

11 - BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR!

Before Christ redeemed us through GOD's grace and mercy, we were all guilty, lost, helpless, and bound for hell. Here is how you should pray to receive GOD's Salvation, and start enjoying a blessed, *personal relationship with the LORD*. Pray the following:

"Dear LORD Jesus Christ, I know that I am a guilty, lost, and helpless sinner, and I am sorry for my sins. I repent of my sins and turn to You by faith right now. I thank You for dying on the Cross for me and paying the price for all of my sins. I surrender my life to You right now as my LORD and Savior. I ask for the Holy Spirit to take control of my life so I may obey You. Thank You LORD Jesus. Amen."

Congratulations CHRISTIAN, we join you in thanking GOD!

GOD's Word says that if you believe with all your heart in the LORD Jesus Christ as your Savior, genuinely repent of your sins, and surrender your life to Him, you are born again of the Holy Spirit, and given GOD's Eternal Salvation. Only the LORD Jesus Christ offers you such a glorious Salvation! Believe it right now!

We earnestly pray that you will understand and believe this true story, which is "GOD loves you, and He desires to save you from the devil and the lake of fire." This is the Story of True LOVE of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ! Amen.

Remember: the Christian faith is not a one-step process. You must spend some time to study GOD's Word every morning and evening, and constantly pray that the Holy Spirit will guard your heart and control your life to be obedient to the LORD Jesus!

After receiving GOD's Eternal Salvation, the LORD expects you to lead a Godly life as evidence of your obedience to Him--you must bear spiritual fruits as a True Christian!

The next steps for you as a new Christian are: purchase GOD'S Holy Bible, (we recommend a KJV or NKJV BIBLE) and start reading the Gospel of John from Chapter 1 to 21, or read it online or

12 - YOU ARE EITHER SAVED ETERNALLY OR LOST FOREVER!

listen to the audio from our website:
<http://www.fcgchurches.org/GODslove.htm>. You may also request a Bible from us.

You must join a CHRIST-Believing Church, attend regular services and submit to the Pastor for water baptism.

Let us know if you have made a decision to accept the LORD Jesus Christ into your life as your only Savior. We welcome you into Christ's Church, and look forward to worshiping with you at a First Century Gospel Church branch.

We invite you to share this tract, request additional copies for others or download it from our website!

You may request related sermons on "GOD's Eternal Salvation," "Requirements to Eternal Life," and "What Is a True Christian?" Other sermons are available upon request.

We publish sermons on how to have a successful relationship with GOD, the fullness of the Holy Spirit, Christian responsibilities as it relates to obedience to the Word of GOD, and deliverance from the power of sin and Satan. We would gladly send them for FREE upon request. Visit our website to learn more and for a location near you.

"A Story of True Love" was produced by First Century Gospel Church through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. May GOD's Grace, Mercy and Blessings through our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ be with you! Amen.

First Century Gospel Church Headquarters
P O Box 99
Pottersville, New Jersey 07979 USA
www.FCGCHURCHES.org
e-mail: FCGCUSA@yahoo.com EV001-STLW

First Century Gospel Church is a non-denominational, evangelical Christian ministry

A Story Of TRUE



This is a True Story!

As you review this important story, prayerfully consider the questions and answers that follow because your eternal future will depend on your personal response.

The theme of the Holy Bible is our Almighty GOD's special Love for you and me. This love became evident when our Heavenly Father the Almighty GOD sent His Beloved Son, Who is our Blessed LORD and Savior Jesus Christ to come into this world so that Christ could spiritually, physically and personally redeem us from the penalty of sin--death, after our first parents, Adam and Eve, disobeyed GOD in the Garden of Eden.

Since the LORD Jesus Christ is a Spirit Who cannot die, He had to take on the nature of a human being, come into the world, and judicially pay the penalty for our sins. By GOD's miraculous and supernatural design, the LORD was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. To show the magnitude of His infinite love for us, the LORD Jesus humbled Himself to be born in a stable in Bethlehem of Judea in Israel.

8 - THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE!

DEAR FRIEND, You must realize that sin has separated us from GOD--because GOD is Holy and Good, and we are not. None of us is perfect; all of us make mistakes because we were born in sin. We all do things that we know are wrong. For example, a parent never has to teach a child how to lie, but the child lies by instinct. That is why GOD'S Word says in Romans 3:23:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of GOD."

Q. *What is the big deal about sin if nobody is perfect?*

A. Because GOD'S Word in *Romans 6:23* warns us that: *"The wages of sin is death."*

The Bible teaches that those who refuse to repent, but choose to remain and die in their sins, are going straight to hell, and will spend eternity in the lake of fire, where the torment is endless. Sinners who will find themselves in the lake of fire will regret that they refused to heed the warning from GOD'S Word. It will be too late to repent of their sins in hell. Remember, today is the acceptable day to repent and receive GOD'S Salvation, not "tomorrow" or "next time."

DEAR FRIEND, Consider the LORD'S warning that He gave us in Matthew 13:49-50:

"So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

As you know, criminals must pay the penalty for their crimes, so sinners too must pay the penalty for their sins. The penalty for sin is spiritual death. You will not only die physically; your sins will separate you from GOD for all eternity.

