

God loves you so very much.

A photograph of a family of three. On the left is a man in a dark suit, red shirt, and striped tie. In the center is a young boy in a blue shirt, black vest, and blue tie. On the right is a woman in a dark blue top. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus sunset over a body of water.

How to Have Eternal Life

by Evangelist Darrell Ratcliff

How to Have Eternal Life

Eight Exciting Messages about Salvation

By Missionary Evangelist Darrell Ratcliff

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All cited verses are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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It is my prayer and desire that this book would help precious souls to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

About the Author

Missionary Evangelist Darrell Ratcliff has served as a missionary to the country of Mexico, and he has also preached the Gospel in several other countries of the world. God has used Evangelist Ratcliff to reach multitudes of people with the Gospel; he has held numerous evangelistic campaigns, with thousands of people coming to know Christ as their Saviour. He has also established several churches on the mission field.

God has used Evangelist Ratcliff in many churches, conferences, Christian colleges and Bible institutes to teach, motivate, and challenge the people of God to do more for the cause of Christ. His focus and emphasis is the importance of reaching others for Christ.

The prayer and desire of Missionary Evangelist Darrell Ratcliff for you is that God would richly bless you and use you in a great way to fulfill the commandment of our God, reaching more people for the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Chapter 1

Come Home

The Bible says in Luke 15:11, (Jesus is telling the story here): “And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never

gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.” (Luke 15:11-32)

This is the well-known story of the prodigal son. The son went to his father and asked for his inheritance because he wanted to enjoy it at that time. However, the son went out and wasted his inheritance on the party life. Then, when all of his money was lost, he was so desperate that he was willing to feed the pigs.

The Jewish people did not have anything to do with pigs, swine, or hogs. But the prodigal son was so desperate for money that he was willing to feed the pigs. But not only that, he was in such a terrible situation that he was willing to eat pig slop. Can you imagine that?

But later he said, “Wait a minute! There are some servants of my father that have it better than this. I will go home and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and thy sight. I am not worthy to be called thy son. Let me be as one of thy hired servants.’” So the son started to travel to his father’s house.

When the father saw the son from a distance, he ran to his son and put his arms around his son. The father said, “My son, you were lost, but now you are found. You went astray, but now you are back. You have come home. Oh, you came home!”

I am writing to you about that great invitation to each and every one of us: "Come Home." That father was waiting for his son to come home, and when the son came home, his father ran to him to receive him. They killed the fatted calf to celebrate. They had a good time because the son had gone away, but now he had come home.

It does not matter what we have done. It does not matter how far we have gone astray. I do not know what some people are going through right now. They say, “Preacher, you don't know how bad I am. You don't know the things that I have done. You don't know what I am into right now.” But I can tell you this today: God is saying to

us, “Come home. Come home. Oh, come home. It doesn't matter what you have done. Come home.”

Years ago, there was a Brazilian girl named Cristina who longed to leave her poor neighborhood in Brazil. Cristina wanted to see the world. Discontent with a home that had only a pallet on the floor to sleep on, a wash bucket, and a wood-burning stove, she dreamed of a better life in the city. One morning she ran away, breaking her mother’s heart.

Knowing what life on the streets would be like for her young attractive daughter, Maria her mother hurriedly packed to go to find her. On her way to the bus stop, she entered a drug store to get one last thing – pictures, just pictures. She sat in a photograph booth, closed the curtain, and spent all that she could on pictures of herself. With her purse full of small black and white photos, Maria boarded the next bus to Rio de Janeiro.

Maria knew that Cristina had no way of earning money. She also knew that her daughter was too stubborn to give up. When pride meets hunger, a human will do things that were before unthinkable. Knowing this, Maria began her search in bars, hotels, nightclubs; any place with a reputation for street walkers or prostitutes, she went to them all. In each place she left her own picture, taped on a bathroom mirror, tacked to a hotel bulletin board, or fastened to a corner of a phone booth. The mom had written on the back of each photo a special message.

However, not much time had passed before both the money and the pictures ran out, and Maria had to go home. The weary mother wept as the bus began its long journey back to her small village.

A few weeks later, young Cristina descended the hall stairs. Her young face was tired. Her brown eyes no longer danced with youth but spoke of pain and fear. Her laughter was broken. Her dream had become a nightmare. A thousand times over she had longed to trade those countless beds for her secure pallet at home. Yet the village was, in many ways, too far away from her.

As Cristina reached the bottom of the stairs, her eyes noticed a familiar face. She

looked again, and there on the lobby mirror was a small picture of her mother. Christina's eyes burned and her throat tightened as she walked across the room and removed the small photo. Written on the back was this compelling invitation: "Whatever you have done, whatever you have become, it doesn't matter. Please come home." And she did! She went home!

My friend, God is calling out and saying the same thing to you today. He is saying, "Whatever you have done, whatever you have become, it doesn't matter. Please come home." God is saying, "Come home to Me. I love you. I care about you. I want you to be with Me forever in a place of no more hurt, no more pain, and no more sorrow." Come home to God today.

From the beginning to the end of the Bible, the invitation is the same: Come to the Saviour. Come to God. Come home. It does not matter how far you have gone. Come home to God. In the book of Genesis in the beginning of the Bible, in Genesis 7:1 the Bible says, "And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark." We know the story how the flood came upon the whole earth, and the earth was destroyed. But there was an invitation given by God to Noah and his family to come into the ark.

Many people could have gone into the ark, but they decided not to go to the ark that day. But God is saying to you, "Don't be destroyed. Don't let your life be ruined. Come home. I love you. I don't care what you have done. I love you. I want you to be with Me forever."

In the book of Revelation, the final book in the Bible, it says this: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." God wants you to have eternal life. God wants you to live with Him forever and ever in a place of no more hurt, no more pain, no more sorrow; a wonderful place called Heaven. God is saying, "Come home. Come home. Oh, come home." The invitation is to you. I am not talking about someone else. I am talking to you. God loves you. God cares for you, and He wants you

to come home today.

Jesus one time told a story, and He said, "A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." (Luke 14:16-23)

Jesus wants you to go to Heaven someday. Heaven is a place where there is no fighting, no problems, no wars, no cancer, no disease, and no heartaches. It is a wonderful place, and Jesus said, "I want you to come to this place with Me." Come home, my friend. Come home before it is too late.

The late General William Booth told of a family of four who lived in London. The father, mother, son, and daughter all vowed to be enemies of the Gospel of Christ. So antagonistic were they that they declared that they never wanted a Christian to enter their home.

In the community there was a young lady who yearned and prayed for their salvation. When she heard that the son was sick, she decided to visit them in spite of their opposition. She climbed the stairs and paused for a breath just outside the apartment door. Then she heard the voice of the father, "Hold on, son. Hold on. You may die, but there is nothing beyond. We have read all of the books and reasoned it all out. There is nothing beyond. Soon you will drift off into a peaceful sleep, and that will be all. Hold on, son."

Then the visiting girl heard the sobbing cry of the mother. "My precious boy, it breaks my heart to see you go. But don't be afraid. We have investigated all the possibilities of the future life, and there is nothing out there. You will soon be asleep forever. Hold on, son. Hold on."

Then she heard the sister say, "Don't falter now, brother. You know that we decided a long time ago that there is nothing beyond death. Soon you will go to sleep, and that will be all. Just hold on."

Then she heard the voice of the boy. With despair and grief in his voice, he said, "That's all right, but there is nothing to hold onto. I'm going down into dark with nothing to hold onto."

That is so true. There is no hope for the one who does not have Christ. Without Christ, you are lost and on your way to Hell. Come to God right now before it is too late. Come to Jesus and say, "Jesus, I need You. Come into my heart, save me from Hell," and Jesus will answer that prayer. Come home to Jesus today before it is too late.

The Bible says, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18) It does not matter what you have done. It does not matter what your sin is; God can forgive you. Just come home to God. God is saying, "Come home. I love you. Just come to Me. I gave My life for you." Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

I do not know what your burdens are. I do not know what your heartaches are. I do not know why you cry at night. I do not know what is coming against you, but come to Jesus. Jesus can help you. Jesus can set you free. The Bible says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36) There is only One Person Who can help you. You can try drugs. You can try all the things in the world, but there is a void inside you, and there is only One Person Who can fill that void in your life, and that Person is Jesus Christ. So, come to Jesus. Oh, come to Jesus Christ. Jesus wants to help

you. Jesus said, "And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37b)

Come to Jesus, because Jesus will not cast you out. Jesus will love you and take care of you. Jesus died for you. I want you to think about this: They put spikes into His hands and feet, and He suffered and he bled and he died. Why? Jesus suffered, bled, and died on the cross for you. "Oh, Jesus, why did You suffer and bleed and die?" I can see Jesus saying from Heaven, "Because I love these folks. You are special to Me. I gave My life for you."

They took that whip and they ripped Jesus' back open, and blood flowed down His back. They whipped him, and whipped him, and whipped him. Why? Jesus was suffering for our sins. Jesus died for us. The Bible says, "But he {Jesus} 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." (Isaiah 53:5) Jesus suffered, bled, and died to forgive us of our sins, save us from Hell, and give us a home in Heaven. Jesus died for you. So come to Jesus. Jesus is saying, "Come to Me. I gave My life for you." So come to Jesus Christ today.

Years ago, a young man had been away from his home and his parents for many years. He longed to return, but the thought of seeing his parents face to face and possibly having them reject him was too much to bear. He decided to send them a telegram saying that he would be passing by their house on a train on a certain day at a certain time, and that if they wanted him to come home, could they just hang a red blanket or cloth in the old oak tree. Then he would know if he was welcome home or not.

That day as the train neared the home where the man's parents lived, the man was nervous as he wondered if the red blanket would be there in the tree. What would his parents think? Would they reject him forever? Dreading the thought of seeing the empty oak tree, he said to the man next to him as they got closer, "I can't bear to look. We are coming up to the old white farm house. Could you look out and tell me if you see a red blanket hanging in the oak tree out front?"

The man looked out the window and replied, "There isn't one red blanket in the

tree. Oh, it is full of red blankets, and an old man and an old woman are standing out in the yard, both waving red blankets!" Those parents were saying, "Come home! Come home! Come home!" So the man did.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus shed His precious blood so that you could be forgiven of your sins and go to Heaven someday. Jesus is saying to you today, "Come home. Come home. Come home." Just like those parents were saying, "Come home," Jesus is saying, "Come home. Come home. Come home." Oh, come to Jesus today.

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ in your heart and life to go to Heaven, please pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me for my sins. Save me from Hell and take me to Heaven when I die. I believe that You died for me on the cross so I could go to Heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my life to take me to Heaven. Amen."

When you trust in Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven, Jesus is in your heart forever, and one day He will take you to a wonderful place called Heaven.

Chapter 2

Salvation is Simple

The Bible says in Acts 16:22, “And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, 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 16:22-31)

Paul and Silas were going around and preaching about Jesus Christ, telling about how Jesus died on the cross to forgive people of their sins, save them from Hell, and take them to a wonderful place called Heaven someday. All anyone has to do is trust in Jesus alone, and He will save that person from Hell and take him to Heaven. Some people got mad about that, and Paul and Silas were thrown into prison.

Then, all of a sudden, there was a great earthquake, and the foundations of the prison were shaken. The keeper of the prison woke up and saw that the doors were open, and he knew as a leader watching over the prisoners, that if he did not do his job, then he could be tortured or be mistreated badly, so he took out his sword and was about ready to kill himself. But Paul said, “Wait a minute! We are all here! Do yourself no harm!”

The keeper of the prison ran to Paul, and he fell before Paul and Silas and said, “Oh, sirs, what must I do to be saved? I have heard you sing and talk about Jesus. I want to know how my sins can be forgiven. I want to know how I can be saved from Hell! I want to know how I can go to Heaven!”

Paul and Silas responded and told him, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...” (Acts 16:31) My friend, it's that simple. We have to believe, trust, depend, and rely upon Jesus Christ alone to save us from Hell and take us to Heaven.

That is why we are talking about the subject, “Salvation is Simple.” Salvation is a very simple thing; it is not very complicated. God loves us and wants us to be with Him in a wonderful place called Heaven. God is NOT saying, “To go to Heaven, you have to do many good works. You have to go to the church so many times, or you have to do this or that.” No! He just says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...” (Acts 16:31) Trust in Jesus Christ, God’s Son Who died on the Cross for you to save you from Hell. If you will trust in Jesus, then you can go to Heaven, a place of no more hurt or pain or sorrow. My friend, salvation is so simple!

During the Spanish-American War, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt commanded a regiment of Rough Riders in Cuba. He became much attached to his men and was greatly concerned when a number of them fell sick. Hearing that Clara Barton (the lady who devoted herself to the work of nursing the wounded soldiers) had received a supply of food for the invalids under her care, Colonel Roosevelt requested her to sell some food to him for the sick men of his regiment. However, his request was denied.

The colonel was very troubled. He cared for his men and was willing to pay for the food for his men out of his own pocket. He was willing to pay for it himself! “How can I get this food for my soldiers?” he asked. “I must have proper food for the sick men.”

Then it was told him, “Colonel, just ask for the food. Just ask for it.”

“Oh,” said Roosevelt, his face breaking into a smile. “That’s the way, isn’t it? Then I do ask for the food!” And he got it at once.

