



GOD'S PASSION FOR SOULS

God spared no expense for the redemption of the souls of mankind. The good news of Jesus Christ and all of the benefits of His salvation are available to anyone who will hear and believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead. Does this sound too good to be true? Then let us recall for a moment the state that we ourselves were in before we believed Jesus. We were dead in our inherited and ongoing sin, obeying the devil, without hope, outsiders, and excluded from God and His benefits. We were powerless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies of God. When we ourselves were in this horribly hopeless position, this is when Jesus Christ died for us. When we were in a spiritual state of death, Jesus restored us to right standing with God and gave us life.

*Colossians 1:21-23: Once you **were alienated** from God and **were enemies** in your minds because of your evil behavior. **But now** he **has reconciled** you by Christ's physical body through death **to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--** if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. **This is the gospel** that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*

*Romans 5:6-10: You see, at just the right time, **when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, **while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!***

*1Timothy 4:10: That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is **the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.***

Jesus did not come to judge but to save everyone who will believe. The same salvation that was offered to us is available to every single person that we meet no matter what they have done. Jesus Christ destroyed death, bore our sickness, redeemed us from the curse, cancelled our sin-debt, and destroyed the works of the devil so that we could all be saved, healed, blessed, made holy, reign over the devil, and have eternal life in Him.

God So Loved that He Gave

God so loved the world that He gave His Son. The Gospel is a **free gift** of salvation and eternal life. The Gospel is **good news to the poor**. Jesus GAVE everything to save the souls of men. Jesus laid down His life so that others could live.

Unfortunately, many called into service for the Lord give way to the pollution of the things of this world, particularly the love of money. What a deadly threat to the message of eternal life! We cannot worship both God and money. Worship is service. Either we are serving for money or we are serving for the Lord. If we are truly serving the Lord, He guarantees that all of our needs will be taken care of. (See Matthew 6:25-33.) The laborer is deserving of food and shelter but the message of the Kingdom must never be perverted with matters of money.

Consider that the Apostle Paul labored as a tent-maker so as to never charge the Corinthians a dime for hearing the Gospel message or become a burden to any of them. He did this until Silas and Timothy arrived with an offering from the believers in Macedonia which freed him up financially to preach the Gospel full time. (See Acts 18:1-5; 2 Corinthians 11:9.) Paul was willing to receive offerings from other believers in order to support his work in the mission field but he humbled himself in order to preach the Gospel free of charge to those who did not yet know Jesus.

If we truly understand God's passion for souls we will not possibly see ministry as an opportunity for gain but a holy calling of pouring our lives out and sparing no expense so that just one more soul can come to know God and be saved. When we know what Jesus has done for us, we are not ashamed of our crucified King but are ready to be like Him. His love compels us to give of ourselves completely.

*2Corinthians 5:14-19: **For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.***

*Romans 1:16-17: **For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed--a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."***

When we truly understand what God has done for us and what Jesus has commissioned us to, we will be willing to GO so that the world can KNOW Jesus for themselves and be saved.

*Romans 10:14-15: **How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"***

My Witnesses

Ever since Adam's error, God has employed witnesses to testify about who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in times to come. Adam and Eve, eyewitnesses to Eden, testified about God, being in relationship with Him, and about the promise of a Son who would crush the head of the serpent. Noah was a preacher of righteousness who built an ark because of what he believed God had told him about the judgment that was to come. Later, when it seemed that all hope was lost and no one in the world worshipped or acknowledged God, God called upon Abraham to live a life of faith as a witness and testament of redemption by faith in the one true God. When God led the nation of Israel out of slavery, the story of His great miracle power spread throughout the earth that the God of Heaven had chosen a people for Himself. This said, God's original design for Israel was not outreach and evangelism. His intent was that through Israel's obedience to His righteousness, the nations would come to know the wisdom, power, and justice of the God who created heaven and earth. God designed His people to be a light to the nations so that all the earth would know that He is God and there is none other. They were to be His witnesses, testifying of His greatness and power, telling the stories of His redemption and holiness, and living according to His ways so as to demonstrate reverence for Him and represent Him in the earth.

But when Jesus came and established the New Covenant, He commissioned His disciples to go to the ends of the earth as His witnesses to tell of what God has done by sending His Son and to teach all peoples to obey Him until He returns. The only reason God has not yet sent Jesus to judge the earth with fire is to give more people time to repent, come to know Him, and be saved. (See 2 Peter 3:9.) We are His

witnesses. We are called to testify of the great and wonderful salvation that God has made available to us through Jesus Christ. We are called to live lives of holy reverence for God, freedom from religious legalism and the curse of the law, miracle power and mostly, mercy and love. This is how the world will know that Jesus is King and that everything He said is true and will come to pass – including the day of judgment to come.

Each and every one of us as Christ's disciples have been commissioned by Jesus to declare a message of hope through repentance from sin and believing in Jesus so that everyone can hear the word of Christ and believe. We have a responsibility to deliver God's message and, significantly, Jesus will not return until we have accomplished our task as His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

*Matthew 24:14: And this **gospel of the kingdom will be preached** in the whole world **as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.***

The world needs to know about the love of God. The world needs to know that the day of His wrath is coming. The world needs to know that God has made a way to be saved from this wrath. We know the love of God because He gave His Son. The world will know the love of God when we spare no expense and give our all for them to know Him.

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