



**No Surprises  
Suffering Sucks...but it is Good for You?  
1 Peter 4:12-19**

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We have learned here in 1 Peter that the unbelieving world thinks we are strange. In fact, our behavior is downright foreign since, as we learned earlier, we are considered by many to be like subversive foreigners here on this planet. Let me ask the question I asked when we first began our study of this book, are there times that you feel like you are living in a foreign country, and no one seems to understand you at all when you talk about the Lord?



If you insist on doing life with a Biblical worldview, then yes, to those who do not have that worldview, we are indeed subversive foreigners.

Most of us, as believers are okay with the world believing we are a little strange. Here in chapter 4, Peter tells us that conversely, we should not fall into the trap of thinking the world is strange because they are trying to defend their satanic turf from us.

The world is going to act like the world. That means that, given the opportunity, yes, they will discriminate against us, they will belittle us, they will call us names, and some would even go as far as persecuting us simply because we carry the name of Jesus. Yes, they will indeed go out of their way to blaspheme Christ and then provide a weak apology.

That being said, for most of my life, the predominate religion in the United States was Christianity, so much of this was below the horizon. That is no longer the case. "Christianity is no longer the clearly dominant religion in the United States. Whereas Christians once established the cultural and political norms of our society, today we have a more multiethnic and multireligious culture in which many voices are heard. **Christianity is still the religion with the most adherents, but its degree of power has clearly waned.** Furthermore, those who have Christianophobia possess more per-capita social power because of their typical racial, economic and educational status. They cannot be simply dismissed as was done earlier in our history. Christianophobia now has more power to shape the lives of American Christians than it did in the past." (Yancey 2015, 143)

Peter saw this coming, so did Paul as well as Jesus.

John 15:18

"If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me first." (NET 2nd ed.)

In the United States? Yes. Why? Apostasy is the most basic reason. The church has walked away from the teaching of the Bible. "The unfortunate reality today is that the world and the church are often indistinguishable. As worldly philosophies and values infiltrate the body of Christ, moral values adjust and new theologies emerge." (Hitchcock and Kinley 2017, 19)

The apostate church now is also one with the world in the discrimination of believers. But what has led to this?

The past 30 years has produced a precipitous decline in both the number of self-identified Christians and in people's confidence in religion as an answer to their needs.

The United States has sustained a breathtaking drop in four critical spiritual indicators: belief in God, belief in the Bible, seeking eternal salvation through a relationship with and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and personal possession of a biblical worldview. (Barna 2022, 87)

Here is the thing we need to remember about the apostate church, they are in the flesh and act like the world. This is not new since Jesus did write a letter to the church in Laodicea, the example for us of an apostate church.

There are those in the church who are in the flesh and operate that way. This isn't new, but the pervasive nature of it these days is. But it is nothing more than a reflection of where we are on the clock.

We must remember this about those who are apostate, especially those who teach and lead others to go into apostasy.



“The apostate is one who is actively propagating within the local church the destructive denials of the Trinity, the Virgin Birth, the deity of the Messiah, and the Second Coming. **The apostates that the Bible speaks of are not merely unbelievers; they are teachers of apostate doctrines who propagate their destructive denials.**” (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 25) Today, they have conferences, television ministry, websites, You Tube channels, and they pull in thousands of views as well as cash.

If you or I have a run in with those who fall into this category, we have instructions from John to fall back on.

## 2 John 7–11

“For many deceivers have gone out into the world, people who do not confess Jesus as Christ coming in the flesh. This person is the deceiver and the antichrist! Watch out, so that you do not lose the things we have worked for, but receive a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not remain in the teaching of Christ does not have God. The one who remains in this teaching has both the Father and the Son. **If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house and do not give him any greeting, because the person who gives him a greeting shares in his evil deeds.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

That may sound harsh, but the reality is, the enemy wants you too to compromise and join in with the deception.

Deception is a hallmark of the last days. When we run into it, we shouldn't really be too shocked about it. I think the shocking thing is that there are those who are making a living via deception and at the same time calling their activities, ministry. All I can say is, “for whom” are they doing ministry for?

Peter also talks about this here too and he does a lot better job of organizing his thoughts than I do. Let's look at our text for today.