My friend, receiving salvation is that simple. You cannot work for it. You cannot do anything for it. You just ask for it. You ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into your heart, to save you from Hell and take you to Heaven. If you will do so, He will save you. Salvation is that simple.

We live in a world with so much hurt, pain, and sorrow, and so many bad things happen. There are many people that are empty inside, and they try drugs, alcohol, religion, and many other things to fill that emptiness in their lives, but there is only one Person Who can fill that emptiness. You see, the Lord created you to have a relationship with Him, and the only way you can fill that emptiness in your life is to have the Lord Jesus Christ in your life. There are so many people living in loneliness. They may have many people around them, but they are lonely inside because they need that relationship with the Lord Jesus.

There are many people who are guilty. They think, “I have done so many bad things. I don’t know if I could be forgiven. I don’t know if I could ever get rid of this guilt and shame that I have.” I tell you, Jesus Christ can set you free today. The Bible says, “If the Son {the Lord Jesus Christ} therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36) Many people are living with fear of death and just fear in general as well. They are wondering what will happen when they die. The Bible says, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27) We all need to prepare for all eternity. God does not want us to worry about the future. Jesus loves you and cares about you so much that He died for you so that you could have eternal life.

Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10b) Jesus gave His life for you so you would not have to be separated from Him in a place called Hell, but instead you can go to Heaven someday. That is why Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6) Salvation is so simple because all you have to do is trust Jesus to take you to Heaven.

Jesus is the Door through which we must enter. Imagine if there were a door in front of you. What would you have to do to get to the destination? You would have to go through the door. Jesus said, "I am the door..." (John 10:7) In other words, He said, "I gave My life for you so if you will trust in Me, then you can go to Heaven." Jesus said it like this, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." (John 6:47)

Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him..." (Revelation 3:20) Jesus is knocking on your heart's door. Jesus is saying, "I love you. I want to come into your heart, forgive you for all the bad things you have done, save you from Hell, and take you to a wonderful place called Heaven."

Jesus loves you so very much. My friend, salvation is so simple. I am reminded of the story in the Old Testament when the children of Israel sinned, and some fiery serpents came out, and they bit the Israelites, and many of the people of Israel died. So the children of Israel cried out, "We have sinned against God! Oh, Lord, forgive us and help us!" The Lord heard them and said unto Moses, "Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live." (Numbers 21:8)

My friend, it is that simple. These people had been bitten by serpents and were losing their lives, and all they had to do was look at that serpent on the pole, and they would live. It was something that God did for them that they could not do for themselves. In the New Testament, Jesus said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." (John 3:14) If you will look to Jesus' sacrifice for the forgiveness of your sins, you will be saved from Hell and will go to Heaven someday.

Think about what Jesus went through for you. They spit in Jesus' face. They plucked His beard out. They put a crown of thorns on His brow, and blood flowed down His face. They put a blindfold over His eyes, and they hit Him, and they said, "Who hit

You, Jesus? Who hit You?” Jesus could have called down thousands of angels and wiped them out. Why didn’t He do that? He did not call down angels to save Him because Jesus wanted to give His life for you. Jesus loves you. Jesus died for you. Jesus gave His life for you.

They took a whip and ripped His back open, and they beat Jesus, and beat Jesus. Jesus suffered, bled, and died to forgive you of your sins. Your sin or your wrong separates you from God, but Jesus died to forgive you of your sins, save you from Hell, and give you a wonderful home in Heaven if you will trust in Him to save you. They drove spikes into His hands and feet. They picked up that cross and they dropped it down into the ground. Jesus suffered, bled, and died for you! Jesus loves you!

Jesus died to save you from Hell so that you could go to Heaven. If you will trust in Jesus as your only way to get to Heaven, the Bible says that you “...shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13) The Bible doesn’t say, “Hopefully you will be saved,” or “Maybe,” or “Cross your fingers.” No, the Bible says that you “shall be saved.” You cannot trust in Jesus AND in your good works to get to Heaven. You cannot trust in Jesus AND in going to church to get to Heaven. You cannot trust in Jesus plus anything else. No, you must trust in Jesus ALONE to take you to Heaven! Jesus is the Saviour of the whole world. A savior is one who rescues somebody who cannot do anything to save himself.

I have heard it said like this: If you were in a swimming pool and were about ready to drown, a lifeguard would come in and save your life. But you would have to realize that you were helpless and that you needed to be saved. Salvation is the same way. Salvation is simple. You cannot do anything to save yourself. Jesus paid the price for you to set you free. All you have to do is say, “Jesus, save me,” and He will do it immediately. Salvation is so very simple. The Lord says, “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.” (Isaiah 45:22) Look to Jesus, and you will live and have everlasting life in a wonderful place of no more hurt or pain or sorrow. Salvation is simply believing and receiving – believing that

Jesus died for you, and receiving Jesus as the only Way to Heaven. Salvation is that simple.

I am reminded of a little girl who went to her father who was a preacher and said, “Daddy, I don’t know if I’m saved. I don’t know if I’m going to go to Heaven for sure. I have some doubts about it.”

So the daddy said to the little girl, “Sweetheart, what are you trusting in to get you to Heaven?”

She said, “Well, I am trusting in Jesus. Jesus gave His life for me. I am trusting in Jesus.”

The father responded, “Then you are saved, because the Bible says, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.’” (Acts 16:31)

Salvation is not based on feelings. Salvation is not based on what you do. It is based on what Jesus did. The question is: Have you trusted in what Jesus did for you to get to Heaven? When we trust in Jesus, we are saved and on our way to Heaven.

Salvation is so simple. It is repentance. Jesus said, “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:5) What is repentance? Repentance has been defined as “changing one’s mind” or “a turn.” It’s kind of like this: Remember, you are guilty of sin, and because of that sin, you are on your way to Hell. Maybe you trust in your good works, your religion or something else to get you to Heaven, but then you change your mind, and you realize that Jesus Christ died on the cross to forgive you of your sins, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven, and you trust in Jesus or turn to Jesus as your way to Heaven. That is repentance. You change your mind to realize that Jesus is the only way of salvation. You trust in Jesus alone to get you to Heaven.

Salvation is simply like coming home. The invitation is for you to come to Jesus so you can have eternal life.

Remember the prodigal son who went to his father and said, “Daddy, give me my inheritance that I may enjoy it.”

Maybe the father said something like this: “Son, don’t do that. I don’t think that’s wise. Son, you’re not prepared.”

Eventually the father consented to the son’s wishes and gave the son his inheritance, and the son went out, and wasted the money on the party life. After his money was all gone, he eventually was in such a bad situation that he was willing to feed pigs and eat the pig's food.

But then the son came to himself and said, “Wait a minute. I will go home and say, ‘Daddy, I'm sorry. Can I just work for you?’”

So when he came home, the father saw him, ran to him, embraced him, and said, “Son, you were lost, but now you are found! You went astray, but now you are home again.”

As sinners, we are all lost, but we can come home to Jesus Christ. Just like that son went back home, and his father ran to him, you just come to Jesus and say, “Jesus, I need You. Please save me,” and He will save you. Come to Jesus Christ, and He will receive you. Jesus said, “...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37b) If you come to Jesus, Jesus will not cast you away. Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you.

Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) Come to Jesus; He can set you free. If you want to have life everlasting, and if you do not want to go to Hell, then come to Jesus. He will give you rest. He will take you to a wonderful place of no more hurt or pain. Just come to Jesus. It is that simple.

My friend, salvation is so simple; it is like asking and receiving. The Bible says, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13) The Bible doesn’t say “hopefully” or “might be,” but it says, “shall be saved...” Saved from what? Saved from Hell by calling out to Jesus and asking Jesus to save you from Hell and take you to Heaven. Salvation is that simple. Salvation is the sinner’s prayer: “God, be merciful to me a sinner and save my soul.”

Let me say this: Just saying a prayer does not save you; Jesus is the One Who saves you. When you pray the sinner's prayer, you are asking Jesus to save you. You are trusting in Jesus to take you to Heaven. Salvation is so simple. As the Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31)

I love Christmas. I love to receive gifts, but a true gift is free, with no strings attached. You cannot work for or earn a free gift. You just receive a gift. For example, imagine if I were to say to you, "I want to give you this gift, but you have to come to church to receive the gift." Would that be a gift? No. If I were to say, "I want to give you this gift, but you have to do many good works to receive it," would that be a gift? No. A true gift is free with no strings attached. What would you have to do to receive the gift? You would just have to reach out and receive it.

It is the same with Jesus. Jesus died for the whole world. Jesus died to forgive us of our sins and save us from Hell, but you must receive what Jesus did for you. The Bible says, "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23b) The Bible also says, "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) You cannot work for salvation; you just have to receive salvation like you would receive a gift. You have to receive Jesus in order to get to Heaven.

You must come to Jesus and believe that He died for you to save you from Hell. You have to come to Jesus. You must receive Christ. You have to trust in Jesus alone to take you to Heaven.

Imagine if you were in an ocean and you were about ready to drown. All of a sudden, you saw a boat nearby, and you cried out, "Help! Help! Save me!" That is a picture of salvation. Salvation is so simple. We are all in this ocean of sin, and we are going to drown and go to Hell, but that boat represents Jesus. Jesus died to forgive your sin and take you to Heaven. All you have to do is say, "Jesus, save me," and He will save you in that moment. Just trust in Jesus to save you from Hell to take you to Heaven.

The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31)

Salvation can be compared to taking a plane to Chicago. I must believe that the plane can get me there, and board the plane, trusting it to get me to Chicago. It is the same way with salvation. Jesus died for you, but you have to trust in Jesus to save you from Hell and to take you to Heaven when you die.

Salvation can be compared to sitting in a chair. I can believe that the chair can hold me up, but the chair is not holding me up until I sit on it. It is the same way with Jesus. Jesus died to forgive you of your sins. Jesus died to save you from Hell. Jesus died to take you to Heaven, but you must put all your trust in Jesus to take you to Heaven. You have to depend on Jesus to save you from Hell.

My friend, right now Jesus wants to come into your heart, forgive you of your sins, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven. All you have to do is say, "Jesus, come into my heart. I trust in You to take me to Heaven."

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ in your heart and life to go to Heaven, please pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me for my sins. Save me from Hell and take me to Heaven when I die. I believe that You died for me on the cross so I could go to Heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my life to take me to Heaven. Amen."

When you trust in Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven, Jesus is in your heart forever, and one day He will take you to a wonderful place called Heaven.

Chapter 3

I Want to Live

The Bible says in John 11:39, "Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go." (John 11:39-44)

This is the story of a wonderful miracle that Jesus performed. Lazarus had died and had been in the grave four days, but Jesus went there and said, "Lazarus, come forth," and Lazarus was raised from the dead.

For Jesus to raise the dead is easy, because He is the Creator of the universe and all that is in it. Think about all of the galaxies out there and all of the planets and the stars that seem impossible to number. The Lord Jesus created all of them. Therefore Jesus can help you. The Lord is great and has formed everything, like the complexity of your human body, the cell structure, the complexity of your DNA, and the complexity of the human eye. So you are no accident. You are special to God. God loves you.

So God raised Lazarus from the dead and gave him life. Later Lazarus eventually died, but because of his belief in Christ he was able to go to a wonderful place called Heaven, a place of no more hurt and pain and sorrow. My friend, we are all going to live forever. You may not understand this completely, but your body is not the real you. Your body is just housing the real you. You are a spirit or soul, and you will live on forever.

Your body is going to die and go to the grave, but your spirit or soul will go to Heaven or go to Hell. You will live somewhere forever.

The question is: Where do you want to live? Therefore let's explore this great desire: "I Want to Live." I believe we all want to live in a place of peace and true happiness.

Isn't it amazing how life is so brief? The Bible says, "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14b) It is like blinking your eyes and then you are gone. You are just one heartbeat away from eternity. Death could happen so quickly.

The Scripture says, "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Proverbs 27:1) We are not guaranteed tomorrow, and because our spirit or soul is going to live forever, we need to prepare for eternity. I want to live, and I believe that you do as well. Nobody in his right mind wants to go to Hell for ever and ever. Life is so brief.

Many times, after someone has departed this life, people have this question: "Did he say anything before he died?" Voltaire was a French atheist who predicted the demise of Christianity (which has not happened, by the way.) As Voltaire was dying, he screamed, "I have been a fool! The Hell in which I never believed now awaits me."

Robert Ingersol, the renowned atheist, lamented, "I have lived a wasted life. I am about to leap into the dark unknown." Many have cried out, "Help! Help!" but it was too late. But if you will trust in Christ as your Saviour, then you can look forward to the beauty of Heaven.

Susana Wesley was the mother of John and Charles Wesley, who had great revivals for Christ. Knowing that she only had a few hours to live, Susana Wesley said, "Children, I am about ready to go to be with our Lord. Would you please sing a song of praise to God?" Susana Wesley was looking forward to seeing Jesus.

Adoniram Judson, the great missionary, testified, "I do not dislike this world. I have enjoyed my ministry and my work for Christ. Now I am leaving this world and

going to Heaven with the same attitude as that of a young boy leaving school, heading for a playground to have fun. I am going to Heaven in the same way."

