**If My People…**

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**The Way**

**The Way Church**

**Brother David S. Wilson**

**August 17, 2014**

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Message Title: If My People…

Message Truth: Salvation involves the admittance of sin, the belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who died on the cross to pay the penalty for sin and a confession that Jesus is Lord. As one believes in the heart, and confesses with the mouth Jesus is Lord, the Holy Spirit is given from God to dwell in all who confess Jesus to be Lord. They are made new and are thus considered God’s People.

Scripture: **2 Chronicles 7:14**

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

**14**if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

This scripture is once again a typical if, then statement presented so many times by God. If we will do **this**, then God will do **that**. The then part of the argument, God’s part of the argument, is always guaranteed. Our part is where we must focus, and where we must meditate.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 if My people** who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Who is speaking? To whom is “**My**” referring? God

To whom is this scripture speaking? Christians.

So how does someone become “**My people**”? Salvation is the avenue by which we are classified as “**My people**”. If you are a Christian here today, why do you believe you are a Christian? This is a question you must be able to answer before you begin to teach others about Salvation? This seems like a very simple question to answer. However, some find it very difficult to put into Words. If you are to be used by Jesus Christ for kingdom work, putting into words the great Salvation work He has done in your life will be something you have to do on a regular basis. So my question to you is, why do say you are a Christian?

As you work through your thoughts and emotions trying to answer this question, you will be drawn to how you feel, the Christian evidence in your life, maybe even the commitment you have to Church, family etc.. In the end it doesn’t matter if **you** **think** you are a Christian; it matters if **Jesus** **knows** you are a Christian.” With that said, let us examine what the Word of God says about being a Christian?

Let us first begin with the scripture most often quoted regarding Salvation.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 is the scripture almost all professing Christians have memorized, and used regularly to lead people to Jesus Christ. However, all scripture must be examined to truly obtain the meaning, and an understanding of Salvation. Isolated this scripture says, God loved you so much, that He gave you a gift, which was His Son. If you believe in Him, you will not perish, but have eternal life. So basically, you believe in Jesus Christ and you are saved. However, there has to be a little more to it than that, because the Word of God also says in James 2:19, you believe that there is one God, you do well, even the demons believe—and tremble! So belief although it is required, belief alone cannot be the complete story. So what is the complete story?

Let us take a journey down Salvation Way on our way to Christ like Walkway, first stop…Admittance Alley

**I. ADMITTANCE ALLEY**

A. To be saved you must admit you are a sinner.

 You are saved because you admit, believe, understand

 recognize, come to grips with, have revealed to you, the

 fact that you are sinner. You must recognize you have

 sinned, and because of sin, you are separated from God.

**Romans 3:10-12** As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; **11**There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. **12**They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

You see without the Spirit of God dwelling inside you, you have no drive to do good. Some might argue, they can do good without Jesus; however, this would 1) be contrary to the scripture and 2) incorporate man’s definition of good and not God’s definition of good.

**Romans 3:23**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

We are all sinners, every man, woman and child. There is no one righteous and no one can obtain the Kingdom of God, without the grace of God. We have all fallen short of His glory; however, He is the justifier of the one (and all) who have faith in Him.

B. You must admit you are in need of a Savior.

It is good to know you are a sinner; it is even better to know the penalty for sin is death and this penalty must be paid. Additionally, you must realize you can’t pay it. There is nothing you can do on your own to be made right with God.

Next stop…

**II. BELIEVER’S BOULEVARD**

If it is good to admit you are a sinner and understand you are separated from God, it is even better to believe you need a Savior. It escalates to great, if you believe the Savior is Jesus Christ. It is absolutely necessary you believe Jesus Christ is the Savior. He is the Messiah; He is the Son of God, a free gift from God, who brings forth eternal life.

1. You must believe Jesus Christ is the only Son of God.

  **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His

 only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not

 perish but have everlasting life.

B. You must believe Jesus Christ died on the Cross, for your

sins. **Romans 5:8-10**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9**Much more then, having now been justified by His

 blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. **10**For

 if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God

 through the death of His Son, much more, having been

 reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

 Even though you are a sinner, in fact because you are a

 sinner, Jesus Christ died for you. You will not experience

 His wrath, because His blood has justified you. To be

 justified means to be made right. Verse 10 is saying

 through His death you were reconciled. Through His death

 you were made right. Jesus Christ paid the penalty.

 Through His resurrection you are saved. His conquering of

 the grave, His defeat of death results in your Salvation, **if**

 **your faith is in Jesus Christ.**

Continuing on…

**III. REPENTER’S ROAD**

Now it is time for your belief to do something about your actions. The action is repentance. Repentance is defined as changing one's mind for the better, to heartily amend with abhorrence one's past sins. To amend means to change, but look how you change, with abhorrence of your past. You have to hate the way you were, and long to be different.

1. Repentance is an internal decision that brings about an

 external change.

 **Acts 3:19** Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins

 may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come

 from the presence of the Lord,

1. Repentance changes your focus and thus changes your life.

 **Acts 2:38**Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every

 one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the

 remission of sins; and **you shall receive the gift of**

 **the Holy Spirit.**

**IV. CONFESSION COURT**

Now the rubber meets the road at Confession Court. Confession Court is where you are going to have to make it personal? It is good to admit you are a sinner. It is better to recognize the wages of sin is death. It is even better to come to grips with the fact that God did something about sin. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for sin. It is absolutely fabulous for this knowledge to cause you to turn from your wicked ways; however, it is earth shattering for you to confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

1. Confessing Jesus Christ is Lord is a must.

 **Romans 10:8-13** But what does it say? “The word is near

 you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of

 faith which we preach): **9 that if you confess with** **your**

 **mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that**

 **God has raised** **Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

 **10**For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and

 with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11**For

 the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be

 put to shame.” **12**For there is no distinction between Jew

 and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who

 call upon Him. **13**For “whoever calls on the name of the

 Lord shall be saved.”

