

Look To Christ and Be Saved

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“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.” (Isaiah 45:22).

The Word of God is full of invitations to the sinner from Christ to come to Him for salvation. “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely “ (Rev. 22:17). “ Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. “ (Isa. 55:1-3). In view of these many invitations to the sinner to come to Christ for life and salvation, the question is: Why don't they come? Why is it that so many die in their sins and go to hell? Why is it that man gives no attention to these merciful invitations? I will assure you it is not because God is a failure in His plan to save a people! God has ordained a people to life, and to these He gives ears to hear, and eyes to see. Our Saviour stated: “ All that the Father giveth to me will come to me “ (John 6:37). Man by nature has no disposition to come to Christ. He is in love with his sins, and hates the God of the Bible. It is only by the effectual, invincible call of the Holy Spirit that any ever respond to the invitation of Christ, and come to Him for salvation. God is sovereign in salvation, and His will and purpose shall be accomplished. He has ordained a people to respond to the invitation of Christ, and those that come to Him by faith will be saved. 1. I would call your attention first to the invitation. Christ said, “Look unto me, and be ye saved.” To look is to believe, to trust yourself to Christ for eternal blessing. This is illustrated by the Israelites that were bitten by the serpents in Num. 21:7-9. Moses made a serpent of brass and placed it upon a pole. The Israelites were made whole by looking to it. This was a type of Christ Who was lifted up on the cross. All who look to Him in faith are made whole from the poison of their sins. “ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). The very nature of the language of the text shows the impossibility of man looking to Christ by his own power. Man is born spiritually blind, and must be given spiritual eyes by the Holy Spirit before he can see his need of Christ. In II Cor. 4:3-5 we read, “ But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. “ “ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Eph. 4:18, 19). The sinner cannot restore his own sight, and until the Spirit of God quickens him to life, and gives him sight, he will never look to Christ for salvation. In Rev. 3, God describes the pitiable condition of the Laodicean church. They thought they were secure in that they were rich outwardly, but the Spirit said they were wretched, and miserable, poor, blind, and naked, but knew it not. This is the condition of every sinner by nature. He does not know of his blindness because he lives in a world of darkness. The Spirit must move upon the sinner or he will never move toward Christ. In Rev. 3:18 we read, “ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see. “ Whenever the blind eyes of the sinner are anointed with the eye-salve of the Holy Spirit he sees his lost estate, and is brought under conviction about his misery. If you have never had conviction from Christ to see yourself lost, you have missed salvation. Christ came to save only that which is lost. In Mark 2:17 we read, “ They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. “ 2. I would have you see the result of looking to Jesus Christ in faith. “And be ye saved.” On

the authority of God's Word I declare to you that you will be saved by looking to Christ. Christ does not say— Look to your baptism! As important as that is, it cannot wash away sins. Baptism is only for those who have been saved by looking to Christ. Baptism is that which identifies you with His death, burial, and resurrection; and is a picture, or declaration, of your salvation and identification with Him. He did not say— Look to your good works! Though these have their place in the believer's life, it is not in order to bring them into favor with God. In Titus 3:5 & 6 we read, “ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour. “ Good works follow salvation, and give evidence that we have passed from death to life. He did not say, Look to a doctrine, a passage of Scripture, an experience, or all the other things that the depraved heart substitutes for the Saviour! You are not saved by believing any doctrine, or by any experience you had, but by Christ. You will believe the Scriptures if you are saved, you will know the doctrine as you are taught. Christ will become a sweet experience, but salvation is in Christ. He is the Saviour, and there is none else. It is to look to Him, to trust yourself to Him, that saves. “ Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved “ (Acts 4:12). By coming to Christ you are saved. Before you come to Him you are under the power of Satan, dead in sins, enslaved to the lusts of the flesh, under the displeasure and wrath of God, and fast on your way to hell. By coming to Christ you are freed from the power of the devil; you are saved from the pleasure, penalty, and ruling power of sin; the old fleshly man is crucified with all his lusts; and you are brought into the favor of God. To come to Christ is to have His perfect robe of righteousness put upon you, and to have the law and justice of God satisfied toward you. You are made a joint-heir with Him, and all His blessings are yours. May God, by His Spirit, and through His mercy, awaken you to see your miserable lost condition by nature, and show you the beauty of Christ. If there is the desire to be delivered from the power and penalty of sin, and to be brought into a saving knowledge of Christ, that desire was implanted by the Spirit of God Himself Amen!!!