What a joy when one nears the end of his life in expectation and anticipation for Heaven that is yet to come! I am looking forward to seeing Heaven. Are you prepared for eternity? If you were to die today, do you know for sure you would go to Heaven?

Every person has an appointment with death. Death is ever before him, blighting his hopes, checking his plans, thwarting his purpose, a barrier that nothing can bring down. Ever since sin entered the world, death has reigned, making the earth one huge graveyard. Death has not rested for a moment in every age and every country. "Dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return" has been the sentence hanging over every person.

Many unexpected things happen to us in this life, but death is not among them. We do not know how or when death will come, but come it will if the Lord tarry. We have heard of doctors who have performed wonderful cures, but all of their skill and knowledge have been unable to undo the work of death. In all the years since death entered into this sin-cursed earth, human means have failed to win back a single trophy from death. Advanced civilization, increased education, progress, commerce and art, none of these things make us superior to the most degraded savages. Death always triumphs over us all.

However, the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ give us victory over death. Death is swallowed up in victory. The sting of death is sin, but God has given us the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Saviour to save us from eternal death and separation from God. A savior is someone who rescues someone from harm. If you were in a burning house and you could not get out, then a rescuer would arrive and break the door in and pull you out and save your life. You could do nothing to help yourself. You would need to be saved.

You cannot save yourself from Hell. Therefore allow Jesus to save you from Hell and take you to Heaven, and He will do so.

Jesus died on the cross for us so we could be forgiven of our sins and saved from

Hell. Then Jesus rose from the dead, proving that if we will trust in Him, we can go to Heaven. Jesus rose from the dead! The Bible says in Matthew 28:1, "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." (Matthew 28:5-6)

The resurrection of Jesus is what makes Jesus different from all of the other religious leaders like Confucius, Mohammed, and others. They are dead, and you can go to their graves, but you cannot see where Jesus is buried, because Jesus rose from the dead.

Jesus was either Lord of all, or He was a liar, or He was a lunatic. You say, "What are you talking about? I don't believe that Jesus was a liar! He taught so many wonderful things." I believe that Jesus was not a liar. He always said the truth. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) So Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

Maybe someone says, "Well, maybe Jesus was a lunatic." Does that mean the One Who taught so many great things was crazy and out of His mind and deserved to be in a mental hospital? No! No! So, if Jesus is not a liar or a lunatic, then He is Lord of all. Jesus is Who He said He was, and He said that He was the only Way to Heaven.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25) In other words, Jesus said, "If you will trust Me, I will take you to Heaven."

The evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is overwhelming. Let me just give you a few examples of the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. Think about this: Jesus' disciples were fishermen and common men. They were so afraid when Jesus was crucified. But later they became martyrs for the cause of Christ because they said Jesus rose from the dead.

Some people say that the disciples stole the body of Jesus so that they could get some type of a claim of being famous. But do you think that people who ran away

earlier were then going to face death for a lie? No way. They actually ended up dying because they said that Jesus rose from the dead! Why? Jesus really rose from the grave.

Why would Paul, that man who was persecuting Christians and putting them to death, later end up dying for Christ? Well, he met with the resurrected Jesus on the Damascus road, and his life was transformed, all because he believed that Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead. Paul said that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then we preach in vain, or our faith is in vain. We are lost and on our way to Hell. There is nothing good in store for us. But the good news is that Jesus rose from the dead. If you will study the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus, you will find it is incredible and amazing.

Think of all the five hundred witnesses seeing Jesus at one time. That is incredible eye witness evidence of the resurrection of Christ. If there is a historical fact absolutely proven, it is that Jesus rose from the dead. One of the most amazing things in literature is how God through all the centuries has guarded at every point the evidence of this supreme fact of Christ's resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is an overwhelming certainty.

Now, it does require faith, since we were not actually there, but there so much real evidence for the resurrection of Christ. A great source of our belief is the Bible, written over a fifteen hundred year time span by more than forty different authors, yet with unity throughout it. The Bible is an amazing book. No other text of antiquity matches to the overwhelming evidence for the Bible.

There are so many prophecies about Jesus: where He was going to be born, how He would live, how He would die, and that He would rise from the dead. Imagine all of those prophecies being fulfilled in one man. You would have a better chance of winning the lottery many times over than all those prophecies coming true in one man. However, all these prophecies did come true through Christ. If you would study about Jesus and the prophecies about Him and His resurrection, you would trust Christ as your Saviour.

Think about this: if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then His enemies could have

hauled His dead carcass into downtown Jerusalem and shut the whole Christianity thing down. But do you know why they could not do that? Jesus rose from the dead! Jesus is alive! I can tell you this: Jesus has changed so many lives. So many people have given testimony of knowing the living Saviour, how He lives in their hearts, and their lives have been completely transformed.

There was a young boy who grew up in a home where there was a lot of fussing and fighting. When he was fifteen years of age, his parents got divorced. He felt like nobody loved him, and nobody cared about him. He thought, ‘Why is all of this happening to me?’ But somebody changed his life. The Lord Jesus Christ changed his life. That young person trusted in Jesus, and Jesus gave him purpose, peace, and a future.

My friend, I was that young person. I felt like nobody loved me and cared about me. Why were all these bad things happening to me? But Jesus changed my life. Because Jesus rose from the dead, He now lives in my heart, and He will never leave me nor forsake me. One day because of my trust in Jesus, I will go to Heaven, because Jesus was raised for my justification.

Jesus was born in an obscure village. He did not go to college, and never went really far from His home town. So what are the odds that this Person would impact the world? Yet His single life has impacted the history of the world. Calendars mark Him. Libraries are filled with books about Him. Great songs have been sung about Him. Jesus has impacted this world. Great missionaries have gone to all parts of the world, helping the savage to be set free and be decent through faith in Christ.

Jesus was more than a carpenter, a good teacher, and a great prophet. Jesus was the King of kings and the Lord of lords Who came to redeem us and save us from Hell so that we could go to Heaven. When Jesus died on the cross, He not only died for us, but He died to meet the holy and just requirements of the basic nature of God. See, God is a just Judge and because of that, we deserve to go to Hell because God will by no means clear the guilty of sin. But Christ died so that we could be forgiven and set free.

An incident that took place many years ago in California shows what Jesus did on the cross in order to solve the problem that God had in dealing with the sin of humanity.

A young woman was stopped for speeding. She was ticketed and taken before the judge. The judge read off the citation and said, "Guilty or not guilty?"

The woman replied, "Guilty."

The judge brought down the gavel and fined her one hundred dollars or ten days in jail. Then an amazing thing took place. The judge stood up, took off his robe, walked down in front, took out his billfold, and paid the fine. What is the explanation for this?

The judge was the woman's father. The judge loved his daughter, but he was a just judge. His daughter had broken the law and he could not simply say to her, "Because I love you so much, I will forgive you. You may leave." If he would have done that, he would not have been a righteous judge. He would not have upheld the law. But the judge loved his daughter so much that he was willing to take off his judicial robe and go down in front and represent her as her father and pay the fine.

This illustration pictures to some extent what God did for us through Jesus Christ. We have all done wrong, and the Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23) So no matter how much God loved us, God had to bring down the gavel and say, "Death!" because that is the penalty for sin, and God is a righteous and just God. However, God is a loving God, and He loved us so much that He was willing to come down off the throne in the form of a man, Christ Jesus, and pay the price for us, which was Christ's death on the cross.

The Bible says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) Jesus died on the cross to forgive us of our sins and save us from Hell so that we could go to Heaven. Jesus was raised from the dead for our justification, so that by believing in Jesus, we could go to Heaven someday.

Jesus Christ paid the price to set us free. Think of what Jesus went through. They spit in His face. They put a blindfold over His eyes and hit Him in the face. They plucked His beard out. They put a crown of thorns over His brow, and blood flowed

down His face. They took a whip and they ripped His back open. They beat Jesus and beat Jesus. Why? So you could be forgiven of your sins. So you could be saved from hell and go to Heaven someday.

They drove spikes in His hands and feet. They picked up that cross and let it drop down in a hole in the ground. Jesus was suffering, bleeding, and dying to save us from Hell so that we could go to Heaven. Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead for our justification so that we could go to Heaven. If we will trust in Jesus to save us, we can go to Heaven someday.

During a severe battle in the Civil War in the United States, a soldier was just able to crawl to his tent after he was wounded. When found, he was dying upon his face, his open Bible before him and his hand glued fast to the page with his life's blood which covered it. When his hand was lifted, the letters from the printed page were clearly traced upon his hand, and with the ever-living promise on his hand they laid him in a soldier's grave. The words were those of Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)

I know that Jesus lives. I asked Jesus to come into my heart, save me from Hell, and take me to Heaven, and He changed my life.

My friend, Jesus loves you so much and wants to come into your heart, forgive you of your sins, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven someday. All you have to do is trust Him. The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31) To believe in Christ means to depend on Him and Him alone for salvation.

We are not guaranteed tomorrow. We could pass away in a moment. Therefore you need to trust in Jesus to save you. Believe that He died on the cross to forgive you of your sins and save you from Hell, and that He was raised from the dead so that you could go to Heaven. Trust in Jesus to take you to Heaven.

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ in your heart and life to go to Heaven, please pray this prayer: “Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me for my sins. Save me from Hell and take me to Heaven when I die. I believe that You died for me on the cross so I could go to Heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my life to take me to Heaven. Amen.”

When you trust in Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven, Jesus is in your heart forever, and one day He will take you to a wonderful place called Heaven.

Chapter 4

How Can My Sins Be Forgiven?

The Bible says in Hebrews 9:22, “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.” In other words, without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

Sometimes in life, we wonder, can we ever be forgiven? We have done so many wrong things, and there are so many bad things that can happen in life. We think, “Is there any forgiveness for me? Is there any way that I can have freedom with this situation? I just feel overwhelmed and burdened. There are so many things I have done. Is there a way I can be free? Is there a way I can be pardoned from what I have done so I can go out a free man? Is there deliverance from my sins?” Let's look at that great subject: “How Can My Sins Be Forgiven?” Is there a way that our sins can be forgiven?

A family was involved in a serious traffic accident. Mike, the younger of the two brothers involved, was badly injured and needed a blood transfusion. Mike's big brother, Danny, who was only eight years old, had the same blood type as his younger brother. The dad sat down with Danny and carefully explained to him why this blood transfusion was needed and how wonderful it would be for his younger brother. After some silence, Danny responded by saying, “Yes, Daddy, I will give my blood to Mike so he can get well.”

At the hospital, a pint of blood was drawn from Danny's veins. Only after the needle was removed did Danny turn to his father with tears rolling down his cheeks and ask, “Daddy, when do I die?”

The father suddenly realized with shock that Danny had misunderstood his explanation about giving blood. Danny had thought he was giving all of his blood to save the life of his brother. He thought that he would die after the transfusion was over, yet he had still agreed to help his little brother.

Danny was willing to die so that his little brother could live. The Lord Jesus Christ was willing to die, and did die, that we could have eternal life, so that we can go to Heaven, a wonderful place of no more hurt or pain or sorrow. Jesus gave His life for us that we could live, and so that we could be forgiven of our sins.

God says, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” (Leviticus 17:11) There is only forgiveness through the blood that was given for us. The Bible says, “...the life of the flesh is in the blood...” In other words, when we give our blood, it is like giving our lives, and that is what Jesus did; Jesus gave His life. He gave His blood so that we could have our sins forgiven and go to Heaven. The Bible says, “...without shedding of blood is no remission.” (Hebrews 9:22b) In other words, without shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness. There can be no remission, forgiveness, or deliverance without the shedding of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ Who gave His life so that we could have eternal life.

All throughout the Old Testament, the Bible tells us that the Israelites would sacrifice an animal, and they would shed blood that would cover their sins. The Israelites always looked forward to the day when the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, would come as the Lamb of God Who would give His life for the whole world by shedding His precious blood so their sins could be washed away.

There’s a famous song that goes like this:

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh, precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow.
No other fount I know;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

The precious blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us, washes us, and sets us free from our sin.

In the Old Testament times, there was a time when Moses was in the land of Egypt, and he told Pharaoh to let God's people go, but Pharaoh refused to do so. Then God said, "I am going to send a plague upon the land because this evil ruler will not listen to Me." God said, "The Death Angel is going to pass through and it will take the life of the oldest child of each family. But, children of Israel, listen to me. Shed the blood of a lamb. Put the blood on the doorpost of your house, and when the Death Angel passes by, I will see the blood and will pass over you."

In the same way, if we will trust in the blood of Christ and believe that He shed His blood to forgive us, and put it on the doorpost of our hearts, then when death comes, we will not be destroyed because God says, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you, so that you will live, have eternal life, and go to a wonderful place called Heaven." The blood of Christ makes atonement for the soul.

My friend, God loves you. God created you and wants the very best for you, but your sin has separated you from Him. But God loved you and sent His Son to shed His blood, or give His life, that you could be forgiven of your sins and go to Heaven. The Bible says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood {the blood of Christ}, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Romans 5:8-9)

The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23) "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire..." (Revelation 20:14) Because of our sin, we deserve to be punished in a place called Hell forever and ever, but Jesus said, "No, I don't want you to go to Hell. That's why I shed My blood and gave My life, to forgive you of your sins and the penalty of your sin, which is death and Hell forever and ever. I died to save you from Hell! Trust in Me so that you can go to Heaven. Believe that I shed My blood and gave My life so you can go to Heaven!"

