

WHY ME? HELP AND HOPE FOR THE HURTING: FACTOR THREE

We Reap What Christ Sowed – The Cross/Chapter Five: An Invitation

In light of what Jesus has done, God requires from each of us a personal decision of faith, so that we can experience the benefit of Christ's redemptive work when we receive and experience Him. *The choice is up to you!* But when our everyday lives are going well, the urgency of such a decision doesn't seem so great. The tendency for each of us is to come to the conclusion: "It doesn't get any better than this." If you are a non-Christian, that statement is most definitely true. But for the Christian, nothing could be further from the truth. The difference can be stated as follows: "For the non-Christian, this present earthly life is the closest he will ever get to heaven. For the Christian, this present earthly life will be the closest he will ever get to hell." After this life is over, the Christian's future is bright, while the non-Christian's is anything but. In light of such a strong contrast, why would a decision for Christ be anything but a clear and obvious choice? It should be. It can be. God has made it so simple that even a child can make a decision of faith to trust Jesus Christ. The following expresses God's plan of salvation.

Everyone has sinned.

All of us are born sinful and commit sins, either in thought, word or deed, every day.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. . ." (Romans 3:23)

Because of our sin, we deserve an eternal death in hell.

God is holy and cannot allow sin into heaven. The punishment for our sin is death (separation from God) in hell forever.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Christ died to take the punishment for our sin.

Christ's death on the cross paid the penalty for our sin. He took our punishment for us by dying in our place.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Salvation is a free gift of God's grace which we receive by trusting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord. We must personally trust in the person of Jesus Christ and His redemptive work on our behalf, in order to be saved.

"But as many as received Him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. . ." (John 1:12)

Pray to receive Christ.

Dear God, I acknowledge that I have sinned against You and that the greatest need of my life is to be forgiven. Thank you for providing me with a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that He is God the Son who became God the man; that He lived a sinless life and died on the Cross to pay the penalty of my sin; and that He rose from the dead, so that I could share in His eternal resurrection life. Lord Jesus, I place my complete trust in You. Come into my life and forgive me of my sin. Grant me eternal life and begin changing my life for the better, starting today. Amen.