

God's Plan of Salvation By Trey Sullins

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” is the warning found in Romans 3:23. This passage declares plainly that every single person created by God has a problem with sin. For the person who cares about their soul's eternal state, this problem must be remedied. This is why God in Romans 3:24-25 extended His salvation to save humans from these sins: “being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood”. Christians must understand the great qualities of the salvation offered by God and what it means to them.

God's salvation is unchangeable. The world around us is always constantly changing but since its revelation to man God has not changed His offering of salvation. The first century church followed the plan the same way that we do today. In Romans 11:29 we find, “the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” In the original language the word “irrevocable” means without regret. Therefore, the verse is saying that God's offering of blessings and His invitation to salvation will never be retracted. This unchangeable salvation is something which God had in His plans from the beginning. In Peter's sermon in Acts 2, he paints a clear picture of the process that led to the death of Christ and salvation. In Malachi 3:6 the Bible says, “For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore, you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” God's nature is that He seeks to bless His people, and this will not change in Him.

God's salvation is simple. While some man-made religions are very obscure and difficult to follow, the true salvation offered by God is not. For example, in Buddhism, the ultimate goal is to reach Nirvana. If you try to study what Nirvana is and how you reach it, no one really knows the answer. However, in God's plan of salvation the ultimate goal is to reach heaven and there are an entire 27 books in the New Testament which teach us exactly how we are to live. Paul makes this comparison in 2 Corinthians 11:3 by pointing out how the world is deceitful, but the gospel is simplicity: “But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” Praise God that He gave us a straightforward path to serve Him properly.

God's salvation is conditional. One of the greatest myths of the denominational world is that salvation comes by belief only or the “sinner's prayer.” In reality, neither of these two concepts are found in the word of God. Throughout the entirety of the Bible and human history God has placed conditions for one to be saved. In the context of Romans 10:9-17 we find several conditions: hearing the gospel, believing in Jesus, and confessing His name. The Bible also commands that repentance and baptism are necessary for salvation (Acts 2:38). When you are washed of your sins in baptism, you are added to the Lord's church where you continue a life of faithful obedience to Him: “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4:11).

The Christian has all the answers right before them in the holy words of God. It reveals to us that the salvation which God offers is unchangeable, simple, and conditional. Jehovah has offered us the greatest gift we could ever imagine. The Christians challenge in this life is to be like Paul and know that there is a crown of righteousness laid up and waiting for us (2 Timothy 4:8).

