

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU

**God's Way**  
**of**  
**Salvation**



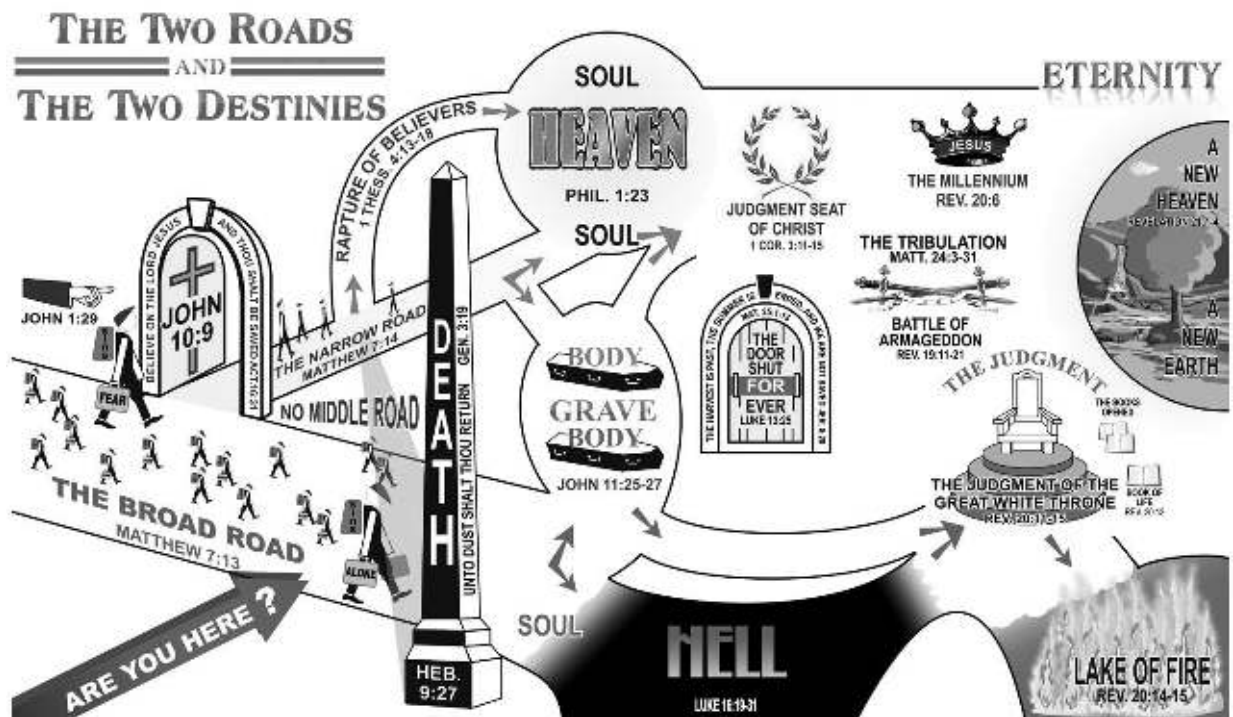
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Alex Marshall wrote this booklet many years ago. It has helped thousands. Hundreds of people have trusted Christ as their own Saviour just reading this paper entitled *God's Way of Salvation*. Some updates have been made to this classic Gospel pamphlet, but the basics remain unchanged.

This paper will point you directly to the Saviour if you read it honestly. Would you like to be *saved* while you read this? Others have been *saved*. You can be too.

**Life is a Journey.**

**"I know where I want to go... But where am I now?"**



We know we are travelling through life, but what is our destination? Rarely do people choose roads at random when they take a trip. Instead, they know where they want to go and deliberately choose a route that will take them there.

Jesus said the most popular road is Broadway, even though it takes people where they don't want to go. Once travellers encounter death, they pass the point of no return. The way to Heaven could not be clearer or more straightforward. You exit Broadway by the only Door who is Jesus Christ. Unless you enter that Door, you will never make it to Heaven. When Jesus died on the Cross for your sins, He opened up the Narrow Way to Heaven. You enter that Door by accepting Christ as your own Saviour. If you miss Christ, you will miss Heaven. Read these verses in your Bible: Matthew 7:13-14, John 10:9, Matthew 11:28, John 6:37.

Now please read this pamphlet carefully. God's only way of Salvation is simply explained. Common excuses people use to avoid addressing the most important matter in their life are examined below. Also, common obstacles and struggles people encounter in their pursuit of God and Salvation are addressed.

### **"PLEASE EXCUSE ME. I CAN NOT COME."**

There's a story in the Bible about a wealthy man in the East who hosted a major, first-class banquet and invited many to come. He paid for everything. When the time came for the guests to arrive, no one showed up. They just sent their excuses. The reality was they did not want to go, but they didn't have the courage to say so. Instead, they said *"Sorry, we can not come."* But was there a good reason holding them back? Whatever may have been their 'real' reasons for refusing to attend the banquet, their excuses were incredibly lame at best.

