

A sinners Need of Salvation

By Bro. Glen Bond

I've titled the message this morning, A Sinner's Need of Salvation. And I want to speak of salvation. I know a lot of churches don't speak a lot on salvation. Many places just assume that almost everybody's saved and they make little mention of salvation. But I preach as if everyone is lost and that everyone needs to be saved. And so that's my purpose again here this morning. The Bible tells us, **Isaiah 45:22, look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth for I am God and there is none else.** There's no other God. There's no other means of salvation. Now this is God himself telling us to come and be saved, to look to Christ.

It's a well-known fact, or it should be, that we're all sinners, every one of us. We've sinned against God, and we have a penalty for the sin, and that penalty is eternal death in hell. And that's the greatest reason in the world to look unto God to be saved. It's no wonder the Lord tells us to be saved. We find references to salvation all through the Bible. You might say the grand theme of God's word is salvation. You might think by the constant mentions of salvation, you might think that no one can remember that he's a sinner. We're all sinners. I know the Lord doesn't let me forget, but the Bible tells us more than once. It tells us many times that all have sinned. We had the greatest reference there in **Romans 3:23. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.** All, all, every one of us, no exceptions. If there was any exception, it was for Jesus Christ himself, for he had no sin. I have this one reference, and it's not the only one. There are many other places where God describes the wickedness of man and makes us know our need for salvation. It's all through the Bible. And because of sin, we all have death waiting for us, at our proper time, our appointed time. It's waiting. And because of sin, it's waiting for us.

Now, many people, you may be tuned in for the first time, you've never heard us before, but I try and back up everything I say by the word of God. It's not my opinion that you're hearing, or not what I think, or how I think it should be, but this is what God's word tells us. And this is how you're going to be judged on judgment day, when this life is over. God's word is true whether you believe it or not.

The Bible tells us, **Romans 5:12, Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.** Now this tells us where sin came from, how it started, why you're a sinner. Sin came into the world by Adam. There, back in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, ate the forbidden fruit. They sinned against God. The world was perfect before then, but they sinned and sin came into the world. It corrupted everything. The Bible says the whole creation groans together because of sin. Sin came, It's here. You can't get away from it. There ain't nothing you can do with it. It's here. You're a sinner. When sin came, it came, it affected man, it permeated right to the very heart of man. There's no part of man that is not corrupted from it. No part of mankind, there's no one that is exempted from it.

Now the Bible tells us in **Matthew 15:18** through 20, and this is Christ speaking, he says, **those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart, and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceeds evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies, these are the things which defile a man.** That's what comes out of the heart. Now, when he says it comes forth from the heart, that description there, "the heart", is unqualified. It comes forth from every heart. We find over there, I forget where it's at, but it says **the heart is deceitful, above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?** And that's a description of the heart, and Christ is bringing that out again here, that's what comes out of us. That's all that we are. God, speaking after the flood, said **the thoughts of the heart is just evil continually.** There's nothing good in man. Nothing. But Christ said, these things defile the man. That word defile, it means to make dirty, or to pollute, to make filthy, and that's all a result of sin.

Now the thing I want you to understand is, these things that proceed out of the heart, these wicked things, these evil thoughts and all the wickedness, those things are not what makes you a sinner. That's not what makes you a sinner. That's the result of being a sinner. That's what a sinner does. They come out of the heart. They spring up from the thoughts, you continue on and then you speak them. It goes out of the mouth. And then you begin to act on them. You begin to act on what you think and what you say. I think it's a good thing to keep those wicked thoughts bound up in the mind. Don't let them out.

But all these things, that wicked heart, that's because we're a sinner. That doesn't come about when we want sin. The Bible tells us there in Psalm 51 that we're conceived in sin. Conceived. That means you can't go back in your life to a

time when you were not a sinner. You can't go back. You were always a sinner. There's no place in your life when you were not a sinner. And you go through this life in sin, sinning against God continually. That's all that we are.

