

## SIMPLE SALVATION

Col 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

I am so glad God made the plan of salvation so simple! Those who reject the salvation plan often do so because they feel it is too simple. They think surely they must do certain things to save themselves. There is nothing anyone can add to the finished work of Jesus Christ. He did everything it takes to save us. He even gives to us faith in order to receive salvation. All people have to do is to choose to believe upon Christ and they will be saved from the penalty of their sins. Salvation is like a two sided coin. When we accept Christ we saved from something and also saved by something. On the negative side we are saved from the penalty of our sins. Receiving Christ is the receiving the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus has taken care of our sins and their penalty by His finished work on the cross. On the positive side we are saved **by His life** which He has given to us in the new birth. [Romans 5:10] So there is a saving from sin on one hand and the saving by His Divine life on the other. Placing simple faith upon Christ makes this salvation effectual for one's eternal position before God. Once someone accepts the finished work of Jesus accomplished for them they are justified. This is a legal term that means one is set right with God. Most people would agree that receiving salvation is simple, but after salvation many think living the Christian life is very difficult. In Colossians 2:6, Paul makes an amazing statement that living the Christian life is as simple as getting saved! He states, "As you therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" Was receiving Christ difficult? **No**. Then likewise walking in Him is not difficult either. Many disagree with this statement because they are endeavoring to walk **for the Lord**, or **walk with the Lord**. Paul said that as we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, we are to walk **IN** Him. This means that our Christian life must come from our vital union with the Lord in which the power of living comes from the life of Christ within us and not our own strength, will power, or resources. I will agree that if you attempt to live your Christian life by our own strength, will power, and resources that the Christian life is indeed very difficult. I would go further and say it is **IMPOSSIBLE!** The only one who can live the Christian life is Jesus Christ! He has come to dwell in us to do that very thing if we will but accept the simple plan of salvation. See, salvation is not just for getting you to heaven when you die. There is also a

salvation for your soul. One aspect of salvation is salvation from the penalty of sin. The other is salvation from the **power of sin!** One leads to justification. The other leads to **sanctification**. Sanctification takes place the **SAME** way justification does- by simple faith in the Lord. As you have received Christ [simple faith in His grace], so you now are to walk in Him [by simple faith in His grace.]

We saw that eternal salvation involved two sides- a negative side and a positive side. The same is true with salvation from the power of sin and sanctification. Jesus wants to save us from the temptation and power of sin and in their place manifest His powerful righteous life in us and through us. Jesus is both the Savior from the penalty of sin **and the power of sin**. When we got saved we trusted in Christ to deal with our sins. We did not try to deal with them ourselves and then ask for His help. We gave them over to Him and allowed Him to deal with them for us. Not only did Jesus do this for us, but in their place He gave to us His very own righteous eternal life positively. He exchanged our sin for His very own life! Many think that after they are saved that things change. They think they must now try as hard as possible to overcome sins and temptations and ask the Lord for the needed extra help. This brings nothing but failure and despair as we see Paul describe in Romans 7:14-23. Paul tried to live the Christian life by will power. Count how many times Paul uses the word "will" in these passages. He uses it **SEVEN** times. Trying to live by will power is **completely** useless! Only until Paul turned to Christ as His Deliver from the power of sin did he experience victory.

How can one experience daily victory even over the most grievous sins and bondages? It will be by simple faith in Jesus Christ and receiving simple salvation! We sometimes think our sins and bondages are maybe too hard for even the Lord to overcome! This is blasphemous! There is no addiction, sin, or bondage that Jesus can't break easily. The problem with many is that they are not accepting God's simple plan of salvation when it comes to walking in sanctification. They received it to be born again, but they are not receiving it to live like it! Many are bound by the power of sin and bondages out of ignorance on how we are to walk free from them. Others have heard the simple plan for God's deliverance but refuse it because it seems too simple. Only until one accepts the simple plan of salvation for sanctification will they walk free from sin.

As we are saved from something and saved to something when we were born again, God offers the same plan each and every day to overcome temptation and sins. When temptation to sin comes to us, instead of trying to fight it and overcome it ourselves, we need to turn to Christ and ask Him

to deal with it for us and overcome it for us. We must hand the situation entirely over to the Savior and let Him save us! When we do this in simple trust believing He has done it when we ask, Jesus gives His own victorious life in exchange and causes us to walk in victory. Paul describes this process in Romans.

**Rom 6:11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

To reckon yourself dead to sin means that you no longer try to fight it yourself. **Dead men don't struggle and fight anything.** They have no more relation to it at all! What does it mean to be dead to sin? It means that we don't try to overcome sin and temptation any longer. When it comes we hand it over to the Lord who lives in us and ask Him to deal with it and overcome for it for us. As we believe God answered our prayer when we got born again, we also need to believe the Lord has heard and answered our prayer now. When we ask we must believe He has heard and answered it and then we can rest and turn our minds elsewhere. In exchange we can trust that His righteous life is being released to us to enable us to do what we could not do otherwise! **Walking in the Spirit is simple trust in the Spirit of Christ doing for us what we could not do.** We trust Him to deal with sin and temptation for us, and we trust in Him living and empowering us to positive godly actions. Many Christians think they have a will power or resolution problem that causes them to be defeated. Their real problem is a faith and pride problem! They are trying to do for themselves what only Jesus can do! They are trying to save themselves and also ask Jesus to save them! Jesus will not do this to take you to heaven, and He will not do it to take you to freedom! He is the Savior! You must let Him do the saving! Your job is the trust. That is so simple, that many miss it. So, next time sin comes knocking on the door, instead of you fighting with it, call upon Jesus to answer the door and that temptation for you and then you go and rest! It is so simple! Do you accept God's plan?