The first person invited said, *"Sorry, I bought some property, and I really have to go and check it out: please accept my regrets."* What was the hurry? Couldn't he have gone at some other time?

The second was no better. *"Sorry, I purchased some farm animals and I want to go and inspect them: please excuse me."* The banquet was 'today' – couldn't the animals have waited until tomorrow? Besides, whether or not they were good value for the money he paid for them – didn't matter now. He already bought them!

But the third excuse was the worst of all. *"I have married a wife, and therefore I can not come."* Why didn't he take her with him?



This illustration used by Jesus in Luke chapter 14 is a lesson for us. God, totally at His own expense, has provided a feast of forgiveness and eternal blessing for lost sinners. The good news of this feast is intended for everyone everywhere. All are

included in the invitation – even you. God wants you to come.

But many turn down God's invitation. They excuse themselves because they think they're okay already. They have no need for God in their lives. They have never been bothered about their sins, and they have no desire to change.

Here are some of the excuses given today. I wonder what excuse your mind might be playing with as you read these words.

## COMMON EXCUSES

### **Excuse #1 "BUT I NEVER DID ANY HARM IN MY LIFE."**

Such an excuse has often been given. Is that your excuse? Do you really mean you have never done any harm? Have you never had an unkind, dirty or wicked thought? Have you never spoken a nasty word, told a lie, or attempted to mislead anyone? Have you loved God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind at all times? Have you always, without exception, loved your neighbour as much as you love yourself?

"Oh no," you reply; "*no one has.*" Never mind others just now. You admit that *you* have sinned. If one were found guilty of breaking the laws of this country, who would believe that he had done no harm? There is no escaping the fact that you have not always been the type of person you ought to have been; nor have you always done what you should have done. Face it - you are a sinner.

The Bible declares, "*The soul who sins shall die.*" (Ezekiel 18:4); "*The wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23). Take your place as a condemned sinner in God's sight, and give up all attempts to excuse or cover-up your sins. Your sins can not be hidden from God.

### **Excuse #2 "BUT I'LL TURN OVER A NEW LEAF."**

It's great to say that you will *turn over a new leaf*. But just a second: what about your *past*? Turning over a new leaf doesn't remove the pages already stained by your sin.

Maybe you weren't the nicest person in the past and admit to making some very poor choices. Lately, you have *turned over a new leaf*. The reckless days are behind you. You are making better choices now. You are a *reformed* person. You've turned the corner. That's great, but how does it erase your past failures and sins? Ecclesiastes 3:15 says that "*God requires that which is past*".

A store owner worries that she is heading for bankruptcy. She opens up a new file to record all the new transactions. She starts a fresh new page. She begins a *new leaf*. Can she ignore the accumulated balance from past transactions? What about the *carried over* and *brought forward* columns? New figures on the *new leaf* won't pay old debts. *Turning over a new leaf* doesn't cut it! It won't do. Jesus said: "*You must be born again.*" (John 3:3-7)

### **Excuse #3 "BUT GOD IS MERCIFUL."**

Satan makes his rounds with his black bag of lies, trying one lie on this person and something different on that person. For example, to one he says, "God is too merciful to punish sinners." But if this is not believed, he says, "Well, *if* God does punish the sinner in Hell, it won't be eternal."

It's a comforting truth that *God is Merciful and Kind*, but He is also Holy and Just. All His attributes are equally balanced; they can not conflict with each other. The same Bible that tells us He is very patient and slow to anger tells us He can't sweep sin under the carpet and let guilty offenders go free.

God can only show mercy and pardon a guilty sinner on the basis of what Jesus did on the Cross. God righteously dealt with your sin and mine when His innocent Son died in the sinner's place. Those who refuse to accept forgiveness based on what Christ did will perish forever in conscious eternal suffering

*"The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God."* (Psalm 9:17) *"Whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God remains on him."* (John 3:36).

### **Excuse #4 "BUT IF I DO THE BEST I CAN, I'LL BE OKAY."**

Have you always (I repeat, always!) done your best? Haven't there been times when you did what you shouldn't have done and failed to do the good you could have done? But you say: "*I don't pretend to be perfect.*" I understand. But remember that your admission of even one failure removes every possible hope of your being saved by your own efforts.



Some have the wrong concept of God's judgment. You might imagine that God has a big set of scales up in Heaven and He who knows all your deeds will weigh your good deeds against your bad ones after you die. He then will decide where you should go for eternity. That is totally false, according to the Bible.

