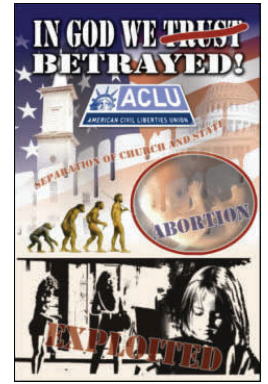


We ALL Need a Savior

Hebrews 9:27 - *And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment,*

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The United States is not immune to the Lord's justice. The Hebrew nation was God's chosen people. Yet, God exacted his judgment on that nation by leading them away into captivity by their enemies when they turned their back on him. Having acted as God did with Israel, his chosen people, how long should we expect that He will tolerate the great abominations occurring within this country? As you read this, you might believe that our Lord is a God of Love and that he would never exact his judgment upon this country. Or would he?

In the end times, which I firmly believe we are in, The Book of Revelations is clear that a large portion of the world's population will be destroyed due to its wickedness. We currently have a world population of over 6.4 billion people. If this prediction is true, more than one-third of the world's population will be destroyed by fire. Billions will die due to God's judgment. Is this possible? Would God destroy so many people to exact his righteous judgment?

Why do people think that mankind is worthy of favor from the God of the universe anyway? Who are we to consider ourselves significant particularly if our merits are viewed from a universal perspective? Nevertheless, most people think in terms of relative goodness as compared to God's standard of perfection, which is in absolutes. Our God is a God of love, but He is also an exactor of judgment as a penalty for sin. That is God's nature, which we cannot change or compromise, irrespective of what some of the "churches" within this country are teaching their members or how we feel about it.

The bottom line is that we are *either* ALL good or ALL bad (sin) in our feeble efforts to win God's favor according to *our own* merits. If you can live a life that adheres to the hundreds of laws within the Old Testament without wavering in both thought and action – you can earn your way to heaven. However, there has never been a person in existence that has upheld that standard – except Jesus. Therefore, we are ALL bad to some degree. Without a savior, we cannot make it to heaven according our reasoning or feeble attempts toward righteousness. There is NO gray area here. It is a pass/fail grade, only. God does not rate on a bell curve, where passing is a score of sixty percent or above. Neither does God compare your good works to your sins to calculate a positive or negative result.

To further put a damper on those who think that they have lived a good life and are worthy of entrance to heaven, the Bible states:

Romans 3:23 - *for ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Romans 5:12 - *For this [cause], even as by one man sin entered into the world [Adam], and by sin death; and thus death passed upon all men, for that ALL have sinned:*

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You see, the bottom line is that we have ALL come up short. I would like to take a moment to demonstrate this the way God sees it from the following illustration of five dead bodies.

THE FIVE DEAD BODIES...

Imagine five dead bodies laying face-up on the ground. The first is freshly dead and appears like someone resting comfortably with his arms across his chest. The fifth person has been dead for a few years, as the result of which the body is badly decomposed, rotten to the core with only skeletal remains. In between, the other three bodies are in different degrees of decay from the freshly dead person to the one at the end who is rotten to the core.

The common factor among all five bodies in this illustration is that they are ALL dead. Irrespective of the appearance of the person that is freshly dead, he too is dead.

The bottom line is that we are ALL spiritually dead and separated from God, as the result of the first sin that was committed in this world, Adam and Eve's disobedience. Regardless of how good we are in our lives, how well we treat our families, or how generous we are to others, we are ALL spiritually dead, for "ALL have sinned..." according to God as stated in Romans 5:12.

Going back to the illustration, you could have been living a very sinful life and, thereby, been alienating yourself from God. You might be saying to yourself: "I'm the one that is rotten to the core; who's been dead for many years." Albeit your failures, disappointments, and repeated shortcomings, you have something in common with the first freshly dead body – you, too, are dead.

If you are grasping at what the Bible is telling you, mankind has a serious problem. There is not a man, woman, or child on this earth that can earn their way to Heaven. That is the reality, irrespective of how hard you try. And, if you think you can? Guess what?

Isaiah 64:6 – But, we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Even our good deeds just don't measure up to God's standard.

The Bible says that Jesus was sent to this earth to reconcile us with God. He was the ultimate sacrificial lamb that was slaughtered on the cross for mankind. He died for us. He did not have to. He chose to die in our place, for he knew that we could not save ourselves. And furthermore, he knew that we would continuously fail in this thing called life.

Romans 5:18 - Then as one man's trespass (Adam) led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men.

We did not earn God's favor, nor did we deserve it. It is just a fact that God loves us just the way we are, and He has created a provision for our spiritual well being through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. We come into a relationship and right standing with God, not through our actions, but by Jesus' blood covering our sins.

Romans 5:8 – But, God shows his love for us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Think about the price God paid on our behalf?

When I was a program manager for a large government account, my job required that I travel a lot. I have always found it amazing how insignificant mankind is from a 30,000 foot viewpoint while peering out the window of an aircraft at night. The glow of city lights is the only visible clue to mankind's presence below. Looking up, you see the mass of stars in the sky.

