

A Genuine Salvation III

By Greg Rangel

When Saul, the great persecutor of the faith met the Lord Jesus on his way to Damascus, his life and his eternal destiny were drastically changed. As previously mentioned, Saul no doubt thought that the religion that he received as a tradition from his father's was the "true religion." But he soon found out that his religion had failed him and deceived him at the same time, because he was fighting against the very God he thought he was serving.

Saul came to give up his dead system of religious works, to gain a living relationship with Jesus Christ. When Saul became Paul the apostle, he wrote about this very thing in Phil. 3:7-10 *"Howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ, and be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own, even that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed unto his death;"*

Saul's life was drastically changed because at the very moment that he met Jesus he went from being in the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light (Col. 1:13); from being a child of the devil (John 8:44, Eph. 2:2, 1 John 1:6), to being an adopted son of the living God (John 1:12, 3:1-7); from being a man that was so full of hate (Gal. 1:13-14), to being a man full of love (1 Cor. 13). Saul knew that at that moment he was a new person. He was now born again by the Spirit of the living God. From then on Saul, now being Paul the Apostle, lived in peace with his God. He was no longer at war with Jesus.

Saul experienced the peace of God, and the forgiveness of God there on the road to Damascus. Perhaps you might currently be on your own road to Damascus. Even though you go to church you still find yourself at odds with God. You go to see if there is anything better for you, but you come out empty handed. You go to try to find peace, but the only thing you find is the realization that there is still something wrong. You even confess your sins over and over again, but somehow you still feel guilty of what you have done, and so you go out of church as you went in, without peace. So what is the answer to your problems, to your frustrations, to your loneliness and to your emptiness? The answer is found in Jesus, not in church, not in religion, or in anything else. True forgiveness comes only when you are honest with yourself and admit that you are a sinner, and when you truly give your life over to Jesus and confess Him as your Lord and Savior.

You need Jesus Christ in your life! There is nothing better than what He has to offer. He will forgive you, transform you, and give you eternal life.

The Lord said in Isa 1:16-18 *“Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”*

Would you like to be forgiven of every wicked thing that you have done? Would you like to know that if you die today you will go to heaven? Well you need to repent of your sins. Paul said Act 17:30-31 *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”* Receive Jesus and you will be saved.