



*"Believe on the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved, you and your household."* - (Acts 16:31)

## A STUDY OF SALVATION

### THE CHURCHES

As a teacher I spend much of my time working to undo the damage and confusion caused by the churches. I dislike them because they are dangerous. They divert people from Bible truth. New Christians turn to churches for guidance. But instead of helping them, churches misdirect them. They cause "little ones" to stumble before they can get their feet under them (Matt. 18:2-6).

Churches claim to be agencies of God. Thus, "little ones" look to churches because they don't know better. They presume churches are God ordained. But churches came from men, not God. Americans grow up hearing that churches are good. This is the first hurdle they face - and in most cases they never get over it. They get stuck there.

"Little ones" need truth, not Pagan myths. Without a knowledgeable elder to help them how are young Christians to know that churches are not what they claim to be? How can a beginner keep from being misdirected in his first steps? He can end up looking for Christ in an institution that is anti-Christ. It is insidious.

This deception has been ruining lives for ages - poisoning and crippling young minds, diverting them away from the real Christ. Churches have followed the ways of the Pharisees - fouling up people's minds; grooming them to fit into the Beast System instead of warning them against it.

### GET SAVED!

The churches' big message is that people must "get saved" - as if "getting saved" is a ritual that we can do that moves us to the right side of God's ledger.

Get saved! But saved from what? That is the real question. This is a huge question that churches don't explain. Somewhere along the line people were sold an idea that doesn't make sense - but the idea was sold so convincingly that hardly anyone questions it.

So let's examine this. From the perspective of church

teachings, from what are we saved? Let's see. We can all agree that the Bible teaches salvation. Jesus certainly does save us. But how does it work?

Churches tell us that Jesus saved us by sacrificing Himself. Again, this premise has in it elements of truth. But taking it a bit farther, we need to ask how did salvation result from his death?

The unasked question about the salvation by death doctrine is this: what was the purpose? How did that work? Jesus suffered and died a cruel death - for what? Who needed Him to die? Was his blood shed to pay a debt to someone? A blood debt? If so, to whom was the debt owed, and what would be the logic in this scenario?

Churches teach a doctrine of "original sin." In essence, it claims that Adam's original sin made him lose his immortality, and this curse was imputed to all men. Consequently all men after Adam come into the world with the curse upon them. Every newborn baby, before it can know anything, comes with a debt of sin that must be paid. The churches teach that we come into the world as sinners condemned to "Hell." It is automatic. They quote Romans 3:23 - that "all have sinned" which equates, to them, that all are condemned. And the only way we can escape that curse is to "get saved" sometime in our lifetime.

In church theology, men can "get saved" by acknowledging Christ and claiming his payment of our debt. That would mean that Jesus paid that debt by his sacrifice - thus relieving us of our debt or curse. So the question still remains: to whom was this debt paid? Who was willing to barter Jesus' blood to pay the debt of blood for all mankind? Churches teach that Jesus' blood was the perfect sacrifice because it was sinless. That made his blood worth more than all the blood of all mankind. Thus, according to church teaching, it took the perfect Lamb of God to render the sacrifice that would pay all the blood debt of all mankind.

Are still with me? Does this sound right to you?

OK. But we still haven't answered the question of who it was this debt was owed, and who was willing to be satisfied

by Jesus' blood and death. We must answer this question in order to consider the viability of church doctrine about Jesus and salvation.

By now you are hopefully coming to the point that is of issue in this exercise. The churches never admit this in plain words, but the only answer is that they teach that the debt was owed to God. Thus, logically we can only arrive at the conclusion that, according to church doctrine, Jesus' blood and death was sacrificed to pay man's debt to God.

Now, think about this. If this is true - if the churches have this right - then Jesus' mission was to pay off God. To get God to release us from the debt of blood and death that we owed Him.

