

God's Invitation to Salvation.

Galatians 1:1 – 9

In **Matthew 11:28** Jesus gave an invitation, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* At this time Jesus was speaking to the Jews, but in general He was speaking to every lost sinner who has a burden trying to be saved. It was the Jews who groaned under the weight of their ceremonial laws and the traditions of the elders to work for their salvation, just as a lot of Gentiles do today. The writer in the book of Acts wrote, **Acts 15:9 - 11** *"And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. (10) Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? (11) But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."* The thought of working for salvation by trying to be good or trying to live the laws of the scriptures is a burden that cannot fleshly be obtained, **we are sinners by nature**. Jesus gave this invitation in **John 7:37 – 38** *"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."* Jesus's invitation was that if we believe in Jesus we will never want again, we can actually live in this world and be content or completely satisfied. The invitation to come to Christ for eternal life is God's, it is God's to give through Jesus Christ, it is Jesus Christ to give because it is He that died on the cross to give it.

A. God's invitation.

1. **1 John 5:8 - 12** *"And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. (9) If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. (10) He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (11) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath*

- life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."* – God invitation to be saved it thru His Son Jesus the Christ. Anything added to this is taken from it is calling God a liar.
2. Paul wrote in **Galatians 1:7 - 8** "*Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. (8) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*" – Pervert the gospel means to corrupt the gospel, because the gospel is God's witness and cannot be changed in the slightest.
 3. **1 Corinthians 15:1 - 4** "*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; (2) By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. (3) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*" – Paul said this is the gospel that I was saved by, this is the gospel that you have also received, and this is the gospel by which we continually stand by. That Jesus Christ did the work of salvation and in Him, there is no work for us to do. "Come unto me, I will give you rest" Jesus said.
 4. The question is do you believe man or God? Do you believe 1 John 5:8 - 12 or do you believe another gospel, that is not really another because there is only one, God's.
 5. In Jesus Christ, we are complete. **Romans 11:36** "*For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.* God's glory to Jesus Christ is to give all things to Him and they come through Him. Our salvation is part of that Glory for His Son. *Psalms 72:17 - 19 "His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed. (18) Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. (19) And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen."*

B. Salvation is the Lord's to give.

1. Salvation is not a choice, it is not a human decision, it is not obtained through merits. It is a gift from God. **Romans 6:23** *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*
2. Jesus said to the woman at the well, **John 4:10** *"Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."* – the Gift of God is Him, to know Him is to have salvation. To know His gospel of the sacrifice He made to give this gift to us.
3. God's gift cannot be purchased in any way. **Acts 8:20 - 21** *"But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. (21) Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God."*
4. Albert Barnes said, *"That which he has "given," or conferred as a favor. The idea was absurd that what God himself gave as a sovereign could be purchased."*
5. **Acts 11:17 - 18** *"Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? (18) When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."*

C. The gift of God comes thru the power of God.

1. The power of God is in the Holy Spirit. **Revelation 22:16 - 17** *"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. (17) And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."* – The church is a general invitation, but the Holy Spirits call is precise.
2. The Great Commission was precisely a work for the church.

- a. **Matthew 28:16** "*Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.*" – this was the leadership of the church at Jerusalem, the church that Jesus started.
 - b. **Matthew 28:18** "*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*" Jesus is the only one with the power of God to give authorization for anything. He is giving it to this church leadership.
 - c. The authorized commission is, **Matthew 28:19 - 20** "*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*" – To preach the gospel, baptize the saved, and to teach God's word. With the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. One can only be saved by the call and the power of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is an invitation and by invitation only. **John 6:44** "*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*" – people can murmur if they like but This is what Jesus preached.
 4. **John 6:63 - 65** "*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (64) But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. (65) And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father."*
 5. If the Holy Spirit has quickened your dead spirit and called you then come and take of the water of life freely. **Romans 8:14** "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*"