

# HOW TO GET YOUR LIFE IN RIGHT ALIGNMENT WITH GOD:

## The Divine Plan of Salvation

By Jim Andrews

The Bible teaches that our race is deeply corrupted. We are a people estranged from our Creator. All of us are serial transgressors of the Law of God. According to God's Word, we are rebels by nature and by choice. Very religious maybe, but vainly religious. Religious in our own way. . . in a willful, Christ-rejecting way, not God's right and revealed way. Consequently mankind the world over is on a collision course with the judgment of a holy God. That's the bad news.

The good news is that there is a way of salvation. . . one a merciful God has revealed to man. There is an escape from this box canyon of doom. Call it 'the divine plan of salvation'. The New Testament refers to it as 'the Gospel'. The term 'Gospel' means good news~the good news that God has made a way for sinners, religious and otherwise, to be reconciled to God.

We can know God. We can be delivered from enslavement to raging lust, evil passions, vicious habits and rampaging guilt brought on by living outside God's lines. We can experience the joy of His presence and the power of His Spirit in our daily lives. God will forgive our sins and lift the sentence of death that awaits all those who go their own willful, transgressing way. But on His user-friendly terms~not ours.

Perhaps you have never heard the Gospel. You should. Your very destiny hangs on it. Then again maybe you have heard it but just never really got it. Hopefully this summary will bring it into focus. Or, you may want to share the divine plan of salvation with your friends. What follows is a simple, linear account of the Gospel linked together with supporting biblical texts. Afterward you will find a list of reassuring biblical texts that remind us that those who receive Christ are everlastingly secure in the benefits of their salvation.

Let's first of all review the bad news~the peril we are in and our universal need of salvation.

### I. The Universal Need of a Plan of Salvation

A. Our problem is that we are all unrighteous (and unacceptable as we are) before God.

1. As these Scriptures will show, there are no exceptions to this condition:

a. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

b. "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way." Isaiah 53:6

c. "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us...if we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives." 1 John 1:8,10

2. Furthermore, each of us is more corrupt at heart than we realize or like to admit.

a. As far back as Noah's day, God observed about man "that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time," Genesis 6:5 and that "every inclination of his heart is evil

from childhood." Genesis 8:21

- b. "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:9
- c. "As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." Romans 3:10-12

B. Our need for a plan of salvation lies in this reality: because we are found to be sinners, we are condemned, i.e., under the sentence of eternal death.

- 1. We are condemned—condemned because God has declared that sin (even one) is so repugnant to His holiness that it is a capital offence against His Throne.
  - a. "For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23
  - b. "...the soul that sins, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4
- 2. So then, we see plainly:
  - a. the whole race is declared unrighteous;
  - b. the penalty of sin is death;
  - c. therefore, all without exception face the everlasting death penalty.

## II. The Provision of a Way of Salvation

A. God's "Dilemma"

- 1. God is perfect in all His moral attributes. Among other things, He is perfectly just; in His perfect justice God metes out upon sinners the just penalty of our rebellious nature. Therefore, God cannot wave off or shrug at our sin. It must in all justice be punished to the limit it deserves.
- 2. On the other hand, God loves us and would spare those willing to be spared the penalty justice requires. The conflict or tension between His justice and His love may be bridged only if a qualified Substitute can be found, that is, One who is perfect in righteousness and yet so worthy in His person that He can stand in as a Substitute, not just for one man's sins, but for the sins of the whole world. See I John 2:2

B. God's Solution

- 1. To bridge the gap between His justice and His love, God provided a Substitute meeting the requirements. God sent into the world His own unique Son, Jesus Christ, to take our sentence upon Himself. Here it is in the language of the Scriptures:

- a. "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:5-6
- b. "(Christ) Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24
- c. "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit (i.e., resurrected)." 1 Peter 3:18
- d. "God made Him (accounted or reckoned Christ) who had no sin to be sin for us (in our place, that is): so that in Him we might become (accounted or reckoned as having) the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21
- e. "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2

### III. The Condition for This Provision

- A. For our sins to be pardoned and the death penalty to be lifted, God makes only one simple requirement: that we trust in Christ as our personal Savior and Lord.
  1. "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." John 3:16
  2. People remain condemned because they reject God's one and only basis of pardon.
    - a. "Whoever believes in Him (i.e., trusts in Christ) is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in (put his trust in) the name of God's one and only Son." John 3:18
    - b. "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son (does not put his trust in Him) will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." John 3:36
    - c. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23
- B. Summary
  1. Regardless of our own high opinion of ourselves, God (the only Judge who matters) declares for the record none of us is good by the standard of His law.
  2. Unless we avail ourselves of God's free gift, we are condemned and the wrath of God abides on us right this very minute.

3. So we need to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ—that is, become a Christian (i.e. a ‘Christ-one’). That is what it means to be ‘saved’.

#### IV. The Acceptance of God’s Provision

##### A. God Requires a Personal Decision

1. God's forgiveness and the promise of eternal life comes with one and only one condition ~ we must put our trust in Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior.
  - a. "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...Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." John 3:16,18
  - b. "I tell you the truth, he who believes in Me has everlasting life." John 6:47
  - c. "He (Christ) commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." Acts 10:42-43
  - d. "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through Him everyone who believes is justified (pardoned or acquitted) from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses." Acts 13:38-39
  - e. In Philippi of ancient Macedonia, a jailer asked the Apostle Paul this question as recorded in Acts 16:30-31: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" and they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved ~ you and your household" (i.e., both you and the members of your household can be saved in this manner).
2. God refuses salvation on a merit basis.

The Scriptures are emphatic. Salvation is not based upon our good works. It is a free gift available by God’s grace to those who believe Him and receive it through faith in His Son.

- a. "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 (i.e., that he had earned his salvation by good behavior). Ephesians 2:8-9
  - b. "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:5
3. Faith in Christ is the absolutely final condition of salvation.

- a. "Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6
- b. "Salvation is found in no one else (than Christ), for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12
- c. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5

B. So then, in summary we see that:

1. God in His great love found a way to satisfy His justice and yet lift the penalty of our sins from us by providing His Son as a substitute to suffer our sin penalty in our place.
2. God requires, as a condition of accepting Christ's death as an atonement for our sins, that we receive His Son by faith as our personal Savior and Lord.
3. There is absolutely and unconditionally no other way except through Christ or no other condition except faith.

**PASSAGES CONFIRMING  
THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER**

1. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me (true sheep follow Him). I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." John 10:27-30
2. "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away...And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given me, but raise them up at the last day." (Here Christ affirms that His Father's will shall be done.) John 6:37,39
3. "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; (a pretty plain promise here) he has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24
4. "Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand." Romans 14:4
5. "...our Lord Jesus Christ who shall also confirm (establish) you unto the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:8
6. "I thank my God every time I remember you...being confident (Paul was inspired) of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3,6
7. "For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith...I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life (how is this assurance possible if we could still lose our salvation)...We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin (does not continually practice sin - NT Greek in present tense); the one who is begotten of God (Christ) keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him." (again pretty clear that true believers don't go to Hell) 1 John 5:4,13,18
8. "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it."  
1 Thessalonians 5:9,23-24
9. "...for I know Whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day." 2 Timothy 1:12
10. "And by that will (referring to the will of God) we have been made holy through the

sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...But when this priest (Christ) had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God...Because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy (set apart, i.e., those that believe)." Hebrews 10:10,12,14

11. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade ~ kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:3-5
12. "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." 2 Peter 2:9
13. "Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ...To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy..." Jude 1,24