So that would make God a blood merchant. He had a blood debt to collect, and Jesus paid it for us. Now I don't know how that settles with you, but it doesn't make sense to me. The god of the churches is NOT the God I learn about from Scripture. The Jesus of the churches is NOT the Jesus I find in Scripture. The salvation taught in the churches is not the salvation I find in Scripture. God is not a blood merchant. Jesus' mission was NOT to save us from a merciless, detached god who burns people in "Hell." Rather, Jesus' mission was to save us from SIN - i.e., from ourselves and our bad choices.

## FALSE SALVATION

Churches offer a false "salvation" to "save" people from a false "hell" and get them entrance to a false "heaven." This farce, this so-called "salvation" of the churches, is NOT in the Bible. It is a ritual they picked up from Pagans.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus saves us, but NOT in the way that is taught in churches. Churches call on a "lord," but they don't know the Lord of the Bible. Jesus said:

21. *Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingship of the heavens; but the one doing the will of my Father that is in the heavens.*

22. *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, do we not prophesy in your name? and in your name cast out demons? and in your name perform many powers?*

23. *And then will I declare to them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work lawlessness.*

Matthew 7:22-23

This statement by Jesus can refer to only one class of people - the ones who claim to teach in his name but don't really know Him. And Jesus doesn't know them. It can only be church people. Churches claim to know Him, but they teach falsehoods. Churches call their "lords" by names they pilfered from the Bible - like the Jews pilfered the title of Israelite, but they aren't. Churches have renamed and recycled the old pagan gods, as Constantine did in Rome. They call on the name of "Jesus" but it's not the Jesus of Scripture. The real Jesus says He doesn't know them.

So the churches tell people that they need to be "saved from hell fire" and from "Satan" - a myth borrowed from

Zoroastrianism; or that Jesus saved them from the law of God. That idea also came from Paganism.

Churchgoers are told that Jesus saved them from God's law and judgment. And then their Jesus abandoned them and flew away into "heaven."

These things, just to name a few, are pagan doctrines common in churches. These doctrines are not in the Bible. But they are in the churches. The churches teach about a another Jesus and another "salvation." It's not in the Bible.

3. *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from the purity of the separateness that is in Christ.*

4. *For if one comes proclaiming another Jesus, whom we do not proclaim, or if you receive another spirit, which you do not receive (from us), or a different gospel, which you do not receive (from us), (I fear) you may tolerate it.*

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

5. *... for there are those being called gods, whether in heaven or on land, (as there are gods many, and lords many.)*

1 Corinthians 8:5

In the world are many gods, and many so-called saviors. The churches have adopted false gods and false saviors from Pagan teachings. They adopted false "salvations" from those world religions. All through the Bible we are warned to be aware of false gods and false prophets.

## THE GODS OF THE CHURCHES

Churches preach about a god that is called a "trinity." He is supposed to be one entity comprised of three persons. This came from Pagans - not from the Bible. There is no "trinity" in the Bible.

*"Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is ONE Lord."*

Deuteronomy 6:4 & Mark 12:29

Churches preach a god that died. But the God of the Bible cannot die. His Son died. And God raised Him.

30. *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you slew and hanged on a tree.*

Acts 5:30

The God of the Bible is loving and longsuffering. He comes to our rescue and forgives our mistakes. The Children of Israel made mistakes that caused them to become slaves in Egypt. God rescued them by sending Moses to deliver them. When Pharaoh's army pursued them, God rescued them again by splitting the sea allowing them to walk through on dry ground and escape the Egyptian army. Then God spoke to Moses and gave Israel laws for their wellbeing and protection (Deut. 30:15-20).

Later, when Israel abandoned God (1 Samuel 8) and sought after the gods of the nations around them, they fell

into slavery under the empires of their day, God sent prophets to encourage them and teach them to repent and turn back to Him, and be saved and free.

Later, the God of the Bible sent Jesus, his own Son to save us again. Would a cruel bloodthirsty god do all these things? They were his children, and He was their Father.

Grace was not a new thing with Jesus. God was gracious to Israel often (also Noah). God SAVED his people many times before Jesus came on the scene.