Therefore, you must positively respond to the prophetic warning shown to the Apostle John in Revelation 20:11-15:

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them,

9 - SURRENDER YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE!

¹² *And I saw the dead small and great, standing before GOD, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life, and the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.* ¹³ *The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them And they were judged, each one according to his works.* ¹⁴ *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire; this is the second death.* ¹⁵ *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."*

DEAR FRIEND, In view of what you have just read about the Judgment Day, would you like to have your name registered in GOD'S Book of Life to avoid spending eternity in the lake of fire? The sooner you surrender your life to Christ the better, as no one knows what will happen tomorrow. We pray that you will act now to save your soul. The choice is yours!

Q. *How can my sin's penalty be paid so I may be saved and escape hell?*

A. The LORD Jesus Christ ALREADY paid the penalty for your sins on the Cross at Calvary!

The LORD prophesied in John 12:32-33 that: *"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."* ³³ *This He said, signifying by what death He would die".*

Let us consider the Apostle John's admonition to the first century Christians in ^{1ST} John 2:1-2:

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." ² *And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."*

The Holy Bible teaches that our LORD Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of GOD, has already paid the penalty for all your sins. You may think that you have to lead a good life and do good deeds before GOD will love you. GOD'S Holy Word says that Christ Jesus loves you enough to die for you, even when you did not care about Him.

The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to write in

10 - ALL OF US DESERVE HELL, BUT GOD'S GRACE SAVED US!

Romans 5:8 that: *"GOD demonstrates His own Love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Q. *What happens when my penalty is paid?*

A. You can receive GOD'S free Gift of Salvation found in Ephesians 2:8-9:

"For it is by Grace you have been saved, through Faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the Gift of GOD--not by works, so that no one can boast."

Grace is GOD offering you something you could never provide for yourself--forgiveness of sins and Eternal Life. GOD'S Gift to you is FREE and it sets you FREE!

You do not have to work for a gift. All you have to do is receive it by faith: believe with all your heart that the LORD Jesus Christ died for you--TO SAVE YOU!

The acrostic "**GRACE**" is defined as **G**OD'S **R**edemption **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense!

Q. *What do I have to do to get GOD's Gift?*

A. You must FIRST receive Christ in your life as your Savior. Then you become a child of GOD with joint heirs with Christ Jesus.

The blessed news in John 1:12 reads: *"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of GOD"* This is an amazing inheritance for us!

And in Romans 8:16-17 *"the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of GOD, and if children, then heirs--heirs of GOD and joint heirs with Christ...."*

Q. *How do I do that?*

A. You must make a confession of faith to receive the LORD Jesus Christ in your life. GOD'S Word says: *"if you confess with your mouth the LORD Jesus and believe in your heart that GOD has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9)

You must make a decision right now to confess to the LORD that you are a guilty, lost, and helpless sinner. In addition, you must agree that you need the Savior Jesus Christ in your life.

5 - ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN SAVE, HEAL, PROTECT, AND GRANT YOU PEACE!

Now, Let us read about the resurrection story as recorded by the Apostle Matthew in Matthew 28:1-2 and 5-7:

“Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the LORD descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it. ⁵But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the LORD lay. ⁷And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead. And indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.””

After His resurrection, the LORD Jesus gave His Apostles the “Great Commission” and supernatural powers with which to heal the sick and perform “great signs and wonders.” For over a month, the LORD commanded His 11 Apostles to unite in love and wait for the promised Holy Spirit.

Then one day, CHRIST ascended to Heaven to be with GOD, His Father. Forty days later, on the Day of Pentecost, the LORD Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as confirmed in Acts 2:1-5:

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

GOD’s amazing special Plan of Salvation for the whole world is the Story of the True Love of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. The Plan involves the Birth, Death on Calvary’s Cross, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ. This Plan of Redemption atoned for all of our sins forever.

Therefore, you and I can receive forgiveness of our

6 - DO YOU HAVE THE ETERNAL GUARANTEE FOR YOUR SOUL?

sins by faith and obtain Eternal Life, if we confess them to the LORD. We can know for sure what will happen to us after we die if we believe in and surrender our lives to our Savior Jesus Christ by obeying His Commandments. GOD’s free Gift of Grace and Justification by Faith unto Eternal Life cannot be yours unless you believe that the LORD Jesus Christ is GOD’S SON, Who died for you by accepting GOD’s Salvation Plan.

You may ask: *“How or why should I place my confidence in GOD’s Salvation Plan?”*

The most important reason is that there is no other way to GOD or Heaven except through our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. Secondly, through Christ, GOD requires each individual to respond to his ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, and not directly to HIM.

Besides, while our Almighty Heavenly Father may answer their prayers for your salvation, your father, mother, or pastor cannot take you to Heaven. Even if you grow up in a Christian home and attend regular church services that cannot get you into Heaven although they are helpful. Each person must believe in and pray to our Savior Jesus Christ to save them, just as the thief on the cross believed in the LORD as his Savior.