One sin is all it takes to condemn you, and you know that you have committed thousands. *"For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point, has*

*become accountable for all of it..." or "he is guilty of all."* (James 2:10)

Let's face it, not one of us can say we have always, without exception, done the very best we could possibly do. God tells us repeatedly in the Bible that we are sinners. *"All we like sheep have gone astray."* (Isaiah 53:6); *"They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good – not even one."* (Psalm 14:3)

The *best* you can do is to admit you have been marred and ruined by sin, and you are helplessly lost when it comes to *saving* yourself. If you did not commit another sin from now until you die, you still would not be saved.

Sinners are not saved by what *they* do, but by what Christ has already *done* for them. *"To the one who does not work but trusts Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness."* (Romans 4:5)

### **Excuse #5 "BUT DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN GOOD WORKS?"**

When sinners are shown that Salvation is all of grace, and *not of works*, often they will then ask: *"So you don't believe in good works?"* This is a great mistake.

The Word of God shows us that an unconverted person can **not** do a single good work **for** God. A "good work" must spring from a good motive, which must be love to the Lord Jesus. An unconverted sinner does not love the Lord Jesus Christ.

The moment a person is saved, from that very moment, everything he does ought to be done to the glory of God. If you read the conversion of the jail supervisor in Acts Chapter 16, you will see him immediately proving his faith by his works. *"He took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes."*

The Bible teaches, *"without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)."* (Hebrews 11:6) As long as you are not saved, you are incapable of doing a single 'good work' to earn favour with God. When you finally believe in God's wonderful love to you *then* you will work for Him in return for what He has done for you. But right now, you aren't even to first base with God. First base with God is your personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour.



### **Excuse #6 "BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO BE A CHRISTIAN."**

Do you mean that it is difficult to become a Christian? If so, you are entirely mistaken. *"But,"* you say, *"I have tried again and again to become a Christian, and I have failed."* Perhaps you have responded to an altar call to the front of a church, but the excitement of that decision died out within days or weeks, and here you are still hoping you will be saved. Right now, you are thinking it must be very difficult.

Reader: stop trying to be saved by your own efforts. If you could save yourself, then what was the point of Christ's death? Two thousand years ago, Christ died for our sins. He completely finished the difficult work back then, and now Justice is satisfied.

*"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved."* (Acts 16:31)

*"I meant that it was difficult to live the life of a Christian."* I understand your concern. But let me ask you whether it is easier to serve Satan or Christ? Which is the better master? Who gives the best wages? Romans 6:23 tells you that the wages of sin is death. Jesus says that He came to give an abundant life; but the thief's business is to steal, kill and destroy. (John 10:10)

In serving Satan, *you have to turn your back* on your best Friend, despise or neglect God's great Salvation, resist His Holy Spirit, trample under your feet the Son of God's love, and rush forward to eternal ruin. But why would you choose to perish forever, seeing you can be saved?

## **Excuse #7 "I CAN NOT GIVE UP THE PLEASURES OF THIS WORLD."**

You are not asked to *give up* anything. But Salvation does rescue sinners from the control of sin in their lives and the awful power of Satan. God wants to deliver you, not just from the *penalty* of your sin in eternity, but from the *grip* of sin in your life right now. You can't have one part of Salvation without the other.

God does **not**, however, say to the sinner, *"First, give up the pleasures and amusements of the world, and then I will give you forgiveness and peace."* **Instead, His way is:** *"Receive Christ now into your heart and you will be saved from the power of sin and the punishment of your sins."*

A woman was talking to a Christian after listening to the preaching of the Gospel. She said: *"God won't save me now."* *"Why,"* the Christian asked. *"Well, because I have decided to go ahead with my fun on Saturday night,"* she said, *"and I know He won't save me until I am willing to make salvation my only priority and give up my plans for the weekend."* She was shown that **"now"** was God's time and that He was pleading with her to accept free forgiveness effective immediately. Now! Just as she was and where she was. The news was too good for her to turn down. Eternal forgiveness was more important to her than a Saturday night of pleasure. Did she attend? She found God's Salvation gave her something far better!



## **Excuse #8 "I DON'T WANT TO BECOME GLOOMY."**

Are you one of those who think a believer is a long-faced person who suffers from a lack of excitement and is bored with life? Is a Christian someone who

goes through life with his head hanging down with a long face that would crack if he smiled? Someone who looks very religious?

Satan was shrewd and sly to flash this lie around. Jesus said that Satan was the father of lies. (John 8:44) One of his biggest and perhaps one of his most widely used lies is that your good days are over if you become a Christian. But just the opposite is true. Real joy and a deep settled peace is the portion of every believer.



"Gloomy!" What is there about the Gospel that would ever make one gloomy? Does it make a person "gloomy" to know that all their sins are forgiven? Will it be depressing to know for sure you will spend eternity with the Lord Jesus in Heaven? Will the condemned criminal who has been forgiven and freed by the Sovereign feel sad?

The only one who has the right to be happy is the Christian – because only a Christian has been delivered from the bondage of sin.