## 1 Peter 4:12–19

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? **AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?** Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God are to entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.” (NASB 2020)

The folks that Peter is writing to are no different than us. Prior to coming to Christ, they were members in good standing of the Roman Empire and did life as such.

Before we came to Christ, most of us were also citizens in good standing of this planet doing life the same way everyone else does. Then we met Jesus, and everything changed. Depending on how sudden and complete the change, and how vocal we were about it, we went from being well liked by others to now avoided, or worse.

For those gentile believers Paul is writing to, they had no experience at all being a cultural minority. Jewish believers were used to it, but not the gentiles. Before becoming a believer, they were at home where they lived, we were too. But when we heard the gospel, we chose to end the rebellion.



For those living in the Roman Empire, now that they were believers, “they were experiencing cultural isolation and personal hostility, not what they might have expected as the blessing of God. Well might they have wondered if something had not gone wrong. Thus our author reassures them: persecution is not something “strange” or foreign to their existence as Christians.” (Davids 1990, 164) In fact, Jesus called it.

Matthew 5:11–12

“How blessed you are when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of vicious lies about you because you follow me! Rejoice, be glad, because your reward in heaven is great—they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way.” (CJB)

You know you are no longer of this world when the one you are following tells you that contrary to what you are thinking, you are actually blessed for being mistreated by others because of Him.

Yes, I still struggle with that too.

When Jesus said this, He was talking to Jews. They all understood how the religious leadership of the day as well as the ruling elites declined, for the most part. To listen to the prophets and instead persecuted them and murdered some of them as well. Those who were called as prophets became frustrated with the treatment, just read Jeremiah. But the Lord was with them.

When Jesus talks to us here in Matthew 5, we all think, unbelievers. But the Jew would think, unbelieving believer. In other words, persecution from their own people. Again, do not assume persecution only comes from the world.

The first time I encountered push back, I was surprised. Jesus says here through Peter, don't be. Expect it.

Now I do. I find myself now wanting to discover how subtle those who are engaged in the discrimination think they are being.

My favorite, “we are looking for someone we can partner with who would be a good fit for our organization and your faith makes us wonder if you would truly be objective while working for us.” That is code for “we don't think you would lie for us as part of the job.”

The hiring authority for a corporation cannot legally reject you for being a believer, so there is an attempt to manufacture a reason to say no. Corporate culture flies real high these days and I have heard the words we just do not think you would fit in well. They are indeed correct.

I recall applying to work as an insurance adjuster and I was told that I wouldn't make a good insurance adjuster because. The hiring manager saw I went to Bible School o he thought I would tend to show mercy when the policy language would not allow for it. Either you paid for the coverage, or you didn't.

I did get hired since the company I was going to work for thought it would be the politically correct thing to do as there was an attempt in the home office to redirect the culture in the field operations. But it was indeed a very different corporate culture that I struggled with for the short time I worked for them. I didn't smoke or drink, but they all did.

There are those times that the best thing to do is leave. But that was years ago, now your social media posts tend to announce you before you interview. Ghosting is a real thing these days.



We must remember that this should not come as a surprise to us since we live for Jesus. “The idea that normal life should always be harmonious and free from suffering, despite universal suffering and death, remains a lingering echo of life in Eden as God created it before the fall. It is also a longing for the time when there will be no more tears, suffering, pain, and death (Rev. 21:4).” (Jobes 2005, 286) But it is not reality while we are here on planet earth. Anyone who teaches otherwise is flat wrong.

What did we see in the life of Jesus? He was perfect and without sin. As a result of that, what did the religious leadership of the Temple want to do to Him? Kill Him.

I hang out with other Pastors who tend to have a different view of the world. They expect to be rated low on Google and Yelp solely because they teach the word. I have been told by others, who would like to influence our church, that we need to be sensitive to the community and teach so that we will be liked. I really can't do that.

Luke 6:26 “Woe to you when people speak well of you, for that is just how their fathers treated the false prophets!” (CJB)

I know what the Lord has called me to do. I truly appreciate the advice, but I will stick with what the Lord wants me to do. By the way, I have no idea at all how to grow Calvary Chapel. That is His job. Mine is to be faithful and follow Him.

