

# A GOSPEL “TUNE UP” PART 2

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## INTRODUCTION

There was a rather old fashioned lady, who was planning a couple of weeks vacation in Florida. She also was quite delicate and elegant with her language. She wrote a letter to a particular campground and asked for reservations. She wanted to make sure the campground was fully equipped but didn't know quite how to ask about the “toilet” facilities. She just couldn't bring herself to write the word “toilet” in her letter. After much deliberation, she finally came up with the old fashioned term “Bathroom Commode,” but when she wrote that down, she still thought she was being too forward. So she started all over again; rewrote the entire letter and referred to the “Bathroom Commode” simply as the “B.C.”. Does the campground have its own “B.C.?” is what she actually wrote.

Well, the campground owner wasn't old fashioned at all, and when he got the letter, he couldn't figure out what the lady was talking about. That “B.C.” really stumped him. After worrying about it for several days, he showed the letter to other campers, but they couldn't figure out what the lady meant either. The campground owner finally came to the conclusion that the lady must be asking about the local Baptist Church. So he sat down and wrote the following reply: “Dear Madam: I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take pleasure of informing you that the “B.C.” is located nine miles north of the camp site and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance away if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along, and make a day of it..... They usually arrive early and stay late. The last time my wife and I went was six years ago, and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now, there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats.....They plan to hold the supper in the middle of the B.C., so everyone can watch and talk about this great event.....I would like to say it pains me very much, not to be able to go more regularly, but it is surely not for lack of desire on my part....As we grow older, it seems to be more and more of an effort, particularly in cold weather..... If you decide to come down to the campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time you go ... sit with you ... and introduce you to all the other folks. ... This is really a very friendly community.”<sup>1</sup>

There is one message we absolutely must be able to communicate clearly and that is the message of the Gospel!

## RECAP

The Word of God teaches us that:

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.bible.org/illus.php?topic\\_id=285](http://www.bible.org/illus.php?topic_id=285)

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
(Romans 3:23 ESV)

The result of sin is clear:

...the wages of sin is death...  
(Romans 6:23 ESV)

The Bible teaches that no work of sinful man can ever save man from the penalty of sin.

...by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.  
(Romans 3:20 ESV)

God sent Jesus to die for our sins, and then raised Him from the dead on the third day.

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel... that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,  
(1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ESV)

How did Jesus' death, burial and resurrection help us?

### ***CHRIST TOOK OUR SINS UPON HIMSELF***

He [Jesus] Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree...  
(1 Peter 2:24 ESV)

Since all our sin was placed on Jesus, God punished Jesus in our place.

### ***CHRIST DIED IN OUR PLACE***

Isaiah the prophet predicted this seven hundred years before Jesus was crucified.

...he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace...  
(Isaiah 53:6 ESV)

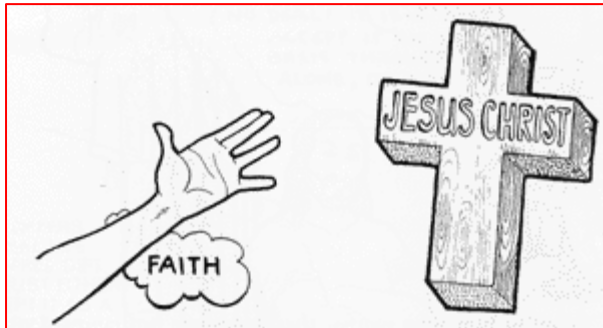
### ***CHRIST'S DEATH PAID IN FULL FOR OUR SINS, THEREBY SATISFYING GOD'S ANGER AND JUSTICE.***

Since Jesus died in our place for our sins, God's justice was satisfied. Jesus paid in full for all man's sins!

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.  
(John 19:30 ESV)

When Jesus shouted "it is finished" just before He died, He was indicating that He had made a perfect, complete and final payment for sin. Jesus did all the work necessary to save man from his sins. God requires that we believe (trust) in Jesus and what He has accomplished.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.  
(John 3:16 ESV)



*Faith (Trust) Is The Hand By Which We Reach Out And Accept The Eternal Life Offered Freely In Jesus Christ.*

God offers us to save us from the penalty of sin as a gift.

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV)

Now there are several aspects of salvation that are commonly misunderstood that we want to tackle today. The first is the idea of repentance.

