or lusted after something that belonged to someone else? If so what does that make you? An idolater for covetousness is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5)

*The 8th commandment says: *Thou shalt not steal*. Be truthful have you ever taken something that did not belong to you regardless of its value? If so what does that make you? A thief

*The 3rd commandment says: *Thou shalt not take God's name in vain*. Have you ever used God's name in a way that does not honor him? If so, what does that make you? A blasphemer.

*Have you ever looked upon someone with lust? Jesus says that if you do that makes you an adulterer. (Matthew 5:28)

If you said yes to these questions then you have just admitted that you are a liar, thief, idolater, blasphemer and an adulterer

If this isn't bad enough God says that if you break just one of his commandments you are guilty of breaking all 10 of them. James 2:10 says: ***For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*** Breaking one law makes us guilty of breaking all of God's Laws. This means we are guilty of the sins of: Hatred, Idolatry, Blasphemy, Disobedience, Rebellion, Murder, Adultery, Lying, Stealing, and Covetousness. These are the sins we are guilty of. These are the charges God brings against us. This is why the Bible says we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. God says this in Romans 3:23 because we have broken all of his laws and commandments.

The Penalty of Sin

We all know that when we break the laws of men we pay a penalty. When I was young I can't tell you how many tickets I got for speeding. I had a heavy foot and loved to drive fast. Today, speed scares me, but when I was young the faster the better. I paid many fines for speeding and the fines I paid were the penalty for breaking the laws against speeding.

God has a law and it's the 10 commandments and when we break his Laws we pay a penalty. The penalty for breaking the Laws of God is very severe; It is death. The Law of God is a very strict law and it punishes everyone who breaks it

commandments and the punishment is death. Not just physical death, but what the Bible calls the second death. What is the second death? In Revelation 20 John describes the second death. He describes it like this:

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:13-15)

These are some very sobering verses and they show us what God thinks about sin. Sin is so horrible to God, so repulsive and so evil that the only fitting punishment for sin, is to cast sinners into the lake of fire. Hell and the lake of fire is the penalty of sin. This puts sin in a different light doesn't it? Sin is not something to laugh about, ignore, or make jokes about. God takes sin serious, because it violates his Law, sin dares his wrath, sin rebels against his authority and sin mocks his justice. Hell and the lake of fire were created to punish those who break the Laws of God which is sin.

This creates a huge problem for all of us; we have broken all of God's laws. God said if you break one of my laws you are guilty of breaking all of them. This means we are guilty of every sin the Law of God condemns and we have just seen that hell and the lake of fire were created for all law breakers. This means we are all doomed to hell and the lake of fire. This is terrible news. but it's the truth.

God's Plan Of Salvation

The question everyone should ask is: how can we escape hell and the lake of fire if we are sinners? There is a way we can escape hell and the lake of fire and its God's way and his way alone. God has devised a plan of salvation for us sinners and it's the only plan that works. We cannot devise our own plan of salvation. We can't create a way to be saved and expect God to put his stamp of approval on it, just because we are sincere.

God has a plan and a way of saving us and unless we follow his plan we cannot be saved. We can't pick and choose the way we want to be saved. There is only one way to get saved and it's God's way and unless we get saved God's way, we will never be saved.

God's plan of salvation works because it solves all the problems we have with sin. Sin and the penalty of sin is the reason we need to be saved. We are sinners by nature and by choice and being sinners we have the sentence of eternal death and condemnation hanging over our heads. But, the salvation God offers us takes care of the sin problem and his plan frees us from future condemnation. His plan is the only plan that can effectively deal with sin and damnation. So, you had better find out what he says about being saved and then believe it. We do not want to place our souls in the hands of men or a church and let them determine a way for us to be saved, because they are sinners like us. We must turn to God and place the salvation of our souls in his hands and then do what he tells us to do to be saved. This way we will be safe and saved.

If you are concerned about where you will spend eternity, you had better be right about what you believe, for what you believe will determine where you go when you die.

You don't wait until you have a wreck to put on your safety belt do you? It will be too late then. You are not going to wait until you die to find out if your life insurance policy is good or bad are you? When you die it will be too late.

Are you going to wait until you die to find out if what you believed about salvation was right or wrong? It will be too late when you die to find it out. You need to know **now**, before you die, to make sure you are right.

Don't think that what you believe does not matter with God. What you believe matters greatly with God for it will determine where you go when you die. Don't ever take faith and belief

lightly. **Be sure of your faith now before you die because one second after you die you will not be able to correct it if it is wrong.** When it comes to salvation accuracy is what counts not sincerity. Many people are sincere but they are sincerely wrong about salvation, especially salvation by grace.

Next; the Faith that saves