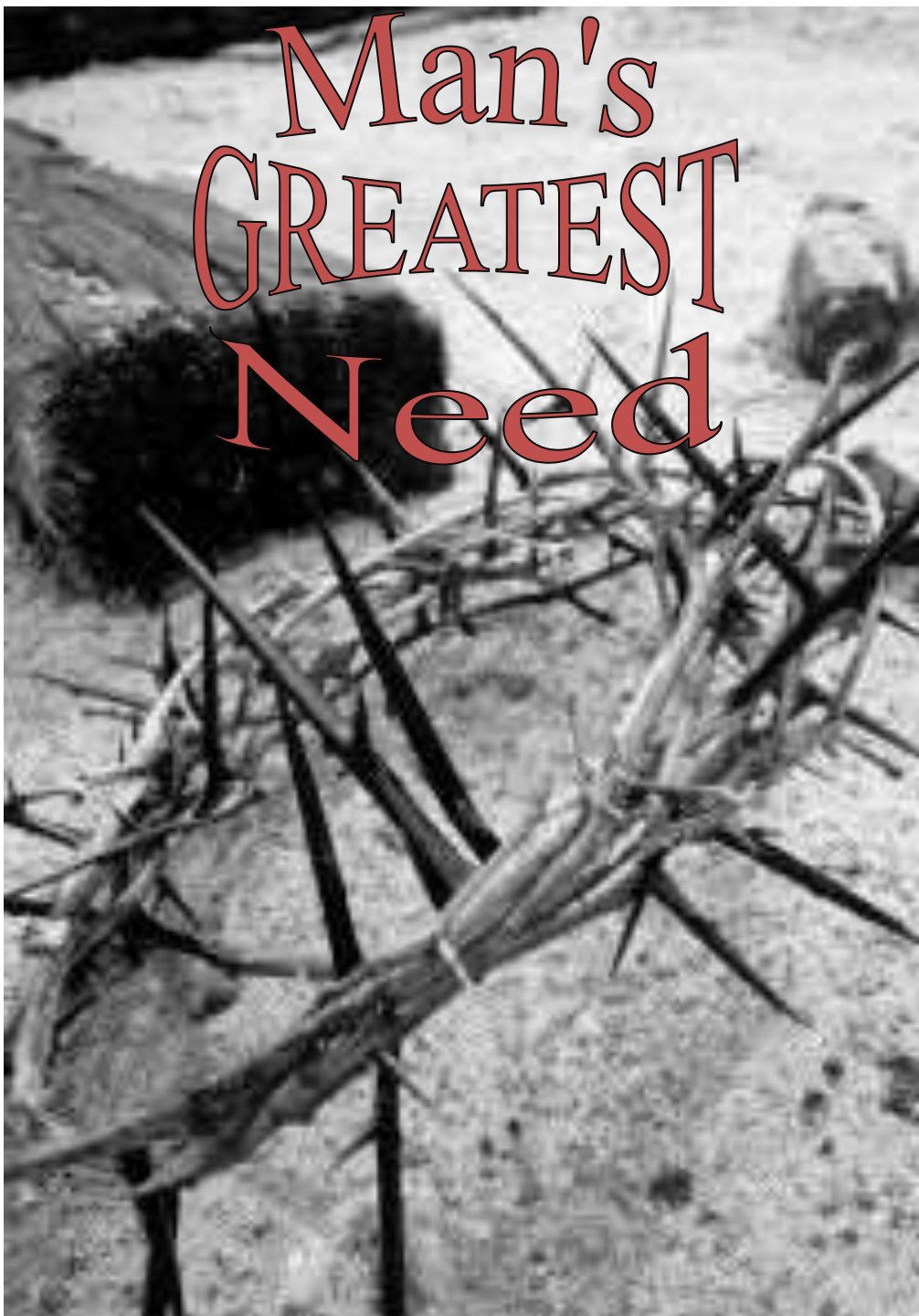


# Man's GREATEST Need



# **Man's Greatest Need**

## **I Timothy 1:15**

**“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”**

Photo credit to Lucinda Secrest McDowell

What do you believe is man's greatest need? Is it education? If so then Jesus would have to come to earth as an educator. Is it finances? Then Jesus would have come as a banker. Do you think it is peace? Then Jesus would have come as a diplomat. Why did Jesus come to this earth? Here we read that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. The greatest need that man has is to experience salvation. If you are not saved nothing else really matters. Salvation is the most important thing in this world, both here and hereafter. If you are not saved nothing else is really important in your future. An old man and a little boy were out together for a boat ride. As they rowed across the lake a beautiful leaf came floating by. Taking the leaf in his hand, the old man asked, son do you know anything about botany? The young man said, no. Well, said the old man you have missed 25% of your life. After a while the boat passed by some beautiful rocks along the shore. Look at those beautiful stones said the old man. Do you know anything about geology son? No sir, I'm afraid not the boy replied. Then you have missed 25% of your life. In the early evening stars appeared in the sky. Looking up at them the old man asked, son do you know anything about astronomy? No sir, replied the boy I know nothing about astronomy. Well said the old man, you have missed 25% of your life. Now it was time to go home and when they turned for shore the boat flipped over in the water and sank. The young men started swimming for the shore, looking back, he

notice the old man splashing in the water. He yelled, mister don't you know how to swim? No screamed the old man. The boy replied, then you've lost your life. Now, ladies and gentlemen, not all things are important, but salvation is one of the most important and essential to make it to heaven. If you know everything else but do not know Christ as your personal savior you have lost your life.

