

Howards Corner

Personal Sin and Personal Salvation

To all that are called to know the truth wherever you are.

Since we are or were once sinners by nature in this world these sins or rebellions against God are all personal actions or lack of actions done by our own personal selves. Therefore, our reconciliation with God is a personal matter and cannot be resolved by corporate solutions. We must accept that we are by our nature which we have inherited from the first man Adam a sinner and not able to save ourselves. But God has been merciful to us to provide a way to reconcile ourselves with Him. Jesus came and paid the price for our salvation by His obedient life and a sacrificial death on the cross for us personally. So, this reconciliation can only be accomplished by a personal encounter with Jesus.

In today's churches however we are trying to make this salvation a corporate matter and think that we are saved by a church or a denomination, but the church organization has no power to save therefore if you are trusting in churches, you have not understood the "Gospel". We will all stand before Jesus one day and be judged personally. Each by his own life. What we have done or failed to do. Since we are all sinners in some way or another, we are all guilty.

God has however been merciful and provided a way out of this judgement. He has provided us a counselor for our defense. Jesus the son of God came and paid the price for our sins with His shed blood on the cross. Therefore, if we believe He paid the price for our sins and turn to Him for forgiveness He will be just and faithful to pronounce that we are "Not Guilty" if we will humble ourselves and admit we cannot obtain righteousness on our own but find our righteousness in Jesus alone.

We may fool ourselves or our parents or our neighbors or our pastor or our spouse or our friends, but we cannot fool God. He can see our intent and our true heart so there must be a brokenness in our heart over our sins and a repentance—a change of mind—and desire to leave your old self and follow Jesus and His teachings.

This reminds me of the first of the beatitudes recorded in Matthew. It says blessed is he who is "Poor in spirit". This is saying you must have a broken spirit in yourself

to find the Kingdom of God. This is the realization we are guilty in ourselves and know we need another way. For me it was an understanding that I was bankrupt in myself and then turned with all that was in me to diligently search for the truth.

It follows in the beatitudes, blessed is He who “Mourns” for he will be comforted. I see this as mourning for our sins and being unable to solve our lostness. We will be comforted if we then repent and turn to Jesus who will comfort us. He does comfort us in His word and by the giving of the Holy Spirit to those who sincerely believe. The Holy Spirit is our comforter and helper and teacher.

All of this cannot be by a corporate action but is personal and can only be realized by a personal salvation. This is then a personal relationship with God through the shed blood of Jesus and His word and by His spirit. It is not a religion or a corporate relationship through a church or a denomination or rituals or ceremonies or by keeping laws and such. It is a relationship of love provided by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

This then will bring about changes in your life for you will have a new heart. When this new heart starts to grow in faith you will “hunger and thirst for righteousness” and to know the word of God for it is the bread of life. You will want to do righteous acts such as help the helpless and walk in forgiveness. You will want to do these things out of genuine love and not because of requirements of law for you are now in the law of love.

All of this is a result of a personal relationship with God and cannot be done by a corporate church relationship. The church may help you to grow and mature in faith, but you will operate in a world every day and must have the truth dwelling inside you which is the Holy Spirit. You cannot live the Christian life without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

My prayer for you is to seek with all your heart to have a personal relationship with Jesus so that He can send His Holy Spirit to abide in you forever.

May the love of Jesus our savior and Lord be with you!

Howard