The Psalmist was so right when he said: *"Happy is that people whose God is the Lord."* (Psalm 144:15) *"In Your presence is fullness of joy."*

### **Excuse #9 "THERE ARE SO MANY HYPOCRITES."**

**hypocrite**

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Is that your excuse for not accepting the invitation to the gospel feast? If so, it is a very poor one. You know some who say they are Christians, but their behaviour proves they are hypocrites. They go to church, but they do things that you wouldn't think of doing – even though you

don't even claim to be saved. So then you make this sweeping statement of all who profess to be Christians: *"Great bunch of people! They are a pack of hypocrites."*

Sometimes our thinking is faulty and wrong. Hypocrites are people who say they are one thing when they know they are not. The ones you refer to profess to be Christians, but are not. But does that mean that all who *profess* to be Christians are hypocrites? Are all store clerks thieves because two were convicted of stealing?

The fact that some *pretend* to be Christians proves that the reality must be good. No one bothers counterfeiting something that's worthless. Another possibility is that you know a real Christian whose life doesn't measure up, but does that justify you in not becoming one?



## Excuse #10 "IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU BELIEVE AS LONG AS YOU ARE SINCERE."

It's a popular saying and people *feel* good saying it, but really, is it sensible thinking? For example, suppose a sick person goes to the cupboard and mistakenly takes a bottle of poison, drinks it, and dies in great agony a few hours afterward. Did his sincerity of belief save his life?

# Sincerity

The engineer of a hi-speed train *sincerely* believed his track was clear, but he was mistaken. He ran past the signal at full speed, and the result was a horrific

collision. Many died, and more were injured.

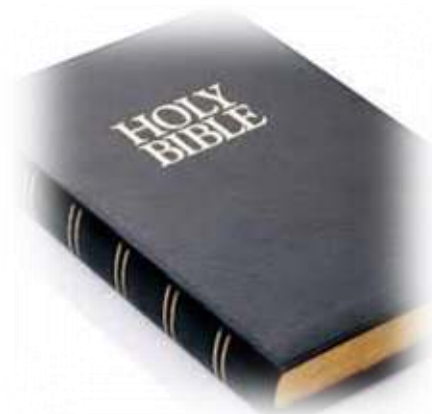
A person's Salvation or damnation depends on *what* he believes – not his sincerity. If he believes the lie of Satan he will eternally perish; but if he believes the truth of God he will be eternally saved.

*"There is **a way** that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."*  
(Proverbs 14:12) Sincerity of belief in **that way** ends in everlasting destruction.

## Excuse #11 "SO MANY DIFFERENT OPINIONS."

*"I really don't know what to do. There are so many opinions that I am quite confused as to 'what' I should believe."* If this is your struggle, I urge you to be guided entirely by the Word of God – the Bible. It must be the final authority for you – do not be swayed by the opinions of others.

A critically ill woman was very concerned about where she would go after she died. She asked a visiting Christian with emotion: *"What are your views on salvation?"* *"I have no views,"* was the reply. The woman was stunned. *"You seem surprised,"* said the visitor, *"but even if I had my own view, what good would it do you? It would be just the view of another human being. However, I can give you something better. I can give you God's Word!"*



What was the result of that conversation? The woman shortly afterwards found the peace she was craving. She learned that the question, *"What must I do to be saved?"* was answered simply and clearly: *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."* (Acts 16:30-31)

Perhaps you know of other *excuses* for not immediately accepting God's amazing invitation to come to His feast of forgiveness and eternal life, but for now, we'll move on to other matters.

## DO YOU KNOW YOU ARE LOST?



Remember the story of the Philippian jailer in Acts Chapter 16? If that jail manager didn't understand he was **lost**, he would not have asked what he had to do to be **saved**. (Acts 16:30, 31). Have you ever really seen yourself to be a lost sinner?

The great question is, "Are you saved or lost?" Face it head-on.

If you were called to meet God at this moment, are you prepared? Just think about who God is. *"You...are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong."* (Habakkuk 1:13). *"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His Throne."* (Psalm 97:2).

If you are not saved, not forgiven and not converted listen to the Word of the living God: *"The soul that sins it shall die."* (Ezekiel 18:4) *"The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God."* (Psalm 9:17)

If you know that you are lost, there is One who is both willing and able to save you. His mission to this world was to *"seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10).

## HOW TO BE SAVED

God is holy and just, and although He is merciful and gracious, He *"will by no means clear the guilty."* (Exodus 34:7). In His Word, He has said, *"The wages of sin is death."* (Romans 6:23). So you ask: *"how can anyone be saved seeing that 'all have sinned?'"*

The Bible is very clear, *"Without the shedding of blood is no there is no forgiveness of sins."* (Hebrews 9:22). Sin must be dealt with. God's Holy Throne must be fully satisfied that sin has been fully answered for.

*"Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all."* (1 Timothy 2:6). The ransom price has been paid and accepted. Justice is satisfied, not with what *you* have done, but with what Christ already did for you 2000 years ago.

