

Intimacy with God



On the Edge of Eternity

“Jesus answered, ‘most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’” John 3:5

Yes, that’s where all of us are living, on the edge of eternity, and I am just worried many feel “secure” when they really are not. You see, salvation is more than just head knowledge of Jesus Christ. It has to be heart knowledge.

True salvation is not just some “mantra” that you repeat after. There has to be a true recognition of one’s unworthiness and need for a Savior. And yes, an honest effort to turn and seek the “right” way, God’s way. We all, already, stand under condemnation as a result of Adam’s original sin and the Spirit of God departing. “He who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” John 3:18

Yes, there needs to be a confession of faith, but it is not simply repeating a few words after somebody. It is not walking down the aisle to join a church. I have heard these called “churchians,” not christians, and in a sense it is true. They are counting on their church or denomination to save them, not the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

I have just heard so many people tell of how they went to church for years and later knew they were never really saved. They didn’t know Jesus. I myself went to church in the beginning just to form friends and fit in. There was no real recognition of my complete unworthiness and Jesus as a needed savior. “But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.” Isa 64:6

Our Lord gave this warning: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” Matt 7:21-23

Ah, but they did the “works” of God. Our proper response should not be “haven’t I” but “haven’t You?” Many people today are doing those same works and believing those same things, when all the while their heart still remains far from the One who loves them most. They have never taken the time to cultivate a relationship with Him. That’s what our Lord seeks and that is what is required.

It is “His” works that we must trust in. Does that mean we are free to do whatever? God forbid. True repentance means a change of heart; a turning from our former ways. That’s not to say we will never sin again. Indeed I have stumbled many times and will again. Yes, I sin and yes, I even have

pleasure while doing it.

The enemy is deceptively enticing, but our hearts should quickly turn to the fact this is not pleasing to our Lord, feeling the unease of conviction and distance from the One we love. If that is not the case with someone, surely they must reexamine their confession of faith. I view my repeated sin as one of the barbs fastened to the whip digging deeply into His holy flesh. Worthy? No, none of us are worthy; only Jesus.

The other day I heard the story about a preacher giving a sermon. The preacher asked everyone who was righteous to stand up. A couple of people stood up while the others looked on disapprovingly, thinking they thought themselves more superior to others. The preacher hesitated for awhile and then asked, "Why aren't the rest of you standing up?" "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Cor 5:21

Either we believe that or we don't. And if we don't it means that we are clinging onto our own righteousness in some sense. We will never be "good enough." We certainly don't want to "assume" anything... not on His mercy, not on His grace, not on His love. Yes, all these effuse from Him but none of them must be taken lightly.

I in no way want to dispense confusion or doubt on His saving grace. If you have truly believed and confessed, you are sealed and will be saved. I just want everyone to check their hearts and be very, very sure. Yes, I confess I still have troubled with "once saved, always saved." And yet, I believe in His saving grace and ability to "keep," regardless of whatever sinful states we fall into.

I know that is true of those who "really" believed, but there exists too many warnings in scripture to be "cavalier" about our salvation. "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." 1 Cor 9:27 "For it is impossible... if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God." Heb 6:4,6 "I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life." Rev 3:5 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." Rev 3:16 All these and more are scriptures that warn us to "stay."

"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'" Luke 9:23 "The man who took up his cross was going to the place of death. He was saying 'good-bye' to this world. He would never see his loved ones here again. His old plans and pursuits would be finished. He was reaching the end of his life. What a frightful thing it was to take up the cross! Yet in Jesus, this is the first step to freedom: 'For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it' (Matt. 16:25). Have we lost our own lives for Him?... How we love the resurrection glory! We love the Spirit's power and His gifts. But first we have to die. First we have to be buried. It is only dead men God can raise up." - Dr. Michael Brown

It's way too late in the game to leave anything that important to chance. It's not religion. It's not denominations. It's not country or any other name than Jesus Christ who can assure your eternal habitation with God. "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Remember Lot's wife. She was at the edge of deliverance when she looked back with longing. She had formed too many ties to the world. We must always be looking forward to Jesus! Is He the love and desire of your life?

I admit, I know so little of all God's plans, but I just don't think we will all be His "bride." I see a number being just guests at His wedding. I honestly don't know what determines the bride - love, devotion, watching and longing, hearing and obeying His teachings? Who would you accept into your inner chambers? Would it not be the one who loved and sought you above all else? Whether I am the bride or a guest at the wedding, my joy will be full at His joy. And yet, as scripture says, "But earnestly desire the best gifts." 1 Cor 12:31 I desire to know Him in His fullness and that's how He wants to know us.

I just want to add a warning here. Many of us consider this week to be an extremely high rapture watch time. We see the day approaching. If it doesn't happen we will continue to look at other possible rapture times, but honestly, this time next year appears to be most likely, and nobody wants that. Just look at the world and its shape. But until or unless more revelation is unsealed, this time of the year will remain the preeminent rapture watch time. If our Lord's whole life was to fulfill scripture, can we really believe His second advent would not also fulfill scripture?

This is just further warning that we all need to get ready and be ready. All I'm really trying to say is, be sure. Be very sure. Make sure NOW! Repent again and pour your heart out to Him.