

## What About Jesus?

The most important decision a person can make in this life is to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Bible teaches us the way of salvation. It is God's *holy, written, eternal Word* that will abide forever. As Jesus said in Matthew 24:35, "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.**"

I have shared below my testimony of how I got saved, along with several scriptures that show that Jesus is the way to heaven, and a sinner's prayer to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There are multitudes of people all over the world who do not know Jesus as their Savior. They are basically good-hearted people, many of whom are even religious and attend church. But they have never personally received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. They do good works and good deeds, but they've never made peace with God. **You and I** are responsible for reaching these people with the gospel. It's God's desire that every person be saved, or "*born again*", so when they die, they won't go to hell but to heaven. God gave His only Son to make salvation available for you and me. As Jesus said in John 3:16, "**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.**"

The only forgiveness we have for our sins is the blood of Jesus. As an old hymn says, "*What can wash away our sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*" For people to receive Jesus, they must first be made aware of Jesus. Together we can and must do the work of evangelists and get the Word out. The Holy Spirit speaking through the Apostle Paul said in Romans 10:14,15,

**"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"**

I am sure that you have friends, relatives, neighbors and loved ones who have not made a commitment to receive Jesus Christ as Lord. We want to do all that we can to pray them into the family of God. For a person to be saved, they have to believe in their heart that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, that He is Lord, and they must publicly confess these truths. As Paul writes in Romans 10:9,10 & 13,

**"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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

If we will confess Him before men, He will confess us before our heavenly Father and before the angels (Luke 12:8). Even though I grew up in church, I was unaware that the only way to heaven was to become born again. I'm so thankful that someone brought the message to me.

As a child, I grew up attending church on a regular basis. I also attended church activities, helped to serve communion and acted as an usher. I guess that I'd always assumed that I was a Christian because I believed in God and attended church.

I grew up and eventually left home to pursue the things of the world. I had a desire to have my own business and be self-employed. So at 19 years old, I began my own floor-covering business. Things were going well financially and I was enjoying good times in the world. One day, when I was carpeting

an office for a hotel chain, two businessmen walked in, dressed in suits. (I later found out that they were the owners of the hotel.) One of the men spoke up and asked me,

**"Are you Jesse Rich?"**

I replied,

**"Yes."**

He said,

**"May I ask you a question?"**

I said,

**"Sure."**

He said,

**"If you died today, would you go to heaven?"**

I couldn't recall when I'd felt so uncomfortable about a question being asked. At the time, I didn't even know that you could know if you were going to heaven or not. I thought that decisions like that were all up to God...that no one could really know for sure...not in this life, if they were going to heaven. So my response was,

**"I go to church."**

One of the men had a new testament with him and opened it up and began to read scriptures to me from his Bible. I was nervous and uncomfortable; I was also trying to hide the feeling of how angry I was at those men for putting me on the spot. They asked me if I'd received Jesus Christ as my Savior. All I could reply was, "*I go to church.*" But they said,

**"You must be born again--saved."**

Then, I let them know about all the people who I knew that were born again and committed worse sins than I did: preachers and others whose houses and churches that I'd carpeted, who never paid me for my labor. I said,

**"What about them?"**

All they kept replying was,

**"What about Jesus?"**

I kept bringing up the good deeds that I'd done, organizations that I'd helped and money that I'd given away. But they let me know that there's only one way to get to heaven, and that's ***through Jesus!*** As the Bible clearly states, **"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, *the man Christ Jesus*...For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."** (1 Timothy 2:5 and Ephesians 2:8,9)

I felt so helpless, trying to defend myself and trying to justify myself through my good deeds. No matter what I said, they kept asking me, "*What about Jesus?*" ( In other words--- people, ministers, and churches may have done me wrong, but ***Jesus never had.*** And don't let what those people have done to you keep you from receiving Jesus as you Lord and Savior.)

