

## To The Very Brink of Salvation but Lost Forever

There is a time when God is at work in lives of the spiritually lost to bring them to the door of salvation. This time especially comes when sinners are confronted with the truth of the gospel, James 1:18. Part of this truth is that man is a sinner in the sight of a holy God. Romans 3:23 is a very significant verse regarding this truth. It does not take a much of a genius to realize the fact that all without Christ are sinners among humanity. The perversions of society are many and varied. These will damn a soul to hell forever unless one genuinely turns from their sin and in faith and receives Christ as their Savior from sins penalty and power, Rev. 21:6-8. In the sight of God, Jesus Christ paid the redemption fee (His blood) to buy mankind out of the prison house of sin. Christ can redeem sinners with His precious blood, I Pet. 1:18 and 19. A rejection of this free gift of salvation from God Himself is to spurn Heaven's price paid and insults the holiness and grace of the Almighty.

If a sinner rejects the Spirit's taught truth which He so vividly reveals to the sinner and the sinner turns from the door of salvation he is in serious trouble. How many times does God the Holy Spirit speak to a sinner about His need? No one knows, the Bible does not say. Rejecting Christ and His offer as a final choice against God is to cross the threshold of wickedness and proceed to be dominated by sin without help and restraint. Thus the unredeemed sinner willingly goes out or back into a life of sin after God's call and goes to perdition, the place of wickedness, even after the Spirit has dealt with His heart about the sin question. The Scripture teaches that this soul will never be spoken to and offered the gift of God in salvation again by the Spirit of God. (We shall look at this truth more fully in our next communication.) The Greek word for perdition, *apolia* is used in John 17:12 and in at least 7 other places in the New Testament. The reference here is associated with Judas Iscariot. Another Greek word *bebaylos* is used to indicate that there is a time for mortals when all hope for salvation is forfeited. Esau is such a person and he is referred to as one who experienced this dilemma in Hebrews 12:16.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God we read in Hebrews 10. It is better that we fall on Christ in faith and repentance for renewal and life having our wills broken than for Christ to fall on us and be ground to powder and exiled to a lost eternity, Mat. 21:44. No wonder the prophet of old said, "Prepare to meet thy God," Amos 4.

Jeanne and I had this printed on our banking checks a number of years ago and purchased something from a neighbor and she was shaken by that thought from Amos 4 of the Old Testament. The first great step, preparing to meet God, is to come under the conviction of our need before a holy God. Don't spurn His way and truth and thus reject life. Remember the words of Jesus about Himself when on earth, "I am the way the truth and the life, Jn. 14:6. The urgency of the gospel falls upon the faithful. Spread the word and see a soul come to Christ, it fits the call of the *great commission*.

**This Theme** (part I) is written by Doug Crabb and will be continued in the next ministry communication!