

A Biblical View of How a Sinner can be a True Child of God

Getting Started: You are taking a few minutes to read this article so I suppose you want to be sure that you are doing the right thing for your future. You want to know how God's master plan works. Surely it is according to what God has already declared in the Bible. This article is all about how it works that God can save a sinner like you and me. It is interesting, provoking and encouraging.

The Bible has the answers and there is information scattered around the New Testament and in the Old Testament about this subject. In the Bible there is added cognitive value for understanding and illustrating divine truth on all subjects. Information may be buried and hard to find and that is just what the Lord wants to see in every human being... a personal seeking for truth, God's truth, while there is time... Christ may be found by sinners as God allows!

Here are some simple facts that we present right now and we will expand on them later in this paper.

1. **Sin:** Every human being is a sinner in God's eyes; Romans 3:23 is the most simple scripture that declares this fact or analysis. It is hard for many people to admit that they are sinners, especially people who think that they are just good enough without the Lord's help but that is self righteousness. Another category of people are those who are so much into themselves that they just don't care or want to take time to discover what God says about humanity in general.
2. **Christ died** for every person and became a sacrifice for the sin of others because God is love and operates in this mode for all mankind. He is not willing that any should perish. His blood was shed and He laid down His life for sinners. This death that he died and His blood that he shed (according to the Bible) satisfies the righteous demand of God in behalf of a repenting sinner who puts faith in what Christ did on the cross.
3. **God Seeks Sinners:** God makes the first move toward any sinner because He loves them and actually awakens the sinner to his need, draws them to Himself, teaches them what they need to know and finally grants the believing sinner salvation as a free gift with a promise that can't be beat, Eternal Life. It is awesome, almost unbelievable, a miracle granted and the benefits are in the here and now but also out of this time space world in eternity.
4. **Getting into the Kingdom of the Son:** Finally after the sinner is spiritually transferred in a miraculous way to God's Kingdom he receives the Holy Spirit who helps Him understand the Word of God his spiritual nourishment. The Holy Spirit empowers the new believer (now called a child of God) to live a new kind of life in Jesus Christ. With out the empowerment of God and the Holy Spirit in the life, the new person in Christ would become a flop and make a mess of his life. (Critical information about this is found in 2 Peter chapter one.)
5. **Now What:** Now the new believer is a new creation in Christ Jesus and is personally driven to serve sacrificially in the Kingdom of God and manifests the praises of God as an ambassador to any and all he can find that will listen and believe. It is a great life, a gift of God and is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

There will be more biblical input to verify and explain these simple truths. Oh, and there will be more to chew on than you can imagine (we just won't get to everything here... it is the subject of most of God's Word... the Bible). I must say it wonderful to know and understand God's great plan for the world. John 3:36 has the message in a nut shell and it is a core evangelistic valued verse of Scripture and a good one to know by heart?

About the Bible Subject: Sin

Christ Died for our sin it says in I Corinthians 15:3 and 4. The implications are many just from this simple statement. I am a sinner, we all are since Adam. Romans 5:12 informs us on that issue. What does this mean anyway? The Greek word for sin is *hamartia* which indicates that the rebellion and disobedience done by humans is an offense to God. Because God is holy and sin is offensive to Him it is like us entering a room where a rotten piece of meat has laid in heat, the flies and maggots are at work and the loathsome smell is quite offensive to us. We want to get out.

An Illustration: I remember a time when I was in the stealth mode walking through a wooded area, seeking the unusual. I stopped for a moment and heard a pasty sound as if there was deliberate movement of soft, warm matter being moved by an unordinary force. Going in the direction of the sound I saw what I was hearing, a dead creature covered with maggots. The animal was ripe and the stench was great. I looked for a few moments and retreated but have never forgotten the experience. This is just like our sin as view from God's vantage.

Christ the Savior: Christ the Anointed of God to be the Savior of the World saw us in our need and came to do something about that need, we being repulsive and rejected by Him because we are in our rotten sin condition. The Bible declares, "*all have sinned...*" God is willing to do what it took to remedy our low life situation. His willing love bound Him to the task. Read John 3:16. Willing to do his Father's will obligated Jesus Christ in an unearthly way to meet our need at the cross. Forgiven sinners are ever grateful for the gracious way of God.

It was John the Baptist who exclaimed one day when he saw Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." The name "Lamb of God" metaphorically is a good representation of who Christ was. Lambs in the Old Testament were used for sacrifice, needing to be perfect they underwent a time of inspection before their sacrificial death to prove their innocence and unblemished condition. They could then die as a sacrifice and their blood given would provide a temporary covering for the erring humanity using this lamb for their desperate need. In Hebrews 10:11-12 of the New Testament it says "*these same sacrifices... can never take away sins, but He (Christ) having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time sat down at the right hand of God.*" God could accept the sacrifice of His Son for sinners, ending all other sacrifices in one great sacrifice the death of His son. "Was ever crime so wrong was ever love so strong when Jesus suffered long for all our sin...?"

