

The Sinner's Savior

by Leon King

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." -- 1 Timothy 1:15.

Jesus Christ is the sinner's savior. Our text is a blessed one inasmuch as it expressly declares the purpose of Christ's coming. When Jesus came, he amazed the onlookers with great manifestations of kingdom power. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, made the lame to walk, cast out demons, and fed multitudes by supernatural power. All of these things magnify the great God of the heavens, but the greatest and most profound thing He came to do was to save sinners - to save His people from their sins! Let's consider this text:

1. This is a faithful saying.

It is a faithful saying because God has spoken it through the pen of His writer. It is written in the Book of books. The Holy Books. The Bible is the inspired word of the Living God, so we can stake our lives on the truth of it. It is a faithful saying because God said it!

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. -- 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. -- 2 Peter 1:21.

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; -- Titus 1:2.

And worthy of all acceptation.

This word is worthy to be accepted by all men every where. The Gospel of Jesus Christ goes out to the whole world, to every creature. He that believes in the only begotten Son of God will have everlasting life. This is worthy of acceptation by every man, woman and child.

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. -- 1 John 5:10-11.

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; -- Romans 10:8.

It is sent to kings and governors, czars and potentates, sheiks and princes, buyers and sellers, builders and planners, rich and poor, bond and free, civilized and barbarian, master and slave. It is worthy of all acceptation.

3. That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

a. That Christ Jesus came into the world. Jesus is the anointed one - the Messiah - that Prophet whom God would raise

up - The One born of a virgin - the Word who was in the beginning with God - the Word who was God - the Word that became flesh - whose glory we beheld, as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth. He left the glory He had with the Heavenly Father before the world was to come and make payment for the sins of His people (John 17:5). God prepared a body for His son to suffer death, as the son prepared to become flesh and die as our substitute.

Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. -- Hebrews 10:5,6.

b. To save sinners. We can never emphasize enough that Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. This is why a person, who never realizes his inherent depravity, cannot be one of God's children. I believe when the person really sees His utter corruption and his helplessness to change it, he does so by hearing the word of God. That is the work of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit that quickens the helpless sinner.

And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will

*have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. -
- Matthew 9:10-13.*

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. -- Romans 8:3-4.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. -- Isaiah 53:5-6.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. -- Isaiah 53:10-12.

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. -- 2 Corinthians 5:21.

When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. -- Mark 2:17.

Jesus came to save sinners, but there are some things men think He came to do that He did not come to do. I want to address three of these things.

I. He did not come to exalt our self-image.

I have read and heard so much of the modern Christian psychologists' speeches and writings about self-image and self-love until I am sick of it. What heresy! When a person meets the sovereign God and the merciful savior, He certainly doesn't love what he is in Adam! Too, he can never exalt himself because of what He is in Christ, for it is all of grace!

Luke 14:11 *For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

Luke 18:14 *I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

The publican said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." The dying thief said, "We indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds:" Peter said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." Paul said, "O, wretched man that I am."

II. He did not come to preserve this present world system.

The Lord did not call us to preserve this present world system, even the United States of America. Did you ever consider that it too is a part of the world system. We are to preach the Gospel. We are commanded to "love *not the world, neither the things that are in the world.*" This is to pass away. If we do these things, it is normal that the world hate us. Indeed it will. The Lord's churches have never fit into the world system.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. -- Mark 16:15-16.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. -- 1 John 2:15-17.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. -- John 15:18-19.

We know we live in troublesome times. We are in the shadows of the temporal day and it will soon draw to a close. Things are corrupt on every hand. God has called us to live a life of faith - to confess that we are strangers and pilgrims in this world, for we look for a city whose builder and

maker is God. (Please read Hebrews 11 again) That city is our home and our hope. It is not here. We are in good company when we live our lives as pilgrims and strangers. We are foolish to spend our hours trying to preserve something that is corrupting which we cannot save. It must pass away. We are to pray for our leaders, be prepared to give an answer to every man that asks of the hope within us, but our duty is not preservation of this society.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. **13** But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

III. He did not come to keep families united.

This is probably one of the most difficult truths to grasp. Jesus Christ came as a divider in families. Believers in families with unbelievers will be set at variance with those unbelievers. Indeed, it will be family members who would betray those of the same womb. Not all persons of every family will be saved. It is wonderful if they are all saved, but it was never the purpose of God to save all family members and keep them intact.

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. He that receiveth you

receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. -- Matthew 10:34-40.

We have the obligation and privilege to train our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, but there is no guarantee they will be regenerated. We hope they will, and we pray they will, and we encourage them to believe, but if God doesn't do a work in their heart, they will not be saved. The same holds true of our witness to other family members. We love them and revere them in the temporal relationship, but inside we know if God doesn't save them, we will be eternally separated. There is a present separation as well, for the unbelieving do not understand the vision and hope of God's people. There is no common spiritual ground, so the unbelieving cannot receive the things of God, for they are foolishness unto them.