

Saved from What?



“Are you saved, Brother?” is heard more often on television, poking fun at Christians, than heard on the streets and in the workplace; yet, it is asked, and it is misunderstood.

Before we go further on the word “saved,” let us consider “Saved from what?” That is, “saved from your sins.” So we need to understand these words: sins, saved, the consequences of being saved or not being saved, and how to be saved. Since it is generally best to start at the beginning, let’s start at “sin,” since sin is why we need to be saved.

SIN

Sin is disobedience to God. The first sin was the first disobedience. It occurred in the Garden of Eden:

The serpent said unto the woman (Eve), Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, in the day ye eat thereof, ye shall be as gods. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, she took of the fruit and did eat, and gave also unto her husband; and he did eat. And the Lord God called unto Adam, hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast eaten of the tree, in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. So he drove out the man of the Garden of Eden. From Genesis 3.

Unfortunately for us, God held us all accountable for First Sin. Does that sound fair? I remember in school, sometimes the entire class got in trouble because of a few bigmouths. This punishment for sin seems like the same thing. The difference, in school I never disagreed with the whole class getting in trouble because I was one of the bigmouths. Similarly, I am one of the sinners against God, so I am in familiar territory. Here is what the Bible says about us sinners:

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23.) 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: (Romans 5:12.)

We all know the Ten Commandments: 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me; 2. Don't worship graven images; 3. Don't take the LORD's name in vain; 4. Keep the Sabbath holy; 5. Honor thy father and mother; 6. Don't kill; 7. Do not commit adultery; 8. Do not steal; 9. Do not lie; 10. Do not be covetous. There are other commandments such as Love thy neighbor, love thine enemies, do unto others, etc. How many of these did you break today? Are you a sinner?

SAVED

So now we know that everyone has sinned according to the Scriptures. This is what we need to be saved from, sin. But what if I don't sin? Do I need to be saved? What if a bunch of us get with lawyers and plea bargain with God?

The Bible says all have sinned. There goes the first argument. Anyone that says he hasn't sinned is a liar! That violates commandment #9, which is also a sin. Further, with God all have sinned, even a brand new baby is born into sin.

God is a Just God and must condemn us for our sins. And though we are condemned already, God is a God of love and mercy and has provided a substitute to bear the burden of the penalty of our sins, that being His Son, the LORD Jesus. God provided a way for us to be saved.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT BEING SAVED

Let me be blunt. Does the word “Hell” mean anything to you? Fiery furnace? Bottomless pit? Following are some bleak passages:

- *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matthew 7:21a-23.*
- *But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God. Luke 12:9.*
- *Heaven can be entered only through the narrow gate! The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide enough for all the multitudes who choose its easy way. Matthew 7:13 LVB.*
- *Keep far from a false charge, and do not slay the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked. Exodus 23:7 RSV.*
- *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Revelation 21:8.*

THE HOPE IN ONE THAT IS SAVED

This is what awaits the saved:

- *Eternity with God: In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* John 14:2-3.
- *An eternal, immortal body: Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.
- *Eternal reward: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.* Revelation 21:1-4, 7.
- *Peace eternal: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:7.

HOW TO BE SAVED

When Jesus walked the earth, He taught the concept of sin, so the multitudes knew what sin was. Sin is simply disobeying God. Jesus told them they needed to be saved from their sins. They knew why they needed saved, but not how. When the Apostles Paul and Silas were asked “How?”: *Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.* Acts 16:30b-31.

The words of Jesus: *If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* John 3:12-18.

Paul: *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Romans 6:23.

Paul: *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* Ephesians 2:8-9.

Salvation from our sins is for anyone who will accept God's gift. *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:* John 1:12.

To accept Jesus as your Savior, pray: *“Dear Father in Heaven, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent and ask that you will forgive me. I accept Jesus as my Savior. From this day forward I will strive to live for Him. Dear LORD Jesus, please come into my heart. Amen.”*

Excerpted from Lerch, Harold, Sr., *Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right, but Three Lefts Do*,
Fairfax VA 22030, Xulon Press 2003

Word to the World Ministries



Harold A. Lerch, Sr. P.E.
PO Box 4, Middleburg PA 17842
Web www.word2world.com
E-mail [info@ word2world.com](mailto:info@word2world.com)