God has a purpose for our suffering. We are not to be surprised about it, instead, we are to rejoice in Christ in the trials we go through. I am looking forward to the day when I can see Jesus, face to face and I know that in those situations where I still do not understand, and there are quite a few of them, I will when I see Him. James tells us more of the attitude we should have in the Lord.

James 1:2–8

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for **you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness**. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (ESV)

I find myself still asking for wisdom in those situations, trials and tests I have been subjected to, now and in the past. In some cases, others who were not walking with the Lord were involved in the circumstances and helped to cause them to take place, we must not hold bitterness in our hearts and that takes continuing wisdom from the Lord to not fall into. He gives us wisdom; all we must do is ask and believe. I must admit, I still do not know the why in most cases, but His grace is indeed sufficient.

And yes, those who think they are following the Lord, but are not in the Spirit at all, can also be involved in causing pain. Church hurt is a real thing. We are all fallen, and at times, even those in the church reflect the world in what they do.

We want Calvary Chapel to be a safe place. Not only from the world, but also from those who use the world's methods in the church and damage believers in the process. When I was first injured as a relatively new believer, I wanted to quit and go back to the world. I was mad at God for allowing someone into His church who would do what they did and allow a Pastor I loved to have to leave or be fired.

Peter though tells us to expect this. The world, including unbelieving believers, will indeed attack and work to destroy true ministry. That is what the enemy wants to do and if he can grab a few carnal Christians along the way to help, he will.



1 Peter 4:13–14

“but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, **keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed.** If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you.” (NASB 2020)

Peter spoke truth and helped.

Why are we to rejoice in trials, in suffering, in persecution? It really is simple per Peter. After all, for those undergoing suffering for Christ, the Holy Spirit is upon you. We are to look forward to where we are going.

The rapture. I don't know about you, but persecution, trials and suffering make me look forward to the day that Jesus comes to remove us out of here.

The crazier the world seems to get, the more I find myself longing for Him to remove us.

It is His responsibility to judge those who misuse us and abuse us. Not ours. We simply come into the courtroom of the universe and since, because of Jesus, we are now family, ask the judge to take our case, help those who offended us to find Christ, and give us peace.

Romans 12:19–21

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “**Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.**” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**” (ESV)

As you pray about the situation, the hard work is giving it totally to the Lord. But He just told us this is His prerogative.

As you walk into that court today, you can say to the Judge who is your loving heavenly Father, “Father, I'm in pain. The weight of the abuse I have received is crushing me. It is tearing me apart. I know I can't be the judge and jury. So I'm asking you, can I bring all of this pain, all of this judgment, all of the bitterness, and all of the anger I feel to you? Can I turn my case over to you?” At this point, your heavenly Father will say, without hesitation, “Yes, I will take all of your hurt, all of your pain, all of your judgments. I will take your case. I will do everything in my power to bring your abuser to a place of repentance. But if they do not repent, justice will be served.” (Beeson and Hayward 2017, 128)

We rely on Him, knowing that He is coming back very soon to take us to be with Him. That is what Peter is instructing us to be about. Looking forward to His return as we encounter and go through suffering.

Are we escapists because we are looking for the pretribulational rapture of the church? Absolutely. I am ready to no longer be fighting with the world to do what the Lord wants just in order to get His word online. I am tired of always looking for a place to meet and getting stonewalled.

I am ready to stop being called names by others. I am ready to have the lies told to others about me end. I am ready to be in the presence of the Lord and as we look forward to that glorious moment, even while in the middle of suffering and trials, we rejoice because we know it is indeed all going to end and very soon.

The world looks at the absence of suffering means we are blessed. But the Bible does indeed teach otherwise.



But there is always the possibility that someone will say they are being persecuted or are suffering, because they have committed a crime worthy of being treated that way.

Peter lets us know we are not to be that way.

1 Peter 4:15–16

“Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.” (NASB 2020) The word Christian only shows up three times in the Bible. Twice in Acts (11:26; 26:28) and then here. Initially, it was intended to be a word used in derision. You are nothing more than a “follower of Christ.”

