

The Terre Haute **Speaker**

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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Why We Need a Plan of Salvation

John Isaac Edwards

Men teach many conflicting ideas about salvation, but God’s plan for saving man is simple and clearly revealed in the New Testament. Why do we need a plan of salvation? Because...

Man Is a Sinner. Paul wrote, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Sins are not inherited, but are committed as we transgress God’s law. John said, “...sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). The word “sin” comes from an ancient Greek term. When an archer missed his target with his arrow, he was said to have sinned. Sin means to miss the mark. Because we have missed the mark, we need a plan of salvation.

Sin Leads to Death. There is a high price to be paid for sin. “For the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23). “...sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:15). The death here is spiritual – eternal separation from God in hell. To avoid this death, our sins must be forgiven by God. Thus, we need a plan of salvation.

Goodness Alone Does Not Save. Goodness alone did not save Cornelius. A reading of Acts 10 will show that Cornelius was a good moral man. He was “a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave

much alms to the people, and prayed to God always” (v. 2). Most would think that a fellow like Cornelius is saved already and has no need of a plan of salvation. We know that Cornelius was not a saved man for he had to hear “words whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved” (Acts 11:14).



Man Must Do What the Lord Commands. Jesus said, “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” (Matthew 7:21). Jesus is the “author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Hebrews 5:9). Man, being a free moral agent, has the right to choose to obey the Lord and be saved, or to reject what the Lord says and be “...punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Man is lost in sin and cannot save himself by himself. Jeremiah declared, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). Therefore, God has made salvation available to all men. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11).

The Divine Side in Salvation

John Isaac Edwards

There are some things that God has already done for us to make salvation available to all. Let's take a look at a few of these.

God Sent His Son. Often called the Golden Text of the Bible, John 3:16 says, "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." Again it is written, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins....And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (1 John 4:9-10, 14).

God Bestowed His Grace. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). Paul wrote the Ephesians, "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" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Grace is God's unmerited favor. It is kindness from God we don't deserve. There is nothing we have done to earn it.

Jesus Shed His Blood. The crucifixion scene shows a soldier piercing Jesus' side "and forthwith came there out blood and water" (John 19:34). The blood of Jesus is redeeming, sin-forgiving blood. Paul penned, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). The mission of Jesus is summed up in sixteen words: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

The Holy Spirit Revealed God's Will to Man. "How that by revelation he made known to me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit..." (Ephesians 3:3-6). This revelation is the gospel. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16). This is how the Holy Spirit works today, not by miraculous intervention.

God has done His part and requires that man do his part to complete the process of salvation.

The Terre Haute Speaker is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

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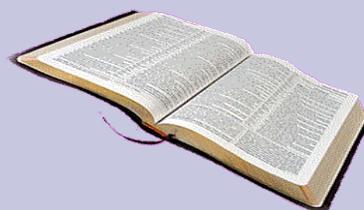
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Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



**The Bible
Is Our
Only Guide!**