Now, when the Lord saves us, we begin to leave the grosser sins, put them away, but that wicked heart, it's still there. The Bible says he'll give you a new heart, but that natural heart, it's still there, and all the wickedness of it, the evil thoughts, and all those things are still there. And we have to fight against them day by day. That new heart fights against them, fights against them. It's a daily struggle.

But you don't become a sinner when you sin. You don't become a sinner. You're born a sinner. You're born a sinner. You're always a sinner. And it's because of sin that death has come upon us. Death. We can see the Bible tells us that **it's appointed unto man, once to die, and then the judgment**, and there's a good reason for that death, and it's because of sin. We're sinners. The penalty for sin is death. Sin springs forth out of that deceitful and wicked heart, we work it out in our life, and the Bible says that sin brings forth death. It brings it. Death is coming upon all of us. It's appointed to man, once to die by nature, Every one of us born into this world, all of us come into this world headed to hell. That's our destination when we arrive here, when we're born.

The first death, because the Bible speaks of a second death, the first death is the death of the body, a physical death. And then there's the death of the spirit, the soul, In hell, that's the second death; forever separated from God, forever in eternal torments. Every person, by nature, is headed that direction. By nature, you don't have to do anything at all to get to hell. Just go on with your life, ignore God, and you will get there soon enough.

Now, we all need salvation because of that natural inbred corruption that's within us. We need salvation. The natural depravity in every one of us has corrupted us. There's nothing good in us, and by nature, we're headed for hell. Now most people, whenever you talked about anybody on the street, in church, or at work, or wherever, most people will agree that you need salvation. Most people, and there's some religions that don't too much consider salvation, but the Christian religion, we all agree that you need salvation, that Christ came and he died to save us. So every sinner needs salvation, and we're born sinners, so that includes all of us. We all agree that we need salvation; but the disagreement comes about as to how salvation is obtained. How do you get saved? What does the Bible say? How do I get to Christ? How do I know that I'm going to be in

heaven, that I'll go to heaven when I die? How do I know that I can escape hell? How can I know? And maybe some people will say, well, you can't really know until you get there. But I'm going to tell you, you can know. You can know.

Now, most preachers, they'll go right down the line about man being a sinner and Christ being the sinner's substitute, the sacrifice, shedding his blood to make atonement for sin. They all agree that he died for sinners. They'll tell you that you must repent. They'll tell you to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. They'll say you must be born again, right on down the line. All of these things you can read in the Bible, you don't need me to tell you. And so maybe you think, well, what's the problem then? What's the problem? And I'll tell you the problem. The problem is that the average preacher is not saved. Now, that's a bold statement. But if you look around, and I've looked around, I know how the Lord saved me. I look at other preachers. I listen to them talk. And it's obvious, it's plain to me that they've never been saved. Now, you say, you're judging. Well, that's fine. But I know what the Lord did for me. I know what salvation is.

The average preacher can tell you little more than what's written in God's Word. He's been to school. He's studied the Bible. He's studied history. He's studied all manner of the Hebrew and the Greek languages. He can understand all that's written there, but that's all. And you say, well, isn't that enough? Just what's in the Bible? And I'm going to tell you, no, it's not quite enough. It's not quite enough. Let me give you one verse that will shed some light on what I'm trying to show you. Isaiah 54, verse 13, God's word says, **all thy children shall be taught of the Lord**. You'll be taught of the Lord. Then we find in John 6:45, Christ speaking, telling us, quoting the same verse. He said, **it is written in the prophets, they shall be all taught of God**. Now, if you're ever saved, you will be taught of God. You will be taught of God or you will go to hell. God must teach you. He must make you to know that you're a sinner. God must. If he doesn't do it, you'll never know. And I can hear people now, and I'll be honest with you, I was the first one to ever say it, "Well, I know I'm a sinner because I've heard the gospel all my life. I've been told all my life that I'm a sinner. I can look back on my life and I can look at the things that I've done that are sinful against God. I know that I'm a sinner". But that's not enough. It's not enough. For me to know, just mentally having the knowledge that I'm a sinner, it's not enough. That knowledge and that understanding does not sink down into the heart and cause you to be concerned. It doesn't. That leaves you as the average thief going about, stealing, cheating, all that, unrepentant, uncaring. It's the same thing. He knows he stole. He knows it's wrong. He doesn't care. And that's the way every

lost sinner is until the Lord God himself moves on your heart, awakens you, shines in a light, and causes you to see what you are in the light of God, in the light of God's Word, and the light of God's law.

