

Jesus the Savior

If Jesus is the Savior, then someone _____ saving. Today we're going to explore what it means to _____ Jesus our Savior. More than through any other means we come to _____ our Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus Christ through the inspired Scriptures. In fact, if it were not for the Scriptures, we would never know the most important _____ of life. We wouldn't know where we came from, why we exist, or what will happen to us when this life is over. God's message from the beginning to end is a message of life, of hope, and of love.

Jesus came to this _____ to be a Savior. The angel told Joseph before Jesus was born, "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will _____ His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). When John the Baptist introduced Jesus to his disciples, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the _____ of the world!" (John 1:29). Jesus "bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Saving us isn't simply ridding us of the sin; it's also transforming our hearts and lives to _____ for righteousness. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world, that He _____ His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be _____ through Him." Jesus is indeed in the saving business. Jesus is our Savior from sin implying that we needed saving and that sin is a _____ problem.

Our reading today is 1 Timothy 1:12-16.

We all have a _____ problem, and the Scriptures are clear, that problem is sin. The sin problem is universal. You have it, I have it, and every responsible person has it. Psalm 14:2-3 says, "The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God. They have _____ turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does _____, not even one." Isaiah understood the problem when he wrote, "All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own _____" (Isaiah 53:6). Again, Romans 3:23 simply says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God."

When you say things like this, sometimes people _____. They don't like the idea of being _____ a sinner. They want to deny it, excuse it, or blame someone else for their sin. Some even blame _____ for their sins. James 1:13-15 says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own _____. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth _____."

The most critical day in your life comes when you face up to the _____ that you're lost in sin, and that sin separated you from God and heaven, and that you _____ a Savior. Sadly, some

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folks never give a second thought to their sins; and other people deny sin exists. Deceived people fail to realize that they're deceived spiritually until it's too _____. People who give in to their temptations frequently find ways to _____ themselves rather than admit that they've sinned. For these reasons, many will do everything possible to _____ facing up to their sins.

John replies to people who think they _____ sin, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the _____ is not in us. ... If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a _____ and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:8, 10). Saying we have no sin in our lives means that we're _____ to ourselves; we aren't facing up to the truth. Saying we haven't sinned makes the Lord out to be a liar for saying that we really do sin. When people deny they have sinned, they're also denying what God _____ in Scripture.

The apostle Paul, looking back at his life, said, "For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I _____" (Romans 7:14-15). He continues in verses 19 to 24, "For the _____ that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very _____ that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but _____ which dwells in me. I find then the principle that _____ is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging _____ against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me _____ from the body of this death?"

Think a little about Paul's despair, "Wretched man that I am!" Have you ever _____ that way about yourself when you considered your sins? Most of us might admit that we've sinned, but we don't realize _____ the sins we commit have affected us. People do unspeakable things they never thought or wanted to do, and this makes them feel guilty about doing it and ashamed of themselves for being the kind of person who would do it. Some feel there's no hope and no way out of this despair, because of the pleasures of sin and how they enslave us. Paul asked, "Who will set me _____ from the body of this death?" He knew that if he continued his sinful ways, he would face eternal separation from the God that he loved.

Thankfully, Paul answers the question. He said in verse 25, "Thanks be to God _____ Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin." This struggle goes on in the heart and mind of _____ person; but Jesus is the answer! He can deliver us from the _____ death caused by sin. Romans 8:1-2 explains, "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are _____ Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you _____ from the law of sin and of death."

Our salvation is a deliverance, a _____ from sin and from an evil way of life. God wanted something _____ for us, and the blood of Jesus sacrificed on the cross provides the way of freedom from sin and the way to a better and more abundant life. Galatians 1:4 says that Jesus Christ "gave Himself for our sins so that He might _____ (save) us from this present evil age,

according to the will of our God and Father.” The first century was an evil, pagan age. Centuries have passed; but we _____ live in an evil age, filled with deception and temptation.

God wants to make a difference! Colossians 1:13-14 says, “For He rescued us from the domain (that is, the power) of darkness, and transferred us to the _____ of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” We don’t have to be under the devil’s _____ and be condemned with him. Jesus can rescue us from the consequences of our sins and give us hope and eternal life.