As time went by, the job was finished and I returned home. It seemed as if every night thereafter, I'd wake up at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, hearing those mens' voices: "*What about Jesus?*" I hadn't paid any attention to the instructions they gave me, nor the scriptures they read in order for me to receive salvation. I didn't know *how* to ask Jesus to save me. But after a few months went by---with every night waking up and having those men say, '*What are you going to do about Jesus?*'--- I couldn't take it any longer. I was feeling so guilty and convicted in my heart about not being right with God. One night, I finally raised up in my bed and said, "**O.K. I'll take You!**" I didn't know what else to say. I just had a fear that I wasn't right with God. The Bible states in John 3:3, "**...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

Shortly after that night, I was invited to go to a church service. Up until that time, I'd thought all churches were basically the same. This particular church was what they called a "Pentecostal" church. That night, the pastor preached a message on, "*Are You Going to Heaven or Hell?*" He read scriptures and Holy Ghost conviction fell. He asked for people to come forward to the altar and kneel to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

After a seemingly long appeal, I finally surrendered and walked down that aisle and knelt. They led me in what is called, "A Sinner's Prayer." It was there, that night, that I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I became what the Bible calls in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "a new creature" in Christ Jesus. All my sins had been forgiven; I had peace in my heart and joy in my soul that Jesus had saved me.

That was a Sunday night. Monday, when I went to work, a bunch of guys and I went to lunch together. As I walked in the restaurant to find a place to sit, two prominent businessmen of my town were sitting there, having lunch. One of them raised his head and asked me,

**"Jesse, how come you're so happy today?"**

I replied,

**"Because last night I got saved."**

In a very cynical way and with a smirk on his face, he said to me,

**"Saved from *what?*"**

By this time, the whole restaurant was listening for my reply and looking at me. I didn't know any scripture at that time; all I could say was,

**"Saved from hell."**

Both of those businessmen very reverently dropped their heads in conviction, and with all respect, they said,

**"Good for you."**

There's nothing greater in life than knowing inside your heart that you're right with God. ***Are you right with God? Do you know Jesus as your Savior?*** I want to ask you the question that those two men asked me years ago when I was carpeting that hotel room. ***If you die today, will you go to heaven, or will you go to hell?*** The greatest decision you can make in this life is to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

I'm going to ask you to do something right now. It's to pray the prayer that is in this pamphlet and ask Jesus into your heart and receive forgiveness for all of your sins. Don't put this off---***pray it now, while there's still time.*** "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**" (Romans 10:13). Read this prayer out loud and mean it from your heart, and you can have the peace of God, that the world can never give you, nor take away!

***"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)

***Luke 19:10***

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

***John 3:3***

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

***John 3: 6, 7***

<sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

***John 3:16***

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 6:35***

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

***John 6: 37***

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

***John 6: 40***

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

***John 6: 47***

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

***John 20: 31***

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

***Acts 4: 12***

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

***Acts 16: 30, 31***

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? <sup>31</sup>And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

**Romans 3: 23, 24**

<sup>23</sup>For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

**Romans 6: 23**

For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 10: 9, 10, 13**

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>13</sup>For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**2 Corinthians 5: 17, 21**

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. <sup>21</sup>For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**Ephesians 2: 8, 9**

<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**1 Timothy 1: 15**

This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

**1 Timothy 2: 4-6**

<sup>4</sup>Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; <sup>6</sup>Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

**Titus 2: 13, 14**

<sup>13</sup>Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; <sup>14</sup>Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

**Hebrews 7: 25**

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

**1 John 1: 9**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**1 John 4: 14**

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.

**1 John 5: 13**

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

I've put together the following prayer for you to pray yourself, or to use to help lead to someone else into salvation. Spend some time today in prayer, and ask God to guide you. Every day, pray that you can be a witness to be used by the Lord. And together, we'll let our light shine so the world can see Jesus.

Your partner in faith,

**Brother Rich**

**Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers** (3 John 2).

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I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe He took the punishment for all of my sins, He was crucified, He died, He was resurrected from the dead, and He is alive for evermore! God, I come to You to ask Jesus Christ into my heart.

Heavenly Father, You said in Your Word, "**... Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out**" (John 6: 37). So I have confidence that You will receive me now.

You said, "**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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation**" (Romans 10: 9, 10). I do confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

You said, "**That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not... Ye must to be born again:**" (John 3: 6, 7). I have called upon the Name of Jesus, and I believe that I am born again by the Spirit of God!

According to 2 Corinthians 5: 17 & 21, I have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, and I am now a new creature in Christ. All things are passed away and all things have become new!

Thank You Father, for saving me, for forgiving me, and cleansing me with the blood of Jesus Christ! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_