

Are you Saved or Lost?

This is not a hard question to answer, not at least in the way of knowledge. The Bible says,

1 Timothy 2:3 *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

God does not want any person, unclear concerning this question. He has given His Word, His Son, that we can understand our need for Him and His desire and devotion to us. God certainly is an infinitely complex God for our limited understanding. And there are so many details we may be unsure about; but that does not mean there is not understanding for us to have and be certain of.

The first and greatest understanding that we can have and be certain of is that God wants you to understand His love for you. The Bible says,

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

There may be many things you don't understand, but I want you to understand clearly God loves people. Not some, not certain people or special people, God loves people, and **you can understand this clearly.**

God loves people so much that He gave His Son, Jesus Christ to die on Calvary's Cross. Why did Jesus need to die on the cross? The Bible says

Romans 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Every single person born from Adam has been born in sin; we are not sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners. The Bible says

Romans 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

Romans 3:19 ¶ *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

God made known His standard of righteousness through His Law, the Ten Commandments. Every person has fallen short of the righteousness of God by violating these commandments, in thought and deed.

You can understand this clearly.

God is not holding a grudge against you for the way you were born, we had no choice in the matter as to the condition of our birth. It is not the Lord's desire for any person to remain outside of His righteousness. In this life God has given you free will to choose the life you want to live. The Lord will not force Himself upon any person, but there is coming an appointment that every person has. The Bible says,

Hebrews 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

It's not a pleasant thought, but it's true, one day we will die. At the instance of death, your eternal soul will go somewhere, heaven or hell. The righteousness of God is not a required mandate in this life, but to be in His presence it is required. Outside of a perfect keeping of God's law, hell is certain, He will not be in the presence of sin. It is not the Lord's desire that any person be sent to that awful place called hell; and it is His desire that you physically be in his presence. **You can understand this clearly.** The Bible Says,

2 Peter 3:9 ¶ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

We cannot help the circumstances of our first birth, but God in His grace made a way for us to be reconciled to him. Sin separates us, and God was not and is not willing that we stay separated from Him. The Bible says,

Romans 3:24 *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

25 *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

26 *To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

27 *Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.*

28 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*

This is the explanation of the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ I shared with you earlier from **John 3:16**.

The Bible says,

Luke 23:33 *And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.*

Jesus Christ the Son of God, God the Son came to this world. He lived a perfect sinless life, He upheld the law, every jot and tittle. The things we can't do, He did. The things we would not do, He did, and then He sacrificed Himself on the cross. On the cross He was made to be sin. The Bible Says,

2 Corinthians 5:21 *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.*

He lived sinless, and was sacrificed for the guilty, becoming our sin. Jesus gave up His life on the cross. They took Him down and buried Him. 3 days later He got up by the power of God, victorious over death, hell and the grave. The Bible says

1 Corinthians 15:3 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

4 *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

Because the Lord died on Calvary, and rose again, we now have the opportunity to have the righteousness of God. Not by working for it, because we can't. Not by paying for it, because we can't. It

is a free gift offered to for whosoever will believe. God has not picked some for heaven, and some for hell, He loves you and wants you to be saved, Jesus died for the sins of humanity. The only thing standing between you and a relationship with God and having His eternal life, is you placing your faith in the finished work of Calvary. **You can understand this clearly.** The Bible says

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

A person may think "I don't know if I have the faith to believe that" the Bible says

Romans 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

God has given you what it takes to recognize you are a sinner, I can't convince you that you're a sinner, that's God's job. The Bible says,

John 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

14 *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

The Holy Ghost of God bears witness with the truth of what I've written to you, pointing to Jesus Christ. God has given you the ability to know you need Him, and He has given you the measure of faith to believe on Him. **You can understand this clearly.**

You may wonder, what do I do now with these things that I clearly understand? The Bible says this,

Romans 10:8 *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;*

9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

10 *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

11 *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

12 ¶ *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Getting saved really is that simple,

1. Understand Jesus died for your sins and got up the third day. **Realize**
2. Understand, you are a sinner, lost and in need of a Saviour. **Repentance (Believe)**
3. Call upon the name of Jesus, God will save you. **Receive**

No one can do this for you, you'll have to pray for yourself.

Biblical salvation is forever. It's not about your feelings, it's not about your works, it's about faith in a set of facts that are settled in heaven. The Bible says this about God's salvation,

1 John 5:11 *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

13 *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

Ephesians 1:13 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ. When you believe and put your faith in Him, you are repenting of your sin. When God saves you, He moves inside of you. The Spirit of God indwells you and seals you until the day He calls you home to be physically in His presence; it's a promise and God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). What is more: in this life time He will give you joy unspeakable, and full of glory. He will give you a peace that passes all understanding, and comfort you have never known. He will allow you to live a life otherwise you would not or could not.

The alternative "whosoever" is very bleak, and just as true as the first "whosoever" in John 3:16, the Bible says

Revelation 20:12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

13 *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

14 *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

15 *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

You can understand this clearly.

Are you saved or lost? This is not a hard question to answer concerning knowledge. There are vast things you can know about God, and He wants you to KNOW. But every fact for a person to know and receive, will start with Jesus and His blood. If you have questions or you are in need of a Biblically grounded church please contact me,

In Christ,

Pastor R. Shannon Chasteen