The Bible tells us, **Hebrews 8:10**, this is a little bit of what God will teach you, listen, **For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord. "I will"**, you get that? This is God speaking. He says, **"I" will put my laws into their mind and write them on their hearts and "I" will be to them a God and they shall be to me a people.**

You see, this is the work that God himself has to do. He has to do it. I can stand here, and I can preach, and I can teach, and I can tell you a million times, but it will never sink into the heart. It won't. It'll leave you just like it found you. God has to do it. He has to open your heart. He has to shine a light. He has to make you to know these things. They must be taught by God because no man can teach them. No man's able. And that's one of the problems that we have today. The average preacher doesn't understand these things. The average preacher will say, *"Well, you just say this prayer and be sincere and earnest, admit that you're a sinner, ask the Lord to save you, and forgive your sins for Christ's sake, and just believe it and you're saved"*. That's the average church, the typical church. If you believe and if you've sincerely asked God to save you, then you're saved. Now, I want to tell you, that's just Satan's work. For one thing, no man will need to tell you that you're saved. When the Lord saves you, you'll know it. You will know it. Because the work of salvation is a real work. When the Lord puts away your sin, you will know it. Because your sin will have become real to you. And when it is gone, you'll know it. All this sinner's prayer that we have today, the typical salvation, it puts all the work of salvation in the hands of the lost sinner. You have to do it yourself. You have to believe. You have to believe. You can't believe. The Bible says that faith is a gift. You can't do it by yourself. You have to repent. And the Bible tells us that also repentance is a gift. You can't muster it up. You can't do it. It's a gift of God. They tell you, you have to ask. Can you ask for something that you don't want? You can say the words, but you can't want it. And that's just another thing; The Lord has to put it in your heart to desire Christ. The Lord has to do that. If he doesn't do it, you'll never want Christ, you'll never want to be saved, and you'll never come to the Lord asking, begging, and pleading. You won't. The natural heart will not do it. Christ said, **ye will not come to me that ye might have life**. You will not. That means you don't want to. Your will is contrary to God. And the sinner's prayer puts all of these works into man's hands, into the lost sinner's hands, and the lost sinner can't do a thing

before God. You can say your sinner's prayer. You can be sincere. You can be earnest. You can do all that you're able to do, but it won't change God one bit. It won't move God. They're your works, they're not God's works, and God won't have them.

Let me give you just some cold, hard facts. Number one, God is sovereign and he saves whom he will. Now, every lost sinner is going to come to terms with that before the Lord ever saves him. You're going to come to terms with it. You're going to understand that God is sovereign. He's not obligated to save you. And in fact, in all reality, he should never save you. He shouldn't.

Your works, all these works of the sinner's prayer, so-called, will have no effect on God. They're your works. It's the same thing as stopping your drinking and your smoking and your cussing and you start going to work regular, you start going to church, you start being a good model citizen, you clean up your life, you do all these things. These things won't save you. It's not gonna save you. You can do those until you die. You can do it for a thousand years. It won't move, God. Why? Because you're a sinner. You were a sinner at birth. You were a sinner while you were smoking and drinking and cussing, and you quit cussing and smoking and drinking, but you're still a sinner. Your cleaning up your life didn't affect you at all in the sight of God. We're sinners. But praise the Lord. Christ died for sinners. He didn't die for sinners that clean up their life, that quit their smoking, drinking, and cussing. He died for sinners.