## REPENTANCE

In one gospel presentation I read the author makes this statement, "...repentance is when a sinner, turns to God from his sinful ways and trusts Jesus Christ for salvation. It is part and parcel of saving faith..."<sup>2</sup>

What does it mean to repent and how does repentance relate to salvation?

The word "repent" comes from a Greek word which means "to change one's mind." The word repent can apply to any number of subjects about which a person "changes their mind".

We could be talking about baseball. If you believe that the Padres are going to make it to the World Series... you may need to repent!

This morning we're not talking about the Padres but about how you and I can be saved from the consequences of our sin against God.

If you are thinking that God will accept you into heaven because you are a BGP, a basically good person, you need to repent, you need to change your mind, because the Bible clearly tells us that

*"None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup>no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup>All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*

(Romans 3:10-12 ESV)

If you are thinking that God will accept you into heaven because you go to church or you've been baptized or you serve in the church you need to repent, you need to change your mind about this because the Bible tells us that

*... a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ...*

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.inplainsite.org/html/repentance.html>

(Galatians 2:16 ESV)

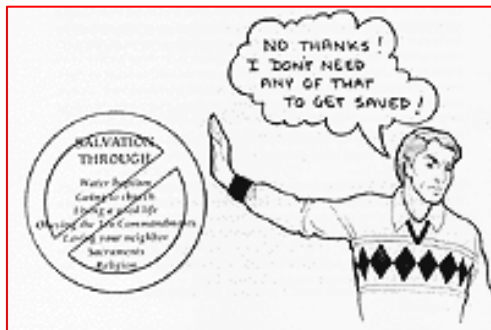
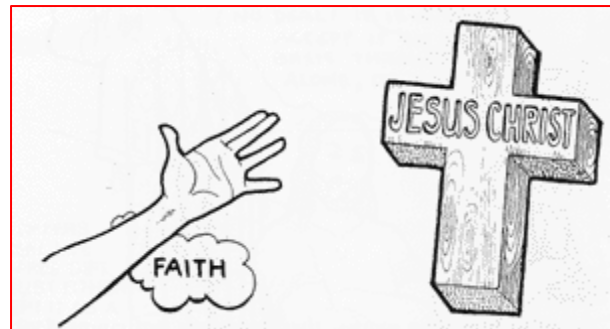
If you are believing that eternal life can be earned through good works then you need to change your mind, you need to repent.

**Saving repentance is rejecting religion, religious rituals, or obedience to God's law to gain eternal life.**

The Biblical command is clear. If a man believes that his religion will get him to heaven, he must repent. If he believes that obeying the law of God is necessary to get to heaven, he must repent. If he believes that he must perform some religious ritual or sacrament to be saved, he must repent, and stop trusting in any of those things to save him.

Faith in Jesus will not save you if, while believing that Jesus died for your sins, you also believe that you must be baptized, go to church, or obey the Ten Commandments to "help" get you to heaven. You cannot simply add Christ to a long list of other things that you must do or be to get to heaven. You must utterly reject all of those other things as having no saving value whatsoever and trust in Christ alone.

**FAITH IS THE HAND THAT ACCEPTS SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,**



**REPENTANCE IS THE HAND THAT REJECTS SALVATION BY ANY OTHER MEANS.**

When we trust in Jesus we trust that His death, burial and resurrection are sufficient in themselves, to pay for our sins without us adding anything in order to be saved.

Let me ask you this question, If you were standing before God right this moment and He asked you, "Why should I let you into heaven?", what would you answer?

If you answered that you're trying to be a good person and stop doing bad things, or if you answered that you've been baptized or you're trying to keep the Ten Commandments then you need to repent. You must stop trusting in any religious things you have done in the past or might do in the future, and trust in Christ alone.

If you have placed your faith in Christ alone, and you were to die tonight do you know for certain that you would go to heaven?

The answer to this question has to do with the assurance of your salvation which is one of the greatest blessings of the gospel.

### **ASSURANCE:**

Jesus said:

<sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

(John 5:24 ESV)

Let's break this verse out and really think about what Jesus is saying.