Jesus said, “This is My blood which is shed for the remission of your sins. This is My blood which is shed for the forgiveness of your sins.” Jesus said, “This is My blood that I am giving so you can be set free.”

The blood of Jesus Christ redeems us. The word “redeemed” means “to be bought back.” Because of our sins, we have been separated from God and deserve to go to Hell. God created us to have a relationship with Him, but our sin separates us from God. However, Jesus said, “I shed My blood so that they could be bought back from sin, Hell, death, and the grave, and go to Heaven. I bought them back. I gave My life to pay the price to set them free.”

The Bible says, “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (I Peter 1:18-19) Jesus, the perfect Son of God, shed His perfect, royal, and holy blood that we could be forgiven of all of our sins and go to Heaven.

The blood of Jesus Christ brings us nigh unto God in a relationship with Him. The Bible says, “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” (Ephesians 2:13) We were separated from God, but Jesus shed His blood that we could be in right relationship with our Heavenly Father. Jesus shed His blood so that we could go to Heaven.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6) The Bible also says, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12) Jesus is the One Who saves us from Hell so we can be in right relationship with our Heavenly Father. The Bible says, “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” (Colossians 1:20) We can have peace with God Almighty, peace in our hearts, the peace of God, and the peace that passes all understanding. We can be reconciled to God. We can have our sins forgiven, be clean

and be white as snow. Jesus Christ's blood that was shed for us on the cross, gives us peace.

The blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross justifies us as if we had never sinned. The Bible says, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Romans 5:9) How would you like to be clean, realizing that you are not guilty anymore? When you trust in Jesus to save you, your sins have been removed as far as the east is from the west. You are clean! You are pure! You are righteous through the blood that was shed to cleanse you of your sins. The Bible says, "...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7b)

There is nothing like being cleansed. If you have been working hard and you are dirty, and you get into the shower, and the dirt, mire, and the filthiness is washed off, you feel so clean! You can be clean today! Jesus Christ can wash you through His blood. Jesus shed His blood so that you could be cleansed from your sin, set free, and go to Heaven someday.

The Bible, speaking about Christ, says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." (Ephesians 1:7) Grace has to do with God's favor, which is not deserved and cannot be earned. You cannot earn forgiveness for your sin. Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of your sins. Therefore, it has all been done for you. That is why the Bible says, "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) You cannot earn your way or work your way to Heaven because salvation is by grace, which is God's favor.

Salvation is like receiving a gift. You just receive it. The Bible says, "...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) You receive the gift of eternal life, going to Heaven forever through Jesus Christ. It has to do with Jesus shedding His blood or giving His life so you can be forgiven of your sins and saved from Hell, and all you have to do is receive Jesus into your heart like a gift, and then you can go to Heaven. It is that simple. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Believe that Jesus

gave His life for you and shed His blood, so you could be forgiven, saved, and go to Heaven.

When somebody gives a blood transfusion, he is giving his blood so that someone else can have life. That is what Jesus did. Jesus gave His blood so that you could have eternal life. Jesus gave His blood so that you could be delivered. A soldier goes to war, sheds his blood, and gives his life for his family, friends, and country. That is what Jesus did. Jesus shed His blood and gave His life, so that we could be set free and so that we could go to Heaven someday. If someone is dying and he receives a blood transfusion, the blood can save his life. My friend, you are dying, and you deserve to go to Hell, but if you will receive the blood of Christ and what He did for you on the cross, then you can be forgiven and go to Heaven.

You can be redeemed from the slavery of your sins and be set free. Redemption is the purchase price of a slave. Humanity, lured by the deceptive devices of Satan, had passed from the merciful watch-care of God to a diabolical bondage of Satan. The race that God had created for His own fellowship had fallen by error into possession of the devil. A great price was demanded, much more than man could pay, but no greater than God could provide. It was then that God gave His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, "...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish {or not go to Hell}, "...but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

The forces of sin of which Satan is head, and the forces of righteousness which God commands are waged in a gigantic combat. In war, there is something known as 'exchange of prisoners.' Oftentimes, an officer of high rank is exchanged for scores or perhaps hundreds of ordinary soldiers who are held by the enemy. Christ, the Captain of our salvation, was turned over to the forces of Satan during His trial and death on Calvary, and Satan was allowed to do with Him what he pleased. Jesus was spat upon, mocked, beaten, cursed, and finally killed, but in exchange for that, Satan was compelled to release all who trust in Jesus as Saviour. It was the exchange of One for many, the sacrifice of the worthy Lamb for the erring race of mankind. The Bible says,

“Behold the Lamb of God, {referring to Jesus} which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) It was redemption provided by love. The Word of God says, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8) Jesus shed His blood and gave His life to redeem us from sin and Hell, so that we could go to Heaven.

An evangelist was approached by a young man who asked, “What must I do to be saved from Hell? How can my sins be forgiven?”

The evangelist replied, “It is too late.”

The young man became alarmed, asking, “Do you mean that it is too late for me to be saved? Is there nothing I can do?”

Then the evangelist replied, “Too late! It has already been done. It is finished. Jesus paid the price by shedding His blood and giving His life so that you could be saved from Hell and go to Heaven. All you have to do is believe.”

My friend, there is no way you could earn your way to get to Heaven. It has already been done for you.

On the cross, Jesus cried out, “Tetelastai,” which means, “It is finished. It is paid in full.” In other words, Jesus said, “I have paid the price so that you do not have to go to Hell and can go to Heaven. Just believe it.” Therefore, trust, rely, and depend on Jesus alone to take you to Heaven. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...” (Acts 16:31)

It is as if you were being chased by wolves that were trying to get to you and tear you apart. They are chasing you and chasing you. In like manner, our sin is chasing us and it is going to destroy our lives, but all of a sudden, you get to that river, and you get in that river, and you start going in that river, and then those wolves finally get to where the river is and they cannot find you because the water has washed away your scent, or your sins, if you will, or your presence, that you are made unknown to them. That is what the blood of Jesus Christ does; it cleanses us from all our sins, and removes our sins so that we are delivered from sin, death, and Hell. Salvation is the forgiveness of

our sins; it is the washing away of our sins. Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins so that we could go to Heaven.

The Bible says that Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, and as He prayed, Jesus sweat, as it were great drops of blood. Jesus was willing to shed His blood for you.

Jesus rose up from there, and the Bible says the mob met Him, and they hit Jesus. They struck Jesus, and blood flowed from His face. They put a blindfold on Him, and hit Him in the face, and blood was flowing from His face, so that you could be forgiven. They took a whip and they started beating His back, and they beat Jesus, and beat Jesus, and beat Jesus. Blood flowed down His back for the things that we deserve because of our sins. We deserve to be beaten and separated from God in a place called Hell. But Jesus said, "I am willing to take that torture and pain, so that they can be set free."

They drove a crown of thorns into His brow, and blood flowed down His face, for the things you have thought that you should not have been thinking. Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of your sin. They drove spikes into His hands, and blood flowed from His hands, for the things that you have done with your hands that you should not have done. They drove a spike into His feet, and Jesus was shedding blood from His feet for the wrong places to which you have gone with your feet. They pierced His heart for your heart not being right, or for your life not being right, and for not loving God. Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus suffered, bled, and died to forgive us of all our sins and save us from Hell, so that we could go to Heaven.

The death of Jesus Christ was a bloody death. Jesus shed His blood as a lamb led to the slaughter. Jesus was the Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world. Jesus was shedding His blood so that we could be forgiven of our sins, delivered from the bondage of sin (which is death and Hell), and be set free, so that we could go to Heaven. Jesus paid the price, shedding His blood and giving His life, so that we could be set free from Hell, and go to Heaven. If you will trust in Jesus to save you, then Jesus will take you to Heaven.

The Bible says, "...and without shedding of blood is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22) So, without shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness or deliverance. Jesus shed His blood so that we could be forgiven, delivered, and set free from Hell, and go to Heaven. Jesus shed His blood so that we could have everlasting life.

There's a story that goes something like this: There was a man who was being approached by Satan. Satan said, "Look at you. You are an evil man. You are a wicked man. You have done so many things wrong. You have so much sin."

The man realized that he had done many things with his hands that he should not have done. He remembered his thought life, his secret life, and the lust, and the pride, and the arrogance. He knew the sin of his hands and feet, the wrong places where he had gone and the things he had done that he should not have done. He said, "I am a sinful man. I am a wicked man! I deserve to go to Hell! You are right, Devil! I am a sinful man."

But then the man said, "Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Devil, come here. Let me show you something. You have not kept the whole account. Listen to what the Bible says. The Bible says, '...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.' (1 John 1:7b) See? My sins have been washed away! The Bible says, 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9) The blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanses me from all sin!"

The man said, "The Bible says that I am washed in the blood. Jesus shed His blood to forgive me of my sin, and I am trusting in Jesus! Jesus gave His life for me so that I could go to Heaven. My sins are washed away because Jesus shed His blood and gave His life to save me from Hell, and I am trusting in Jesus to take me to Heaven!"

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ in your heart and life to go to Heaven, please pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me for my sins. Save me from Hell and take me to Heaven when I

die. I believe that You died for me on the cross so I could go to Heaven.

Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my life to take me to Heaven. Amen.”

When you trust in Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven, Jesus is in your heart forever, and one day He will take you to a wonderful place called Heaven.

Chapter 5

The Truth Shall Set You Free

The Bible says in Psalm 25:5, “Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”

The Psalmist cried out to God all day long. He drew close to God because he knew that God was His way of salvation. He said, “You are the God of my salvation.” He knew the salvation that God could bring, and he waited on the Lord for deliverance in a certain situation.

He said, “Lead me in thy truth and teach me.” The Psalmist knew that it was the truth that could set him free and could give him the deliverance that he needed.

Maybe you are living with hurts, pains, burdens, heartaches, and so many tragedies in life. Maybe you need help, salvation, and deliverance. Maybe you wonder, ‘Is there any way out?’ Let's look at the great subject "The Truth Can Set Us Free." Jesus said: “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32) We need the truth that can set us free.

When my son Michael was several days old, he had a high fever, and we were very concerned about him. We took him to the doctor's office and the doctor said, “I think he is okay, but we will need to take some blood and do some tests.” The nurses tried hard to squeeze some blood from Michael's veins, but they were not able to get any blood. When the doctor heard this, he said that we need to admit Michael to the hospital immediately.

My wife and I were actually allowed to stay in the same hospital room with our little baby Michael. We heard our little son Michael crying all night long. He was crying out because he was hurting and was in so much pain. After two days, the doctor came to me and explained the situation. He had taken a spinal tap and found that Michael had a high white blood cell count, so it was his opinion that Michael had meningitis.

The doctor said to me, “If there is any way that you can go to the United States, I

think that would be best.” Praise the Lord that we had great medical insurance, so we were emergency airlifted from Tampico, Mexico, to Houston, Texas, to the Texas Children’s Hospital. There my son received three weeks of very strong antibiotic treatments. Many times we thought that we were going to lose our son, and we did not know what to do. We felt overwhelmed because a year and a half earlier our first baby Alejandra only lived for twelve days, and then she went to Heaven. Many of Michael’s symptoms seemed similar. We went through the same type of thing. We thought our first baby Alejandra was getting better and then she would get worse. Then she ended up dying. The Lord helped us through that time but it seemed like “de ja vu” with Michael. The situation seemed similar. My son was so sick, and all we could do was just sit there and watch.

We were overwhelmed by the hurt and the pain and the suffering and what was going on there. It was during that time the Lord taught me in depth some truths that are real to each of us in life.

There is suffering that was brought into the world by the fall of man and by Satan.

One of the truths of which the Lord reminded me was that the suffering in this world was brought on by the fall and Satan. We know the story of how Eve took of that fruit and ate of it, and sin entered the world. She gave to her husband, and the Bible says, “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) The Bible says, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23) I was reminded about how sin has brought so much suffering into this world. For example, many times we don't do anything wrong or it is not anything that we have done specifically, it is just the world we live in, in which there is sickness, disease, and pain which was brought on by the fall and Satan.

By the way, the suffering in the world is not God's fault. It is mankind’s fault. We

are the ones that rebel against God and choose our own way. We live in a fallen world, but God still loves us. God is reaching out to us even throughout our pains, difficulties, and the things that are happening.

God showed His love to us by sending His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to forgive us of our sins, save us from Hell, and take us to Heaven someday. You might say, "Well, this is a hard world. There is a lot of suffering and pain. Why doesn't God just remove it?" But whatever God's purpose, the main thing is that He became a man and suffered, and bled, and died to save us from Hell and give us a home in Heaven. Jesus came to redeem us from sin and Hell and take us to Heaven.

I saw my little boy lying there, and he had many tubes in him. The doctors were giving him antibiotics and other medicines, and our hearts were breaking as our little boy was suffering. I met other parents and other children in Neonatal Intensive Care where Michael was, and I saw how difficult their situations were. Some were even worse situations than our son's. I thought about suffering and how people suffer because of the wickedness of sin and man's choice. Suffering is not God's fault. We cause it because of our sin. Suffering is mankind's fault.

