

Are You Ready?

Romans 1:16-18 For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the POWER of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

What are you thinking? Do you know that the Gospel is the POWER of God Himself in order for you to receive salvation? Don't you know that His goodness toward you leads you to repent? (Romans 2:4)

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31, 32)

So what are you doing with that information? Have YOU ever heard the Gospel message? Have YOU heard that EVERY person ever born after Adam is born into sin because of HIS disobedience? Therefore, every single person is born with a sinful, evil nature and considered a sinner and is in need of salvation! We are all in need of a Savior, which is Jesus Christ! Jesus came to this earth as a man – God in a human body, born of woman, so He would be like us, except for one thing . . . He didn't have the evil nature that came into Adam after he sinned, like we do. He didn't have the seed of a man. His only Father was His heavenly Father, who is God, Himself! In Luke 1, beginning with verse 26, you can read how the Spirit of God came upon Mary, and once she believed the angel's words that she was chosen to bare God's Son into the world,

she received God's Word, and His Word is Jesus Himself! He was the Word made flesh Who dwelt among us! (John 1:14)

Jesus IS the Word of God! He came down, conquered sin, death and the grave - (and much more!) He was crucified, buried, rose from the dead, and ascended back into heaven, making the way for everyone to be born again! (from above) Read Romans 10:9-10.

When someone hears the Gospel – the Good News that they don't have to go to hell for all of eternity, (which is where everyone is heading that is not born again) and that Jesus made the way for them to receive eternal life and live forever in heaven with Him, they BELIEVE the Gospel! They REPENT of their sins, which means to turn around and go the opposite way! (a 180 degree turn) They quit sinning, and they receive Jesus as the Lord of their entire life and begin living for Him! They confess Him as their Lord before people. They become a brand new person! (2 Corinthians 5:17) They live all out for God and do what He calls you to do – they walk in the Spirit and not the flesh. (Galatians 5:16) God's very own Spirit comes to live inside of you and not only gives you power over sin, but even takes the desire for it right out of you! Praise God! God gives you the desires of your heart! (Psalm 37:4) He takes away those old, sinful, selfish, and evil desires out of you and He replaces them with His own desires! Now you are an overcomer! *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world. (1 John 5:4a)* Now you have the victory over everything the devil even tries to come against you with, whether it's temptation to sin, to get sick, or to lose your temper! You now have power over the flesh, the world and the devil because you have God's power and authority in you that God had originally given to man! He gave Adam dominion over the entire earth and everything in it! (Genesis 1:26-28)

If you are born of God you have rights, privileges (favor) that the people of the world do not have because they don't belong to Him. You have an inheritance not only in heaven, but while you are still on the earth! (Mark 10:30) As God's child, you have God's favor resting upon you and you are blessed in every area of your life! You just have to learn how to receive your blessings and learn how to walk in them!

When people hear this good News that God loves them so much (John 3:16) they believe it and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They turn from their old life and ways and turn to Him to be forgiven and to be set free from the power of sin and death. They receive life abundantly! (John 10:10) When people hear about this, which is the most important thing to gain knowledge about, they see their need for Jesus and make a change in their life! They make the most important decision they could have ever made! A decision for JESUS!

Don't dare hear the Gospel and turn FROM it! Don't DENY the very One Who can save you from the pit of hell! Some people are so deceived that they will actually know about all of this and DENY the only One Who can save them! They may have even grown up hearing about Jesus, and as they got older, actually denied Him and went the way of the world! *Enter ye in at the **strait** gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and **many** there be which go in thereat: because **strait** is the gate, and **narrow** is the way, which leadeth unto **life**, and **few** there be that find it. (Matthew 7:13, 14)*

No one in their RIGHT mind would actually HEAR about Jesus and not ACCEPT Him! No one who thinks straight would actually know the Gospel message then just go on living their life as if Jesus didn't do anything for them! Can you imagine how terrible it will be for those

who actually knew and turned away from Jesus? Can you even imagine TURNING AWAY from Him? He is the One Who loves you more than anyone could EVER love you! The ONLY One Who will NEVER leave you or forsake you! (Hebrews 13:5) He is with you every single second of every day! How could you even think of denying Him, especially after everything He went through – just for you! Don't put God off! He is waiting on you! Can you imagine putting God, the creator of the entire universe and everything in it, off? Can you picture yourself making Him wait for ANYTHING!? Remember – He even created you! He has a purpose for you in these last days and He is depending on you to accomplish His will – He needs you! (Jeremiah 29:11) You were born in this time period – the last of the last days, right before Jesus comes for His bride. (the church) He chose YOU to live at this time out of everyone ever born throughout all time!

The people who knew about God and rejected Him will have it worse than those who didn't know about Him. *And that servant, which knew his Lord's will and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.* (Luke 12:47, 48)

If you haven't made the decision for Christ, just picture yourself hanging by a single thread over an eternal hell/lake of fire! That's actually how you are living! *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:31) Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

(Philippians 2:12) Don't ever let the devil deceive you into thinking that you are safe just because you go to church, either! Don't let him lie to you and get you to believe that you are OK with God just because you said a prayer one time either, because it is the farthest thing from the truth! If you haven't received Jesus Himself into your very being and given control of everything over to Him, you aren't born again! If there was never a change in you and if you still talk, think, and act just like the world, then you aren't saved at all even if you **live** at church! Eternal life is to **know** Jesus! (John 17:3) If you don't know the Word of God, you don't KNOW Jesus! (They are one and the same!) If you don't spend time in prayer, communing with Him and by letting Him speak to you, how do you KNOW Him? It's a **personal** relationship that Jesus wants with you! How can you be led of the Spirit of God if you don't even recognize Him when He speaks or leads you? You won't! It takes quality time with your creator, in thanking Him, praising Him, and worshipping Him to get to know His presence. You must renew your mind to the Word of God through reading, studying it and meditating in it, and confessing what it says in order to **believe** it! That's how you **know** the Lord. Do you actually **know** Him? He's waiting on you, but don't ever make Him wait! If you don't make the decision to make Jesus your Lord, you've already made your decision! Jesus is coming soon...are you ready and waiting?

Love in Christ, Jody