### **I. The Person of Whom the Gospel speaks. Vs15 a**

Paul knew clearly who saved him, he knew it was Jesus and he would never forget it. He often told about his salvation experience on the Damascus Road. He would always somehow come around to be bragging on Jesus.

I read a story about a black man. Some years ago, two boats were passing each other on Mississippi, when an old Negro said to a white passenger as he pointed to the other boat, "Look, yonder's the captain!" when asked for an explanation, he said, "Years ago, we were goin' along like this and I fell overboard and the captain rescued me. And since then, I just loves to point him out!"

Some years ago, this writer was overboard, in water too deep for his wit and will to navigate. But the Captain of our salvation leaped overboard from glory to rescue him. And I just love to point Him out!

Paul said in **Galatians 6:14** "**But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus.**"

**1 Corinthians 2:2** "**For I determined not to know**

**any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”**

### **A. The Surety of the Message.**

Paul said, this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. First and foremost Paul would have us know that the gospel of Christ is based on fact. The gospel is completely reliable and should be given universal acceptance. Paul’s affirmation was based on his own investigation of the truth in his own life. Once Paul did not believe in the story about Jesus Christ in fact he was a religious Pharisee who opposed Christ and persecuted all of those who were in that movement. We read in **Acts 22:4**, **“And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.”** Paul knew something was missing in his life. What helped him discover this was a man named Stephen? **Acts 6:15** **“And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.”** Then later, Paul watched Stephen as he was being stoned to death and yet in his dying breath he was praying for those who were killing him. Paul never seen anything like that before it did something to him that would not leave his spirit. Now having experienced it Paul knew this was the right message to share. **Proverbs 14:12** **There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death**

### **B. The Simplicity of the Message.**

Paul says it's just like the gospel says. Jesus

came into the world to save sinners. Simple faith in what Jesus Christ did on the cross will save you. I have had people tell me that was just too easy. But if you had a child that was lost, and you could write them directions to get to where you are wouldn't you make it easy for them to get there? Sure you would.

God made it very simple. We read in **Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."** It is simple and it is free to each and every one. I read where Dr. G. Campbell Morgan was trying to explain free salvation to a coal miner. The man was unable to understand it. I have to pay for it, he kept saying. With a flash of divine insight Dr. Morgan asked. How did you get down into the mine this morning? Why it was easy the man replied. I just got on the elevator and went down. The, Dr. Morgan, asked wasn't that too easy? Didn't it cost you something? The man laughed. No, it didn't cost me anything but it must have cost the company plenty to install that elevator. Then, the man saw the truth. It doesn't cost me anything to saved, but it cost God the life of His Son. God made the plan of salvation so simple that a child could understand it. In **Mark 10:15, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not**

**receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.”** You see, it is simple; the devil tries to confuse people. We read in **2 Corinthians 11:3 “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”** Sometimes people confuse it by saying you have to get a certain feeling. I’ve heard people testify about how they felt electricity run through them, or felt goose bumps up their spine; others said they ran up and down the aisle. Sometimes if we were not careful we get the idea that if we don’t have an experience like that we must not be saved. But ladies and gentlemen, while everybody might have a different experience in their salvation decision. Everybody is saved the same way and that is by faith in what Jesus Christ did on the cross of Calvary.

One man told how he was on the altar praying to be saved people would come by and try to help him. Some said turn loose, another come by and said hold on, another one said, look for a bright light. The man said between turning loose and holding on and looking for a bright light he almost went to hell.

## **II. The Purpose of Which the Gospel speaks. Vs 15**

The whole purpose of Jesus Christ coming was to save sinners. Yes, Christ Jesus left the mansions in glory and walked out of the ivory palace into a world of woe. He came because we were lost and enslaved by sin and unable to save ourselves. We faced the wrath of God and hell was in our future. More than anything else we needed a Savior and for this purpose Jesus Christ came to this earth. God made it simple, we need to leave it that way.