*Truly, truly I say to you....*

*How certain of this was Jesus?*

*whoever hears My word . . .*

*Have you heard the Words of Christ throughout this sermon?*

*and believes Him who sent me . . .*

*Do you believe that God sent Jesus to die in your place?*

*has eternal life.*

*Does this say you will receive it later or that you already have it?*

*He does not come into judgment,*

*Does the Bible say "might not" or "does not" ?*

*but has passed from death to life.*

*At what moment does one pass from death into life?*

According to the verse, how can you be sure that you have truly been saved?

*You can be sure that you have truly been saved if you heard the gospel and believed it.*

Now there are people in the Christian faith who don't believe this and don't teach this. Certain churches teach that you can lose your salvation if you sin. The idea is that if we feel secure in our salvation then we will become complacent in our Christian life. In other words, if the fear of possibly going to hell is removed, then what will motivate us to live for God and not for ourselves?

Should you live in fear and should that be the primary motivation for obeying God?

You need to understand that if you have trusted in Jesus alone for your salvation, you are eternally secure.

## ETERNALLY SECURE

The Bible says:

<sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

<sup>11</sup>And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup>waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

(Hebrews 10:10-14 ESV)

According to the Bible, for which of your sins did Jesus pay when He died?

1. Your past sins.
2. Your past and present sins.
3. All your sins forever: past present and future.

According to this verse, how often are you sanctified (made holy) by the death of Jesus Christ?

- Once a week?
- Once a month?
- Once every time you confess your latest sins and ask forgiveness?
- Once for all?

## ETERNAL SECURITY IS A NECESSARY CONCLUSION OF JESUS' DEATH FOR OUR SINS

We do not lose the gift of eternal life because of sin. That's the very reason that Christ died . . . to pay for our sins! It is because He died for all sins forever -- past, present, future -- that He is able once and for all to declare you not guilty. There is not a sin that you and I have committed or will commit in the future that has not already been punished and paid for by the death of our Lord Jesus.

## ETERNAL SECURITY IS A NECESSARY CONCLUSION OF GRACE

If after you had trusted Christ you were required to keep the law of God to "stay saved" could you honestly say that eternal life is by grace, that is, that it is a free gift?

What if your friend offered you a car as a gift, but after you accepted the car your friend told you that in order to keep the car you needed to wash it once a week or your friend would take the car back. Is the car then really a gift? Did the car ever really belong to you?

If after you had trusted Christ you were required to keep the law of God to "stay saved" wouldn't that imply that your salvation ultimately depends upon keeping God's Law? But we have already clearly seen that the Bible teaches that...

...by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

(Romans 3:20 ESV)

Therefore, if someone flatly denies the Bible's teaching on eternal security, how is he actually trying to reach God, by grace, or by the works of the law?

Now this is where many Christians struggle; if we aren't afraid of losing our salvation, what will motivate us not to sin?

### **SHALL WE CONTINUE TO SIN THEN?**

Although no sin can cause us to lose our salvation, all sin has consequences.

There are natural consequences of sin. A person who drinks to excess may kill himself or an innocent victim in an automobile accident. A Christian who fornicates and sleeps around may contract AIDS or any number of STDs and die. Knowing Christ as Savior will save one from hell, but it will not save us from the natural consequences of sinful or foolish living. The Bible says

<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

<sup>8</sup>For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption...

(Galatians 6:7-8 ESV)

Secondly, there are eternal consequences for sin. Receiving a free ticket to a sports event guarantees you get into the stadium but it doesn't guarantee you'll get a front row seat. Similarly, receiving the free gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ guarantees that you will enter God's eternal kingdom, but doesn't guarantee you any rewards or significant responsibility in His Kingdom. Our "position" in heaven and the rewards associated with that position are totally dependent upon the holy life and godly works which we pursued in this life. Jesus made this very clear in His parable of the Ten Minas. The servant who invests and makes a profit for his master will receive responsibility in his Master's Kingdom:

... 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.'

(Luke 19:17 ESV)

### **GOD'S OFFER REQUIRES YOUR RESPONSE**

It is not enough to know all about the gospel or even to be able to explain it in detail. You must make a decision to trust in what Jesus has done for you to make you right with God.

If a friend offers you a gift, you might very well understand the offer and be able to explain exactly what the gift is and how it works, but you do not possess the gift until you accept it from your friend.

The same is true with the gospel. God is offering you the gift of forgiveness and eternal life with Him – you do not possess it just because you understand it; you possess when you choose to accept it and put your complete trust in Jesus Christ and all that He has done for you. Receive God's gift today!