In an honor and shame culture, such as in Rome, one would use this term Christian as an attempt to shame them. But God removes the shame. “Christian” might be used as not merely ridicule but something like a legal charge or widespread accusation. Already by 64, people in Rome were apparently calling the disciples “Christians,” even before it became a temporarily chargeable offense under Nero, and Roman governors continued to apply the term to the group in legal settings in the early second century. Beginning early in the second century Christian sources themselves adopt the title; by the mid-second century Justin Martyr uses it extensively and proudly.” (Keener 2021, 345)

For those who are suffering for Christ, it is as if the cloud by day and the fire by night, the glory of God rests on you.

The world may think suffering for conscientious adherence to Christianity is disgraceful, but actually it is an honour in God’s sight, and should be so in the eyes of Christians as well. (Grudem 1988, 187)

This was not caused by sin in the believer, but sin on the part of the one who is afflicting the believer. Peter then moves on to answer the question of why are God’s people suffering and the evil doer going free?

1 Peter 4:17–18

“For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?” (NASB 2020)

Peter points back to verse 12 and tells us that this ordeal, this persecution, this abuse is a refining fire of God’s judgment. This is not judgment from the perspective of condemnation, there is no condemnation for those in Christ. We already know.

Romans 8:1

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus,” (CSB)

But we are being reminded here that how we do life as a believer, is indeed subject to a final review by Jesus at the Bema Seat of Christ. It is there we will receive or lose rewards based on how we chose to do life. In the Spirit and for Him, or in the flesh.

This infers as well that the King reserves the right to sift the church in order to ensure holiness. Paul talks about what that will be like.

1 Corinthians 3:12–15

“If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, each one’s work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the



quality of each one's work. If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved—but only as through fire." (CSB)

As we go through periods of suffering, testing or misuse and abuse by the world for Jesus, as with everything we do, how do we live through it? What is our response? In the Spirit, or in the flesh.

Are we going to be approved and receive reward, or did we react poorly in the flesh and negate the chance of reward. I've done that a few times.

You see, as believers, as His children, He is already in the process of molding us and forming us to be more like Him. Yes, this does mean, at times, discipline.

As the King, He also sifts the church from time to time. The goal is to see the church remain separated to Him and Holy. We are seeing that take place in churches right now.

The picture is that God has begun judging within the church, and will later move outward to judge those outside the church. The refining fire of judgment is leaving no one untouched, but Christians are being purified and strengthened by it—sins are being eliminated and trust in God and holiness of life are growing. (Grudem 1988, 188)

We are being sifted and disciplined for growth in Him.

Proverbs 3:11–12

"My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." (ESV)

Notice how Peter refers to the church here.

**We are the household of God.** We are family. God has always wanted His people to live correctly and as such this should not strike as as strange that He begins with the church. It also should not strike us with terror. Those He loves, He disciplines. Notice where God begins His work, after He has marked those who are true believers, as He judges Jerusalem with Babylon.

Ezekiel 9:5–6

"And I heard God say to the other men, "Follow him through the city, and kill. Spare no one; have mercy on no one. Kill the old men, young men, young women, mothers, and children. But don't touch anyone who has the mark on his forehead. **Start here at my Temple.**" **So they began with the leaders who were standing there at the Temple.**" (GNB)

We forget, as we study the Bible, that judgement is spoken about often, and more in the connection of His own people than with the world and unbelievers.

Earlier, Peter referred to the glory we will experience when Jesus returns for His church. As the church, we live at the end of the age and per Peter, Jesus, Paul and John, we are living in the end times. The reality for us today though is we are not just in the end times; we are in the final seconds of the final minute of the age.

"The end times imply judgment. Judgment begins with the household of God because that household has already come to the end time. We are being judged now; we can avoid the rush of the end that is the complete terminus of the old creation when all will be judged. Our judgment comes in the midst of our faith that we know the judge, and the judge loves us. Yet still there is judgment. There is no growth





without judgment showing us what is deficient in our lives. There is no sanctification unless we know what is unholy in our lives. The household of God agrees to be judged. It is willing to open its life to the Judge.” (González 2010, 134)

As we take a step back for a moment and soak in how much He loves us and how He wants us to be with Him and be like Him. We are hit by the three ways now that Peter has looked at persecution.

