

# The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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## The Sinner's Prayer

--By George L. Faull

### INTRODUCTION:

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

The following is from Frank Viola and George Barna (Pagan Christianity, Tydale House) pages 189-190

"In our day, the 'sinner's prayer' has replaced the role of water baptism as the initial confession of faith. Unbelievers are told, 'Say this prayer after me, accept Jesus as your personal Savior, and you will be saved.' But nowhere in all the New Testament do we find any person being led to the Lord by a sinner's prayer. And there is not the faintest whisper in the Bible about a 'personal' Savior. Instead, unbelievers in the first century were led to Jesus Christ by being taken to the waters of baptism. Put another way, water baptism was the sinner's prayer in century one! Baptism accompanied the acceptance of the Gospel.

For example, when Lydia heard Paul preach the Gospel, she believed and was immediately baptized with her household (Acts 16:14-15). In the same way, when Paul led the Philippian Jailer and his household to

the Lord, they were immediately baptized (Acts 16:30-33). This was the New Testament pattern (see also Acts 2:41; 8:12, 35-37).

Baptism marked a complete break with the past and a full entrance into Christ and His Church, Baptism was simultaneously an act of faith as well as an expression of faith."

"As stated earlier, the sinner's prayer eventually replaced the biblical role of water baptism. Though it is touted as gospel today, this prayer developed only recently. D. L. Moody was the first to employ it. Moody used this 'model' for prayer when training his evangelistic coworkers. But it did not reach popular usage until the 1950's with Billy Graham's 'Peace with God' tract and later with Campus Crusade for Christ's 'Four Spiritual Laws'."

Now notice this was not written by me (George L. Faull). The above quotes come from mainline denominations.

It is only fair to say some trace the prayer of this nature to John Bunyan in 1698 in "Pilgrim's Progress".

The way it's done today evolved from the mourners' seat (Wheellock), the anxious seat (Charles Finney), the inquiry room (Dwight Moody, R. A. Torrey) and the 3 great Baptists named, "Bill"; Bill Sunday (Sawdust Trail), Billy Graham (Altar call), Bill Bright (Sinner's prayer).

Even James Kennedy used the method as most radio and TV

evangelists do. All were rooted in "faith only" and Calvinist doctrine, which claims that God elected men to salvation. Men sought salvation by "praying through". It offers a false security and repentance is seldom even mentioned, if ever.

On the internet, Google "The Sinner's Prayer" and see how many speak against the sinner's prayer and prayerfully consider the disuse of this false plan of salvation.

I remember in the fifties the following camp song: "Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus. Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus."

### PROPOSITION:

The Scriptural goal is to get people to obey the Word of God and come INTO Christ, not Christ INTO our hearts! The first item is in the Bible, the second is man-made.

**FIRST - The Apostle Paul begins each of his epistles to the churches speaking about being "in Christ".**

In fact, the first mention of "in Christ" is what that epistle is about.

**Romans:** Christ our Redeemer. "Redemption in Christ" (3:24).

**I Corinthians:** Christ our Sanctifier. "Sanctification in Christ" (1:2).

**II Corinthians:** Christ our Victor. "Triumphing in Christ" (2:4).

**Galatians:** Christ our Liberator. "**Liberty in Christ**" (2:3). "For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ." (3:27)

**Ephesians:** Christ our All. "Spiritual blessings in **Heavenly places in Christ**" (1:3).

**Philippians:** Christ our Joy. "That **your rejoicing may be more abundant in Christ**" (1:26).

**Colossians:** Christ our Perfecter. "**Complete in Him**" (1:28).

**I Thessalonians:** Christ our Hope. "**Patience of hope in Christ**" (1:3).

**II Thessalonians:** Christ our Coming Glory. "**That Christ may be glorified in you and you in Him**" (1:12).

**SECOND - In addition to these above advantages, let's name a few other important things about being "in Christ":**

**Romans 8:1,** "*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

**Romans 8:2,** "For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

**Romans 8:39,** "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is **in Christ Jesus** our Lord."

**1 Corinthians 1:30,** "But of him are ye **in Christ Jesus**, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:"

**1 Corinthians 15:22,** "For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ** shall all be made alive."

**2 Corinthians 5:17,** "Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

**2 Corinthians 2:14,** "Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph **in Christ**, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

