

“The Truth As We Know It”
Salvation through Jesus.
1/11/15

Good morning.

I grew up in a very strict religious home. My folks were Old Order Amish and faithful to their church. We had prayer every morning. There were twelve of us and after breakfast we would scoot our chairs back from the table and kneel and my Dad would read a prayer from the German prayer book.

I remember those good days fondly. It made me feel very secure and safe. We were what I believed were good Christians. Secure in our traditions that the Amish had held to for many hundreds of years. We were good citizens, we worked hard, paid our bills, took care of our neighbors, we were faithful in attending church. I enjoyed going to church. I enjoyed listening to good speakers and followed them as best I could at the time.

But I was unsaved! I had a relationship with the church, but not with Jesus! When I was about nine years old, a buddy of mine told me the world was going to end the following year. I got scared, so when I got home, I found my mother and asked her about it. Her response was for me not to worry, because I was still young and all children go to heaven.

I believe my mother could have led me to Christ that day had she understood to plan of Salvation herself. Sad to say my folk's understanding of being a Christian was based on works. On keeping and following the rules the church.

Many millions of church going Christians are in the same situation today. Very much like the Pharisees of old, depending on good works to get us to heaven.

But that will not get us to heaven! It is only through the sacrificial blood of Jesus that we can be saved! It is not of good works!

We feel our good works outweigh our bad works so we try hard to meet the standard, or we feel that because God is a God of love, he would never let us be lost.

But you see that because of Adam's sin, everyone was born in sin. We inherited it from the original sin of Adam.

Romans 3:11-12, "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are all together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

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

Rom 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:"

1Co 15:21-22, "For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

You see, we need a Savior. We can not save ourselves!

How many sins do we have to commit to be a sinner? Have any of us ever lied, or said things we should not have said, or done any one of the awful sins that are in our culture now?

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

Our sins stack up in the eyes of God until we repent!

Rom 2:5 "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;"

But because of God's great love toward us he gave the greatest sacrifice of all! He gave us Jesus.

Rom 5:8 "But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

The message of Salvation is very simple! God's love reaches out to all those who will turn to Him in repentance. And it takes repentance! A turning away from our wicked ways to God!

The Bible is clear! God will save all those who truly call on Him in repentance.

Rom 10:9-13, "That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture says, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 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. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

It takes repentance! Not just a simple prayer for forgiveness without a changed life.

John the Baptist preached repentance.

Mar 1:4, "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

Jesus preached repentance!

Mat 4:17, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The apostles preached repentance!

Act 3:19, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"

I am concerned that far too many may feel that because sometime in their life they have gone to an altar, said a simple prayer for forgiveness, perhaps gotten baptized in water, without a changed life, that they will be greatly disappointed on judgment day.

James tells us that faith alone, without the works of repentance, is vain!

Jas 2:14-20, "What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God; you do well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt you know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

Jesus' admonition to us is that we must 'Abide' or live in Him.

John 15:5-7, "I am the vine, *ye are* the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Jesus extends an invitation to us all: He says, "Come unto me, all *ye* that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

If you have not yet made that most important of all decisions, please do so today. Jesus is waiting for you now!

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. There is no other name on whom we can call. Atheism is a temporary condition for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!