

012 God's way of Salvation

Contributed by John Cairns

John Cairns Ministries Inc

I am delighted to introduce John Cairns to you. We go back so many years. In fact I was his Sunday school teacher back in Britain. Although making a nominal response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ whilst young, in his teens he chose to live his own life and go his own way.

In 1978 he came face to face with the claims of the Lordship of Christ and responded in a real and committed way to Christ. Since that time in various ways I have had the joy of ministering with and walking in real friendship with John and his wife Heather. He too has had an impact on my life and his encouragement has meant so much to Pat and I over the years.

He is a man sold out for the Lord, has a true evangelist's heart as well as a heart to build and equip the people of God. I commend him to you.

God's way of Salvation

Christianity presents a loving God who desires to have a personal relationship with **everyone**. This is not automatic but is possible, as we understand who Jesus is and what He achieved for us by His death nearly 2000 years ago and by His resurrection.

God loves every person in a way that we can never fully understand but Christianity is not just about being loved. It is about receiving that love, allowing it to impact every area of our lives, and becoming a wholehearted follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Being changed, growing and maturing as individuals, learning to understand how God feels and seeing things how He sees them. There is a cost involved in becoming a Christ follower, being willing to live to please Him rather than yourself. But the rewards are amazing.

Jesus said if you will come to Him, let Him take control of your life and help you to become the person you are meant to be, you will experience a level and quality of life that could never be possible any other way.

John 10:10

10 A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, a more, and better life than they ever dreamed of.

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Sin, choosing to ignore God and live by our own standards, brings injustice, disregard for life, unconcern for one another, unconcern for environment, disinterest in others lives.

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It says "I" am more important than anyone or anything else. It makes man to be his own god, which means that others don't carry the same worth, or value I have. It says there is no true, living God therefore I can do what I want. I set my own standards.

As a consequence we end up with war, disease, famine, Aids, abortion, euthanasia, drugs, violence. Man, thinking he has become wise has become foolish.

Rom 1:21-22

*21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish Hearts were darkened.
22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools*

But still God makes it possible for us to know Him through Jesus. His love and grace are available to all who will receive and believe.

Prov 19:23

23 The fear of the Lord leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Ps 103:6-14

*6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.
7 He made known His ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel:
8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
9 He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever;
10 He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the Heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him;
12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
13 As a father has compassion on His children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him;
14 for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust.*

That doesn't remove the need we have to respond, but when we recognize who He is and begin to reverence Him then our whole perspective changes. We begin to see how God feels and thinks through His word.

Deuteronomy 10:12.

12 And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your Heart and with all your soul,

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We catch hold of His concern for mankind, the earth, and the young, old, sick and poor. We see how He hates injustice. When we learn to respect the King of the Kingdom our life radically changes. We begin to experience destiny, reality, purpose –

Proverbs 14:27.

27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

We realize the real reason for living.

The Message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to 'repent and believe'.

Mark 1:15

15 "The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

This is the first thing every person must do if they are to enter into a dynamic life changing relationship with the living God. Every person, regardless of age, race, creed or colour is called to repent.

Acts 17:30

30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent.

Repentance is the starting point for the Message carried throughout the Gospels and the New Testament.

Matthew 3: 1 – 8

*In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea
2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is near."*

*3 This is He who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling
in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'"*

*4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his
waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.*

*5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the
Jordan.*

6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

*7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was
baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the
coming wrath?"*

8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

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Matthew 4:7

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Mark 6:7-13

7 Calling the Twelve to Him, He sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

8 These were His instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff — no bread, no bag, no money in your belts.

9 Wear sandals but not an extra tunic.

10 Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town.

11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them."

12 They went out and preached that people should repent.

13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Acts 2:38

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 20:20

20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

The root meaning of the word repentance is "metanoya", which means a change of mind, a change of heart, a change of thought and a change of attitude. These radical changes must first take place in regard to sin and our relationship with God.

The Bible tells us that ALL have sinned and chosen to live their own way.

Isaiah 53: 6I

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Sin, which is rebellion towards God, can only be dealt with as repentance (brought about through conviction in our lives by the Holy Spirit) takes place.

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Repentance is not only a sense of conviction of sin, although this will precede repentance, nor is it just being sorry or trying to 'turn over a new leaf'. Repentance is a radical change of attitude towards God and sin. We realize that we have hurt God by our self-centered living and understand that we have rebelled against a good and loving God.

We must willingly and humbly confess our sins, forsake our rebellion towards God and, by faith, receive His grace and mercy, relinquishing ownership of our lives to Him.

Hebrews 6: 1 - 2

*1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,
2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.*

Ephesians 2: 1

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

We choose to begin to live with a singular desire to please God and glorify Him in our everyday lives.

Becoming a follower of Jesus Christ means you will now live by a different value system.

1 Corinthians 10: 24.

24 Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

You think differently and respond differently to how you used to act. Salvation actually saves you from your SELF!

Where there is genuine repentance there will be a real sense of sorrow for the way we have lived -

2 Corinthians 7: 9 - 11; 2

9 yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.

10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

11 See what this Godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

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- a turning away from selfish and self-centered living –

Proverbs 28: 13

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

- and a love for sin turned into a hatred of sin and all its consequences.

Psalm 97: 10.

10 Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for He guards the lives of His faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Repentance will also lead us, where possible and necessary, to make restitution for things previously said and done.

We don't have to be good to come to Jesus. His call to the fisherman by the Sea of Galilee in Israel was "Follow me".

Matthew 4: 19

19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

He didn't call these men because they were especially talented or gifted. He didn't call them because they necessarily had great morality. He called them because He loved them. As they responded quickly and positively to His call they then had to allow Him to deal with every area of their life. We are loved and accepted by God but we must then daily be changed to become like Jesus.

2 Corinthians 3:18

18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Colossians 3:10

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Jesus didn't come to form a new religious Movement, or a new club or organization. He came to show us who God is -

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John 14:9

9 "You've been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don't understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, 'Where is the Father?'

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- and to make followers of Him. People, who would be willing to live like Him, act like Him, speak like Him and live totally FOR Him. People not bound by religious rules and structures but people living to please Him and positively impact their world. Salvation through Jesus Christ is meant to bring transformation in all areas of our lives and then impact into our world.

True salvation calls us to die to our self and live under the rule and guidance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2: 20

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

We are not meant to assimilate Him into our lives as a part of who we are - He is meant to become our life.

There is more information regarding John and the ministry he is leading and resources he offers from our site. From our 'Links and Resource" tab there is a link to Johns web page and you can link straight there.