

## Are You Already On Your Way to Hell, Mr. Christian?

We've received a sharp warning directly from the mouth of the Lord Jesus. His words are a dangerously explosive missile that has been fired into an area of the waters where He does not want us sailing. If we are sailing in these waters, we are sailing at our own risk of destruction and our ships may be hit and destroyed by that missile: Jesus says in **Mat 7:21**; "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*"

This tells me that many of us have deceived ourselves by what we call our own goodness. Every one of us thinks we are good in God's eyes. We all believe we do what is right, we all believe we are going to heaven. BUT...this is all in own eyes. And...what is right in our eyes is wrong in God's. God knows the truth and we don't. We are searching for the truth. He is the truth. The book of Daniel says that in the end times knowledge will increase. What a prophecy. It has. But the truth has stayed the same. We still don't have it, even with all this knowledge. We may have out smarted ourselves.

We should seriously be considering one question: When exactly do we have the right to describe ourselves as Christians? The question is *not* when do we, it's when **exactly** do we. There is something that needs to happen to make us know we are a Christian. Has it happened in your life, or are you just calling yourself a Christian because you think it has positive eternal rewards.

According to Scripture, you are *not* a Christian until you deal properly with sin. The fact is, and will remain, that you are a sinner and have broken God's law, and will continue to break God's law until your last breath. Your consequence for your sin is eternal death. Like it or not, you are, right now, under His condemnation. You're waiting on your plane at the airport to hell right now.

If you think about what you're thinking about religion, the Christian faith is reserved. It's not a religion, religion is man made. Not everyone that says they are a Christian is a Christian. Many are deceived. Those who are deceived chose to deceive themselves by making Christianity as easy on themselves as they could. And they missed it because they wanted a method that would not let them suffer while making them better than they really are. They created their own version that would give them praise from their world. They converted Christianity to some form that fitted their own wants and their own needs.

Let me be the one to remind you, right this minute, that Christianity is for those who realize that they are indebted to God. God is the master, you are the servant. God is in control, you are not. God gives you life, you don't just have it hanging over you. God should receive all the praise given, you should not. You only think you are some kind of god that should be worshiped, you are not.

When the angel announced the birth of Jesus Christ, he said, "You shall call him Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." The angel said you will be saved from your sins, not you will save the people from their sins.

Have you dealt seriously with the fact that God has pronounced an eternal death sentence against you as guilty? Have you awakened from sleep and considered how your Creator will, whenever He wants to, summon you to his throne to account for each and every evil deed you committed. That also includes all your mental deeds too. The ones you thought about doing but you just didn't have enough courage to do. Those are the ones that defile your soul and make it smell bad. Being a coward is worse than doing the act because the coward has the act stay in his heart. Those who follow through finish with the deed and move on to bigger and better things.

The Lord Jesus gave us a penetrating picture concerning ourselves: "From within, from the heart of man, issue forth..." and on he goes by mentioning a whole list of sins that fill in the daily newspapers - blasphemy, lying, cheating, pride, adultery, murder. Jesus says that the source of all this pollution is the human heart. It is the pump that pumps all your filth and impurity into the world all around you. Your heart is "sick unto death." – It's your source of every form of immorality and lawlessness that comes from you.

Are you worried about your problem of your evil heart? I am not asking whether you believe man is a sinner in theory. This question involves much more. Just saying, "I know I'm a sinner and dismissing will not help making anything right. Has the results of your evil heart come back to you enough yet? Not yet, if you have done nothing to correct it. When it makes you see yourself as God sees you, it will dawn on you how evil your heart is. You will then examine yourself in depth, from within against the scriptures. And when you take that honest look, you will hold the same verdict that God holds against you. But...until then, you will continue your useless attempt to defend yourself. You can't defend yourself because you do not sit in the judge's seat. You stand in front of the judge's seat being judged for the way you are. That's just a little tid bit for those of you who can out argue someone and make yourself right in your own eyes. Its also for those who can do something evil to someone else and then make them believe it was to their benefit. You can do this with man while you are here on earth, but you can't when you stand in front of the judge. The Judge knows every thought you have ever thought and he knows the motive of each and everyone of those thoughts. He is going to call you to explain them to Him.

