

God Will Have All Men To Be Saved

Intro: As a basis for our lesson turn to 1 Timothy 2:1-6 “¹ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 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.”

1. There are four classes of people in the world.
 - a. Those who are unconcerned about salvation.
 - b. Those who think they are morally good enough to be saved without obeying the gospel.
 - c. Those who feel they are too wicked to be saved.
 - d. Those who will learn and obey the truth.
2. There are four fundamental facts man must face.
 - a. All responsible people are lost outside of Christ.
 - b. All people are responsible for their own conduct.
 - c. God’s desire is for all men to be saved.
 - d. Many really can be saved.
3. Salvation defined.
 - a. Thayer says, “Rescue from danger or destruction; saved from punitive wrath of God at judgment of the Last day.”
 - b. Webster: “Delivered from the spiritual consequences of sin.”
 - c. Bible definition: John 3:15 “¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” —Perish.
 - i. Thayer, “Incur the loss of eternal life; to be delivered up to eternal misery.”
 - ii. The wrath of God; Rom.5:9 “⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

I. FOUR ARGUMENTS TO PROVE THAT GOD WANTS ALL TO BE SAVED.

A. One God—Creator of all.

1. He is the creator of man.
 - a. Gen. 1-2
 - b. Acts 17:28-29 “²⁸ For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. ²⁹ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”
2. God created man to serve Him.
 - a. Ecc. 12:13-14 “¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good or whether *it evil*.”
 - b. Heb. 12:9 “⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?”
3. According to Toynbee, man has worshipped three things: nature, self, or God.

B. One Christ—Mediator for all

1. A mediator goes between parties at variance.

2. Problem:
 - a. All have sinned.
 - (1) Rom. 3:10, 23 ^{“10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:... 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”}
 - (2) Gal. 3:22 ^{“22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”}
 - (3) 1 John 1:8, 10 ^{“8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”}
 - b. Sin brings separation from God.
 - (1) Rom. 6:23 ^{“23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”} cf. Jam. 2:26 ^{“26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”}
 - (2) Isa. 59:1-2 ^{“1 Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”}
 - (a) need God’s hand—help.
 - (b) need God’s ear—for prayer.
3. The mediator: the man; John 1:14 ^{“14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”}
 - a. He knows our weaknesses; 1 John 2:1 ^{“1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”}
 - b. He was tempted like as we are; Heb. 4:15 ^{“15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”}

C. One Ransom—Jesus died for all.

1. Ransom is the price paid to free slaves.
2. Jesus died to free man from the slavery of sin.
 - a. From sin’s power; Rom. 6:14 ^{“14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”}
 - b. From the guilt of sin
 - (1) Heb. 8:12 ^{“12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”}
 - (2) Heb. 10:17 ^{“17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”}
 - c. From the condemnation and consequences of sin; Rom. 6:23 ^{“23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”}
3. Picture calvary; Isa. 53:4-12 ^{“4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the}

strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

D. One Testimony—Gospel designed to save all.

1. God’s power to save all men.
 - a. Rom. 1:16 ^{“16} For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 - b. 1 Cor. 15:1-4 ^{“1} Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 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.”
 - c. 1 Cor. 1:18 ^{“18} For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”
2. Man is not saved by dreams, visions or special revelations, etc.

II. ONE MUST LEARN THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO BE SAVED.

A. If God wants man saved (as we have seen), if one must learn the truth to be saved, did God give the truth so we can learn it?

1. If not, why not?
 - a. Could he not do it? This would challenge His greatness and power.
 - b. Would he not do it, but could? This challenges His goodness.
2. If yes:
 - a. Denominationalism is wrong in asserting that one cannot know the truth; just be honest and sincere.
 - b. John 8:32 ^{“32} And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
 - c. John 18:37 ^{“37} Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.” cf. John 1:14, 17 ^{“14} And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. ¹⁶ And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

B. Can know does not mean “will know.”

1. Mat. 13:23 ^{“23} But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”
2. Mat. 13:15 ^{“15} For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”

III. THE TRUTH TO SAVE.

A. Question asked three times in Acts: “What must I do to be saved?”

1. Acts 16:30 ^{“30} And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
2. Acts 2:37 ^{“37} Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”
3. Acts 9:6 ^{“6} And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”

B. The answer depends on your condition when you ask.

1. If you are a believer: you need to repent and be baptized; Acts 2:38 ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
2. If you are a penitent believer; you need to arise and be baptized; Acts 22:16 ¹⁶ And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Conclusion: We have been concerned with salvation requirements from the alien sinner, but the Christian must add the “Christian graces”; 1 Pet. 1:5-11 ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

We must not neglect salvation; Heb. 2:1-3 ¹ Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip. ² For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; ³ How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him;*”