Jesus cried just before He died: *"It is Finished!"* (John 19:30). He didn't say it was partially paid or almost finished or 90% done. No! He said: *It is Finished!* But how do you know that God was satisfied that Jesus finished everything? God raised Him from the dead! If God, the Holy One, is satisfied that your sins were paid for in full, why can't you be satisfied too? Are you satisfied? Is it enough?



God invites and urges you to accept a free, full and immediate and eternal salvation based on His completed work.

It's a wonder that anyone would remain 'not saved' when God has shown so clearly in His Word, how Salvation can be obtained. Do you want to be saved? Listen to what God says to you.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16).

*"By Him everyone who believes is freed from everything."* (Acts 13:39).

*"Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."* (Acts 10:43).

*"Whoever believes in Him is not condemned."* (John 3:18)

In the Old Testament Bible story, the firstborn in the blood-sprinkled house in Egypt was protected and sheltered from the destroying angel because the Lord had said, *"When I see the blood I will pass over you."* (Exodus 12:13).

Salvation can only be had by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. *"The blood of Jesus, His Son cleanses us from all sin."* (1 John 1:7)

You have reached this page. Are you saved? Have you looked outside yourself and put your childlike trust in the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you looked to Him for the forgiveness of your sins and for eternal Salvation?

Perhaps you are stumbling over some of the common obstacles.

## COMMON STUMBLING BLOCKS AND OBSTACLES



### **Obstacle #1 "FAR TOO EASY A WAY."**

People like yourself often stumble over the simplicity of the Gospel. When they hear the details of God's full and free Salvation, they say that just believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is *far too easy* a way. Thank God, it is an *easy* way of being saved.

The old poet William Cowper was right when he wrote:

*Oh, how unlike the complex works of man,  
Heaven's easy, artless, unencumbered plan.*

Although it's an *easy way*, it is not *too easy*. You can only have it by believing in the One by whom the *difficult* work has all been done.

It was not *easy* for the Lord Jesus to be mocked and insulted by men. It was not *easy* for Him to be scourged, spat upon and crucified. It was not *easy* when He hung on that cross in humiliation and agony to then be forsaken by God Himself. It was not *easy* for Him to be "*wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities.*" (Isaiah 53:5)

Although an *easy way*, it is God's **only** way of saving sinners. If you are not saved in that way, you will never be saved at all. "*To the one who does not work but trusts Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.*" (Romans 4:5)

## **Obstacle #2 "I ALWAYS BELIEVED ON JESUS, BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT I AM SAVED."**

You may not want to hear this, but if you think you *have always believed* you are completely mistaken. No one "*has always believed on Jesus,*" and absolutely no one has always been saved or has always been a Christian. You may have believed a great deal about the Lord Jesus, but you have never really believed on Him. You have never received His wonderful Gospel, or else you would be saved.

What do you believe about Jesus? "*I believe that He died on the Cross for sinners.*" Friend, just believing that won't do you any good. The point is: do you believe that He bled and suffered and died on account of **your** sins? If you did, you would know from the Word of God that you have eternal life, and would not come into judgment on account of your sins.

No one can believe on the Lord Jesus without being saved because the Bible says: "*Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.*" (Acts 10:43); "*By Him, everyone who believes is freed from everything.*" (Acts 13:38, 39) That **IS** Salvation!



### **Obstacle #3 "I DON'T BELIEVE THE RIGHT WAY."**

If you are not already saved, it's clear you do not believe on Christ in any way. Scripture does not recognize two ways of believing – a *right* and a *wrong* one. Some may talk about a *living faith*, and a *dead faith*, but the Bible simply speaks of *believing what God says*. Faith in man and faith in God are the same exercises of the mind. The difference is not in the *amount* of faith a person has but in the *person* upon whom the faith rests.

In Acts chapter 16, the Apostle Paul did not say to the jail manager, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ with the right kind of believing, and you shall be saved." If he had, the uninformed jail manager would not have understood him. Instead, he simply said, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.*" Do the same, dear reader, "*and you shall be saved.*"

### **Obstacle #4 "AREN'T WE RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING OUT OUR OWN SALVATION?"**

Such a question is often asked by both anxious and careless sinners alike. Sometimes it is asked this way: "*Doesn't it say in the Bible that we are to work out our own Salvation? So if you say we are saved by believing, isn't that a contradiction then?*"

Just a second. Who was Paul writing to when he said that? Philippians 1:1 says: "*To all the **saints** in Christ Jesus at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.*" They were already saved. They did not 'hope' to be – they 'knew' they were saved. "*My beloved...*" says Paul, "*work out your own salvation.*" (Philippians 2:12, 13) The Christians had a dispute in their local church between some members. Paul tells them to work the solution out themselves. It had nothing to do with the Salvation of their souls.