Churches teach that God's law demands blood, and He cannot forgive without a blood sacrifice. This is the god of the churches. But it is NOT the God of the Bible.

The God of the Bible tells us that though we've sinned, if we repent He forgives us (Isaiah 1:18). The God of the Bible sent Jonah to pronounce his destruction upon Nineveh for the sins of the people. But when the people heard Jonah's warning, they repented - and God forgave them and didn't destroy Nineveh. He is a forgiving God.

The churches say that Jesus abolished God's law and replaced it with "grace." But that's not what the Bible says.

17. *Think not that I am come to abolish the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill it (i.e., teach it and do it).*

Matthew 5:17

12. *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

13. *Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, ... that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*

Romans 7:12-13

The Bible teaches that Jesus gave himself, not to appease God, but to openly expose sin and call men to repentance. He died to change men, not to change God. Jesus died at the hands of sinners (the Jewish priests and elders - Matthew 27:20-25) to expose sin and make it obvious to all (to make sin appear "exceeding sinful"). Jesus gave his life to change men - not to change God; to affect us, not God.

But this is NOT what the churches teach. They teach the opposite - that Jesus saved us by abolishing the law.

John cleared this up for us:

3. *And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep his commandments.*

4. *The one saying, I know Him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him.*

1 John 2:4

Would John say this if Jesus had abolished the law?

The Jesus of the churches flew away into the sky to stay there until the distant future. But the Bible says that Jesus would never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

18. *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All*

*authority (Kingship) is given to Me in heaven and in earth.*

20. ... *I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

Matthew 28:18 & 20

Again, you can see what the Bible says as opposed to what the churches teach. Where did the churches get their ideas? Obviously not from the Bible. Much blame can be laid upon the translators. But even with the sloppy translation of English versions of the Bible, we can still easily find these scriptures to prove the points I've made here.

The god of the churches is cruel. But the Bible says:

18. *Yahweh is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression ...*

Numbers 14:18

15. ... *full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy (forgiveness) and truth.*

Psalms 86:15

9. ... *longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

2 Peter 3:9

Jesus did not do away with God's law. Rather, He was a faithful Son teaching and doing his Father's will. Jesus didn't abolish the law. He extolled it.

Jesus is the "Logos" - the Communication (John 1:1). He communicates to men. The Greek word "logos" means "Communication." Jesus is God's Communication to men. Israel had abandoned God and lost their closeness to Him. They no longer heard his teachings. Instead they heard teachings of men who believed in sky gods like those worshipped by the Greeks and Romans.

God had spoken to Abraham, to Moses and the prophets. He communicated truth.

32. *You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. - John 8:32.*

The Jews hated Jesus because He exposed them and their gods. Jews were from Persia (Babylon). Their religion and doctrines were Zoroastrian, but they called themselves Judeans (Jews). Thus they misappropriated the identity of Israel. They claimed Abraham was their father, but Jesus corrected them (John 8:39). They were Persian (children of Babylon). They hated real Israelites and persecuted them. Thus the Israelites left Judea and scattered throughout the lands north and west - Asia Minor and Europe.

The Jewish religion (Judaism) was a form of Zoroastrianism - from Persia. Those who practice Zoroastrianism are called Parsees. The sect of Parsees that took root in Judea adjusted their name to "Pharisees." Thus they pulled a switch of identity and masqueraded as native Judahites - but they weren't. In fact they weren't even Semitic. They were a mixed race from Persia.

Jesus said:

19. *You neither know me, nor my Father: if you had known me, you should have known my Father also.* (John 8:19)

Jesus exposed the Jews as frauds and liars. But this is not what the churches teach. The churches teach that the Jews are the real Israelites and “chosen people of God” in spite of the fact that they rejected God and murdered his Son. It doesn’t make sense. The Jews’ religion is not Biblical. It is not from Moses. It is not from God. It is from Babylon. Their Talmud is titled “The Babylonian Talmud.”