**Ephesians 2:6,** "And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places in Christ Jesus*:"

**Ephesians 2:10,** "For we are his workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus** unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

**Ephesians 2:13,** "But now **in Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

**Ephesians 3:6,** "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise **in Christ** by the gospel:"

**1 Thessalonians 4:16,** "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead **in Christ** shall rise first:"

**THIRD - Though the Bible does not give the sinners' prayer, it does tell us how to get "into Christ":**

**Romans 6:3-5,** "3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized **into Jesus Christ** were baptized **into his death**? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism **into death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 **For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.**"

**Galatians 3:27,** "For as many of you as have been baptized **into Christ** have put on Christ."

**Acts 2:38-41,** "38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of

the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**"

**Acts 8:16,** "(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**)"

**Matthew 28:19,** "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them **in (the Greek says "into" the name...) the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**"

**1 Corinthians 12:13,** "For by one Spirit are we all baptized **into one body**, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink **into one Spirit.**"

As seen from the Scriptures above, if we are baptized "into" (*eis*) Christ, His death, His Name, His body, we can have assurance for all of the promises spoken of above are "in Christ".

**2 Corinthians 1:20,** "For all the promises of God **in him** are yea, and **in him** Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

And if we be "in Christ", we are born again: **2 Corinthians 5:17,** "Therefore if any man **be in Christ**, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

**Galatians 6:15,** "For **in Christ Jesus** neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, **but a new creature.**"

On the other hand, those who only pray the sinner's prayer have none of these advantages or promises as those who have been baptized "into Christ".

The only record we have of Jesus coming into anyone's heart, was Lydia, the seller of purple, whom the Lord opened her heart. **Acts 16:14-15**, "14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: **whose heart the Lord opened**, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained *us*."

How did the Lord open her heart? She heard and attended the things which were spoken of Paul and when she was baptized and her household, she got involved in His work.

#### **FOURTH – Saving faith comes by hearing and obeying the Word of God.**

We preachers must preach the Word for success.

**There is no faith without hearing the Word. Romans 10:17**, "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

**No one is begotten, or born again, without the Word.** The Word is God's semen. **1 Peter 1:23**, "23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever."

**If there is no Word, there is no milk. 1 Peter 2:2**, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

**If no Word, there is no meat for maturing. Hebrews 5:12-14**, "12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 **But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full**

**age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."**

**1 Corinthians 3:1-2**, "1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, **even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat**: for hitherto ye were not able to *bear it*, neither yet now are ye able."

**If there is no Word, there is no revelation for knowledge.**

**1 Corinthians 2:14-16**, "14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

(My thoughts are not your thoughts.) Inspiration, illumination, and revelation.

**If there is no Word, there is no truth to set men free. John 8:32** "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

**If there is no Word, there is no sanctification to make men holy. John 17:17**, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

**If there is no Word, there is no revelation so men will not perish. Proverbs 29:18**, "Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he."

**If there is no Word, there is no light, but darkness. Psalms 119:105, 130**, "105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. 130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

If there is no Word, there is no faith to please God. **Hebrews 11:6**, "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

**If there is no Word preached there is no wisdom unto salvation. 2 Timothy 3:15**, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

**If there is no Word, there is no sword to fight the good fight. Ephesians 6:17**, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

The Word is a defensive and offensive sword.

**If there is no Word, there is no harvest for the seed to be planted. Parable of soil – Matthew 13.**

**If there is no Word, there is no sure word of prophecy so no dawning of the Day Star in our hearts. 2 Peter 1:19**, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

**If there is no Word, there is no mirror to show our sinfulness or how not to dress before the mirror of the world. James 1:23-25**, "23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

#### **CONCLUSION:**

So, my proposition is proven that God wants us to let the Word to be not only heard but obeyed so that we come **"INTO"** Christ, not just a prayer for Him to come into our hearts.

Do not give a false hope or security to a sincere seeker. Get them to obey from their heart the form of doctrine. **Romans 6:17**, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."