

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2025

Believing in Jesus means trusting Him to rescue me from sin, trusting Him to give me eternal life, and trusting Him to place me in the family of God.

Receiving eternal life comes by believing in Jesus for our rescue from sin. If you are alarmed at your personal sin and want to be rescued from sin, then you have correctly understood the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Biblical salvation describes how we are saved from sin in this life.

Paul says, “work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”

So, receiving eternal life and being saved from sin are not exactly the same. You receive eternal life by believing in Jesus. You are saved from sin by your cooperation with God and your works.

WAYS OF COOPERATING WITH GOD: Confession of Jesus with your mouth, water baptism, obedience, agreeing with God about your sin, and repentance of known sin are ways we cooperate with God **AND HELP US RESOLVE TO FOLLOW JESUS.**

21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged in marriage to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. **19**Because Joseph was a righteous man and was unwilling to disgrace her publicly, he resolved to divorce her quietly.

20But after he had pondered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to embrace Mary as your wife, for the One conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21**She will give

birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

22All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23“Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel”(which means, “God with us”).

24When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and embraced Mary as his wife. **25**But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a Son. And he gave Him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:18-25

In Matthew 4:17 Jesus said, “Repent [change your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God’s purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, “Go and sin no more.” John 8:11

1 John 1:9 says to believers in Jesus: If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

The “we” in this verse are believers in Jesus who already have eternal life. When we agree with God about our sin, He will work with us in our life to take away our sin and help us walk uprightly with our God.

Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32 God freely forgives sin without payment for sin and that is what He asks us to do, freely forgive.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says: If anyone turns to Christ and receives Christ as Lord over his life, that person becomes a new creation in Christ, the old way of life is gone and the new way of life has begun.

Galatians 2:20 says: The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave His life for me.

Did you know that the Christmas story is about rescuing us from sin? God knows that our personal sin can hurt us terribly. The Bible says that God sent His Son to rescue us from our sin.

Psalm 100 says: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD all you people. Speaking to all the nations God says: All are His people and the sheep of His pasture. He calls EVERY PERSON to enter His gates with Thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. BUT HIS MERCY HAS A CONDITION. If a person does not praise Him, confess Him as Lord, and call upon Him for rescue from personal sin, then that person will forfeit being saved from sin throughout this life. 1Cor. 3:13-15