 Now we are beginning to see the connection between

 believing and eternal life. If you confess with your mouth,

 Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart you shall be saved.

 Look at what it says; with the mouth confession is made to

 salvation. Your confession of Jesus as Lord brings forth

 salvation. Obviously, a confession that Jesus Christ is

 Lord is more than words spoken. There must be fruit to

 follow. God’s Word is clear regarding this. You can judge

 a tree by the fruit produced.

1. Confession comes from the Holy Spirit.

 **1 Corinthians 12:3** Therefore I make known to you that

no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed,

 and **no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the**

 **Holy Spirit.**

A complete walk down Salvation Way leads to Christ like Walkway, which is a new road, a new path.

**Romans 8:1** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

You are to walk according to the Spirit, not according to the flesh. You absolutely cannot walk the same way you did before you proclaimed Jesus to be Lord of your life.

**Romans 8:9-11** But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. **10**And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. **11**But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

The Spirit of God dwells in you, if you confess Him to be Lord. As a Christian you have the same Spirit dwelling in you that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. This Spirit brings life to you, not a life like before, but a life empowered to make the Word of God come alive.

**So let us again look at the original question, WHY DO YOU SAY YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN?**

I am a Christian because I trust the Word of God regarding Salvation. I have witnessed first hand what the Word of God says about Jesus and His saving grace. I came to grips with the fact that I am sinner. I understand from God’s Word, the wages of sin is death and eternal separation from God. I believe God sent His only Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sin. I trust Jesus paid the penalty for sin that I could not pay. This knowledge lead me to repentance, which is a turning away from wickedness and a turning to Jesus Christ. I have confessed Him as Lord and will continue to confess Him as Lord. I no longer live according to the ways of the flesh, but now according to the ways of the Spirit. I am saved because The Word of God guarantees it.

Salvation, Ian Thomas

Your Salvation, of course, derives from the fact that there is a redeemed sinner no longer on the way to hell, but already on the way to heaven. Jesus Christ as God, Creator, has come to invade your humanity, to play that role in you, for which you were created. This gives Him the right 24 hours a day, in your business, in your home, in your school, in your college campus. Whether you’re on recreation, invitation, in business, no matter, at any time, under any circumstance, 24 hours in every day, 7 days in every week you give Jesus Christ, as God, the right to be God in you, without reserve. That’s what it means to become a Christian.

We’ve conveniently reduced Salvation to a moment in time, when we raise our hand, walk down to the front, get baptized, or have our name put upon a church roll. And we call that Salvation. Nothing, of course is farther from the truth. That’s totally divorced from the revelation given to us in the Word of God, which is our sole guide in every matter of faith.

Salvation involves the reoccupation by God of a guilty sinner in such a way that Jesus Christ has the unchallenged, absolute, perpetual right to dictate the terms whereby that individual henceforth will run his life. For instance, where he’s going to buy his new home, what vocation he’s going to study for as a student, where he’s going to go next year on vacation, how he’s actually going to spend his money. Whose really going to run the church that he goes to. All this is embraced in his Salvation, and nothing less than that, of course, will do. Anything less than that shortchanges Jesus Christ, and cheats Him of that for which His blood was shed.

And of course, if I’m to discover what the Christian life is all about, there is really only one person whom I can turn. There’s only one person that has ever been capable of living the Christian life since Adam fell…Jesus Christ. So now He, who has risen from the dead, might come and perpetuate the life that He lived then, in us now. So the Christian life, of course, is the life that Jesus Christ lived then, lives now, in us, by Him, in whom there is no other.

In other words, God to a man is as imperative as oil is to a lamp. You have an oil lamp that’s got no oil, you have an oil lamp, but it won’t behave like one. You might as well put it in the trashcan. And of course if you detach man from God, which is exactly what happened when Adam fell into sin. You still got a man on your hands, but he won’t behave like one. The only thing you can do for an oil lamp that hasn’t got oil in it, is to put oil in it. And the only thing you can do for a car that hasn’t got gas in it is to put gas in it. And the only thing you can do for a man that hasn’t got God is to put God in him. And when you put the oil in the lamp, it isn’t so the lamp can try harder and when through spiritual new birth, God gets back into the man, it isn’t that the man might try harder. You put oil in the lamp, so the oil can be oil, functionally. You put gas in a car, so the gas can be gas, functionally. And you put God in the man so that God can be God, functionally.

In other words, spiritual new birth is designed to let God be God in a man’s human experience. So that everybody in that man’s presence recognizes that God is in residence and God is in business. That it takes God actually God Himself, not what God has to say, not God’s example, not God’s precepts, not God as a far away object of our emulation or worship. It takes God Himself in a man to be a man. And that’s why we shall discover it will take Jesus Christ, not His teachings, not His preaching, not His sublime example, not the Beautiful life that He lived, not the doctrines that He promulgated. It will take Jesus Christ Himself, a person, to be a Christian.

The Lord Jesus died upon the cross, not just to get you out of hell and into heaven, He died upon the cross, to get God out of heaven, and into you. God in you actually calling the shots. Actually controlling what you do with your hands. Actually controlling where you go with your feet. Actually controlling what you say with your lips. Actually controlling what you think with your mind. Actually controlling the decisions that you make. That is the measure in which you’re saved.

So that if any man be in Christ, he is actually, literally, a new creation. He’s been made over. He’s a new creature. Old things that were characteristic of the old Adamic character have passed away. And all things – the all things, 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us there in that passage, come from God – the all things have replaced the old things. Old things have passed away and all things have become NEW!