I was reminded how Satan has caused problems and how he tempted Eve. He always causes us to go astray and to do things that we should not do, and because of that many people will suffer. My parents got divorced when I was fifteen years old, and that broke my heart. It was a horrible thing in my life. But I don't think the suffering I experienced was God's fault. Suffering is brought on by our wrong choices, when we choose not to do what God wants us to do. Now, I do think that God can use our hardships, trials, and sufferings if we will trust Him, and God did use those terrible situations that happened in my life to help other people. The suffering I experienced was a horrible thing, and it is a reminder of how Satan's influence and sin's influence have brought destruction to people's lives. I trusted in the Lord to help me and have given testimony of what happened to me when I was young, of the pain and the things that I went through, and God has been able to use my suffering for His glory to help others.

My friend, while I was in the hospital with my son, I was reminded of the suffering that is brought on by our own sin, the fall and Satan. That is a truth of life.

We must also remember the truth that we have so much for which to be thankful.

We truly do have so much for which to be thankful. The Bible says, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thessalonians 5:18) When I looked around in that hospital and I saw babies without arms and feet, and missing organs, and with other different problems, and I saw my own baby lying there, I thought, “I have so much for which to be thankful.”

Have we thanked God that we can breathe and that we are healthy and that we can go here and there and we can eat? There are so many people that cannot leave their beds. Have we thanked God for His kindness? Have we thanked God for His goodness to us? We have so much for which to be thankful. Someone once said, “There is always someone who is in a worse situation than you are.” Each of us has so much for which to be thankful. I have heard of people that are missing arms and legs, but they say, “My God loves me. God loves me when nobody else loves me.” I heard the story of a man who was a leper. Someone told him about Christ, and he said, “I am so glad that somebody told me about Jesus. I am so glad that I was a leper, because if I had not been a leper, I would have never known about Christ.” What an amazing statement! He said, “God loves me and He cares about me. God has given me strength and He has been with me.” We truly do have so much for which to be thankful when we think about the sufferings of others.

We must always remember that there is a place of future suffering.

Another truth of which God reminded me was that there are so many people in this world who are going to Hell. Houston is a large city. Sometimes while my son was in the

hospital, my wife and I would walk across the street from the hospital to eat at a Mexican restaurant. I enjoyed that good food! But as I passed all those people and saw all those people in the hospital and all those children, I was reminded that we are all going to spend eternity either in a wonderful place called Heaven, or in a terrible place called Hell. When I thought of all of the suffering that was in the hospital, it made me think of the fact that the suffering in Hell is far worse.

The Bible says, “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:14-15) Hell was prepared for the Devil and his angels. Hell is a horrible place. There is so much pain and suffering in Hell because of sin. The Bible says, “For the wages of sin is death.” “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.” We deserve to burn in Hell forever and ever because of our sins. Hell is a place where the people weep and cry for one drop of water. I saw the suffering in the hospital, but it reminded me that the suffering in Hell is worse, where the people cry out, “Help, help!” but there is no help for them there.

So do not wait until your life is over and you have no more opportunity to decide. You have a choice today. You can cry out to Jesus and say, “Jesus, save me,” and Jesus will save you from Hell and take you to Heaven when you die. Jesus is the One Who loves you. Jesus suffered, bled, and died so that you could be saved from Hell and go to Heaven. All you have to do is say, “Jesus, I need you. I need you. I can't handle this. Please help me, Jesus.” Oh, my friend, Jesus wants to help you.

We must always remember that God loves us so much and wants to help us.

I was reminded about another truth of life: God can help us. God can help us in all the different situations of life. We can trust the Lord. Though we walk through the shadow of death, God is with us. God wants to help us. The Bible says, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called

according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28) God can take all of the bad things in our lives, and He can use them to help somebody else. When my baby girl went to Heaven, it was a difficult circumstance, but we wrote a tract about her life, and many people have asked Jesus to come into their hearts because we wrote that tract. God can take the bad things and turn them into something good. God is in control, and if we keep our focus on Him, He can help us through the difficult times.

God is with us.

I was also reminded that God is always with me. Jesus said, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5) God never promised that life would be easy, but He did say, “I will be with you.” I am reminded of that man who was walking along the ocean. He was having a good time talking with the Lord. Then, all of a sudden, he felt alone and he looked back and saw only one set of footprints in the sand. He wondered, “God, where are You? Where are You?”

Then the Lord answered and said, “I didn't leave you. I was right there with you. You see that one set of footprints in the sand? That was the time that I was carrying you.” We feel alone at times. We feel as though nobody is with us. But God is with us, and in the difficult times He is carrying us. The Bible says, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou {God} art with me.” The Lord will never leave us nor forsake us. Jesus loves us so much.

God hears us.

I was also reminded during that time that God hears and answers prayer. God says, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” (Jeremiah 33:3) So many people sent us e-mails and messages and told us that they were praying for us. They sent us cards saying, “We are praying for you.” It

was amazing how God intervened and gave us strength during that difficult time. Our son got better, and we have him today. Praise the Lord! God always hears and answers prayer.

God may not answer prayer in the ways that we expect, but He does answer. Maybe you have been crying in your heart, and maybe you have tried drugs, alcohol, and other things in life. You are looking for peace. There is a void in each and every person's life. You can try whatever you want to fill it, but there is only one Person Who can fill that void, and that Person is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only One Who can set you free. Jesus said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36) In other words, if you will turn to Jesus Christ, Jesus will set you free. Jesus will forgive your sin, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven when you die. Why don't you call out to Jesus and say, "Jesus, help me! Oh, Jesus, save me!"

Sometimes we think, "Why is God allowing this to happen?" But if we will just say, "God, I trust You. I believe in You," then God will help us, strengthen us, and bring us through it. God was with me when nobody else was with me, and God will be with you when nobody else is with you. I mentioned that we live in a fallen world. It is not God's fault that people choose to do the wicked things that they do. It is not God's fault that people get into the snares of Satan, getting into wine, alcohol, and perversion. People do many wicked things. But God still loves us, and He is still trying to reach out to us. God has given us a free will to choose. I beg of you to choose to say, "God, I don't understand it all, and I don't understand what is happening in my life, but, Lord, I need You. Please help me." I promise you, the Lord wants to help you.

A touching story is told of the suffering of one of the thousands of women injured during the air raids in London, England. The woman was buried under the ruins of her little home for six and a half hours, gravely injured, and her little baby daughter was killed. After she was rescued and had spent about five weeks in the hospital, she realized that she was blinded for life. Her nurse shed tears of sympathy. However, the patient comforted her nurse, saying, "No eyes? Oh, but yes, I have eyes. I have spiritual vision

that no bomb can destroy. I have seen Jesus at Calvary, and how precious He is to me now." That precious lady was saying, "Jesus Christ has changed my life, and through all of these heartaches and problems I am having in my life, I know that Jesus loves me. He loved me so much that He went to a cross where He suffered, bled, and died for me to forgive my sin, save me from Hell, and take me to Heaven when I die. They beat Jesus, spit upon Him, mocked Him, and made fun of Him. Those Roman soldiers took a whip and ripped His body open. Jesus suffered, bled, and died for me so that I could go to Heaven. I trust in Jesus. Jesus said that He will never leave me nor forsake me. Jesus is with me."

One day when I was in Houston, Texas, there with my baby Michael, I went in the laundry room. I was hurting, and I was down. I felt alone, even though I knew that the Lord was with me. I looked over and saw several different pictures that children had made on the wall of the laundry room. All of a sudden, I noticed there was one from a child named Michael, I think maybe eleven years of age. And, of course, Michael is my son's name, as well. This is all it said on that particular paper that was so beautifully done; it said, "Believe." Believe. At that moment, I felt like the man in the Bible who said, "Lord, I believe, but help thou mine unbelief." I felt down and I felt like everything was against me, but it was like God was saying, "Just believe. Believe. Trust in Me, and I will help you." Oh, my friend, God was with me, and God helped me.

The Bible says, "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." (Psalm 18:2) The Bible says, "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah." (Psalm 62:8) The Bible says, "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man." (Psalm 118:8) Now, people will fail us, but there is One Who will not fail us, and that is God. God wants to help us. The Bible says, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6) Oh, trust in the Lord with all your heart. When everything is against

you, trust in God. When problems are overwhelming you, trust in God. Believe in God. Believe in the Lord.

We believed and trusted the Lord, and He gave us a great miracle and saved our son's life. Later I remember hearing some kids sing, "Lord, I believe in You. I will always believe in You." Tears streamed down my face as I thought about my baby girl who is up in Heaven. I said, "Lord, I believe in You." I thought about how God had helped our son, and I said, "Lord, I believe in You. I will always believe in You."

We must always remember that life is brief.

As I sat there with my baby Michael in that hospital, I thought about the brevity of life. So many children did not make it out of the hospital. I already mentioned that my baby girl only lived for twelve days and went to Heaven. I thought about the brevity of life. The Bible says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27) We all have an appointment with death. We are all going to die someday. I ask you, "Are you prepared for all eternity?" I saw people who were dying, and it broke my heart. The brevity of life is a reality of life. The Bible says, "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Proverbs 27:1) We are not guaranteed tomorrow. I could go out into the street and a bus could hit me. That could be it. It could be over. We are all going to die. Are you prepared for eternity?

The Bible says, "...what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14b) Life is just like a vapor. It is here today and gone tomorrow. We are only here for a little while and then there is all eternity.

God loves you, and He wants to take you to a wonderful place of no more hurt, no more pain, and no more sorrow. Jesus died to forgive your sins, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven when you die.

The Bible says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

(John 8:36) Jesus paid the price to set you free. I don't know what bad things have happened in your life. Maybe you say, "I have so many hurts, burdens, heartaches, and troubles." Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Jesus wants to set you free. Jesus suffered, bled, and died to set you free. Come to Jesus to be set free.

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ in your heart and life to go to Heaven, please pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me for my sins. Save me from Hell and take me to Heaven when I die. I believe that You died for me on the cross so I could go to Heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my life to take me to Heaven. Amen."

When you trust in Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven, Jesus is in your heart forever, and one day He will take you to a wonderful place called Heaven.

Chapter 6

Listen to the Warning

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:7, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”

The story of Noah is well-known. God told Noah that He was going to flood the whole earth because the people were evil and wicked. The people did not love God, did not care for God, and did not care for His ways. So God told Noah that He was going to destroy the whole world with a flood. Noah listened to the warning that God gave him, and he prepared an ark to the saving of himself and his family. Noah was a preacher of righteousness, and as he built the ark he would probably preach to the people. But the people just laughed at Noah and God’s message and did not take heed or listen to the warning. Noah was faithful to warn the people. They had their chance, but they rejected what Noah preached.

We all need to listen to the warning. Noah listened to the warning and received salvation, but the majority of the people did not listen to the warning and received destruction. Therefore we must “Listen to the Warning.”

In May of 1984, National Geographic showed through colored photos and drawings the swift and terrible destruction that wiped out two Roman cities in 79 B.C. The explosion of Mount Vesuvius was so sudden that the residents were killed while in their daily routines. Men and women were at the market, the rich in their luxurious baths, and the slaves at toil. They died amid volcanic ash and super-heated gases. Even family pets suffered the same quick and final fate. It takes little imagination to picture the panic of the terrible day. The saddest part is that these people did not have to die. Scientists confirm what ancient Roman writers recorded: weeks of rumbling and shaking preceded the actual explosion. Smoke was clearly visible from the mountain days before the eruption. If only the people would have listened to and responded to the volcano’s

warning!

There are similar rumblings in the world today – warfare, earthquakes, nuclear threat, economic woes, breakdown of family and moral standards. While not exactly new, these things do point to the coming day of the judgment. God said that these things would happen. People should not be caught unprepared. God warns and provides an escape through Jesus Christ to those who will heed the warning. We need to listen to the warning.

Maybe sometime you have been riding down a road with your family and you come to a sign that says, “Bridge out!” Beside this sign there might be another sign that says, “Detour,” with an arrow pointing which way to go. You would not continue to go down the road where the bridge had been torn out, right? If you were to drive over a place where there was no longer a bridge, you would drop down through a hole, possibly to your death. We are all glad when someone warns us about a danger so we can stay away from it. I am always glad when someone warns me about danger. If you were driving the car, you would have turned on the detour that would help you to get away from the danger. We always need to look for the detour in life. We must remember to give heed to the warning signs that say something like, “Danger! Bridge out!” and then immediately proceed to the detour to escape the danger.

My friend, in life we have many signs telling us and warning us about the future. God has given us His warning in Bible, and we need to listen to that warning. But God also gives us the detour. He gives us a way of escape. He gives us a way out. We will get into that subject a little bit more as we go along. Now, I am just like a person with a sign saying, “Bridge out!” Today you are being given a warning. I am presenting a very important warning to you. The warning is that there is a real place called Hell. The Bible says, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” (Psalm 9:17) There really is a place called Hell. There really is a place of eternal judgment. There really is a place of everlasting fire. There really is a place of everlasting darkness. There really is a place of torment where people will suffer and burn forever and ever and

ever.