Or have you sided with God against yourself? That sounds really stupid to a heathen because the heathen thinks he is god. He thinks, why would I ever bow to anyone, even God. This is because in his mental manipulations that made him a god, he has taken control of all the imaginary power available. In his mind there is nothing more powerful than him. He can make anyone think anything he wants

them to thing. He can prove his evil deeds right with his mighty and powerful and manipulating words.

A Christian is not like this. He is one who not only knows that God's condemnation is hanging upon him, but that he has it coming. He knows he is a dirty rag to God. He is very happy he got grace from god rather that what he deserves. He is the one who has applied the only divine remedy for his sin.

After saying this, I warn you to use it correctly. You should know in your heart that the Christian faith is not some kind of religious first-aid kit or a band aid just as if you're patching up some cut somewhere on you body. It is not a percentage of help from above to add our own self-help to it. In his infinite mercy, God intervenes into our miserable sinful situation, and does for us what we can not do for ourselves.

The ONLY, and I stress ONLY, divine remedy is Christ himself. The remedy is not found in any old set of ideas you think are right. Remember, you don't know the truth, you only know sin. The remedy is not found in some institution, or some church, or some preacher, or some person who says things that make you feel right. The ONLY solution is found in Jesus Christ, who himself affirmed: "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man comes to the Father, except through me."

The remedy is Christ crucified, and raised from the dead the third day. John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

Jesus said: "I came to serve and give my life as a ransom for many."

When the apostle Paul visited Corinth, that great place of intellectualism and pagan philosophy, he said, "I came to you," he reminded them, "not with elevated speech, for I had determined beforehand not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

For the benefit of his own enemies, who was and is you, Christ suffered the consequences of your disobedience so that you won't be condemned to hell. Because He did this you are granted forgiveness and can become heirs of eternal life with him if you will just do what you need to do. That's believe in His gospel. Fix your eyes of faith on the cross on which Christ offered himself as an innocent victim instead of all those who actually flee unto him for refuge.

He died as the substitute for you - the verdict of guilty as charged is on you, but because Jesus suffered the punishment and full condemnation for you, you were forgiven instead of being condemned. Isaiah foretells his sufferings on our behalf: "He was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. Did you hear the? WE ARE HEALED. All of us like sheep have

gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."

The cross is the monumental exhibition how God can be just and at the same time merciful by forgiving guilty sinners. God is perfectly satisfied with the perfect offering of his Son. You cannot supplement it. You cannot add any of your thoughts that will improve it. It simply cannot get any better. Neither is there anything you can alter. By his holy will, "you have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is an insult to Christ if you imagine that you can add anything of value to his perfect sacrifice. His death is of infinite value, well-pleasing to God, and thus should be adequate to you as well. And Christ's sacrifice cannot be repeated or renewed, for the Holy Spirit himself testifies: "Their sins and iniquities I will remember no more. Now when there is forgiveness of sins there is no more offering for sins" (Hebrews 10:17,18).

The King came to die! Forgiveness is possible only because Christ paid your debt. It is paid in full. All you have to do now is give your life to Him to guide and direct you in his ways.

You can only enjoy this undeserved forgiveness when we turn to him and trust him. You read how Jesus came preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, saying: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has drawn near: repent and believe the gospel."

What is repentance? In repentance, the sinner, is stimulated by a true sense of the terrible nature of his sin and that stimulation makes him very sorry. After begging God for forgiveness, He is then drawn to Christ by God's mercy. I don't think anyone wakes up one morning and just decides to turn to Jesus. I believe you have to try every way possible to beat God's system until it beats you into submission. Then you turn towards God for relief from the consequences and agony of sin. When you realize exactly who God is you will then realize that sin is open rebellion against him. The realization causes all the grief one needs for his past ways to haunt him into a hatred for his present sins. An understanding is then reached. The sinful thinking changes and the sinner flees to God with a sincere desire to be forgiven. Sometimes the sinner does not realize that to be forgiven, he has to obey God. Don't look for repentance to happen exactly like this to you. Since your sin is personal to you, so will be all the whippings that bring you to submitting to God.