Listen to another fact. This is a fact I just quoted you. Christ said that no man will come to me that you might have life. Let me tell it to you in plain, simple terms. No lost sinner will ever come to Christ except the Lord begin a work in him. You'll never come. Never, never, never. **Ye will not come to me that ye might have life.** Your works are meaningless. What you do doesn't mean a thing to God. The Bible tells us, **by the works of the law shall no man be justified in his sight.** By the works of the law, the deeds of the law, keeping the law, doing your good things, cleaning up your life, it won't change you. It won't change you in God's sight. If God doesn't move on your heart, If God himself doesn't move on your heart and call you to seek the Lord, then the only thing that will happen is your works will spring forth in your own power and the Lord won't have them. He won't have your works. And that's the problem with the sinner's prayer. It's just another one of your works, and God won't have it.

I want to tell you, when the Lord awakens you and He begins to deal with you, you're going to say a sinner's prayer a thousand times. A million times. You're

going to beg and plead with the Lord. You're going to confess your sins. You're going to ask the Lord to save you. You're going to come and reason with Him a thousand times. But if the Lord awakens you and begins to deal with you, and you begin to plead with the Lord, and you plead with Him a thousand times - you keep pleading. Because in due time, the Lord will save you. He will save you.

Now, if you look at the examples that God gives us in the Bible, There's very few examples that show somebody asking one time and getting what they want. Very few. In fact, we have the examples that the Lord has given us to continue on, to continue begging, to continue pleading, continue asking. If you don't want it enough to keep on begging and pleading, then you don't want it. When you really want it, you'll keep begging and begging for it. As a sinner, you have nothing that God wants, nothing. None of your works that God will accept. And so, God has to put a desire in you after Christ. He has to make you willing to seek the Lord. He has to make you willing to call on him. Look what the Bible tells us. **Philippians 2:13, for it is God, not man, not yourself, not your own ideas. It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.** It's the Lord that puts it in you. When you become concerned for your soul, it's because the Lord made you that way. You're never concerned of your own self, because you're corrupt, you're wicked, you're totally depraved. Those things are contrary to God's will. When God decides to save you, God himself will begin the work in you and he will finish it. Anything that you do that is not inspired by God is a polluted work, and God won't have it. Your works, the Lord won't have. Any work that you do is corrupt and polluted in God's sight. Any person who tries to get to heaven without the working of the Holy Spirit is trying to get there by his own works, and your works are not acceptable. God won't have your works.

God sent his son, his only son, to live a perfect life that he might have perfect works to hold up before God. And God has accepted his works, the works of Jesus Christ. The Lord has accepted his sacrifice. He won't accept any of your works. You have works that are acceptable to God (in Jesus Christ), and you're going to have to call on the Lord that he might apply those works to your account. Your works (your personal works) are polluted. Your works of believing, your works of working yourself into heaven, the things that you think: well, look, I said a good prayer, I went to work. I've been going to work now steady for the last 10 years. I quit my drinking. I quit my smoking. I quit all those things. Pride begins to say, "Oh, look at me, look what I've done. I ain't like so-and-so over there". Pride is just as big a sin as anything else, just as much. That's another reason the Lord won't have your works, because they'll raise up pride in you.

Why is man so depraved and so messed up? Why is the average church wanting to palm off the sinner's prayer as the only way of salvation? Why is it? It's because man is totally depraved? It's because the mind is blinded and the understanding is darkened. We don't understand what we are in the sight of God. We don't understand, we don't know, we can't see it. It doesn't make sense to the lost sinner. And that's the way most preachers are. They're lost, they're blind, they're deceived by Satan. They don't understand the way of salvation. They've never walked by that *path that they've not known*. The Lord hasn't brought them by that way. You don't know it. They've never been awakened, never had their mind enlightened, and the deception of Satan has never been broken. They are even now blinded and deceived by Satan, and they walk in their own light and not in the light of God. They go about telling you how to be saved, and they don't even know themselves. They're lost, blind, deceived, and don't know it. They are lost sinners.