However, there are some who deny that Hell exists. They say, “The only Hell that exists is the Hell that we have on earth.” I believe that many people say that there is no Hell because of fear. They are afraid that if they admit that there is a Hell, then they have to admit the reality that they are probably going to Hell. They are afraid of Hell. They are afraid to deal with its reality. Sometimes just to try to make them think a little bit, I say to people who do not believe in Hell, “Suppose I am wrong. There is no Heaven, and there is no Hell. Now, I believe there is a Heaven and a Hell, but just suppose I am wrong. There is no Heaven. There is no Hell. Then, what happens after we die?”

They say, “Well, after you die, you will just be put in the ground, and that will be it,” or something like that.

But then I say to them, “Let me ask you a question. What if there is a Heaven? What if there is a Hell? What if there is a Person named Jesus Christ, Who died to save us from Hell and give us a home in Heaven? What if there is a Hell? Where would you go? Now, I don't lose anything believing what I do, and if you are right, then I just go in the ground. If I am right, I am going to Heaven someday because I am trusting in Jesus to take me to Heaven. By the way, if you are right, you don't really gain anything. But if you are wrong, and there is a Hell, then you will go there and you will burn forever. Think about that.” We need to think about the reality of Hell.

The Bible says, “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:14-15) Imagine if you were falling in a hole, and you kept falling and falling and falling and falling. Well, that is kind of a picture of Hell. You will suffer for all eternity – forever and ever and ever and ever. Hell is real, and I have to do something to warn people. We should all do something to warn people of danger. So that is what I do; I do all I can to warn people not to go to Hell.

Imagine that there were a burning house, and you knew that a family was inside. Imagine you knew there were a dad, mom, and children inside, and the house was in

flames. You would do all you could to help those people. You would throw a rock through the window. You would kick the door in. You would beat on the door. You would pull the people out. You would not care what they thought. You would pull them out because you wanted to help them.

I believe there is a real Hell. It would be wrong and unjust if I did not do all I could to warn people not to go to Hell. The only way we can warn people is to tell them there is a way of escape through Jesus Christ. Now, there is a place called Hell. God does not want anyone to go to Hell. God wants us to go to Heaven. Nothing is worth going to Hell for. Jesus said, “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36) The Bible says that life is short and brief. “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” (Proverbs 27:1) The Bible says, “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” (James 4:14) The Bible says, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” (Hebrews 9:27) Are you prepared to die? Are you prepared for the judgment? The Bible says, “Prepare to meet thy God.” (Amos 4:12c) My friend, are you prepared to stand before the Almighty God?

At this time, I want to answer three questions for you about Hell. The first question is: What is Hell like? Think about it: Hell – the most startling reality in the universe. Have you ever wondered why it is an often-used curse word? The Devil tries to minimize its reality. Notice the Bible says that there is a real place called Hell. The Bible says, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” (Psalm 9:17) The Bible says that Hell is a lake of fire. Hell is a horrible tempest. It is a bottomless pit. It is a place of sorrows. It is a place of weeping and wailing. The Bible says that Hell is a place of torment and a place of filthiness and cursing. Hell is a place of outer darkness where they have no rest. It is a place where people pray, “Help, Help!” but there is no answer to prayer. It is a place where they scream for mercy, a place of everlasting punishment, and a place where they gnaw their tongues. Hell is a place

where there is blackness and darkness forever. It is a place prepared for the Devil and his angels. Hell is a place where they beg for one drop of water, a place where they will be tormented with fire and brimstone, and a place where there will be liars, whoremongers, and evil people. Hell is a place to which they do not want their loved ones to come. Hell is a place where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. The Bible says that Hell is a real place. The Bible says, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the 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)

Jesus spoke so much about Hell because He does not want anyone to go to Hell. Jesus said it would be better for you to pluck your eyes out than for you to go Hell. He said it would be better for you to cut your hands off than to go to Hell. He said it would be better for you to cut your feet off than to go to Hell. Is Jesus saying we should pluck our eyes out, cut our hands off, and cut our feet off in order to avoid going to Hell? No, I think we are missing the point. I believe that Jesus is emphasizing, “Don't let anything keep you from trusting in Me to get you to Heaven.” Jesus is the Way to Heaven. Don't go to Hell. You will suffer in Hell for all eternity.

Jesus told a story about two men. One man was a rich man, and the other was a poor man named Lazarus. This rich man had all that you can imagine. He had a nice home. He had delicious food. He had expensive clothes. He had all the luxuries this world could offer him. Lazarus was a poor man. He cried out for help and for food. He was full of sores, and he just lay by the wayside, begging for help.

One day, these two men died. Lazarus died and went to a place of no more hurt, pain, or sorrow – a wonderful place. But the rich man also died, and he went to a place of torment. The Bible says, “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.” (Luke 16:23-24)

And Abraham said to him, “In your lifetime you received good things and Lazarus received evil things, but he decided to trust in the Lord and he is here. You decided to reject the Lord, and now you are in Hell. There is no help for you.”

The rich man said, “I have brothers. Somebody needs to go and tell my family not to come to this place.” There are cries from Hell saying, “Tell my mom not to come to this place! Tell my dad not to come to this place! Tell my children, tell my friends, and tell my family! Tell people all over the world not to come to this place! It is a real and terrible place, and I am suffering forever and ever and ever and ever! Help me! Help me!” But there was no help. Jesus warned about a real place called Hell.

Now we will explore another question about Hell, which is: Why do people go to Hell? People go to Hell because of their sins. The Bible says, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23) All of us have committed sin. “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:” (Romans 3:10) As the Bible says, “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 have a sin nature. We all have committed sin. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23a) We deserve death and punishment for our sins. The Bible says, “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17) Every human being is guilty of sin and deserves to go to Hell.

What is sin? Sin is lying, cursing, hatred, pride, lust, ungodliness, gossip, and much more. My friend, we are all sinners. Let me ask you: Are you putting God first in your heart and in your life? Jesus said that we should “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength.” Do you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? We need to love God with everything we have. We need to put God first in our lives. Are you putting God first? Maybe you say, “Well, I'm a pretty good person.” The Bible says that we all sin through word, thought, or deed, and probably every day. Jesus said that if a man looks at a woman and lusts after her, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Jesus said that if you have hatred in your heart against

your brother, you have already committed murder. We are all guilty of sin.

Imagine if you were to sin only one time a day through word, thought, or deed. Perhaps you think a person who only sinned once a day would be a pretty good person. But add that up. How many sins would that be in a week? That would add up to seven sins. How many sins would that be in a month? About thirty-one. How many sins would that be in a year? Three hundred sixty-five sins. How many sins would that be in ten years? About 3,650 sins. Consider this question: What would happen if someone went into a court of law and said, "I have committed 3,650 sins or crimes in the last ten years. What are you going to do, judge?" The judge would throw him in jail, right? We are all in trouble. We are all guilty of sin. You and I are guilty of sin.

But people do not go to Hell just because of their sin. They go to Hell because they have not received Christ or they have rejected Christ. Jesus is the way to Heaven. Jesus died to forgive your sins. The fact that you are a sinner does not automatically doom you to Hell. If you will trust Christ then you can be saved from Hell and go to Heaven. Jesus said that he would save you if you would trust Him. I beg of you to trust in Jesus to save you today. Jesus is willing to save you, if you will put your trust in Him.

One day, a friend said to a well-known judge, "I understand that you and your wife are going to be separated."

"How dare you say such a thing!?" shouted the judge, his face filled with anger. "My wife and I love each other very much."

"Is that so?" replied the friend. "Well, I have heard from your doctor that she has only a short time to live, and since I know that she is a Christian, she will go to be with her Lord. Where are you going when you die?"

The judge stood awhile, quietly thinking. His face began to pale as the words took effect. He cried, "My God, save me! All these years I have turned away from Thee. Forgive me, O God, and save me right now!" And God answered that prayer.

A young woman, dying, said to her father, "Father, why did you not tell me there was such a place?"

“What place?” the father asked.

“Hell!” she replied.

He said, “Jenny, there is no such place. God is merciful; there will be no future suffering.”

She said, “I know better, Daddy. My feet are slipping into Hell at this moment! I am lost! Why did you not tell me there was such a place called Hell?”

Hell is a real place. We must warn people about Hell, before it is too late.

A preacher told a story of a chemist who worked with a chemical which exploded and burned upon exposure to water. One day the chemist stole some of the chemical and took it to his house. Weeks later, while the party was dying down in his home, he took the chemical out of his drawer. He figured it would liven up the party. He sprinkled a little bit of it on the wet sink. It popped loudly, and smoke went everywhere. His plan was a huge hit. Everybody liked it.

In a drunken stupor, the man walked into the next room with the chemical in his hands. He tripped over the toilet, and the chemical went into the water. A loud explosion occurred, and the chemical splashed on his face and upper body. He was rushed to a burn unit of a nearby hospital. The nurses, who did not realize that the chemical caught on fire with moisture, put a wet washcloth on his forehead. A flame shot up three feet into the air! The man began to perspire. Little blue flames of fire covered his body! As the man lay there, literally being burned alive, he was heard screaming, “I'm in Hell! I'm in Hell! I'm in Hell!” This is just a brief picture of the agony of Hell.

One of the words Jesus used in the New Testament for Hell was Gehenna. It was a Jewish garbage dump outside of Jerusalem. The bodies of criminals were dumped there after execution. The fire was always burning, and worms covered the bodies as the stench of human flesh filled the air. No wonder Jesus said that Hell is a place where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. He was saying that Gehenna reminded him of Hell. Hell is real. Don't go to Hell.

One day a preacher was preaching in a church. He was preaching about Heaven,

Hell, and Jesus. There was a scoffer in the crowd that day about three rows back on the right side of the preacher. As the preacher preached about Jesus, the scoffer laughed throughout all the preaching. The preacher said, “Don't do that, son. I care about you. I love you, and I don't want to see you go to Hell. I want you to trust in Jesus and go to Heaven.” But the scoffer just kept on laughing and making fun of the preacher.

At the end of the service, all of a sudden, the scoffer jumped to his feet and said, “Hey, Preacher! How far is it from here to Hell? Ha! Ha! Ha!” and he laughed as he walked out the back door.

After the service that night, the pastor and the preacher got into their vehicles and went to a nearby restaurant to get something to eat. All of a sudden, someone came running into the restaurant and said, “There's been an accident! There's been an accident! Somebody help!” The pastor and the preacher got in their car and drove to the scene of the accident. As they got out, they saw a car caught on fire, burning, and in flames. As they got closer to the burning car, they could hear a cry from that burning car: “Tell that preacher I'm sorry! Tell that preacher I'm sorry! Tell that preacher ...” and the voice ended right there. That young person died and went out into eternity. They measured the distance from the church to the scene of the accident. It was only three miles. Remember that mocker got up and said, “Hey, Preacher, how far is it from here to Hell?” It was only three miles until he stepped out into eternity and probably to a place called Hell.

You are not guaranteed tomorrow. You could die today, go to Hell, and burn forever and ever and ever and ever and ever. Don't wait! Trust in Jesus immediately. Jesus wants to save you right now.

There was a lady who was very concerned about her mother. Her mother grew up in a religion in which they worshipped statues, and she trusted in her good works and going to church and things like that to get her to Heaven. She wasn't trusting in Jesus. The daughter had such a burden to get the Gospel to her mother. But when she would try to approach her mother, her family members and her sisters would not let her in, saying, “Don't bring this Jesus garbage around here. Don't bring that religion stuff

around here. Mama is a good person. Mama went to church. She did good things. Don't bring that stuff in here.” She tried her best to get in and talk to her mother, but her sisters would not let her in.

Finally the mom was lying on her deathbed, and all of a sudden, she cried out, “I'm burning! I'm burning! Help! Help! I'm burning! I'm burning! Help! Help!” Then she died and went into eternity.

My friend, where would you go if you were to die right now? Would you go to a place called Hell? Would you burn forever and ever and ever? Don't go to Hell. I am warning you, don't go to Hell. Jesus wants to save you.

That brings us to the next question about Hell. How do we escape Hell? It's very simple; we trust in Jesus as our only way to Heaven. Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” The Bible says, “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.” (II Corinthians 5:21) Jesus Christ became sin for us so that we could be set free.

The Bible says, “...and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6c) All our sins were placed on Jesus Christ. Jesus died to forgive you of your sins so that you could go to Heaven. Jesus died for all our sins, and Jesus is the only way to Heaven. You cannot go to Heaven by going to church, by doing good works, by being baptized, or by doing the best you can. You need Jesus Christ. I needed Jesus Christ, and I asked Him to save me and take me to Heaven when I die, and He answered that prayer. The Bible says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” (Acts 16:31)

I am so glad that one day I realized that I needed Jesus. I told a preacher, “I can't live the Christian life; I can't do enough good things.”

The preacher said to me, “You know, you cannot do it. You need Jesus Christ. Only Jesus Christ can save you from Hell and take you to Heaven. Jesus is the Saviour. A savior is someone who rescues someone who cannot do anything for himself.”

Imagine that you were out in the Pacific Ocean, and you were fishing. Then, all of sudden, your boat sprang a leak, and you tried to do all you could to plug that hole in the boat. The boat was filling full of water and you realized that you were going to drown. You forgot to bring a life jacket with you, so you jump out of the boat and you start swimming toward shore. You swim and you swim, but the shore is just too far away. After a while you are just barely able to keep yourself afloat, and you realize that in just a few moments you are going to die. You are going to drown. But all of the sudden, you see a boat about 15 to 20 yards away. What would you do? You would yell, “Help! Save me!” Wouldn’t you? You wouldn’t care what anyone else thought. You would just care that the boat was nearby, and that the people in it could save you and help you.

