

Whosoever Believeth

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John 3:16-17 KJV For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:9-11 ESV because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (11) For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

(17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

God loves. How does God love? His generous, selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love is better than anything we can image. His love for us is revealed in the gift of Christ Jesus, and His love is offered to each and every one of us. Where ever we have been, no matter what we have done, no matter how we have turned our backs on God's love, He Word still tells us, that He will continue to pursue us... He will never give up on us. God's love is beyond our comprehension, and He pursues us until the end. God's love is real.

God gives. We like to focus on "God so loves us". But

our salvation is because God continues to give us His redemption. God gives us Jesus Christ. Jesus is the sacrifice God gives for our sins. Jesus Christ came into a world that rejected him, to die on a cross so that we would not have to die for the punishment that we deserve for our sins. This is the Gospel, that God has given His Son for our salvation. God gives us Jesus' birth; Jesus' life; Jesus' death; and Jesus' resurrection. Instead of God giving up on us and destroying us (for the wages of sin is death), God continually gives the slain blood, so that by grace through faith in Jesus, we are saved.

It took more than just the loving heart of God to provide redemption for sinners. It cost the life of Jesus. Jesus, His own Son; a Son of the same essence; a Son with the same glory... God's only Begotten Son.

So, what is it that we bring that will result in forgiveness of sins and eternal life? What do we bring to the table? What do we bring to this life giving equation?

What we add is **Belief**. All we do is "**Believe**."

We believe.

We confess with the mouth AND

We believe in the heart AND

We are saved AND

We are granted and blessed with eternal life... We Live.

Whosoever believeth...

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...neither in this world, nor in the new world that is to come

To believe is a choice... We have a choice...and our choice exposes our hearts. It's hard for us, as humans, to believe, because we don't want to recognize that we are sinful. We justify our actions and our choices. We see the world through eyes shaded with our own ideas of right and wrong. Scripture even tells us that we've confused ourselves into thinking that darkness is light and light is darkness. We think that evil is good and good is evil.

Isaiah 5:20 KJV Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Luke 11:34-35 KJV The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. 35 Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 GNB 14 Do not try to work together as equals with unbelievers, for it cannot be done. How can right and wrong be partners? How can light and darkness live together? 15 How can Christ and the Devil agree? What does a believer have in common with an

unbeliever?

2 Corinthians 6:14 KJV

...for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

We put in place our own agendas and laws and moral codes. We merge the light (good) and darkness (bad) into gray – a middle ground where we feel secure – good enough to get by, bad enough to get even. Then we fail to realize that God deals only in the realm of His justice, in the realm of His truth, in the realm of His light. Based on our own mechanism to right the wrongs, we've only created a deeper rift between us and God.

Revelation 3:15-17 GNB I know what you have done; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were either one or the other! 16 But because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am going to spit you out of my mouth! 17 You say, 'I am rich and well off; I have all I need.' But you do not know how miserable and pitiful you are! You are poor, naked, and blind.

There is no middle ground with God.

There are many of us, who say we believe in God, yet we do not reverence Him. We do not fear Him. We say we believe in God, but we want to do what we want to do, so we pick and choose what we want to believe from God's Word. We've become Cafeteria Christians:

“I’ll take a serving of Mercy, smothered with Grace. I also want a large slice of Prosperity, topped with a scoop of Success, but no Correction, no Discipline, no Wrath and no Judgement. please. Thank you very much.”

There is an inspirational truth about Cafeteria Christianity: there is rebellion in the depth of the heart, and there is no reverence, and no fear for God, because His grace has been cheapened.

The place of sin in our lives has taken us out of the presence of God. Alone, we cannot repair the division between righteousness and unrighteousness. But God provided us with a means of escape – God gives us Jesus – the one and only one solution – Jesus, the bridge, Jesus our connection between God and man.

God Gives...

- the Blood of Compassion.
- the Blood of Forgiveness.
- the Blood of Love.
- the Blood of Mercy.
- the Blood of Acceptance.
- the Blood of Redemption.
- the Blood of Atonement.
- the Blood of Salvation.
- the Blood of Justification.
- the Blood of Sanctification.

God gives the Blood.

Matthew 26:28 KJV For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Matthew 26:28 CEV This is my blood, and with it God makes his agreement with you. It will be poured out, so that many people will have their sins forgiven.

God Gives The Blood Of Jesus...

- whose Blood is the focal point where the sins of humanity meets the grace of God.
- whose Blood provides the Ultimate Sacrifice with everlasting effects.

God gives the Blood of Jesus continually.
No further Blood sacrifice is needed.

To believe is a choice... John 3:16 reads, "For God so loved the world that whoever believes in him..."

The Word of God testifies of our sinfulness. It testifies that the wages of sin is death. It testifies of our need of a Savior. It testifies that Jesus Christ is the Savior of sinners. It testifies that He laid down His life for our sins. It testifies that God raised Jesus from the dead that we might live.

Our belief... our faith is just not merely an agreement with the facts of the Gospel ~ it's not just about knowledge.

Even the devil and his abettors know the facts of the Gospel - and they tremble.

It's more than head knowledge. It's heart acceptance...
It's giving our will, our mind, yielding our heart, and our very all and all in the belief of the Gospel message...

God loves.

God gives.

We believe.

We believe... when we ACKNOWLEDGE that we are sinners

We believe... when we REPENT from sin and turn to Jesus

We believe... when we CONFESS our sins

We believe... when we FORSAKE wickedness

We believe... when we RECEIVE Jesus as Lord and Savior

We believe... when we have FAITH in the GOSPEL...

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