

## Salvation on a Silver Platter

Here is a sign found at a railroad station. "Beware! To touch these wires is instant death. Anyone found doing so will be prosecuted." The Bible mentions warning signs that should be very evident to us. These signs state that God will punish us if we do not repent of our sins. When Jesus issued warnings, He was not trying to be mean. He was loving people. His words were not meant to destroy them but to save them. Is God all about love? Is God about judgment? Is God about mercy? Is God about wrath? He is about all four, isn't He? Just like a parent. A parent is about love, judgment, mercy and even wrath. There is a heaven. God wants us to end up there. There is a hell. God does not want us to end up there. And if God needs to get that message across to you and me with personal signs of warning, then so be it.

In Indiana there was a lady who was coming to worship for several months. When she was baptized into Christ she had the biggest smile on her face. She was full of joy, but the thing that caused her to finally decide to become a Christian was when she heard me preach a sermon about the reality of hell. Don't say today, "My good deeds outweigh my bad, so God has to accept me into heaven." Don't say, "I'm not as bad as some people." Don't say, "I'm usually a good person." Instead say, "Okay God, let's start weeding out the things in my life that keep me from You." God does not owe you or me His grace and mercy, and there is not a one of us who will ever be able to say on the day of judgment, "God, You never gave me a warning. You never gave me a chance."

As Americans you and I have been handed on a silver platter every chance there is to accept the salvation God offers us. And if you are like me, I had it offered to me on an even bigger platter by my Christian parents. We have the good news of Jesus Christ literally laid in our laps. Someone said, "No people in history have had as many opportunities to hear the truth about God, to learn how salvation can be found by turning to Jesus Christ, than those who live in this country at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century." We are now into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and it is still true. Listen to this advice. Good people who reject Jesus as Lord and Savior are in for a terrible surprise. And the best part of this advice is this. It is not too late to do something about it.

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