### **A. What Are We to be Saved From?**

Sinners are helplessly bound by sins power. Man's biggest problem is a sin problem. **Psalms 51:5**

**“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”** We are born with what the Bible calls a sin nature, which constantly pulls us in the wrong direction. Before salvation one is a slave to that nature. Everything that you did before you were saved was motivated by the sin nature. You have no other motivational power; men start drinking or using drugs or get caught up in pornography and become addicted and sin controls them. But when the gospel is presented we read in **Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto**



**salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”.**

The gospel is powerful; the word power is where we get our word dynamite. Dynamite is very powerful, before I became a full-time pastor I was a foreman on a strip mine, I also had my blasting license. I remember blasting mountains away with dynamite it was so powerful. The gospel is powerful dynamite and can blow sin out of your heart. It will make a drunk sober, a drug addict free, it will make the impure Pure. We read in **John 8:36**. **“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”**

### **B. Who Are We to be Saved By?**

Paul makes it very clear that Jesus Christ come into this world to save sinners. Salvation from start to finish, from first to last, is the work of God himself. I have heard people say, I found God, but God was never lost. The truth is, the Bible tells us in **Romans 3:11** **“There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.”** No, God puts it in your heart to have a desire to be saved. It is a work totally and completely of God. In **Philippians 1:6**, **“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”** Yes, Jesus sought you and brought you. We read in **Luke 15:1-7** is the story of Jesus going out into the darkness to find that one little lost sheep. Ladies and gentlemen, that's what you and I were and He sought us and because of Him we were saved. The

origin of our salvation lies not within us, but with God himself. He takes the initiative. He's the one that convicts us of our sin. He convicts us, convinces us and converts us. **Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**

I read a story of a wonderful Christian woman who lived in a little town that had only one church. It was a Catholic church, and though she was not a catholic, she worshipped there every Sunday. One day she was dying and some of the Catholics went to their priest and said, "Father, the little lady who is so sweet and so Christian is dying. Go see her. She doesn't belong to our church; she would appreciate a visit from you." The priest went to see her and said, "I wish that you were a member of my church. If you were, I could give you extreme unction, the last rites, and forgive you of your sins before you die". The little woman looked up and said, "Let me see your hand." The priest thought it was a strange request, but he extended it. She looked at it, turned it over, and then dropped it. She looked at the priest and said, "Sir, I appreciate your visit, but the Man who forgave me sins has a nail print in the palm of His hand".

### **III. The People of Whom the Gospel Speaks. Vs 15**

We read Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I believe He came into the world to save all sorts of sinners. No matter if you are a young sinner and old sinner, a wicked sinner, a respectable sinner, a drunkard, an adulterer, a liar, a

murder, a whoremonger. Jesus came to save them all. It does not matter what sin you are guilty of He came into this world to save sinners. **Luke 19:10, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” 1 Timothy 2:4, “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”** Jesus came to the world to save every sinner, not just a few and not just some, but all.

#### **A. We Must Admit What We Are.**

Notice the Bible says that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. You understand. Paul had come to see himself as a sinner. He had become willing to admit he was a sinner. The truth is the only people the Bible has a message for is sinners. If you are not willing to admit you are a sinner. There is nothing God can do for you. The Bible says in **Romans 3:22b-23. “for there is no difference: <sup>23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”** We understand that Paul himself admitted that he was the chief of sinners, that he himself had missed the mark and come short of the glory of God. We fail to come up to God's standard. We must be willing to admit and to confess we have sinned. **1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our**

**sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

But we must be willing to confess it. In **Mark 2:17**,

**“They that are whole have no need of the**

**physician, but they that are sick.”** A man who

admits he is sick will seek a doctor and a man who

admits that he is a sinner will seek a Savior. You

must understand you're lost before you can be

found. The ABC of the gospel is simple. A admit, B

believe, C confess.

### **B. We Must Accept What We Need. Vs 15**

We need to be saved and God wants you to be saved. But you must want to be saved. You must

accept the free gift of salvation from God, like a

Christmas gift at Christmas. It may be under a tree

and have your name on it, but you can only enjoy it

once you receive it. I remind you Paul confessed

that he was the chief of sinners. Meaning there is

hope for everyone, regardless of what sin you have

committed. God had already saved the chief of the

sinners. So He can easily save you. But there is one

requirement you must accept God's offer of

salvation. In Pennsylvania in 1829 George Wilson

was sentenced to die for robbing the mail and for

murder. Pres. Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for

George Wilson. The pardon was taken to him, but

he refused it. The court had to decide whether he

was actually pardoned and could go free. The

president issued the pardon. But George Wilson

refused it was he pardoned or not? Chief Justice

John Marshall gave this ruling. A pardon is a piece of paper the value of which depends upon the acceptance. Ladies and gentlemen, that is true today. I confess to you that man's greatest need is salvation. Jesus came to this world to suffer and to die on a cross for you. You're pardoned, but you must be willing to accept it.

Yes, you can be saved today, right now. You have just read Man's Greatest Need. This could be your greatest need. But right now you can be saved. This Bible does not leave us in the dark. It says but as many as received him to them gave him power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on his name.

A simple prayer offered to God will get you saved. Maybe like the one I prayed once. Dear Lord Jesus forgive me, and my sins, come into my heart and save me, and be the Lord of my life. Amen!

If you trusted Him today and prayed that prayer you are a child of God. You have the clear promise in **Romans 10:13**, **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

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