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Chapter One: A World Of Religious Confusion

We live in a world of religious confusion. There are hundreds of manmade or man invented religions. Some founded on the bible, then it may depend on which version of the bible you believe. Then we have hundreds of religions founded by men, most of whom are dead now. But some are alive at this time. Many of these men wrote books claiming only they knew the truth. There is even a religion called the way. Most all of these religions have several things in common. First they claim the writings of their founders are just as inspired as the word of God. Then they make the big mistake. They inject man's works, good deeds, etc. into their religion. I like to call this the you got to do list. This is usually a list of works or religious rules you must do in order to make it, sounds like mission impossible.

The final authority The Word Of God.

John 1:1-3 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

John 1:14 - *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.*

Not only does the Word become flesh. (The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.)

Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

But the Lord Himself said it is settled, and he will protect it.

Psalms 119:89 - For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Luke 21:33 - Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

The Lord says he will preserve them.

Psalms 12:6-7 - The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

The Word religion or religious. This may come as a surprise to many people. But the word religion or religious is only found in six verses in The New Testament. And in The Old Testament it cannot be found at all. Let's now look at the six verses that use these words in The New Testament.

Acts 26:5 - Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Paul refers to his religion before he was saved. He was a Pharisee in the Jew's religion, Judaism. Again we see the word religion in the negative form.

Galatians 1:13-14 - For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

The traditions of men.

Acts 13:43 - Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

A proselyte to make a convert to some religion or system of beliefs. Then,

James 1:26-27 - If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the

fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

What James is saying here is, if you are religious, then try and live up to these standards. Which is referring to our righteousness or good works. However the Lord says in.

Isaiah 64:6 - *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

We can see now that the best we have , good works, deeds, gifts to charity will not save your soul. In these six verses the word religion or religious is not referring to a relationship with the Lord. All refers to man's good works and his effort to live a Holy Life.

Chapter Two: Two Ways, Man's Way-God's Way

Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Man has always looked to his own works, and thinks that will help get him to heaven.

Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Paul explains his lost condition, when he was called Saul of Tarsus.

Philippians 3:3-9 - For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not

having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

And concerning false religion Jesus says this about that.

Matthew 15:8-9 - *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

Millions upon millions of religious people, think that their church membership, good works, and gifts to charity, baptism or religion, will help get them to heaven. But the Lord tells the religious crowd this.

Matthew 7:21-23 - *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Then the Apostle Paul grieves for his people (the Jews) because of their lack of acknowledgement about God's Righteousness.

Romans 10:1-17 - Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of

them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Chapter Three: Heaven One Way Only!

All the way back to the creation of Adam and Eve God desired a Relationship with man.

Genesis 3:1-24 - Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree,

whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD

God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Then the Lord has a relationship with Noah.

Genesis 6:1-22 - *And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth*

also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Moving forward He then calls Abram who later is called Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-10 - Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south. And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

We could go on from there Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, then the Judges, the Kings, Samuel, David, Solomon.

Then God, tells the Prophet Isaiah He will send a Saviour.

Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Matthew 1:23 - Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The truth is God sends Himself, in the person of His only begotten Son The Lord Jesus Christ.

John 10:30 - I and my Father are one.

Because of our sin nature and the fact that we can't save ourselves. Then it only stands to reason that there is only one person qualified to pay that debt. And that person. Is God Himself.

Luke 2:10-11 - *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

John 1:1-5 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

John 1:10-14 - *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 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.*

Matthew 1:21 - *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Then Jesus Himself said.

John 14:6 - *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

There is no other way to Heaven.

The next step is to realize that we have a sin problem.

What God is telling the world today.

What is the message God is trying to tell the world today? The answer is found in the Bible.

Acts 17:29-31 - *Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

II Peter 3:9 - *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

You see from these verses that God has commanded us to repent. You may ask why we

have to repent. Because all human beings have been born with a sinful nature.

Romans 3:23 - *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*

Also, there is a debt or penalty because of our sin.

Romans 6:23a - *For the wages of sin is death*

And finally, we are not capable of paying this debt. In other words, we cannot save ourselves. We cannot work our way to heaven. There is no amount of good works, deeds or religion that God will accept as payment.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Titus 3:5 - *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost*

That is why God Himself had to come down to earth in the person of His only begotten Son, to sacrifice Himself as a one-time payment for the sins of all mankind.

John 1:1-3 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

John 1:14 - *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.*

John 3:16 - *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.*

Now let's turn to what John the Baptist says about our need to repent.

Matthew 3:1-2 - *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Matthew 3:11 - *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire*

Mark 1:4 - *John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*

The Lord Jesus Himself tells us.

Matthew 4:17 - *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Matthew 11:20-21 - *Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.*

Mark 1:15 - *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

Mark 2:17 - *When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

The Apostle Peter tells us.

Acts 2:38 - *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Acts 3:19 - *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

Also, the Apostle Paul tells us.

Acts 13:23-24 - Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

Acts 17:30 - And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Acts 20:21 - Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:20 - But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Romans 2:4 - Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Now let's cover what The Lord Jesus Christ told his disciples one day. Here he uses examples of certain events that happened to warn them that all men need to Repent or Perish.

