



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Salvation is for Everyone that Wants it!

Scripture: Luke 19:1:10

Salvation is the saving of mankind from the power and effects of sin: his deliverance from the condition of spiritual isolation and estrangement to a reconciled relationship of community with God and mankind.

Jesus brought salvation to Zacchaeus' home. Zacchaeus was a Jew, but was a tax collector for the Roman government. Tax collectors were among the most unpopular people in Israel. Jews by birth who chose to work for Rome were considered traitors. Besides, it was common knowledge that tax collectors made themselves rich by gouging their fellow Jews. No wonder the crowds were displeased when Jesus went home with the tax collector Zacchaeus. But despite the fact that Zacchaeus was both dishonest and a turncoat. Jesus loved him, and in response, the little tax collector was converted. In every society certain groups of people are considered "**untouchable**" because of their politics, their immoral behavior, or their life-style. We should not give in to the social pressure to avoid these people. Jesus loves them, and they need to hear His Good News.

Judging from the crowd's reaction to him, Zacchaeus must have been a very crooked tax collector. But after he met Jesus, he realized that his life needed straightening out. By giving to the poor and making restitution—with generous interest—to those he had cheated, Zacchaeus demonstrated inward change by outward action. **It is not enough to follow Jesus in your head or heart alone. You must show your changed heart by changing behavior. Has your faith resulted in action? What changes do you need to make?** When Jesus said Zacchaeus was a son of Abraham and yet was lost, He must have shocked his hearers two ways. They would not have liked to acknowledge this unpopular tax collector as a fellow son of Abraham, and they would not have wished to admit that sons of Abraham could be lost. **But a person is not saved by a good heritage or condemned by a bad one; faith is more important than genealogy.** Jesus came to bring the lost into His Kingdom, no matter what their background or previous way of life. Through faith, they are forgiven and made new.

Salvation includes at least two vitally important aspects: **(1)** it requires mankind's willful participation, and **(2)** it is an ongoing process. Salvation is a course of action ordained by God and performed by God through mankind's willing participation and cooperation. Therefore, mankind must willingly cooperate with God's plan by submitting themselves to it through complete obedience. Mankind cannot be saved by his own works; however, neither can be saved without submitting himself to the works of God. **God created mankind as individuals with the privilege of choice and free will, and He will not violate their will by saving individuals against their choice.**

It is through the cross of Calvary that we are saved by the blood. Not just for a single nation or a select few, the blood of Jesus can cover any transgression or sin that mankind has ever committed. **No matter how broken we are, we all stand level at the Cross.** There is no sin that is too great, no problem that is too large, and no life that is too shattered for a person to come to Jesus. Jesus' blood has already been shed, and there is no reason we cannot be whole, for we are saved by His precious blood.

Salvation is an ongoing process or work of the Holy Ghost in our lives. **Acts 2:38 is a powerful beginning!** But it is only the beginning. It's just the beginning of a wonderful life in the Spirit and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the first of many days in which the Spirit leads and guides us toward full spiritual maturity and becoming the perfect, or complete, person that He intends for us to be through Him.

God is able to finish the work He has begun in us. He did not begin a good work to see it come to naught, but He has given us the power of the Holy Ghost and the assurance of His Word that we can overcome every struggle. Heaven is not for the weak and vacillating, but it is reserved for those who endure hardness as a soldier of the Cross. On the other hand, those who do not endure to the end will be lost. Let us therefore continue in faith so that we may receive the promises of the kingdom of heaven. The Rapture is the hope of the saints, a hope that gives the strongest incentive to live for God. We look forward to the future glory with Jesus Christ.

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