The LORD GOD says through the prophet in Joel 2:32: *“And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”*

DEAR FRIEND, Do you have the Eternal Salvation, (also known as Eternal Security) for your soul? Where will you spend eternity? Have you made eternal arrangements for your soul? Have you surrendered your life to the LORD Jesus Christ, the Only Savior of the world? Do you have a personal relationship with GOD? Have you been born again of the Holy Spirit? Are you bearing the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which includes: *“putting on tender mercies, kindness, humility, faith, long-suffering, bearing with and forgiving one another, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the LORD,”* etc. For the listing of all the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, read: Galatians 5:22-24 and Colossians 3:12-17.

7 - WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? ACCEPT GOD’S SALVATION PLAN!

All right, let us rephrase the question: if you died right now, would you go to Heaven or hell? Are you 100% sure?

Whether or not you are sure of your Eternal Salvation, GOD desires that we examine our lives today before we die.

Q. *“Why do I have to respond?”* you may ask.
A. The Bible says: *“Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him, and to our GOD, for He will abundantly pardon.”* (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Q. *How do I know that GOD loves me?*
A. We see GOD’s declared love to save us in the Gospel of John 3:16:

“For GOD so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Eternal Life”

Q. *What does it mean to believe in the LORD Jesus Christ?*
A. Believing in the LORD Jesus Christ is not just holding an opinion. It means to surrender your life, depend on the LORD, and place your confidence IN HIM.

The LORD Jesus Christ gives you a new life that will last forever, even after physical death, when you trust and believe in Him.

Q. *Why do I need to believe in Jesus Christ?*
A. Because of sin, and the fact that believing in the LORD Jesus to forgive your sins is the only sure way GOD will accept you in Heaven.

On the Day of Judgment, the LORD Jesus Christ will send away millions of morally good people from other religions because they did not believe in the only Savior of the world, yes, in the LORD JESUS CHRIST! Only Christianity offers everyone the True Salvation to Heaven as stated in the Bible and affirmed by the Apostle Peter in Acts 4:12: *“...Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

2 - THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS GOD & AS THE EVERLASTING FATHER

The LORD Jesus Christ is sinless from birth and lived a life without sin. When He was about 30, and during the three years of His ministry, He went about the towns in Israel teaching and preaching the Gospel of repentance, grace, salvation, mercy, love, healing, obedience, and forgiveness of sins to all who believed in Him as their Savior.

As an evidence of His divinity as the SON of GOD, Who created the whole world, Christ performed amazing miracles by healing all types of sicknesses and diseases caused by the devil and his demons, which neither a doctor nor surgeon could perform. Wherever He went, the LORD brought back to life many who had died, and even raised Lazarus from the dead who had been in the tomb for four days. He brought a glorious deliverance and freedom from the bondage of the devil to the world.

The Gospel of Matthew 4:23-24 reads: *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.”*

The Holy Bible reminds us in Colossians 1:15-17, that the LORD Jesus Christ: *“...is the image of the invisible GOD, the firstborn over all creation ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”*

We testify to the fact and history confirms it that all who depend upon the atoning blood of the LORD Jesus for their salvation also receive divine deliverance, peace, and blessings from GOD, including the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The precious blood that the LORD Jesus shed on Calvary's Cross is as powerful today as it was over 2000 years ago.

During His three-year ministry, the LORD Jesus warned His apostles many times about His impending

3 - AS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD, CHRIST TOOK ON HUMAN NATURE

death and resurrection, but they doubted Him. They thought He was the greatest prophet who had come to stay on planet earth. Here is the LORD's prophecy recorded in the Gospel of Matthew 17:22-23:

“Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.”

However, the devil instigated one of the LORD's disciples, Judas Iscariot, to betray Him to the Jewish leaders and high priest, who handed Him over to the Roman Governor Pilate. The LORD was condemned to die by crucifixion, in fulfillment of the prophecy that Isaiah the prophet made over 600 years before Christ was born in Bethlehem.

During His trial, the soldiers beat the LORD Jesus mercilessly and whipped Him 39 times. They placed a crown of thorns on His head, ridiculed and harassed Him, yet He did not open His mouth to protest or complain about His human rights. Let us read how prophet Isaiah predicted the LORD Jesus would respond in Isaiah 53:1-7:

“Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground, He has no form or comeliness, and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by GOD, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.”

As part of His punishment, they forced the LORD to

4 - CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS AND WAS RAISED TO LIFE AFTER 3 DAYS

carry His heavy cross to a hill where they nailed Him to it at a place called Calvary. The LORD suffered for six long hours while hanging on the cross and later died for our sins. Two of His secret disciples buried Him.

Isaiah, the prophet predicted the fulfillment of these events in Isaiah 53:8-9:

“He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked--But with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.”

The Gospel of Luke recorded for us what happened next in Luke 23:32-33:

“There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals one on the right hand and the other on the left.”

And in the Gospel of John 19:38-42, we are told

“After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.”

However, after three days, the Almighty GOD resurrected the LORD Jesus Christ from the dead.

Unlike other dead prophets who were buried, the tomb of the LORD Jesus Christ is empty because He rose from the dead and is indeed alive today!