I remember when I was blind and deceived and lost and darkened understanding, I remember. And I remember how it was a marvel to me when the Lord awakened me, when he caused me to see what I am in God's sight.

I told you, when the Lord saves you, nobody has to tell you. It might take you a day or two to realize what it all means, but nobody's gonna have to tell you the Lord saved you. When the Lord awakens you, and works in your heart, He shines that light in, and you see the wickedness that's within you, the sin, the wickedness, the corruption, all those things. You see it, you see how bad it is, you understand it. You understand it in the light of God, in the light of God's Word. It becomes real to you. It becomes extreme to you.

I remember thinking how my sin looked like a great mountain before me. Just a mountain. I ain't talking a little hill. A mountain. Huge, immense. And the Lord put it all away. Now, you know, I used to live in Colorado and I would have to drive out to the east, and out to the east part of Colorado, it's all flat. And you can drive 50 or 75 miles to the east and you can look back and you can still see all those mountains sticking up. They were so big; you can see them from a long way off. Huge mountains. You get up close, you can see how big they are. I was up close to my sin, and the Lord put them away. If those mountains were to disappear, would somebody have to tell you about it? Would they have to tell you before you would notice? No, they wouldn't nobody need to tell you. Those mountains are obvious. They're there. They're real. And when the Lord saves you, he puts it away. Your sins will become real to you, and when the Lord puts

them away, you will know. It'll be real to you. It won't be like saying a little prayer and saying, Lord, I believe, and Lord, save me, and amen, and thank you, Lord, for saving me. And you go out like you came in, none the different.

I don't know what kind of salvation you have. But my salvation is real to me. The Lord made me to know. The *Lord* made me to know. I didn't do it. I didn't do it. When the Lord found me, I was just a lost sinner, unconcerned with my soul, going about my life, not caring. Didn't care. I didn't do anything to cause the Lord to save me.

I was raised under the preaching of this gospel, the true gospel, all my life. I've heard it all my life. And all my life, it didn't mean a thing to me. Not one thing. All it was, was a warning to me that there's a hell waiting. There's a hell waiting. There's a hell waiting. There's a hell waiting. Do you believe it? There's a hell waiting for you if you won't come to Christ. Now you say, well, you just said that you will not come. You can't make the Lord do anything. No, you can't. You can't do a thing. But I want to tell you, if the Lord has put a concern in you, it's the work of the Lord. It's His work. He did it. You need to act on it. The Lord awakened you. He made you concerned. You beg and plead with Him. You beg and plead with Him. The Lord doesn't awaken everybody. He doesn't awaken everybody. If you're concerned, that's not a natural thing. If you're concerned about your soul, you beg and plead with the Lord. That's what he tells us. He says, **come now and let us reason together**, is that for the person that ain't concerned, ain't caring, ain't worried? What does he need to reason about? Why would he come? That verse means nothing. But to you that are awakened, you that the Lord has touched, he's put a concern in your heart. Come and reason with him. He says, come. He says, come now, don't wait. You never know when death might come upon you. Oh, well, I'm young. I'm healthy. I got no worries. You might be in a car crash today; might die today - Some freak accident, they say. There's no freak accidents with God, but things happen. The Bible said, it is appointed unto man once to die. You have an appointment. It's going to happen. You don't know when it is. The Lord knows. He's got it marked down, and it's going to happen.

I plead with you. Turn to Christ. If you're concerned, beg and plead with the Lord. He'll save you.

Our dear Father, I do thank you now for this time. Lord, I thank you for thy word. Thank you for giving me grace to stand and And lift up Christ one more time. Point sinners to Christ, tell them to call on you, Lord, to plead with you. And

Lord, I just beg and plead with you myself that you will send thy Holy Spirit to accompany the words. Take them home to hearts, cause sinners to be concerned. Put that concern within them, Lord, and cause them to be concerned for their soul, that they might begin to call on the name of the Lord. Help us, Lord. Have mercy on us. Guide us, keep us now. Bring us back tonight and I ask all this in Christ's name and for his sake. Amen.