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THE SINNER'S PRAYER!

Have you been taught that if you say what is commonly called the **“sinner’s prayer”**, that you will be saved? Maybe you’ve heard this on TV, or maybe your preacher has said this on more than one occasion that this is how you can become a child of God. Yet the Bible knows nothing of the **“sinner’s prayer.”** Salvation doesn’t come through saying any kind of prayer, but rather it comes through **“obedience to the gospel of Christ.”** Hebrews 5:8-9 tells us clearly **“...Jesus is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.”** Jesus furthermore said in Mark 16:16 that **“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”** If however a Christian falls away from the faith, and therefore loses his or her salvation, then prayer is involved in that Christian’s being restored to fellowship with God once again. This is what we read in such places as Acts 8:22-25 and 1st John 1:7-9. Don’t let yourself be deceived into thinking you have been saved by saying what is called the **“sinner’s prayer.”** Jesus said in Matthew 7:21 **“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

Zedekiah was the king of Judah who witnessed the execution of his own sons and then had his own eyes put out. (2nd kings 25:7)

The Apostle Paul left his cloke with Carpus who was at Troas. Timothy was instructed to bring this cloke with him as well as the books, and especially the parchments. (2nd Timothy 4:13)

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

If the measure of a cubit is equal to 18 inches, then what would have been the dimensions of the ark that was built by Noah?

What is the name of the woman who ***"...sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word?"*** (What was her sister's name and what was she pre-occupied with?)

THE VALUE OF A SOUL!

From a general observation it would seem that life was never more cheaply esteemed than in our own age. Three great wars within a quarter century, taking millions of earth's young manhood, not to mention the thousands lost through accidents from carelessness, and hundreds of deaths from malicious acts, show this startling fact. As we read of the great destruction of the wars, many think of the property destroyed; while others think of the millions being wasted on munitions and the debts being incurred; but very few think of the value of the souls being thrown into eternity, forever lost. Few ever think of the value of just ONE single soul as being greater than all the millions being wasted and the property destroyed. It is upon this thought we wish to call our attention at this time.

One of the striking differences between the Son of God and the rest of mankind is the great differences placed upon values.

With Christ, the greatest value is life itself; with man the greatest value is the gaining of material things. Christ put one soul on a higher plain than all of the material gains when He said, ***“For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*** (Matthew 16:26)

Here is a wonderful contrast in values: the whole world on the one hand, and one soul on the other. God estimates one soul to be worth more than all the world. But man seems unable to learn this lesson, for we see him trading his soul every day for only small parts of this world's gain.

When one comes to die, he comes to say ***“good-bye”*** to all material things and leaves them forever. Solomon said, ***“All is vanity and striving after the wind. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, all hath been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”*** (Ecclesiastes 12:13) Yet men and women rush on, striving after the vanities of life, paying for them the price of their own soul, the most precious possession in the world.

God's estimate upon the value of life is seen in the sacrifice made when He gave His Son to save one soul. It cost God just as much to save one soul as to save the whole world, for ***“...without the shedding of blood there is no remission.”*** (Hebrews 9:22) ***“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*** (Romans 5:8) Note also John 3:16, 1st John 4:9-10, and Hebrews 2:9. Here we see God's estimate of the value of one life; that His own Son died to redeem and save it.

In finding life, one must deny self and follow Christ. Philippians 2:5-8 gives us the whole spirit of Jesus Christ, one of self-denial. When life comes to a close, of what value will all the material and sensual things of the world be then? Read carefully Luke 12:16-21. Are you preparing to meet your God?
YOU WILL ONE DAY!

Jack Thompson