Luke 13:1-5 - There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners

above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

A closer look at the real meaning here is that we are not to judge why some people die an untimely and tragic death. Jesus knew they thought these people were greater sinners than others. But He tells them that if they themselves did not repent, they would also perish. This was not to say that they would die the same way. The context here is that if they did not repent and put their trust in The Lord to save them, they would suffer a second death and be cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15 - *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 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.

This is not a reference to physical death. This is a reference to what will happen to all people who do not repent and trust the Lord. God's final judgment is reserved for all people who do not repent.

Romans 14:11-12 - *For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Philippians 2:9-11 - *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Now let's look at the second illustration Jesus uses.

Luke 13:4-5 - *Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

In New York City, the Twin Towers fell and killed thousands of people. On a much smaller

scale, the same thing happened to eighteen people when the tower in Siloam fell and killed them. Instead of judging them or trying to reason why this happened, Jesus again tells them; “. . . except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

So, the answer is clear. The message to all the world is we must Repent or Perish.

Now you may be asking yourself what God means when He tells us to repent. The sad thing about repentance is, you just don't hear much about it today. It's nearly a lost doctrine, even in the Christian church. Do you know you can believe in your mind that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the grave and still not be saved? The truth is, there are thousands upon thousands of church members headed to hell and don't even know it. Why? Because they have never repented. Listen to what Jesus says about these people in the Bible.

***Matthew 7:21-23** - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

In order to understand what true repentance is, we must first realize what it is not. Repentance is not just being sorry. Many people are sorry they have no money, no place to live, etc. Our jails are filled with people who are sorry they got caught. However, they are not sorry for what put them there. Also, it is not just turning away from sin. That is reformation, a person reforming himself. A person can turn away from their sins and still not be saved. Most all the religious lost people have done that. No person is saved because they have reformed.

Also, it is not doing penance. Penance is an expression of sorrow, by doing something yourself in order to pay for your sins. True repentance is a change of mind, a change of opinion, that will lead to a change of action. In other words, we must see ourselves as God sees us, a lost sinner headed to hell, unable to do anything in our own power to save ourselves. It is only then that one understands we must call on God for his mercy and put our total trust in Him to deliver us and save us. In the Bible it is called godly sorrow.

II Corinthians 7:10 - For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

It is God's goodness that will lead one to true repentance.

Romans 2:4 - *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

Only true repentance can prepare one to truly believe on and trust in the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. That's why Jesus said.

Mark 1:15 - *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

Acts 3:19 - *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

In the book of Acts, we see an example of the results of repentance after Peter preached to many gathered at Pentecost.

Acts 2:37-38 - *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Acts 2:41 - *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

It was reported that right after the attacks of 9/11/2001, church attendance went up sharply. People felt a need to draw closer to God. They were looking for answers, searching for a message to ease their sorrow. But it also has been reported that now the totals have fallen back to pre-9/11 levels. I guess you might say it was just a blip on God's radar screen. How soon we forget. What's it going to take for God to bring this nation to its knees in true repentance? I'm sure this is just the beginning of sorrows for this nation and the world. Jesus talked about this in the New Testament.

The greatest love story ever told.

This last section covers the greatest love story ever told. If you are reading this book and you are 100% sure you are going to Heaven when you die, that's great. Then you can share this with a family member or friend who is not sure they are going to Heaven. However, if you are reading this and you are not sure you are going to Heaven when you die, then please read and see how much God loves you and wants to save you.

John 3:16-18 - 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. He that believeth

on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

As we have seen in the first part of this book, we have been separated from God because of our sin nature.

Romans 3:23 - *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

And because of this, we all owe a debt.

Romans 6:23a - *For the wages of sin is death;*

Revelation 20:14 - *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

The next fact we must realize is that we cannot work our way to Heaven. No amount of good works or church membership will work. In other words, we cannot save ourselves.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Titus 3:5 - *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

Now comes the good news. The Lord Jesus Christ, God incarnate in the flesh, the only begotten, sinless, Son of God, does for you and I what we cannot do for ourselves. He pays our sin debt in full.

***Luke 19:10** - For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

***Romans 5:6** - For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

***Romans 5:8** - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Jesus tells us the key that unlocks the door to salvation.

***Luke 13:5** - I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

***John 10:9** - I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

***Romans 10:9** - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

Now the choice is yours. The Lord has done it all for you. He is just waiting for you to call on Him.

Romans 10:13 - *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

If you would like to trust in The Lord to save you, you can pray this simple prayer of faith:

Lord have mercy on me, a sinner. I trust You as my Savior.

When God saves someone, He does all the saving, plus you are also kept by Him. These verses tell us we have eternal life.

John 6:37 - *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

John 5:24 - *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

John 3:36 - *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

John 10:27-30 - *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.*

I John 5:11-13 - *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

John 3:16 - *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.*

May God bless you, your family and friends.

You Friend in Christ,
Brother Larry Hample

Founded by Bro. Larry Hample in 1990, Albany Rescue Mission is an independent ministry dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.

Matthew 28:19-20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The mission provides spiritual guidance, shelter, food, and clothing to the “Least, the Last, and the Lost” in an atmosphere of Christian love.



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