

"Jesus the Savior"

If Jesus is the Savior, then someone needs saving. Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." And today we're going to explore what it means to call Jesus our Savior.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. More than through any other means, we come to know 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 the most know the most important truths 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. Thanks for taking time with us today. We want to be a part of your life each week.

Jesus came to this earth to be a Savior. You'll remember the angel told Joseph before Jesus was born in Matthew 1:21, "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." When John the Baptist introduced Jesus to his disciples, he said in John 1:29, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Jesus "bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Peter 2 verse 24). Saving us isn't simply ridding us of the sin; it's also transforming our hearts and lives to live for righteousness.

John 3:16 to 17 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten (or His only) Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have (everlasting) eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." Jesus is indeed in the saving business. That Jesus is our Savior from sin implies that we needed saving and that sin is a real problem.

We offer this study free on Jesus the Savior. If you'd like a printed copy or a CD of our study and you live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have materials free on our website at [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org).

The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from 1 Timothy 1:12 to 16, and we'll explore why Jesus as our Savior matters!

Our reading today comes from the apostle Paul written to the younger preacher Timothy. And he's writing to him about his role as a gospel preacher and about his life and the changes that took place because of the grace of God.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

That's a reading from God's holy word. Let's pray together. Oh Father, we're thankful that you have been patient with us and that You have loved us and been willing to forgive us of our sins. Through our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ who died for us. Father help us to devote our lives to Him. In Jesus name, Amen.

We all have a common 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 verses 2 to 3 says, that, "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 all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one." Isaiah understood the problem when he wrote in Isaiah 53 and verse 6, that, "All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way." Again, Romans 3 and verse 23 simply says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

When you say things like this, sometimes people object. They don't like the idea of being called a sinner. They want to deny it, excuse it, or blame someone else for their sin. Some even blame God for their sins. James 1:13 to 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 lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."

The most critical day in your life comes when you face up to the reality that you're lost in sin, and that sin separated you from God and heaven, and that you need a Savior. Sadly, some 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 late. People who give in to their temptations frequently find ways to justify themselves rather than admit that they've sinned. And for these reasons, many will do everything possible to avoid facing up to their sins.

John simply replies to people who think they never sin in 1 John 1 verse 8 and also in verse 10, he says, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ...(again) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us." Saying we have no sin in our lives means that we're lying 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 says in Scripture. That it's true.

The apostle Paul, looking back at his life, said in Romans 7:14 to 15, "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 hate."

He continues in verses 19 to 24, "For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil 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 sin which dwells in me. I find then (Paul says) the principle that evil 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 war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. (Then he says,) Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?"

Now, think a little about Paul's despair, "Wretched man that I am!" Have you ever felt that way about yourself when you considered your sins? Most of us might admit that we've sinned, but we don't realize how 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 free 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 through 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." Yes, this struggle goes on in the heart and mind of every person; but Jesus is the answer! He can deliver us from the spiritual death caused by sin. Romans 8 verses 1 and 2 explains, "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."

Our salvation is a deliverance, a rescue from sin and from an evil way of life. God wanted something better 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 and verse 4 says that Jesus Christ "gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue (save) us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father." The first century was an evil, pagan age. Now centuries have passed; but we still live in an evil age, filled with deception and temptation.

God wants to make a difference! Colossians 1:13 to 14 says, "For He rescued us from the domain (that is the power) of darkness, and transferred us (in) to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." We, we don't have to be under the devil's control 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 loves 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 teaching, in the word of God. Salvation becomes precious, because the consequences of sin are so great. Knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade people (2 Corinthians 5 and verse 11). And talking about these matters is essential! You see it's cruel to suggest sin doesn't matter. We talk about sin, but we speak of the joy of the gospel message. We preach in love. We preach hope 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 pleasure 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 despised man in Jericho for collecting taxes for Rome and for possibly defrauding the taxpayers. Jesus still loved all these people and wanted them to follow Him. He was not like the Pharisees who grumbled at Him for eating with sinners.

Have you considered the chief of sinners, Saul of Tarsus, who became the apostle Paul? Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:15 to 16, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. (And) Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life." Now, 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, as we've said, wants to transform our lives. He wants something better for us than slavery to sin. He doesn't want us so enslaved to evil that we're ashamed. He wants us to live for righteousness and to become a blessing. Paul describes this salvation

and change in Titus 3 verses 3 to 7. He says, "For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and (evil) envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, (no) but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

The world without 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. And what we need is an answer to these selfish ways. People speak of worldly religions as an answer, but false religions won't change the inner man from living for sin to living for righteousness. They may have strict rules, but they forget the role of the heart in changing the life. The Lord Jesus touches our hearts and helps us leave evil by washing us clean, causing us to be born again, and living new lives. The Lord justifies us by grace and makes us heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Our hearts can deceive us. The prophet Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 17:9, that "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?" If we have a selfish heart, we'll do selfish and hurtful things. The Lord Jesus said in Mark 7:21 to 23, "For from within, out of the heart 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."

Well, what can change the heart? What can lead our hearts in a different direction? What can help us understand there is something bigger and better than living for ourselves? It's the cross of Christ. The Lord Jesus said in John 12:32, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." Well, how does the cross draw us? By its wonderful love! Romans 2 and verse 4 says "the kindness of God leads to repentance." God's love causes us to repent, to change our hearts and change our lives. And that love shown when Jesus bore the cross. And that leads to our forgiveness and to our becoming new people.

Titus 2 verses 11 to 14 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." God's grace and love have a transforming power in our lives. Jesus Christ through the cross gives us reason to leave sin and to follow Him. He is indeed a Savior! Won't you follow Him?

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're so thankful that You sent the Lord Jesus to us, to save us. And to give us a better way of life, that we may leave the hurtful things and come to the things that make a difference, the good and blessing to others. Father be with us today and Father help us to follow Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Since we all sin, we all need a Savior. You may not believe in Jesus, but you still need a Savior. You may have rebelled 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 offended 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 on our own. Ephesians 2:8 and 9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." Now, God is not indebted to us, but we are accountable to Him.

So how do we respond to this gift of grace from God? Well, 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. And 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. And God gives us newness of life (and we're born again) when we we're baptized according to Romans 6:3 to 7). Oh, won't you respond today?

We hope that today's study about Jesus as our Savior has stirred you to examine your life and to respond to Jesus. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy or a CD of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now you can download these lessons or a newsletter or many other resources, online at our website: [searchtv.org](http://searchtv.org). There's also a schedule of our programs and a map with the location of churches that are in your area. You can watch SEARCH anytime on YouTube! Just subscribe to our channel, "SearchTVMinistry." We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now, don't worry, if you try to get a hold of us, we're not here asking and begging for money. We're here to help you get to heaven.

Get your heart focused on God today by worshiping at church. There's probably a church of Christ in your area. And if you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one. We'll be back next week, Lord willing. So keep searching God's Word with us and tell a friend about this program. Let 'em know that you're watching and encourage them to watch as well. And as always we say, God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.