In verse 12 he told us it is a test of faith. It is something to be expected and if you ever wonder if you are truly His, it is a way to know.

Then Peter tells us that persecution or suffering now is an identification with the sufferings of Christ. We are being treated no better than our master was.

And now he has told us it is for our discipline or judgment purifying us further and proving beyond a doubt we are His. We are being made more like the character of those in His family, we are being made Holy. I still do not like the idea of judgment, but my suffering does not necessarily mean that I am specially sinful. Since I am committed to Christ, the persecution I suffer is a sign that I am part of the household of God. He, as a good father, is purifying his family for our good. It is a sign of belonging. (Kaiser Jr., et al. 1996, 722)

1 Peter 4:17b

“...and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (NASB 2020)

Talk about the other shoe dropping. We are the ones who have accepted the gospel and are no longer in rebellion.

What about those who have rejected the gospel? What happens to them?

Paul provided a real strong hint in 2 Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 1:4–10

“We proudly tell God’s other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering. And God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering. **In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you. And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven.** He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don’t know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.” (NLT)

For those of us who have been wounded, injured or damaged because of being faithful to the Lord, either by the world or by those who are operating like the world, we have a promise that we have just seen. This promise tells us we must let go of the offense and stop dwelling on it. Anger and bitterness don’t look good on you.

When we forgive, as per the scriptures, it doesn’t mean returning to that unjust or abusive situation because the one who has offended you has not repented even though you have forgiven them. It means you have now allowed God to be God. He promised “to pay back those who persecute you.” Let Him. Forgiveness was never meant to exonerate the one who created the wound. Nor does it mean a person must now return to an unjust situation or deny that that situation was unjust. Forgiveness is not saying it



didn't happen. That would be a relinquishment of our rights. It would also be a lie, for the offense did happen. In releasing

someone, we are not releasing them from all justice. But we are releasing them to God's justice, not ours. Legally, the offender owes a debt to the offended. But we can turn the debt of our offender, who has never repaid their debt, who is not around, and who has never shown repentance, over to Jesus. The debt still exists, but the ownership of the debt and the associated pain are transferred to Jesus. (Beeson and Hayward 2017, 123)

Proverbs 20:22

"Don't say, "I will get even for this wrong." Wait for the LORD to handle the matter." (NLT)

Hebrews 10:26–31

"No sacrifices can be made for people who decide to sin after they find out about the truth. **They are God's enemies, and all they can look forward to is a terrible judgment and a furious fire.** If two or more witnesses accused someone of breaking the Law of Moses, that person could be put to death. But it is much worse to dishonor God's Son and to disgrace the blood of the promise that made us holy. And it is just as bad to insult the Holy Spirit, who shows us mercy. We know that God has said he will punish and take revenge. **We also know that the Scriptures say the Lord will judge his people. It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God!"** (CEV)

1 Peter 4:18–19

"AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God are to entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right." (NASB 2020)

For believers here on planet earth, because we are indeed foreigners operating in a hostile environment, salvation comes with difficulty. This is not saying it is tough to give your life to Christ and believe in what He did on the cross for us then raising from the dead, but because we are saved, because we have believed, we will be subject to encountering difficulties from time to time here on earth.

If what we go through as believers is difficult, and in some cases it does indeed lead to death, then what about those who are unbelievers? We do not earn salvation, but as part of the family, we know better about things that unbelievers are clueless about. We enjoy discipline whereas they do not.

All the unbeliever has to look forward to is judgment. Our suffering now is nothing like an eternity in hell which is what the unbeliever must look forward to.

Hebrews 12:7

"Regard your endurance as discipline; God is dealing with you as sons. For what son goes undisciplined by his father?" (CJB)

Peter concludes his thoughts with a command in view of what he has just talked about. As we enter a period of testing, suffering or whatever you want to call it, simply because we love and follow Jesus, we are to fully entrust ourselves to our faithful creator. He will bring us through it safely.

I think David sums it all up for us in Psalm 23.

Psalm 23

"A PSALM OF DAVID. **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**



**I will fear no evil, for you are with me;** your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;** you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” (ESV)

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

### **ABC’s of Salvation**

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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