

WHY MY FAMILY NEEDS THE BIBLE SALVATION

Though the Bible was written by 40 different authors with varying backgrounds, over a time period of 1500 years, it still covers one continuous theme—the scheme of redemption. The first book of the Bible, Genesis, reveals God’s creation of man, Adam and Eve’s fall into sin and the curse of death placed upon them as they were driven from the Garden of Eden and the “tree of life” (Genesis 2-3). The last book of the Bible, Revelation, informs us of man’s ability to regain access to the “tree of life” in heaven and live eternally as the curse is lifted (Revelation 22:1-3). Everything else in between is God’s plan in accomplishing the redemption of man.

From the time of man’s fall, God has been planning a way to bring His special creatures, made “in His image” back to Him (Genesis 1:27). We, by our own sinful choices, have separated ourselves from a righteous God and sold ourselves into the slavery of sin (Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:23). God, in His justice, demands a penalty for sin. Yet, in His Fatherly love He wants us to live eternally with Him and wants to give us another chance. This is quite a conflicting dilemma.

So, how does a just and loving God remain just while displaying His

love? You see, we deserve death. We have broken God’s laws and sinned (1 John 3:4). We have not lived up to God’s standards and broken His heart. Even so, God has given us a second chance. We failed living by His rules before but He gives us another opportunity to live as His children. How?

God sent His Son and Jesus became “flesh” for a purpose (John 1:14; Matthew 20:28). God loved you and all of His creation. John 3:16 says, “God so loved the world that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Man, due to sin, deserves to die and be cast from God’s presence. Yet, God wants to give you “everlasting life.” Therefore, Jesus took the penalty of death we deserved upon Himself! God allowed His sinless Son to pay the “ransom for all” (1 Timothy 2:6). His sacrifice on the cross was offered “to put away sin” (Hebrews 9:26). In so doing, God’s justice was met—the penalty was willingly paid by Jesus Christ. Yet, God’s love was displayed—Jesus paid the penalty not for His own sins, but for ours (1 Peter 2:24)! What a friend we have in Jesus!

More than anything, your family needs to know God’s plan of salvation! Many households emphasize the wrong values. We teach

our kids to make money, to get educated and to stay healthy. Yet, these values will only endure as long as our lives on earth! Salvation from an eternal hell gives our children blessings to last for all of eternity (see 2 Cor. 4:16-5:1). Yet, how often is this gift neglected by so many families?

Further, we cannot just assume our children will go to heaven because we wish it to be so. All we know about heaven and hell and how to get there is revealed to us by God, in His Word. His Word reveals we may not “come to the Father” unless we do so through Jesus Christ (John 14:6). Part of going through Jesus Christ means putting our faith in Him and obeying Him. Do you want to be God’s child once again? Galatians 3:26-27 says, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Christ’s purchase becomes effective at the point of baptism. After all, baptism is “for the remission of sins” and your sins are the very thing separating you from God (John 8:24; Acts 2:38). True love for our families will seek to save them from an eternal hell by teaching them of our loving God! “For the promise is to you and to your children...” (Acts 2:39).

Joshua R. Welch



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