My friend, that illustration is a picture of salvation. That is a picture of our condition. We’re all in an ocean of sin. Every one of us has done wrong things, and our sin will drown us. It will take us to a place called hell. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23a) “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:14) That sin will take us to hell.

The boat represents Christ. Christ has the credentials to save you. He died on the cross to forgive you of your sins, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven. All you have to do is cry out, saying, “Jesus, save me!” The Bible says, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13) One day I said, “Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me of my sins, save me from Hell, and take me to Heaven someday.” The day I did that was the greatest day of my life, because Jesus came to live in my heart. My friend, there is nothing worth going to Hell for. Jesus wants to save you today. I want you to make the greatest decision of your whole life. Ask Jesus to come into your heart, forgive you of your sins, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven. Ask Jesus to save you from Hell.

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ in your heart and life to go to Heaven, please pray this prayer: “Lord Jesus, please come into my heart.

Forgive me for my sins. Save me from Hell and take me to Heaven when I die. I believe that You died for me on the cross so I could go to Heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my life to take me to Heaven. Amen.”

When you trust in Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven, Jesus is in your heart forever, and one day He will take you to a wonderful place called Heaven.

Chapter 7

The New Birth

The Bible says in John 3:1, "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. 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." (John 3:1-17)

My friend, God loves you so much. Jesus did not come to condemn you. He loves you and wants you to have eternal life and go to a place of no more hurt or pain. Jesus

wants you to have life everlasting.

As Jesus was talking to a religious ruler of the Jews, Nicodemus, about being born again, Nicodemus said, "I just don't understand."

Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see {or know or enter} the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

In order to go to Heaven and have eternal life, Nicodemus had to experience the new birth. Therefore, let's explore this exciting subject: "The New Birth." What is the new birth? In other words, what does it mean to be born again?

An outstanding citizen of a certain community was not born again. This man went to church, gave to the church, but never acknowledged Christ as his Saviour. He had never received the new birth.

One night, he was all alone and he had a dream. In that dream he heard someone rattling the doorknob of his room, but he was afraid to say, "Come in." He waited while the fingering noise continued on the doorknob. Presently the bolt turned. Then he saw the door open. In the dim moonlight streaming through the window, the man watched the ghost-like stranger slowly approaching his bedside. The stranger stretched forth his long, thin, bony hand. His cold breath chilled the air. The stranger said, "I am death." And with his cold, long, bony fingers he grasped the man by the throat saying, "I am death, and I have come for you."

The dreamer tried to scream but could not. Then, when he was able to make noise, no one responded. Suddenly he was lifted out of his horrible dream, tired, worn, and wet with perspiration. The man lay there and thought about the dream. Finally he thought, 'Suppose this had not been a dream. Where would my soul be now?' The answer came: 'In a Christ-less eternity called hell.'

The man got up from his bed, went to the minister of the church, dropped to his knees and said, "I now take Christ as my Saviour," and he was born again.

My friend, the only way that we can get to Heaven is to be born again. We are not guaranteed tomorrow. We do not have the certainty of another day. Death could come for

us at any time and take our life. Therefore, we need to prepare for all eternity by being born again, by experiencing the new birth that only comes from above and that Christ can give us.

What does it mean to be born again? Many years ago, a young man came back to the city from which he had run away some time before. He arrived riding in a boxcar, drunk and penniless. The next morning while his brain was still dull, he stopped a couple of men on the street and asked for money for a meal. One of the men looked closely at the beggar and then said to the other, "I must ask you to excuse me. I recognize here the son of an old friend, and I must go with him." But what the man could not bring himself to say in the shock of recognition was that it was his own son who stood there.

The father took his son with him. He arranged his business so that he could be away from it and gave his life to his son. He never left him day or night, and he never by word or sign rebuked him for the past. But he put all the strength of his soul into the battle for his son until, after six months, one night in a city mission the boy found Christ and was saved. He became born again.

What a picture this story gives of the divine love of the Heavenly Father seeking and striving for a wandering child with no desire to bring up the past, only an eager longing that the sinner come back into a right relationship with his Maker! God loves you. You must be born from above in order to have eternal life – a new birth that only God can give.

Jesus said, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7) to enter the kingdom of heaven of God.

I am told that on September 5th, 1971, I was born into this world. But I can tell you that some years later, there was a birth that came about that completely changed my life and has given me the assurance that Heaven will be my home. One day I was born again by trusting Jesus as my Saviour.

What do I mean? I asked Jesus Christ to come into my heart, forgive me of all my sins, save me from Hell, and take me to Heaven. I trusted in the fact that Jesus gave His

life for me so that I could go to Heaven. That decision has completely changed my life. A person is born again when he trusts Christ as his Saviour to take him to Heaven.

My friend, you need to be born from above. You need to experience the new birth that only God can give. You need to accept Christ as your Saviour.

There was a meeting where a preacher invited the little children to come to Jesus. But one little child asked the preacher afterward, "Am I too little?"

Then the preacher kindly asked, "Too little for what, my dear?"

Timidly the little girl answered, "Am I too little to come to Jesus?"

Moved by the child's question, the servant of Christ took her up in his arms, saying, "No, my dear, you are not too little. It was to the very little ones that Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:14)

The dear child wiped her tears and went to her mother, telling her she had come to Jesus and that she was saved. How glad the mother was to hear her child confess her simple trust in Christ to save her!

The next day the little girl brought another little girl to the meeting, saying, "She wants to be saved, too."

Everyone is welcome to come to the Saviour. Everyone is invited to be born again by trusting that Jesus gave His life for him. Just say, "Jesus, I need you. Come into my heart. Save me from Hell and take me to Heaven." Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) In other words, Jesus said, "Come unto Me, and I will give you rest for your soul. I will take you to a wonderful place called Heaven." Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (John 6:37b) Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you. Trust in Jesus so that you can go to a wonderful place called Heaven.

Ye must be born again. Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven.

The Bible says, "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: Which were born, not of blood,

nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13) You can be born into the family of God.

I was born the first time into my physical family, but then years later I accepted Christ as my Saviour and was born into the family of God, meaning that I am His child and one day I will going to Heaven. The Bible says, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him." (I John 5:1)

Jesus is God's Son given to us so that we could have eternal life. When we receive Christ, we have the victory, and one day we will go to Heaven. The Bible says, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith {our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ}. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I John 5:4-5)

As Jesus was talking with Nicodemus, Nicodemus said, "How can these things be? It just doesn't make sense to me." But I must remind you that we are talking about the Creator of the Universe Who can do far above anything that we imagine or dream possible. God said, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." (Isaiah 55:8)

Who knows what is best for our lives? The Lord does. But sometimes we think that we know which way is the right way. But we need to be careful. The Bible says, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 16:25) Be careful; decide that you are going to trust God's way.

The Bible says "There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness." (Proverbs 30:12) You may think that you are okay, that you are doing enough works to get you to Heaven, but the problem is that you have the filthiness of sin. You need to have that sin forgiven as far as the east is from the west so that you can go to a wonderful place without sin called Heaven. You must realize that you cannot do anything to save yourself, that you are helpless.

Ask Jesus to save you. A savior is someone who rescues someone in harm. For

example, if you were in a pool and you were swimming and about ready to drown, what would the lifeguard do? He would jump in and save your life.

We are in the ocean of sin, and sin will drown us and take us to Hell. The only One who can save us is Christ. All we have to do is to say, "Jesus, save me," and He will save us and take us to Heaven someday. The Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13) "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." (Romans 10:9)

There was a Hindu woman who discovered that she was a great sinner and that God is holy and will not allow sin into His presence. She had often said, "I need some great prince to stand between my soul and God." The woman heard that the Bible contained the account of the Saviour who died for sinners. So she asked someone to read the Bible to her. The man began at the first chapter of Matthew. As he read the list of names in the genealogy of Christ, the woman thought, "What a wonderful Prince this Jesus must have been to have such a long line of ancestors!"

And when the man read, "...and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins", (Matthew 1:21b) the woman cried out, "This is the Prince I want! Oh, this is the Prince I want!"

Jesus is the only One Who can forgive our sins, save us from hell, and take us to Heaven. The Bible says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

Because of our sins we are on the pathway to death, and if we keep going there is a price. The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23) "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire." (Revelations 20:14) But when Jesus died on the cross, He made a way for us to go to Heaven by giving His life for us that we could have eternal life. Jesus shed His blood, gave His life, and died on the cross so that we could

go to Heaven, a wonderful place of no more hurt. We must trust in that in order to get to heaven.

In the Bible, there were serpents or snakes that were attacking the children of Israel. God told Moses, "I want you to make a brazen serpent and put it on a stick. I want you to lift that up. When the people look at that brazen serpent on the stick, then they will be healed and will not die."

"In the same way," Jesus said, "the Son of Man must be lifted up, and if you will just believe that I am giving My life for you, you will receive eternal life. If you will just look to Me, you can be saved from Hell and go to Heaven." Look and live. The Lord said, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." (Isaiah 45:22)

Salvation, or going to Heaven, is as simple as asking and receiving. The Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13) If you ask Jesus to save you from Hell and take you to Heaven, He will do it. Salvation is that simple.

Salvation is as simple as accepting a gift. I love Christmas time and opening the gifts. The Bible says that going to Heaven is like a receiving a gift. "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23b) Going to Heaven is like receiving a gift, and it is through Jesus Christ. In other words, it is through believing that Jesus died on the cross for you to save you from Hell so that you could go to Heaven, and if you accept that, then you will go to Heaven.

If I were to say, "I will give you this money, but you have to go to church," would that be a true gift? If I were to say, "I will give you this money, but you have to wash my truck," would that be a gift? No. A gift is free and cannot be earned. But I could offer this gift to a child all day, but it is not the child's gift until the child takes it, accepts it, or receives it.

Imagine that a child comes forward and receives a gift of money. Well, it is the same thing with Jesus. You must come to Jesus and receive what He did for you on the

cross and believe that He died to save you from Hell so that you can receive Jesus like a gift in your heart to go to Heaven.

Salvation, being saved, or going to Heaven is as simple as trusting in a plane to get you to a destination. For instance, when you get on a plane, you are going to a destination. But you must get on that plane. Maybe you don't understand everything, but they say the plane is going there, so you get on the plane and you are trusting in it to take you to the destination.

Jesus gave His life for you so that you could be saved from Hell and go to Heaven. Just say, "Jesus, I trust in You alone to take me to Heaven," and He will do it. The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31) The Bible also says, "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." (Romans 10:9) Jesus said, "He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." (John 6:47) If you trust in Jesus as your way to Heaven, then you will go to Heaven.

Salvation is as simple as being born. You are just simply born into this world, and in a similar way, that is the way you are born again – by simply trusting Christ. When you trust Christ, then you are born again. You are born into the family of God. That means that Heaven is your home. The Bible says, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." (I John 5:1) If you are trusting in Jesus, that He is the Saviour of the world and that He died for you, then you are born of God. That means that you are going to Heaven.

The Bible promises, "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." (I John 4:15) "But as many as received him {Jesus}, to them gave power to become the sons of God." (John 1:12) You become a child of God when you trust in Jesus. You are born again when you trust in Christ as your only way to Heaven, and you believe that He gave His life for you so that you could be saved from Hell, forgiven of your sins, and go to Heaven.

God loves you so much that He sent His Son on a rescue mission to go to a cross

and suffer on that cross so that you could have eternal life. Jesus gave His life for you so that you could live. The Bible says, "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." (John 3:16-17) Jesus wants you to be saved from Hell. He wants you to be born again by trusting Him as your way to Heaven.

The Bible says, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." (I John 4:9) "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Romans 5:7-9) Oh, Jesus died to save us from Hell so that we could live forever in Heaven.

The Bible says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) Jesus loves you. That is why He gave His life.

Jesus loves you so much that He died on the cross. They spit in Jesus face. They plucked His beard out. They put a crown of thorns on His brow, and blood poured down His face. They took that whip and they ripped His back open. They beat Jesus. They beat Jesus. They beat Jesus. Why was Jesus suffering and bleeding and dying? He did it because He loves you.

They drove spikes into His hands and into His feet. They picked up the old cross and let it drop down into the ground. Jesus suffered, bled, and died to forgive us of our sins and save us from Hell, so that we could go to Heaven. Jesus gave His life for you. If you will trust in what He did for you on the cross, then you can live and go to Heaven someday.

Many years ago while vacationing on the seaside, King George IV and Queen Mary took a walk along the ocean front. When the queen sprained her ankle, the king and queen were forced to find their way to a nearby cottage to seek assistance. In answer

to their knock, a voice called out, "Who is there?"

They responded, "King George and Queen Mary."

The occupant of the house cried back, "You don't expect me to believe that, do you?"

The king responded, "Come and see for yourself."

The woman opened the door. When she saw that the king and queen were standing there, she immediately invited the royal couple into her home and gave them all the help and hospitality that she could. For years she retold the story and always concluded by saying, "You know, I almost refused to let them in."