From Spiritual Death to Spiritual Life: We deserved to die for our sin because the righteous demand of God is that the "wages of sin is death." That means, spiritual death hangs over every person, because all have sinned. But in Christ there is a gift to be received... "eternal life." This is a promise of God an irrevocable gift, "eternal life." Eternal life indicates the kind of life that it is as well as how long it will last. Check out John 10:28. Christ died for us, the ungodly; He the just One died for us the unjust people that He (Christ) might bring us to God. Being put to death while He was on earth, He afterward rose from the dead so that our hope and faith in Him would not be in vain. Because He lives, He is the guarantee of our life in Him and on top of all that He gives the Spirit as a seal as a pledge for the eternal life received, Eph. 1:13 and 14.

Christ did die that we might live; this is a great paradox. Unrelenting love, so great a love, a steadfast love with grace and mercy to reach to the lowest is visualized in the death of Christ. Can you imagine dying

for a pig? Christ died for sinners like you and me who are like stinky pigs. Refuse that grace and love your dead meat. Accept it and live in the light of it you're a child of the King.

Receive Christ by Faith: God is satisfied with the forgiven sinner because He sees Christ in that life. The sinner has "received" Christ by faith and in that he is given the right to become a child of God. This comes to those who in faith receive all that Christ has done and is. Check out John 1:12. It is a supernatural thing and a mystery to become a child of God. The scoffer shall never know the peace of God. The obstinate and rejecting sinner will never find the way. When the transfer is complete from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of God's beloved son you are in and secure forever, Col 1:12-14. Know the promise and know the consequences. If you have the Son you have life, His vicarious sacrifice... He died in my place... it is worth accepting but woe to those who brush it off.

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him," John 3:36. Take it or leave it. God has declared it, I believe it and that settles it. Reject God's Son and you remain in your sin!

How does A Person Cross the Bridge?

God Seeks Sinners: Sinners don't seek God but the Lord makes vivid warnings to sinners about their need of Salvation. Matthew 11:28-30 are great verses that establish the claim. *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light,"* NIV. God the only God has proclaimed these words for all to read and understand. If you carefully look through the Scripture you will see many ways that God has spoken to spiritually broken humanity, calling them to come to Him. It is a unique way that God has classified the sinning rebel, they are sinners; who hasn't seen it in stark reality. Weary, burdened, in pain and sorrow, needing rest from their sins, these are those who are trapped and enslaved at the whipping post of Satan. Incarcerated prisoners are classic examples... weighted down and filled with emptiness; some cry out to God others bitterly blaspheme Him. The sinner's heart molests everything good and right and promotes evil and hatred toward God as they can. Nothing hurts God; sinners hurt themselves. Some try to drown the pain with alcohol, drugs and pleasure. The search goes on for relief and none is to be found outside of Christ. Many under the darkness of Satan's lies seem to grope about in the mist and haze, finally going vertigo they crash in the flame of a thousand woes.

God Knows: God knows those who will come to Him, these He has chosen to be His own, I Peter 1:2. This is a mysterious thing that God can do but God's Word says it is so. Also we find in Scripture that God is not willing that any should perish and He desires that all would change their mind and receive Christ who is the only provision of God for erring humanity. But most men resist God's call and turn away from Him. God has unique ways to bring people to Himself. Sometimes he gets the right baseball bat to conk the sinner an awakening blow so that he will listen and go with the heads up and chin out, listening to the Spirit of God. In John 6:44 we find that the Father draws sinners to the savior. Jesus said in John 12:32 that when He was lifted up (put on the cross) He would draw men to Himself. Eventually seeking sinners recognize that Christ died for their sin. I know the knowledge of Christ's crucifixion sure moved me close to Christ. It was Calvary love for me personally before I was saved, I was the sinner. Calvary is a spot close to the heart of God the Father because that is where His Son died for sinners. Those who will listen and look to Christ, the Father will teach. Hearing and learning from the Father

provokes sinners to go to Christ, John 6:45. This Father God loves God the Son and exalts Him every chance He gets in the sinners heart. Receivers of Christ also love the Father's way with the Son and exalt Him by the Spirit of God.

Stone Cold Dead: There is really nothing in the sinner that would compel his heart to seek the Lord, as he is dead in trespasses and sins, Ephesians 2:1. The sinner is dead spiritually. He is even unaware of the devils lies and trickery. He only believes that the believer is especially strange and his awkward strange lifestyle is a nuisance to him. The sinner believes the one who follows Christ is stupid and he thinks it is strange that believers in Christ Jesus don't run to do sin and carouse with him, I Peter 4:4. After all that is the sinner's life style, what else does he experientially know?