### **Obstacle #5 "DON'T I HAVE TO PRAY TO BE SAVED?"**

The Bible nowhere states that Salvation is to be had by prayer. It speaks of sinners being saved in only one way – faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus. Did Jesus tell Nicodemus to "pray and be saved?" No! "*Whoever believes in Him should not perish.*" (John 3:15,16)



Did Paul, in answer to the question "*What must I do to be saved?*" reply, "Pray earnestly for forgiveness, and you will get it?" Or pray the 'Sinner's Prayer?" No, he said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.**" (Acts 16:31)

You don't have to pray or plead with God for Salvation. At this very moment, He is more anxious to save you than you are eager to be saved yourself. He is pleading with you to take it. (2 Corinthian 5:20) How can you dare ask God for Salvation so long as you are guilty of the awful sin of making Him a liar? (1 John 5:10, 11)

Instead of continuing to pray for Salvation, even now as you read these lines, stretch out your empty hand of faith and take eternal life as a gift from the pierced hand of the Lord Jesus. . "*The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus the Lord.*" (Romans 6:23) "*Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*" (Revelation 22:17)

Grace from the nail-pierced hand **gives** eternal life. Faith reaches out and simply **accepts** it. Will you accept Him right now? What is holding you back?

## **Obstacle #6 "IF I DO MY PART, GOD WILL DO HIS."**

One Christian used to say it took him forty-two years to learn three things: (1) That he could do nothing to save himself; (2) that God did not require him to do anything; and (3) that the Lord Jesus Christ did it all.

If you learn these three lessons, you will *never* talk about *your* efforts. *Your part* is to admit that you are a helpless, hell-deserving sinner, unable to do anything to save yourself. *Your part* is to stop thinking you can be saved by anything you do or feel. *Your part* is to believe that Jesus did everything that was necessary – believe that He finished the work satisfying God with respect to our sins and paid the ransom price with His precious blood.

Whenever you stop trying to be saved by *your* doings and believe on the Lord Jesus, who did it all and paid it all, you will become a child of God. That moment, you are born of the Holy Spirit into the Kingdom of God. *To the one who does not work but trusts Him who justifies the ungodly his faith is counted as righteousness.*" (Romans 4:5)



## Obstacle #7 "I AM TOO GREAT A SINNER."

There is no doubt that you are a great sinner - far worse than you can imagine. God knows all about you – even your thoughts. Since you were an infant in your mother's arms, He has watched over you and loved you with more than a parent's love. Despite your sin and pride, He stands with wide open arms ready to welcome you.



The rebellious prodigal son in Luke Chapter 15 was embraced by his father despite his rags and wretchedness, misery and poverty. Like that father, God's heart is throbbing to save you right now.

Take the lost sinner's place and claim

the lost sinner's Saviour. *Whoever comes to me, I will never cast out.*" (John 6:37)

That's a promise from Christ Himself. Can't you trust His promise right now before you finish reading this paper?

## Obstacle #8 "NO ONE CAN BE COMPLETELY SURE THEY ARE SAVED."

Paul's reply to the jail manager's most important question was very plain. He did **not** say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will have a **good chance** of being saved." but "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you **shall be** saved.*" (Acts 16:31)

Some mock the idea that anyone can know for sure they are saved. Even some churches say you can't be sure. People call it a bold and proud presumption. They argue that "no one can be certain" and that all we can do is to have a "humble hope." This thinking is dead wrong, according to the Bible. The teaching of the Lord Jesus and His Apostles says just the opposite! You can be 100% sure!

Paul says, "*we **are always** confident.*" (2 Corinthians 5:6) The Apostle John says, "*I am writing to you little children, because your sins **are** forgiven for His Name's sake.*" (1 John 2:12) "*We **know** that we have passed out of death into life.*" (1 John 3:14) "*I write these things to you...that you may **know** you have eternal life.*" (1 John 5:13)

Every sinner who simply believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is bound to believe that he is saved. It would surely be "a great presumption" for anyone to doubt the Word of the living God.

### **Obstacle #9 "CAN A PERSON BE SAVED QUICKLY – DOESN'T IT TAKE TIME?"**

In Acts Chapter 16, a lot happened within just a brief hour. The night the earthquake struck, the jail manager urgently asked: "*What must I do to be saved?*" That same hour he was saved and baptized. Then it says he "*rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.*" In one short hour, the whole household believed, were saved and baptized.



Regardless of what people think – the Bible record is clear: the conversions recorded in the New Testament clearly show *the moment* sinners believed, they were saved. How long does it take one to *believe* what his father says? A moment.

An illustration in the Bible uses the word *looking*. "*Look (or turn) to Me and be saved.*" (Isaiah 45:22) How long did it take the snake-bitten Jew in Numbers 21:9 to be cured? One moment he was dying, but the next, by simply looking at the brass serpent on the pole, he was completely healed. The very moment you 'believe' in or 'look' to Jesus, as the Sin-Bearer, you are saved.