Jesus rescues sinners because He _____ us and doesn’t want us to be lost eternally. Jesus rescues sinners not only by sacrificing Himself for our sins but also through giving us hope through His _____, in the Word of God. Salvation becomes precious, because the consequences of sin are so great. Knowing the _____ of the Lord, we persuade people (2 Corinthians 5:11). Talking about these matters is essential! It’s cruel to suggest sin doesn’t _____ We talk about sin, but we speak of the _____ of the gospel message. We _____ in love. We preach _____ by speaking of the love and the grace of God who offers forgiveness and eternal life with the Father in heaven.

Have you considered people in Scripture that Jesus rescued? I think of the prodigal son who selfishly lived for his own _____ until he came to his senses. I think of the woman at the well, who had five previous husbands and was at the time living with a man. I think of the chief tax collector Zacchaeus, who may have been the most _____ man in Jericho for collecting taxes for Rome and for possibly defrauding the taxpayers. Jesus still loved all these people and wanted them to _____ Him. He was not like the Pharisees who grumbled at Him for _____ with sinners.

Have you considered the _____ of sinners, Saul of Tarsus, who became the apostle Paul? **Read what Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:15-16.** If Christ could save the chief of sinners, He can save you too. If He can find mercy, so can you. If Christ could have perfect patience with the foremost sinner, He can have perfect patience with you!

Salvation is not merely given to forgive; God wants to _____ our lives. He wants something better for us than _____ to sin. He doesn’t want us so enslaved to evil. He wants us to _____ for righteousness and to become a blessing. Paul describes this salvation and change -- **Read Titus 3:3-7.**

The world _____ Christ has all those characteristics. You can see foolishness, and disobedience, and deception, enslavement to lusts and pleasures. You can see people spending their lives in malice and envy. You can see the hatefulness present in so many lives. What we need is an answer to these selfish ways. People speak of worldly religions as an answer, but false religions won’t _____ the inner man from living for sin to living for righteousness. They may have strict rules, but they forget the _____ of the heart in changing life. The Lord Jesus touches our hearts and helps us _____ evil by washing us clean, causing us to be born again, and living new lives. The Lord justifies us by _____ and makes us heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Our hearts can _____ us. The prophet Jeremiah said, “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). If we have a selfish heart, we’ll do selfish and hurtful things. The Lord Jesus said, “For from within, out of the _____ of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man” (Mark 7:21-23).

What can _____ the heart? What can _____ our hearts in a different direction? What can help us understand there is something bigger and better than living for ourselves? It’s the _____ of Christ. The Lord Jesus said, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will _____ all men to Myself” (John 12:32). How does the cross draw us? By its wonderful _____! Romans 2:4 says “the kindness of God leads to _____.” God’s love causes us to repent, to change our hearts and change our lives. That love was shown when Jesus _____ the cross. That leads to our forgiveness and to our becoming _____ people.

Read Titus 2:11-14. God’s grace and love have a transforming _____ in our lives. Jesus Christ through the cross gives us reason to _____ sin and follow Him. He is indeed a Savior! Won’t you follow Him?

Since we all sin, we all _____ a Savior. You may not _____ in Jesus, but you still need a Savior. You may have _____ against God and wandered away from the church, you need to repent and come back to God; and yes, you need your sins forgiven by the Savior. Sin may not be a big deal to you, but you’re not the One _____ by sin. God doesn’t see sin as trivial. He wouldn’t have given up His Son Jesus to be crucified as a sacrifice for your sin, if sin were insignificant.

Yes, no matter who you are, you need a Savior, and the only one who can save you from sin and give you eternal life is our Lord Jesus Christ. We’re all in the same condition. We cannot save ourselves by ourselves. We can’t earn salvation or eternal life. **Read Ephesians 2:8-9.** God is not indebted to us; we are accountable to Him.

So how do we respond to this gift of grace from God? We place our trust in Him by believing in Jesus Christ and His promises. If we take God seriously, we can’t continue in sin. We must repent of our evil and start living according to His will. With faith and repentance, we confess our faith in Jesus Christ and are baptized into His death. In baptism we’re united with Him in His burial and resurrection. God gives us newness of life (we’re born again) when we are baptized (Romans 6:3-7). Oh, won’t you respond today?