

A MESSAGE OF SALVATION Lanny Johnson

"For in six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth, the sea and all that in them is ..." Exodus 20:11

And on the sixth day God saw what He had created and said, "It is good." Then God created His most special creation. He made man. He made man in His own image. God created Adam and He created Eve. At the end of day six God looked upon all He had created and said, "It is good, indeed it is very good." On the seventh day God ended His creative work and He rested.

Now God loved Adam and Eve very much. He used to walk with them in the Garden of Eden, a very special place He had made just for them. God told Adam, "Adam, I have created all this for you. I give you all the creatures to have rule over, for you are my most special creation. I give you all this, but Adam, I ask only one thing. You may eat of any tree in the Garden of Eden, but there is one tree, Adam, of which you must not eat. You must not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for if you eat of this tree, you will surely die."

God had also created the angels who were made to worship Him. But there was one angel who was jealous of God, and wanted to be like God himself. Because of his disobedience, God threw this angel, Satan, out of heaven, along with a third of the angels who had begun to follow him. When Satan saw man that God had created, he set out to destroy man. Disguised as a serpent, the Devil asked Eve, "Did God really say you cannot eat of the tree of knowledge?" He tried to make Eve doubt the Word of God. Then he lied. "Eat of the fruit. You will not die, but your eyes will be opened. You will know good and evil, and you will be like God." And Eve was tricked and ate the fruit, and Adam also ate the fruit. And because of their disobedience, sin and death entered the world.

There could no longer be the same close personal relationship between God and Adam, for God's very nature, because of His holiness, God cannot look upon sin. Now Adam and all mankind had sin in their hearts. Man became evil ... so evil that God had to destroy man by the Flood. Yet God loved us enough that He spared Noah and his family. Then God set up His law that man might live



by. But once again man failed. Man could not live up to God's law. Now man has tried all kinds of ways to be reunited to God. Many people think if they are just as good as they can be, they will go to heaven when they die. But they still have sin in their life. No one can live good enough to belong in heaven.

Others think if they do good works that they will go to heaven. But there is still that sin. Good works won't get us to heaven.

How about baptism? Will that get us there? Baptism without belief in Jesus as our Lord and Savior will only get us wet. Baptism alone won't get you to heaven.

Many people think if they go to church all the time they will get to heaven. They go to Bible school, morning church, evening church, mid-week church, and any other time the church doors are open. But going to church does not take away our sins.

You see, all these things are good to do, but there is nothing we can do on our own to get sin out of our lives. The awful price we must pay for our sin is being separated from God forever. Without God's help we are lost.

But God showed us how much He loves us by sending His Son Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for our sins. God allowed Jesus to be the payment for our sin. Jesus paid the

price we could never pay. When Jesus arose from the grave, death and sin were defeated.

Jesus is God's gift to us. He is the only way to eternal life with God. To receive this gift you must realize that you are a sinner and you need Jesus to pay for your sins. By doing this you admit God has the right to say what is right and what is wrong, and you need to live God's way, to do good, rather than to do evil.

Does this message make sense to you? If it does, is there any reason why you would not be willing to receive God's gift of eternal life? Are you willing to turn from your sin and place your faith in Jesus right now? If you are, and you accept this gift with your whole heart, you need to talk to God in prayer and ask Him to forgive your sins. Here is a prayer that you might use:

Dear Lord Jesus ... I believe You are the Son of God ... and You died to forgive me of my sins ... Jesus, I know I have sinned ... Jesus, I ask you to forgive me ... I turn from my sins and receive you as my Lord and Savior ... Thank You for saving me ... Amen.

4 STEPS TO GROW AS A NEW CHRISTIAN

If you **BELIEVE** and **ASK**, God will forgive you of your sins and you can know that when you die you are going to heaven to be with God forever!

Isn't it wonderful what God did for us? But don't take my word for it. Look at what the Bible has to say!

- **"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)** Every one is a sinner.
- **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)** Death means separation forever from God. Eternal life comes by trusting Jesus.
- **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)** God loved us so much that He gave His Son to die for our sins.
- **"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)**
To be born again (saved), you must believe that Jesus died for your sins and say that you accept Him as Lord of your life.
- **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)** God promises that if you accept Jesus as Lord, He will accept you.

1. Talk to God often in prayer.
"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
2. Read your Bible every day.
"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)
3. Go to a Bible-believing church regularly.
"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42)
4. Be baptized as a testimony of your salvation.
"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:" (Acts 2:41)

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MORE BIBLE VERSES ABOUT SALVATION:

- **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)**
- **"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)**
- **"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)**
- **"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31)**
- **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)**
- **"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)**