### **Obstacle #10 "I CAN NOT LOVE GOD."**

A woman was anxious to be saved. She prayed and tried hard to "love God" enough to have her sins forgiven. But her heart only seemed to get harder. One evening she heard the preacher say, "Some imagine that God requires them to love Him in order to be saved. They begin to examine their hearts, and they cannot find inside one speck of love for Him."

"If," said he, "we were not to be saved until we loved Him, we would never be saved at all; but the happy truth is, He loved us."

*"In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins."* (1 John 4:10)

The moment she understood that God loved her so much that He gave Jesus to be the sacrifice by which God could be satisfied, and she could have her sins forgiven, peace and joy flooded her heart. She could not help but love Him in return because He had done so much for her. She was saved!

It is true you should love Him, but as long as you refuse to believe Him, you will never love Him. Meditate on **His love to you**, and you will be able to say, "*we love, because He first loved us.*" (1 John 4:19).



### **Obstacle #11 "I DON'T FEEL ANXIOUS ENOUGH."**

When people wake up, with alarm, to see the danger they're in, so often they get all occupied with *their* feelings toward God instead of *His* feelings toward them. They never consider the important question: "*Does my salvation depend on how I feel towards God, or on how He feels towards me?*"

Often people say, "*I don't feel anxious enough,*" or "*I don't feel sorry enough.*" They may have heard about someone else who struggled with great spiritual darkness before they were saved, and they think they have to go through the same struggles.

Stop thinking about your level of anxiety or how bothered you are. Instead, ask yourself: "*Is God willing to save me now?*" Repeatedly in His Word, God makes it clear that His desire is that you should not perish but be eternally saved. (see Ezekiel 33:11, 1Timothy 2:4-6). Satan loves to play mind-games with people and fill them with doubt.

Get your mind off your feelings! Stop and think of His amazing love to you that He proved by the gift of His only well-beloved Son. Based on what He did and

suffered 2000 years ago, you can be saved even now. *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."* (Acts 16:31)

### **Obstacle #12 "I COULD NOT HOLD ON TO SALVATION."**

*"I have often tried to be a Christian but have failed. Sometimes I thought I was one, but soon the happy feelings were gone, and I was just as bad as ever; so there is no use in me professing."*



You don't need to worry about *holding on* to Salvation. What you are now required to do is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. The very moment you do so, you receive eternal life. (John 3:36). You have the assurance that you will never perish. (John 10:28).

But you ask: "What about living the Christian life afterwards?"

Here's the answer to that question. The same Christ who "saves from the wrath to *begin with*, saves from sin to *go on with* and will keep you safe for Heaven to *end with*." *"His Name shall be called Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21) Jude 24 assures you that *"He is able to keep you from falling."*

He has promised never to leave nor forsake those who put their trust in Him. The moment you believe on Jesus, you are His. He has pledged His Word to guide, guard and keep you. He will give you strength and grace to live and work for Him.

Jesus said: *"I give them eternal life; and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand."* (John 10:28) The nail-pierced hand will keep you safe and secure forever.

### **Obstacle #13 "WOULD IT NOT BE GREAT PRESUMPTION?"**

Presumption to do what? *"I still think it would be presumptuous for anyone to say that she **knows** she is saved."*

But if God clearly says you can be saved, and He tells you how you can be sure, do you call it 'presumptuous' to simply believe Him? *"Of course not,"* you say. Then

listen to Him: *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may **know** you have eternal life"* (1 John 5:13)

Instead of it being 'presumption' to believe what God says, to doubt Him is to be guilty of the greatest sin one can commit.

*"But I cannot say that I am saved."* Then you do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? *"Oh, yes I do!"* Then you must be mistaken; because the Scripture states that *"Whoever believes in the Son **has** eternal life"* (John 3:36)

*"I believe on Jesus, but I cannot say I am saved."* Then you are making God a liar. Again and again He states that everyone who believes (rests or trusts) on Jesus **has** eternal life. (See John 6:47) But *"Whoever does not believe God has made Him a liar, because He has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning His Son."* (1 John 5:10, 11)

Believe and be saved.

#### **Obstacle #14 "I DON'T FEEL ANY CHANGE."**

Of course not. How could you, so long as your mind is occupied with *your* feelings toward God, instead of *His* feelings toward you? If you keep looking into your cold, wicked heart, you will just become more and more miserable. By always thinking about your heart's coldness or hardness, your lack of love or absence of sorrow, your faith or feelings, you will definitely be unhappy.

You will never have peace if you keep looking within. You will only have peace when you look away from yourself and look to Jesus and by thinking of what He has done.

It is impossible for you to have the love for Him that you should have until you first believe on Jesus. You must first believe in His love and death for you.