Hearing and Believing: In Romans 10 and verse 17 we find that faith in God comes from hearing God's Word (listening to the Spirit's voice). The Word of God has a message for sinners and the Spirit of God hammers home the truth of the Scripture to the listening rebel. Scripture or the Word of God work together with the Father and Holy Spirit to bring conviction of sin, conviction of future judgment and the difference between evil and righteousness, see John 16:8. Conviction is a word that can interchange with the idea of "being convinced." In other words the sinner knows he is sinner if he will stop, look and listen; he recognizes that he will face judgment for his sin and he recognizes the other extreme of sin... righteousness. Righteous and holy in character and person is that which God is and being a sinner He isn't. Sinners under conviction understand God's truth about themselves and will admit "I am a sinner". Likewise the sinner understands God's truth about God's provision for sin, Jesus Christ... and His shed blood, the atonement for sin. It is at the cross that the sinner can find cleansing for sin. He may go kicking and screaming but the best thing is he goes to Christ for cleansing and new life.

I am thankful that God seeks sinners because I am one of those who came to God and received Jesus Christ as my Savior. Won't you?

Not One True Atheist: Some people say they are atheists. But that is a lie; they know there is a God. The Bible tells God's people that all men know deep inside themselves that there is a creator God. Romans 1:19-21. Every person knows the mystery of eternity also, very interesting, Ecclesiastes 3:11. People that harbor doubt and unbelief don't want God in their lives, it is their excuse to remain in sin, the deeds of kind that they love. God doesn't force anyone to believe and accept anything. Man was created as a free moral agent, made in the image of God, man has his own rights, rights to choose even wrong but man must realize he bears the consequences of His decisions. All sin pays wages, death, Romans 6:23. That is cool, but may be devastating. How good to align oneself with the Almighty. Some sinners do find rest. Other sinners don't and face eternal grief.

Now is the Right Time: God has been looking for hearts that will change. The change needs to be made in the form of attitudes toward God. Isaiah 55:6 and 7 says, "*Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*" Even the tenderness of this verse is a form of the call from God.

Getting into the Kingdom of the Son

Headed Home: Well in our last brief chapter we saw that men are dead spiritually. The needle of sin is pain and has little effect to the spiritually dead sinner. But increase the pain, increase the sorrow and God comes into the picture. God's call is like a still small voice in the raging winds of spiritual conflict. I flew light aircraft in Alaska for many years when there wasn't much to link a pilot to the security of civilization. It was a very good sound when you finally heard more than the drone of the engine from the voice of a person at a Flight Service Station. That sound in your crackling transceiver's headset is the sound of home not far off. The understandable and meaningful words came from some kind of safe place and it was near a cozy home with a loving wife and a few wonderful children. Anyone would be a fool to turn away and fly back out of radio range, finally running out of fuel and headed for the white tundra below. It would be a cold freeze and finally death; you would become wolf meat.

Calling all Sinners, Come: John 6:44 tells us in the words of Jesus that the Father in heaven is calling sinners to come to Him. If there is a positive response to God's call in the sinner, then the sinner begins to be taught of the Father, vs. 45. The information that the Father initially teaches is about our own sin and its condemning consequences. The Father contrasts the sin of the sinner with the holiness and righteousness of God Almighty Himself. Psalm 32:5 has some interesting thoughts for the sinner who will side with God, *"I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin."* This attitude the Father can handle and accept. Such a mind set is well on the way to forgiveness of sins.

God Knows us: There are some other verses of Scripture that are reminders of God's faithfulness to expose the sinner to truth if he wants it. We must realize that God knows our minds and hearts. In Psalm 139:1 and 2 it says, "O LORD, You have searched me and known me, You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thoughts from afar..." God knows if we are pushing Him away or heading closer to Him as He teaches truth. The spiritual chemistry is wonderful in the process of redemption. God is at work and the sinner is taking in truth that satisfies his soul. The sinner begins to realize that there is no disappointment in receiving Christ, Romans 10:11, *"Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."* Finally the sinner under conviction begins to call to the Lord for cleansing and a new life, Romans 10:13, *"Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."* It is like a man who is drowning; he realizes his peril and cries for help now and with urgency... Someone hears and responds, he is saved from drowning and that is good. Do you know you are viewed as a sinner in God's eyes if you have not been forgiven? You are not good enough to go to heaven in God's sight and without Christ you are as doomed as doomed could be. The cry of the repenting sinner grasping for the Son and His forgiveness in his grave condition will grab the heart of God Almighty.

