

## Benefits of Salvation

Today's sermon is not an advanced lesson on theology nor is it a treatise on doctrine. Today, I simply want to ask the question: Why Choose Jesus?

Well quite honestly there are a myriad of reasons, in fact the most important one is simply because He is Jesus. This morning I want to look at this first from a bit of a worldly perspective. After all if someone were not saved wouldn't that make this likely their perspective?

### What are the Benefits of "Being Saved"?

#### Peace with God

How about peace with God?

Let me put it like this... I would rather be at peace with God than the recipient of his anger and judgment.

What does peace with God mean?

Well, let's open up some scriptures and take a look. Turn with me to Romans 5:1 NASB

*"Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"*

So peace with God the Father comes through Jesus...

#### Access to God the Father

Read along as we now turn to John 14:6:

*"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.""*

God the Father is mighty. He created mankind to be with him as companions. To participate as his family; He gave us everything we could ask for and more and yet as human beings we fell to the temptation of sin presented to us. This angered God.

So often in our society I hear the question: "Why didn't God just get over it? Why can't God just forgive the sin and move on?"

You see this is where society has tainted our perspective of God. In fact, many people try to make God in their own image, with their own moral code and their own ideals. What is forgotten is that God is God and he doesn't change.

Malachi 3:6a tells us: *"I am the Lord, and I do not change."*

Our God cannot look upon sin. It is abhorrent to him. He is righteous. He created us and made us in his image. When we do not obey the moral code of God he must punish sin. It is simply who he is.

This is why we need Jesus. Jesus was sent by God to help us, because we could not pay for our sins ourselves. We simply do not have the resources.

God laid down some rules to try to get mankind to see this. For many years sacrifices of resources such as animals and grains were made to atone for sin. My friends the Law of Moses was put into place to teach God's people that they needed a savior. That savior came in the incarnate flesh of Jesus Christ God's Son.

But how then can the blood sacrifice of one man atone for all of mankind? Jesus was sinless. He was the perfect Lamb of God. The only sacrifice enough to pay for our transgressions.

This is why God sent his only begotten son that whomsoever should believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. Jesus is called savior because when we accept his free gift of love, we allow his blood to cover us for all our sins. God doesn't see our sin anymore; we are covered by the righteousness of Christ.

In Jesus was and is the only sacrifice for sin that could cover the cost of all of our transgressions. No matter how good we are, we still make mistakes and sin. Jesus didn't and that is why he is different and is the only one qualified to free us.

#### He has redeemed us from our own sin

So he paid for us. In Christianese we say he redeemed us, He advocates like a lawyer on our behalf before the Father. He sits at his right hand and Satan accuses you of every mistake you ever made to God. And Jesus relates that his servant believes in him and has accepted his sacrifice and he is covered. God's wrath is abated towards all those who accept his Son's sacrifice.

So God sent his Son as a sacrifice for us...

Then we either accept what God has done and the sacrifice of his Son or we don't. Think of yourself as a parent and giving up your child to save others... How would you feel if your child's sacrifice was not valued?

There is punishment for those who choose not to accept his sacrifice...  
Remember who God is and why he sent Jesus...

What are the benefits to us so far?

- Access to God the Father
- Peace with God and within ourselves
- No more sacrifice for sin
- Eternal life

Hey Christians here is a revelation for all of you... EVERYONE will live forever! We will all have eternal life... The difference is where you will live it out. I want to live an eternal life of reward and love not suffering and torment and I want to take as many of you to heaven with me as I can. Well... when God decides its your time, but you know what I mean.

So what have we added?

- We all have a choice
- We will be living forever with God almighty
- Jesus has all ready paid for us
- Choices have consequences

These are great but what about the here and now?

- The Holy Spirit helps us:
  - Romans 8:26-28 ESV
    - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
  - 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
    - To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another a gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- Galatians 5:25
  - If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
  
- Galatians 5:22-23
  - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
  
- 1 Corinthians 2:13-14
  - And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

So what additional benefits have we determined?

- He helps us pray
- Gives us spiritual gifts
- Lives in us and provides guidance
- Helps us not to sin
- Experience more love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control
- Changes our character
- Helps us to understand spiritual matters

There are a lot of benefits when someone accepts Christ

We are Forgiven	- All our sins are forgiven
We are Justified	- Jesus plead our case in his blood
We are Redeemed	- Christ's blood paid for us, we are his
We are Propitiated	- Jesus took our punishment for us
We are Reconciled	- God is pleased with us again because of our faith
We are ambassadors for Christ	- We are all called to this
We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit	- We have guidance and comfort
We are anointed by the Holy Spirit	- God's presence in our ministry
We are born again	- We are new creations inside
We are sealed	- We have Christ's seal upon us
We receive hope	
We are saved	
We become friends of God	
We have peace with God	
We are God's special treasure	
We receive good gifts	
We are accepted	
We are joint heirs with Christ	
We are kings and priests	

And the list goes on...

As Christians you know that you have nothing to lose but your sadness, unhappiness and uncertain future. But the gains are amazing and abundant.

This morning if you do not have a relationship with Jesus God is reaching out to you. He wants you:

- To escape His wrath in the fires of Hell
- To become his child
- To talk with him and build relationship
- To give you help in times of trouble
- To know truth and freedom
- To understand him and his ways

It is not complicated... It is just hard.

John 3:16 is my favourite key scripture as it details how you get saved.

It says:

NASB: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Or even more simply...

CEV: God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die

Becoming a Christian and believing in Jesus is easy.

When I became a Christian, I simply told Jesus I was sorry for my sins and I wanted him to come into my heart and be my saviour. Ame