



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – February 18, 2024

Heart to Heart...

One of the most common religious questions asked today: *"Do you know the Lord as your personal Savior?"* It is true that the Lord is One who personally saves us, but few have thought this through as its meaning.

When the question is asked, almost in every case, it is followed by being called to repeat a prayer. Some call it the sinner's prayer but the shocking part is this prayer that many state needs to be said is not found one time, not one time in Scriptures. Look how many speak about quoting it to be saved but it's not from God. Should that not get our attention? What does this say about those who say this is how to be saved and those who do it? There are various forms of the prayer, but it begins with acknowledging of one's own sinfulness and then asking Jesus to come into the heart and save them. This is not found one time in Scripture.

What is found is when one comes to Jesus, they must be taught His word so a conviction of sin is formed, and they want to know what the Lord expects for their salvation. Reading through the book of Acts, we see this over and over. The message of Jesus is taught (the gospel) and when it hits the heart of one (believed upon), they want to respond, and we told how they responded by faith. God's calling for man's salvation has never changed. Man has changed it, but the Scriptures uphold God's truth. There was never a sinner's prayer taught or spoken, not once! It is invented by man.

The first encounter of salvation after the ascension of Jesus is found in Acts 2. Read it! They killed the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and Peter pointed it out from Scripture. Upon declaring Jesus was Lord and Christ by God, they asked, *"What shall we do?"* Peter plainly laid out what was expected, and it wasn't the sinner's prayer (Acts 2:38-39).

Paul, known as Saul before he came to know Jesus, Saul had to hear a message and then was told to call on the name of the Lord by being baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16). He wasn't told to repeat some prayer accepting Jesus as his personal Savior. The sinner's prayer did not come from God.

Back to the question, "*Do you know the Lord as your personal Savior?*" No prayer said will save anyone as that's not in Scripture. When one makes Jesus his Lord, looking to Him for salvation, they will obey what is asked of them just as the apostles taught in learning it from Jesus. "***And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.'***" (Mark 16:15-16) This is the word of the Lord given to His apostles and they preached it! What do you believe? Think about it!!!

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