My friend, the Lord Jesus Christ is knocking at your heart's door, but you need to let Him in. You need to receive Jesus and trust Him as your way to Heaven. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him." (Revelations 3:20) Right now Jesus is knocking on your heart's door, and He is saying, "I love you. I went to a cross, and I suffered, bled, and died to forgive you of your sins and save you from Hell. I want to come into your heart. Would you trust what I did for you to take you to Heaven?"

Right now, make the greatest decision of your whole life. Just say, "Jesus, come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, and save me from Hell. I believe that You gave Your life for me so that I could live and go to Heaven someday. I trust You, Jesus, to take me to Heaven." And Jesus will answer that.

My friend, receive Jesus. Be born again, trusting that Jesus died on the cross to save you from Hell so that you could go to Heaven. Trust in Jesus to take you to Heaven.

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ in your heart and life to go to Heaven, please pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me for my sins. Save me from Hell and take me to Heaven when I die. I believe that You died for me on the cross so I could go to Heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my life to take me to Heaven. Amen."

When you trust in Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven, Jesus is in your heart forever, and one day He will take you to a wonderful place called Heaven.

Chapter 8

You Can Be Saved

The Bible says in Romans 10:9, “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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, 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.” (Romans 10:9-13)

I want to draw your attention to that last verse, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” There is nothing worse than feeling like you are lost, and you are going to drown, and you are going to lose your life. You feel like you are in extreme danger, and you are at the point of death, and there is no way out. Therefore I am writing to you about the extremely important and vital subject: “You Can Be Saved.”

One day two boys were playing in a pool, and they were having a wonderful time. As they played, they started to drift farther and farther into the deeper water. All of the sudden, they realized that they could not stand on their feet, and they were fighting to keep themselves up. They were about ready to drown, and the lifeguard jumped in the pool and saved their lives. It is truly a wonderful thing to be saved from danger.

Think of someone watching over children as they cross the street in front of a school. Maybe all of a sudden, the person sees a vehicle flying down the street, and he reached out, and pulls a child out of danger and saves his life. It is a wonderful thing to be saved.

Think about policemen. They go into scary situations and put their lives at risk. They are willing to be shot at, and do whatever they can to protect, or to help, or to save someone’s life. Now if you were in danger and something were coming against you, you

would love for a policeman to come in and save your life from being hurt or destroyed. It is a wonderful thing to be saved.

Think of a doctor who is working on a patient who has a serious problem. Blood is just coming out of the patient's body, and he is at the point of extreme weakness, at the point of dying. But that doctor, through skill, is able to save the patient's life. It is a wonderful thing to be saved.

Years ago, a drowning boy was struggling in a stream. His mother stood on the shore in agony of fright and grief. A strong man stood by her side, seemingly indifferent to the boy's fate. Again and again, the suffering mother appealed to him to save her boy, but he made no move. By and by, the desperate struggles of the boy began to abate. He was losing strength. Presently, the boy rose to the surface, weak and helpless. At once, the man leaped into the stream and brought the boy in safely to shore. "Why did you not save my boy sooner?" asked the now grateful mother.

"Madam, I could not save him as long as he was struggling and fighting. He would have dragged us both to a certain death, but when he grew weak, and ceased to struggle, and gave up, then it was easy to save him."

So it is when we cease from our own works and depend helplessly on the Lord that we realize how perfectly He is able to save without any effort from us. If we are trying to save ourselves and to get to Heaven by our ways, then we are not ready for the Lord to save us. Many people are doing good works and going to the churches or worshiping statues and idols, trying to get to Heaven someday, but none of these things can save us. We need to realize that we are hopeless and helpless, and just cry out to the Lord to save us. Then when you get to that point, you are ready for that verse we talked about earlier, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." The Bible does not say "hopefully" or "might be" saved. It says, "shall be (or will be) saved." That means you will be saved from a place called Hell, and you will go to Heaven if you will call out to the Lord Jesus Christ to save you. Jesus is the Saviour.

A savior is someone who rescues someone from harm, danger, or death. Jesus wants to save us from Hell. Think of soldiers, how they go into a war situation, and they go to fight and give their lives for their friends, their family, and their country. They give their lives so that others may be saved. Sometimes, a soldier will jump on a bomb and be blown to pieces to save his fellow soldiers and to have freedom for his country. Jesus gave His life to save us from Hell so we could go to Heaven someday. Just as soldiers give their lives for the safety of others, so Jesus gave His life to save us from Hell and take us to Heaven someday.

Firefighters go into burning buildings. They kick the door in. They do whatever they can to save the people that are in the burning building. The Bible speaks of a real place called Hell, a place of suffering, torment, and pain where they cry out, “Help! Help! Help!” but there is no help for them there.

Jesus loves you so much that He was willing to suffer, bleed, and die. Jesus shed His precious, perfect, and royal blood to forgive you of your sins, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven someday. The Bible says, “And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire...” (Jude 23) Jesus wants to pull you out of the fires of Hell and take you to Heaven someday.

I am reminded of that daughter who was so concerned about her mother. She wanted her mother to receive Jesus so she would not have to go to Hell, and go to Heaven. So she tried and tried to talk with her mother, but her sisters would not let her. They said, “Mom is a good person! Mom went to the church! Mom did great things! Don’t bring that junk about Jesus here! Don’t talk to her about Jesus!” Oh, the daughter tried, and tried, and tried, and tried to talk to her mother, but her sisters wouldn’t let her.

Finally, the mother was on her deathbed, and she was in agony, and she cried out, “Help! Help! Help! I’m burning! Somebody help me!”

Many people know the story of Noah and the Ark, how God told Noah He was going to flood the whole earth because people were evil and wicked, and the judgment was coming. Noah prepared an ark, and God said to Noah and his family, and to the

animals, “Come into the Ark.” Destruction is coming, but Jesus said, “...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37b) Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Jesus wants to save you from Hell and take you to Heaven someday. The Bible says, “...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” (Acts 16:31) If you will trust in Jesus alone to take you to Heaven, He will do it. Jesus said, “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6) You cannot get to Heaven by your good works. You cannot get to Heaven by worshiping statues or idols. You cannot get to Heaven by anything except for Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only One Who can take you to Heaven. You cannot earn your way, or work your way to Heaven. The Bible says, “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)

The Bible says that going to Heaven is like receiving a gift. A gift is free. All you do is receive it. Jesus gave His life for the whole world to save us from Hell so we can go to Heaven, but we have to receive Jesus.

The Bible says, “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.” (John 3:16) Jesus Christ came to give His life for us, to forgive us our sins, save us from Hell and take us to Heaven when we die, but we must trust in Jesus before it is too late.

A huge ship was out at sea. All of a sudden, there were problems with the ship. The crew realized that the ship was going to sink, but the captain of the ship evaluated the problem. He thought, “Well, we will be okay until morning.”

Another ship came by to rescue the passengers. The rescuers said, “Let us take you on board now. Let us save your lives now!”

But the captain of the damaged ship thought, “Well, it’s dark right now. It’s very dangerous. We could lose some people. We will be okay. Just wait until the morning.”

“No, no! I think you need to let us save you now!”

“No, no. We will do it in the morning.”

The sad part about it is that not long after that, the lights of the damaged ship were seen no more. The ship went to the bottom of the ocean, and everyone on board perished because they thought that they could be saved another day.

My friend, you are not guaranteed tomorrow. The Bible says, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27) The Bible also says, “For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” (James 4:14) We only live for a little while, and then there will be all eternity. The Bible says that today is the day of salvation. Right now, ask Jesus to come into your heart, forgive you of your sins, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven, and He will do it.

Imagine you were on a beautiful shore and just enjoying a wonderful time with your family. All of a sudden, you look out and see a huge wave coming. It’s a tsunami. You run and run with your family, but all of a sudden, the tsunami overtakes you and kills you. That is what happened in Asia when over 200,000 people were dead or missing from over twelve different countries when that tsunami hit. You and I are not guaranteed tomorrow. We need to prepare for all eternity.

Right now, Jesus is saying, “I love you. I died for you.” Jesus is saying, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him...” (Revelation 3:20) Jesus is knocking on your heart’s door. Jesus is saying, “I love you so much that I want to come into your heart, forgive you of your sins, save you from Hell, and take you to Heaven.” Why don’t you make the greatest decision of your life, and say, “Jesus, come into my heart. Save me from Hell, and take me to Heaven”? Jesus will save you.

Imagine if you were in the ocean, and you were fishing, and all of a sudden, your boat sprang a leak. You try to get the water out, but you cannot, so you jump out and start swimming, trying to get back to shore. You swim, and you swim, but the shore is just too far away. Then you are just barely keeping yourself afloat, and you realize that

you are going to drown. All of a sudden, about 20 yards away, you see a boat and you cry out, "Help! Save me!" You would not care what your friends thought. You would not care what anyone else thought because you knew that boat could save your life.

That story is a picture of salvation. We are all in the ocean of sin. The Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Because we are in the ocean of sin, we are going to drown and go to Hell. The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23a) "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:14) So therefore we have all done wrong. We are in the ocean of sin, and we are going to drown and go to Hell, but the boat represents Christ. See, the Lord Jesus Christ has the credentials to save you. Jesus suffered, bled, and died to forgive you of all your sins and save you from Hell so that you could go to Heaven. All you have to do is cry out, "Jesus, save me!", and He will do it. The Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13) My friend, life is brief. So why don't you call out to Jesus to save you?

In January 2007, my little baby girl Alejandra was born in Monterrey, Mexico. She was such a beautiful baby, but when we got home, she was not eating very well, so we returned to the hospital a couple days later. The doctor ran tests to see what was wrong with her. On the twelfth day of Alejandra's life, the doctor told us, "I don't think your daughter is doing very well. I think she is going to die." So we rushed into the room where Alejandra was. Monitors were flashing red. After a little while, the nurse said to my wife, "Would you like to hold your little baby before she dies?" The nurse put my little baby Alejandra in the arms of my wife, and at 2:38 p.m., my baby Alejandra went to Heaven. Alejandra is in a wonderful place of no more hurt, or pain, or sorrow, a place called Heaven, and you can go there too, if you ask Jesus to come into your heart.

I grew up in a home where there was fussing and fighting, and I felt like nobody loved me, nobody cared about me, but Somebody changed my life. Jesus Christ changed my life, and He can change your life too. One day, I asked Jesus to come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, save me from Hell, and take me to Heaven. Jesus came into my

heart. Why don't you receive Jesus in your heart? Don't let anything keep you from trusting in Jesus to save you. Do not be ashamed to trust Christ. We all need to receive Christ!

A young girl was ashamed of her mother because her mother's hands were terribly burned, scarred, and looked terrible. The young girl did not like to go anywhere with her mother. She just hated for people to see her mother's hands. She was so ashamed of her mother.

One day, a relative was visiting the home and noticed the situation. She said, "Could I tell you a story? When you were a little baby, you were in your room and there was a storm outside. Thunder was sounding, lightning struck the house, and your room caught on fire. Your mother heard the sound and ran quickly into your room. She saw your whole crib engulfed in flames. Without thinking twice, your mother reached in there, pulled you out, ran outside, and rolled on the ground, putting out the flames from your blanket. You weren't hurt, but your mother's hands were burned so badly."

The girl began to cry, and said, "I can't believe I was ashamed of my mother."

After that, the girl wanted to go everywhere with her mother. When someone would say, "Why are your mother's hands so terribly scarred and ugly?" she would reply, "My mother's hands were hurt in the process of saving my life!"

My friend, Somebody Else's hands were hurt for us so we could go to Heaven! Jesus suffered, bled, and died for us so we could go to Heaven. They spit in Jesus' face. They put a blindfold over His eyes, and they hit Him in the face and said, "Who hit you, Jesus?" They plucked His beard out! They put a crown of thorns on His head, and blood flowed down His head. Those Roman soldiers took a whip, and they beat Jesus, and beat Jesus, and beat Jesus! Why was Jesus going through that? Jesus suffered, bled, and died for you because He loves you, and wants to save you from Hell.

They took Jesus to a place where they put Him on a cross, and they drove spikes into His hands and into His feet. They picked up that cross, and they let it drop down

into the ground. Jesus hung on the cross suffering, bleeding, and dying to save you from Hell so that you could go to Heaven.

Right now, why don't you make the greatest decision of your whole life, and say, "Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me of my sins, save me from Hell, and take me to Heaven"? Jesus will answer that prayer. Jesus wants to come into your heart and save you. Just receive Jesus in your heart.

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ in your heart and life to go to Heaven, please pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. Forgive me for my sins. Save me from Hell and take me to Heaven when I die. I believe that You died for me on the cross so I could go to Heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my life to take me to Heaven. Amen."

When you trust in Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven, Jesus is in your heart forever, and one day He will take you to a wonderful place called Heaven.

Conclusion

I hope and pray that this book has been a blessing and help to your life. Never forget that Jesus loves you so much that He gave His life for you, and He will never leave you nor forsake you. God has a great plan for your life and wants to use you to make a difference in this world, so put Jesus first in everything that you say and do. There is greatness in you. You are important, special, and one-of-a-kind. So live for Jesus the rest of your life. Please feel free to share these messages with anyone to whom you think they could be of help. May God richly bless you.