Scientists estimate that the stars in the universe number more than 10 to the 22nd power (10^{22}), and that estimate does not include planets. Yet, within this universal oasis, we are singled out as being loved enough by God, the Creator of the universe, that he would sacrifice his only begotten Son as a payment for our sins. He did this to have a relationship with us and to redeem our soul.

John 3:16-20

*¹⁶ For God so loved the world that **he gave** his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

This is the part that everyone knows from football sporting events, with those crazy Christians waiving "JOHN 3:16" signs within the end zone. However, as you continue reading the passage, you come to understand that a decision, an action is required on behalf of the receiver of this message.

¹⁷ For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.²⁰ For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

God's sacrifice for your sins came at a high cost. Many read John 3:16 and say to themselves, "Thank You, God", then move on as if it were just a nice-to-know message of encouragement.

Yet, the people of this world are doing evil in the eyes of God, especially within this country, and even within the church. There are many in positions of authority and leadership that "love darkness rather than the light." There is a whole secular humanistic movement that is corrupting our youth into a mindset that what is right for you is what matters. The leaders of this nation have collectively pushed God to the side and, in many cases, denied our children access to their Creator's teachings.

The Bible states that "**Every one who does evil hates the light** and **does not come to the light.**" That light is the Jesus, the Son of God.

It is becoming more obvious each day that there are forces within our country that hate the Light. These forces are hell-bent to deny God influence within our government and educational system. Furthermore, these forces are systematically removing the symbols and references of God within our country. They are also teaching a politically correct version of our history to our children – void of God, which is an inaccurate portrayal of our country's true background and heritage. And, they are on the attack of anyone who professes their faith in a public forum as being "**offensive**" and "**inappropriate.**" It is incredibly ironic that tolerance is preached everywhere, except when it comes to believers of God.

My question to you is where do you stand in all of this? If all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God, and if all our righteousness is but a filthy rag, is it no wonder that so many love the darkness and not the light?

Romans 5:6-8

⁶While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man--though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die.⁸ But God shows his love for us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 8:12 – *Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

The problem that all of us face is that there is no other way to get to heaven but through our acceptance of what Jesus has done for us.

John 14:6 - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.*

The first step towards knowing our eternal state is to realize that we cannot make it to heaven on our own. **We all need a savior**. You also need to **commit your life and allegiance** to this Savior, for He paid a very high price for your sins.

If you have never asked Jesus into your life, you can do so now. Before you read the rest of this book, you need to at first make your peace with the very God who willingly sacrificed His life in payment for your sins. You need to connect with the God of the Universe now for your eternity depends on it.

The Prayer of Salvation:

“Jesus, I realize that I was born into this world a sinner and that in my life I have continually fallen short. I acknowledge that I can not do anything on my own to obtain your favor, for I am truly lost in my own sin. I have followed the darkness many times in my life, and I now stand before you guilty as charged, deserving your righteous judgment.

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that you sent your only begotten son, Jesus, to sacrifice His life for my sins. He paid the ultimate price for my wickedness. I am awestruck at the love that you have shown me by that very act of sacrifice and love. I believe that Jesus died for me according to your word and now ask Him to come into my heart as Lord and Savior of my life. Please transform me from this wicked state and fill me with the Holy Spirit. Guide my understanding of your word and show me your purpose for my life, so that I may follow your teachings forever.

Thank you for loving me Jesus.

Amen.”

Welcome dear brother or sister in Christ. Welcome into God’s grace and forgiveness. Now, it is time to move forward... If you are a first-time believer or just a person of faith that wants to renew their life with Jesus, I will provide you with some instruction on what to do next in Appendix-1 of this book. Keep in mind though...

Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God--

By your prayer and confession of faith, you have just accepted the gift of God, nothing more, nothing less. Rejoice!! You have just passed from death unto life through Christ Jesus our Lord. You have crossed the darkness into light and all of heaven rejoices!

JESUS ALSO WANTS TO RESTORE OUR NATION

Many in this country are unaware that we are already heading down the path toward the Lord's judgment. Yet, even as we are spiraling down this path due to our rebellion, our Savior is waiting to restore our nation and its people if we would only repent (turn 180 degrees, have a change of mind and direction) from our wickedness. Likewise, it should be the goal of our citizens and those of faith to restore this country and its people back to the track of ***"One Nation Under God."***

Nehemiah 9:28

But, after they had rest (Israel was at peace during this time from many years of war), they did evil again before thee, and thou didst abandon them to the hand of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them; yet when they turned and cried to thee thou didst hear from heaven, and many times thou didst deliver them according to thy mercies.

This book serves as both a warning and an expression of hope to our country and to the people who elect our officials, who represent and govern this nation. It is my prayer that you will take this reading seriously, and that it will motivate you to take action to reclaim what was taken away from the faithful. Keep in mind that even Jesus turned the tables on the money changers when the house of His Father was being desecrated (Matthew 21:13).

There is much that we can do within the laws governing our nation, if the churches of believers of ALL denominations unite under a common cause. Our enemies and the enemies of our children are well organized and united. However, take courage, for we outnumber them. Unfortunately, we have not figured that out yet.

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