

October 13, 2021

Man's Need of Salvation, Part II

In the opening verse of Romans 10, we see the necessity of salvation. Man in his lost estate is ignorant of his need for salvation and helpless to secure such salvation of his own accord. His only hope is a moving of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and mind to convince him of his need for salvation and to illumine his eyes and mind to the means of salvation. As we continue our thoughts upon man's need of salvation, we notice three necessities.

First, is the necessity for faith. **Ephesians 2:8** says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith..." **John 3:16** "...whosoever believeth in him should not perish..." In **Acts 16:30-31** the Philippian jailer asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" To which Paul and Silas replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." No one is saved apart from faith in Jesus Christ. Faith is the key that unlocks the door of salvation, but faith is only effectual when it is placed in Christ. Many people have faith in their church or in their religion, they may have faith in their parents or in their heritage, but none of these things will save them. The object of your faith or the basis of your faith is important in determining whether or not the faith will lead to salvation. Read **I John 5:10-13**. Eternal life and thus salvation is given to those who believe on the Son of God. Acts 2:21 "...whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." **Acts 4:12** "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." **Romans 10:13** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Using a concordance find at least five more verses that speak of the necessity of faith for salvation.

Second, is the necessity of the new birth. Read **John 3:3-7**. Life is always the result of a birth. Physical life is the result of a physical birth. Spiritual life is the result of a spiritual birth. A person who is not born again or who has not experienced the new birth is still lost and abiding under the wrath of God, **John 3:36**. The new birth occurs when the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to speak to the heart about one's need of salvation, leading them, by faith, to call upon the Lord for salvation. Thus, our spiritual parents are the Spirit of God and the Word of God, referred to in **John 3:5** and **Ephesians 5:26**, as the water of the Word. Which spiritual birth parent is identified in **I Peter 1:23**? According to **John 1:12-13**, who is born of God? Physically we are born once, at a specific time and place, often recorded on a birth certificate. Spiritually we are born once, at a specific time and place. Sometimes our spiritual birth is recorded in a Bible or in a church record, but even if you don't know the specific time or place, you should have knowledge of the spiritual birth. Has there been a point in your life when you asked God to save you?

Third, is the necessity of a new nature. We are all born with a sinful flesh nature. The Bible refers to it as the old nature or the old man. It is a corrupt nature and incapable of producing spiritual fruit. Following a brief discussion on salvation in **Matthew 7:13-14**, Jesus teaches on the importance of producing good fruit in **Matthew 7:16-21**. We are not saved by producing good fruit. Good fruit is evidence that we are saved but in order for us to produce this good spiritual fruit, we need a new nature. **II Corinthians 5:17** says, "Therefore if any man be

in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” The word creature means creation. When we are saved or born again, we receive a new nature. According to **Ephesians 4:20-32** and **Colossians 3:1-11**, what are some of the differences between the old nature and the new nature? As you examine your own life, would you say it reflects more characteristics of the old nature or the new nature? If you are saved, you have a new nature, and even though you still have the old sin nature, you have no excuse to continue in sin. A life that is characterized by habitual sin is a life that is lived according to the old nature.

Faith leads to the new birth which results in a new nature. A person who has no new nature has never been born again and is still living in unbelief. Read again **Matthew 7:21-23**. Many profess to know the Lord who do not possess the Lord. Are you one of the many or are you one of the few?