

Christianity 101

“Saved!”

1.8.23

John 3:¹⁶ For God loved the world in this way:^[e] He gave^[f] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

I. A look at a familiar text. (Nic at night)

About nic...

He was a spiritual leader

He was curious

He was fearful

There was a man from the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to him at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with him.”

He was clueless

⁴ “How can anyone be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked him. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born?”

He was sorta “punked” by Jesus

¹⁰ “Are you a teacher^[b] of Israel and don’t know these things?” Jesus replied. ¹¹ “Truly I tell you, we speak what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you do not accept our testimony.

About being saved....

Jesus said to have a relationship with the Father we must be saved

³ Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again,^[a] he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Jesus said there are clearly 2 births

⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again.

Jesus said being saved is an intentional choice we must make

¹⁶ For God loved the world in this way:^[e] He gave^[f] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.

II. How do you get saved? (Become a follower of Jesus)

“Salvation occurs when we recognize who we are (sinners) and embrace Jesus for who He really is and ask HIM to forgive and change us” MM

Acts 20:21 I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.

This is intentional and deliberate

This happens when the cure (Jesus) becomes the answer for our problem (sin)

Our problem

Rom 3: ²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

Our solution

Rom 3: ²⁴ they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Our responsibility

Luke 18 ¹³ “But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

This can happen at varied ages

This happens in different manners

This does not mean we may not have doubts?

Close:

Come out of sadness
From wherever you've been
Come broken hearted
Let rescue begin
Come find your mercy
Oh sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal

Crowder