The moment you realize that Salvation's work was totally finished by Christ on the Cross and that God's justice was completely satisfied, that's when the change will take place. Peace will fill your heart, and love will flow out to Him who loved you so.



**Feelings  
aren't  
facts.**

## Obstacle #15 "HOW CAN I COME TO CHRIST?"

A man deeply bothered about his sins and very distressed about his soul asked a preacher what was meant by the term 'coming to Christ.' *"I have been hearing,"* he said, *"a very serious message; we have been urged and pleaded with to 'Come to Christ.' I felt like I had been sitting on needles all the time because he never told us **how** to come to Him."*

*"Can you fly to Him,"* the preacher asked. *"No, I cannot do that."* *"Can you walk on your feet to Christ?"* *"No,"* the worried man replied. The preacher then told him that although Christ is in Heaven, He was beside him on earth, eagerly anxious to save him. He was shown that with his mind and heart, and not with his body, he was to go to Jesus. In other words, he was to believe on Him who died that he might live. *"Is that it? Is it so simple? I see it now,"* he said. Believing on the Lord Jesus as His Saviour, he happily went on his way.

When would you like to come to Christ and accept Him as your Saviour? *"Right now,"* you say. Go ahead.

## Obstacle #16 "I CAN NOT REALIZE IT."

What do you mean? *"I see that Christ has taken my punishment, and that God is perfectly satisfied with what He has done; but somehow or other, I can not realize that I have eternal life."* Your mistake is you are preoccupied with the *realizings* of your mind instead of with the *realities* of God's Salvation.

Suppose you were sentenced to prison for some crime, but you were given the option of paying a hefty fine. A friend pays the amount in full, and brings you a receipt. Would you then be afraid of going to jail? "No." *"Why not? Because of your realizings or graspings?"* "No," you say. *"Well, why wouldn't you be afraid?"* You say: *"Because the fine or ransom had been paid. I have the proof – the receipt."*



God, in His Word, tells you that Christ has given Himself a ransom for you. (1Timothy 2:6), and on the ground of what He has done, you may be saved. Your Bible, the Word of God, is your receipt.

## Obstacle #17 I CAN NOT FEEL SAVED"

Paul didn't say to the jail manager, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will **feel** saved." Here's what he said: "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you **will** be saved.*" (Acts 16:30-31)

Ask that man whose debt was paid by his brother, "*Do you **feel** that your debt is paid?*" "No," is the reply. "*I don't **feel** that it is paid: I **know** from this receipt that it is paid, and I feel happy because I **know** it is paid.*" The same applies to you! You must first believe in God's love to you, as revealed at the Cross of Calvary, and then you will feel happy because you will **know** that you are saved.

### "GOD SAYS I AM SAVED, AND IT MUST BE TRUE."

These were the words spoken by a young convert the night he found peace. Reader, can you truthfully say the same words? "*I wish I could.*" Then there is nothing to hinder you from doing so now. Jesus has died on the Cross. He has suffered for sins, "*the Righteous for the unrighteous,*" (1 Peter 3:18), and the Lord has declared that those who believe on Him *have* eternal life.

(John 5:24; John 6:47) If you really believe on Him, you have the Word of God for it that you are saved. "*I don't feel I am saved.*" Neither do I, but thank God, I know it, because He says so in His Word, and He always speaks the truth.

### "I STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME YET."

Allow me to ask you in closing, "*Are you saved?*" "*I intend to be,*" you say, "*but there is no great hurry.*" What?! No great hurry? Are you sure you will be alive tomorrow?

Death could knock at your door unexpectedly. When asked why you despised His free offer of forgiveness and neglected His Salvation, what answer will you give? Don't, oh, don't allow Satan to rock you to sleep in the cradle of a false security. Time is short and eternity is at hand. Will you, can you, dare you, remain one moment longer in your sins outside of Christ – not saved? Now is God's time. Tomorrow may be too late.



## CONCLUSION

**You need to be 'born again'.**

Jesus said: "You must be born again." (John 3:7)

**Reformation is not Salvation.**

Turning over new leaves won't destroy the old ones.

Future good conduct does not blot out past sins.

**God is willing to save you now.**

"Now is the accepted time." (2 Corinthians 6:2) "Come now." (Isaiah 1:18)

**Salvation is a Free Gift**

It cannot, therefore, be earned or bought by good works, prayers, or religious observances. "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life." (Romans 6:23 RV). "Not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:9)

**Justification By Faith Alone**

This is clearly taught in Scripture. "Being justified by faith." (Romans 5:1) "If by grace, then it is no more works." (Romans 11:6) "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)

Pilate the Governor asked: "What shall I then do with Jesus which is called Christ?" (Matthew 27:22) You know what Pilate did with Jesus. But reader, as you come to the end of this pamphlet:

**What will YOU do with Jesus who is the Christ?**

*We would love to hear from you.*

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