The Father sees and knows what is going on in the mind and heart of the sinner. If he is under conviction and knows he is a sinner he most often will cry out to God for deliverance. The greatest thing that God is looking for is that in the sinner there is passionate desire to be out of his horrible sin. The Father in heaven looks down and says to Himself, that person qualifies to be placed in my Son's Kingdom when He sees this in the sinner. When in the sinners heart there is a desire to leave his sinful life style and he wants God's holiness and believes that God is able to give it to him by the power of redemption, then the Father grants to the sinner eternal life, Jn. 6:65. God the Father gives new life to those who want a change and be rid of dark sin with desire for spiritual cleanliness. The Father promises to every believing sinner "eternal life" John 17:2. Another sinner enters the Son's Kingdom at the hand of the Father, what a gift, what a life and what a hope.

Final Transfer, Home at Last: Colossians 1:12 and 13 has the most concise information about sinners being transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Son's Kingdom. The Father is the agent to accomplish the transferring work, vs. 12. The Father qualifies all who enter the Son's Kingdom, vs. 12. It is not darkness but light where believing sinners go, vs. 12. The Father delivers the sinner (and He can do this based on what the Son did at Calvary) from the dark kingdom, vs. 13. And finally the Father transfers the believing and receiving sinner to the Son's Kingdom. It is at that exact moment when a person has passed from spiritual death to spiritual life. Have you gone there? Did the Father do this work in you? (In the King James Bible this is not clear because of the old English word "meet" which then meant to qualify.)

Born Again: Spiritual transformation comes from spiritual regeneration and is synonymous with the idea of being "born again." This is another great truth found in John chapter. 3. You might go there and read this. John the writer of this book, records God's ideas and states that one can be born from above and born of the Spirit. How great our God is and how thankful the changed sinner is. It is a life changed by God's power and for eternity. No turning back and better than one ever thought it could be.

The New Life in Christ

Now What: Now the new believer is a new creation in Christ Jesus and is selected to be in the Kingdom of God to manifest the praises of the Son of God. He is an ambassador in a foreign land to all that will listen and believe. It is a great life, a gift of God and is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Evangelism is the beginning of a great new life. God wants every human being to consider His offer but many spurn it. Receiving God's plan is more than a fire escape. At God's right hand there are pleasures forever more. We are told in the Word that eye or ear cannot comprehend what God has prepared for them that love Him.

Search the Scriptures, 2 Tim. 2:15: There are a few places in the Word that specifically tell the believer how to live. You must find them and enjoy the new life by living it and do not compromise it. The old life is superseded and thus has passed away and look... all things now are made new in Christ. Colossians 3 and 4 are special chapters that have specific information for new believers.

What Christians Do: The new believer must find other Christians to associate with. These people of God believe in water baptism which is symbolic of what took place when saved. These people of God will take part in the Lord's Supper together, which symbolizes what Christ gave at the cross, His body and blood (this is the true time of worship for the church.) These people will be witnesses together for Christ, according to Acts 1:8 where we find the words of Jesus before He went back to the Father. These Christians will pray together to a mighty God and see God work in their lives and in the lives of the lost in sin that they are seeking for Christ. They will sit under the teaching of God's Word together and you can get your soul fed from Christians who have walked with the Lord for a long time. These Christians evangelize together, that is reach out with the gospel to other sinners so that they might hear the good news. These Christians fellowship together, having Christ as their common denominator. These issues are expressed in more detail in Acts 2.

Discipleship: Aim at being a disciple of Jesus Christ. That is to aim at being Christ like. As Jesus lived so should I. Discipleship involves following Christ, learning about Him and walking in fellowship with Him day by day so that you build an ongoing relationship with Him. Discipleship is important. Without the

mandates of discipleship you will not turn out to be a fruitful and happy Christian. God wants His heavenly best for you, so be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Find a person who will spend time with you, one who is spiritually mature in Christ and is living and demonstrating a life that exemplifies Christ. It can only be done in the power and energy of God's Spirit as directed by the Word of God. Jesus said in the great commission to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things as He commanded. This is found in Matthew 28.

Divine Enablement: Remember the divine power and nature that is given to the new believer. This is found in 2 Peter 1. Also there are life characteristics called virtues that we are to add to our Christian life. In other words we are to work at and add godly styles of character to our lives and seek perfection, so keep the faith that was delivered to the saints of old Jude 3.

We must keep in touch with the Spirit: This subject is of utmost importance. Biblical material is to be found in *Vital Basics for Disciples* on this subject. Unfortunately there is a lot of confusion about this subject in Christianity. If Satan can mess something up that is important he will and this subject is one of them. The subject is simple and sublime. We don't have to pray for the Spirit, He is given without measure to those who trust in Him. But beware, for the filling of the Spirit there are conditions to be met in the Christian life.

A Full Life Ahead of you: May God's richest blessings fall on you as you live and walk with the King. Be a blessing, a part of the solution and not a part of the problem. God bless and have a good day in Christ Jesus the Lord.

"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen." Romans 16:25-27

By Doug Crabb 2007