Repentance is the divorce of the soul from sin. But at the same time, in true repentance, the soul is married and joined to the Savior Jesus Christ by faith. Whew!!! That's a mouthful, but most of us have mouths big enough to hold this inside them. You don't have to swallow it all in one bite. You can let it melt in your mouth, or you can chew it one bite at a time. But there is one thing certain. It you

will eat it. It will either be now or in front of the judge. Don't forget Him, He will surely see you on that court day He has appointed for you. Here's a little something else you can ponder, Do you fear that day or look forward to it?

And what is faith? Well, when you decide to go somewhere you confidently jump into that car right in the center of the seat, without doubting whether the seat or the vehicle is strong enough to hold your weight. That is faith, but it is faith in a vehicle. By faith the repented sinner leans confidently on Christ as he is offered to us in the gospel. Just like jumping in that car seat. Right in the center. You trust Christ completely, without any reserve, you behold in him all your need, you believe that he has accomplished for you what you could not accomplish for yourself. You anchor your intellect, your will, and your emotions in him, your whole personality. Your soul will be rooted in him. He will be the sole foundation for your life. The Bible declares, "Jesus is able to save completely all those who draw near to God through him, seeing that he is always lives to make intercession for them."

Another question has just arose. On whose merits are you going to meet God? On your own merits? On yours and somebody else's? On yours and Christ's? Or on the merits of Christ alone? It is written: "God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; and he who does not have the God of God does not have life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life." If you desire to have eternal life you need to depend wholly upon Jesus Christ. Nobody but him.

With what can we compare faith? Imagine a glass of water on a table. You stand in front of it, wishing to drink. You touch it - but you're still thirsty. You draw it to your lips - still you are thirsty. And if you remain in this position, you simply cannot quench your thirst, although the opportunity is fully yours. You need to drink! And just as water satisfies bodily thirst, Christ satisfies your spiritual thirst. He said, "He who drinks from this well will thirst again; but everyone who drinks from the water which I shall give him shall be in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. If anybody thirsts, let him come to me and drink."

By faith we bring nothing to Christ except an empty hand to receive His forgiveness. "To him all the prophets bear witness that all those who believe in him obtain forgiveness of sins in his Name."

The final proof whether you're a true Christian or not is this: are you showing that your repentance and faith are genuine by a holy conduct? Has your way of life had a change? Do you feel guilty about sinning now, where you never did before? Do you try to follow Jesus? Do you read the Bible daily? Do you pray? If you do not do all these things, you need to revisit your salvation.

The Bible says: "For by grace are you saved, through faith, and this is not of yourselves; this is the gift of God, not of works, so that nobody would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." True faith always expresses itself in love. "He who has my commandments, and keeps them, he is the one who loves me. He who does not love me does not keep my word."

You need to get this clear. You are not going to get to heaven because you obey the Ten Commandments; they only describe what sin is so you will know you are a sinner and need help. You cannot follow them perfectly enough to get to heaven by following them. You simply are not good enough to keep God's standards. Those are God's standards. If you break one law, you've broken them all. If you are hanging over the eternal fire by a 10 link chain, which link has to break for you to fall into the fire? The same goes with following the 10 commandments. You will only go to heaven if you trust in Christ, who laid down his life for you on the cross. But faith that does not produce love isn't real. Love is seen in the assistance you give to the poor, the widow, and the orphan.

The apostle John warns us: "He who says, I know him, and yet does not keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." Think about the times you have done something you know is not in line with God. If you deceive someone to take something they have, or to take control something that belongs to another. Think of the nice wording you used to justify your actions. They don't work when you're trying to live God's way. You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time. Let me add, you cannot fool God any of the times.

This is the true Christian. How many of you are Christians, worthy of the Nazarene? It does not really matter by what label you are known: whether we are nicknamed Evangelicals or Catholics. The important issue is what we God is to us.