The Jews hated Jesus because He knew they were frauds. So they conspired to kill Him. They demanded that Pilate have Him executed. When Pilate wanted to release Jesus, the Jews threatened to riot in protest:

23. *And the governor (Pilate) said, Why, what evil has he done? But they (the Jews) cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.*

24. *When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see you to it.*

25 *Then answered all the people (the Jews), and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.*

Matthew 27:23-25

This is what the Bible says. But the churches don’t teach this. Why? Because the churches are based on Jewish doctrine. They have a different god, and a different Jesus - and a different salvation.

So you can see, the churches teach a christ that is not from the Bible. **THEY TEACH A SALVATION THAT IS NOT FROM THE BIBLE.** The churches teach Paganism. The word “church” is not in the Bible. Jesus did not start a “church.” Peter did not start a church. The apostles did not go through the lands ordaining church leaders.

The term “church” came from Rome, not from the Bible. The word “church” does not appear in the Bible. The Greek word translated as “church” is “ecclesia” and correctly means “the called-out ones,” not “church.”

Churches don’t teach this. They teach church doctrine and church salvation. But you may say, “I know church people who are good people who believe in Jesus.” Yes? Well ... truth is truth, and anything else isn’t truth. Should we emulate those who believe and teach non-truth? Jesus didn’t send his apostles to find people who were nice and likable. Nice people can be deceived. Jesus sent his apostles into the world to seek out those nice people who were lost and misled - not to tell them they were OK in their deceptions as long as they were nice. No. They were sent to share the truths they had received from Jesus. To acquaint them with the real God of Abraham and the real Jesus. That is the “salvation” we find in the Bible.

## WHY DID JESUS NEED TO DIE?

The churches teach that Jesus had to die because God required a debt of blood to pay for man’s sins, and Jesus

paid the debt for us. So Jesus bartered with God and traded his blood to take the place of ours - and that placated God. They say that this satisfied God and made Him willing to let us off the hook. This church doctrine makes Jesus into nothing more than a blood sacrifice. Church teachings insinuate that those who murdered Jesus did the world a great favor because that somehow satisfied God and saved us. They teach that Jesus had to die for a blood offering - like the offerings of bulls and goats. The god taught in the churches insists on blood. But what does the Bible say?

6 *For I desire mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.*

Hosea 6:6

The point of the Old Covenant animal sacrifices was not to appease God with blood. Rather, it was to teach Israel that sin has consequences. A sinner (law breaker) received a set fine. He had to pay for his sin - a punishment to teach him that sin has consequences. The blood was not the point. The point was to teach men to be responsible.

13. *For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh:*

14. *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eonian spirit offered Himself (his whole life, not just his death) without spot to God, to purge our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Hebrews 9:13-14

Jesus died to purge our minds. It wasn’t to change God’s mind. It was to change us. Jesus gave himself to us - He “purged our conscience.” He opened our eyes! He changed our hearts. Jesus revealed sin by living truth and teaching truth - that’s why He is called “the Logos.” His sacrifice was for us, not for God. He purchased US by giving Himself to us.

God knew what He was doing. He didn’t make mistakes. We were created exactly as He wanted us.

God looked at his creation and called it “good” (Genesis 1:31). We were created capable of hating and loving; of sinning and obeying. He made us exactly the way He wanted us. He wanted us to be able to choose Him. All fathers want their children to choose to love them - not as robots - but as children who can choose.

Without the ability to choose, there can be no love. God loves us and wants us to love Him. Sin comes between us and our Creator. It causes us to quit loving Him. Jesus taught truth and love. He taught us to choose God, not sin. To accomplish this He had to expose sin. Sin is what killed Jesus. Sinful men killed Him. That dreadful act exposed sin in men, and love in Christ. The sinless Son of God was hated by men because He was good. Sinful men hate goodness. Thus we see sin and what it does to men. Jesus opened our eyes. He caused a sense of right and wrong to be born in us. We were changed and saved.

That is the salvation the Bible teaches.

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