

Title: What Must I Do To Be Saved

Text: Romans 3:21-26

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Romans chapter 3. The book of Romans chapter 3. We are in a series of messages dealing with WHAT WE BELIEVE AS CHRISTIANS. And today we come to the question: WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? In our statement of faith we say: "We believe in salvation for all people granted by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ."

Romans chapter 3 beginning with Vs. 21 (Read Vs 21-26)

Now, turn over to Romans chapter 6 verse 23. This is a familiar verse and I trust you all know it. (Read Romans 6:23)

Join with me in a moment of prayer

Now, in answering the question: WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?, I would like to share with you the A ... B ... C's of the gospel. Three steps.

(1B) Step number one: In order to be saved you must admit that you are a sinner.

Take your Bibles and turn to I John chapter 1. I John chapter 1. When we talk about admitting that you are a sinner there are really several issues involved. It isn't as easy as it appears. It is my own personal belief that this current generation has very little knowledge of what it means to admit that you are a sinner. I believe because of our present day thinking in this self-centered age in which man is considered basically good; and in which self is the center of all of our discussions, it is difficult for many to understand the depth of our sin and the depth of our need of a savior. Consequently, in my opinion, whether right or wrong, many people are not saved who say they believe in God. I will let you judge that statement when we are through with this message.

But, dear friends, I think that there is an easy believism in this country that sort of adds Christ to our life. And God is like the good grandfather who will get us out of the problems that we are in.

But, the issues of the Bible are very serious. They deal with our sinful condition. And the Bible teaches that if we don't do something about this *sinful* condition, we are headed for a christless eternity in a place God calls hell. So, step number one: IN ORDER TO BE SAVED, YOU MUST ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER.

Now, let's look at I John chapter 1 beginning with Vs 5....

(Read I John 1:5-2:2)

Now, many people believe that I John 1:9 is for Christians who are sinning in their lives. And you can get it all straightened out by confessing your sins to God before you go to bed at night. If some how I would just pray and say, "Lord, please forgive me for all my sins." Or, "Lord, whatever I have done, I am sorry, please take care of it."

Dear friends, *Note* that is not the main teaching of I John 1:9. This text is dealing with salvation. And its primary teaching is how to be a christain. *And know that you are a Christian* It is talking about the difference between a Christian and a non-christian. In fact, that is what the whole book of I John is all about. This book is telling us how to know whether or not you are born again. It is one of the most important books to read in the entire N.T. To look into your life and decide: DO I REALLY BEAR THE EVIDENCES IN MY LIFE THAT I AM TRUELY BORN AGAIN. That is what I John is all about. *It deals with Assurance*

So Now, let's look at this passage very, very carefully. In Vs 5, we have a contrast. GOD IS LIGHT. AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL.

No darkness. Not a trace. No darkness what soever *in God*.

Now, notice verse 6..verse 8..and verse 10. They all begin.."If we say." You see, these three statements are all claims. "IF WE SAY...IF WE SAY...IF WE SAY...." All claims.

NOW, WHAT IS BEING CLAIMED? In Vs 6 we are claiming to have "fellowship with God."

and O.K. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD?

Back up, please, to the opening verses. Vs 1....(Read vs 1-4)

Now, the word "fellowship" means "that which we share in common." According to ~~the opening~~ ^{these} three verses, that which we share in common with each other is eternal life. The life of Jesus Christ.

We are not talking here about having cookies and donutes. We are not talking about fellowship after church with some refreshments. ~~That is not what we are dealing with.~~ We are not talking about Christians getting together and enjoying one another's company. And that if we have sin in our life, we should confess it. WE are not talking about that. We are dealing with whether or not you are a christian. That is what it says.

So, Here is a claim where a person says "I have fellowship." ^{I AM A Christian} In Vs 8 we find another claim. ~~He~~ ^{This person} claims to have no sin. ~~The sin nature does not exist in me.~~ ^{He says - I do not have a sin nature} And in Vs 10 he claims to never commit the act of sin. "IF we say that we have not sinned." ^{O.K. There are no three claims}

Now, notice that there is a conclusion drawn. And this conclusion is based upon a condition in his life.

In Vs 6 he says that he is a christian, that he has fellowship with God. But his pattern of life is that he continues to walk in darkness.

Now, remember that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If you continue to walk in the darkness, the conclusion is that you are lying that you are a christian. You show me somebody that can continue to live in sinful habits and practices, and has no pains of conscience and no feelings of remorse and repentance, and I will show you somebody who is not a christian. No matter what they say.

You see, the generation we live in does not want to hear that. We want to have comfort brought to our lives to convince us that we truly are christians. But, my friends, if ~~we~~ ^{a person} can continue in sin without repentence, ~~we~~ ^{that person is} are giving evidence that ~~we~~ ^{he has} have never been born again. It is a false claim. You are lying, the Bible says. You are not practicing the truth of God.

Now, in Vs 8 we have the same problem. If you say that you do not have a sin nature, you are deceiving yourself, and the truth is not in you.

Once again, that can only be said of someone who is not a christian.

In Vs 10 it says that if we say that we have not sinned you are making Jesus a liar, because He says that we do sin. ~~And~~ ^{Thus} His word is not in us.

^{Just} Another statement of contrast between a Christian and a non christian. We can not be christians if we make anyone of these claims.

So, ~~if you look at this you find the answer in Vs 7..Vs 9..and Vs 1 and 2 of chapter 2.~~ ^{what is the answer? How do you know if you are a christian is found} So, let's look at this again.

The answer to someone who says he is a christian, but he lives in the darkness is Vs 7...TO WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT. And I remaind you that ^{you} He is all the way in the light. He is not half way in the darkness and half way in the light. ^{So,} You are either in the light or you are in the darkness.

If you walk in the light as He is in the light, then you know that you have fellowship, ~~with God~~ ^{you} ~~you share God's life with one another.~~ And you know that the blood of Christ cleanses ~~to~~ ^{you} from all sin. If you are a ~~christian~~ ^{christian}, Vs 7 is for you.

And the same thing is ^{true} about Vs 9. In contrast to an unbeliever who denies that he has ^a ~~sin~~ ^{sin nature} and therefore, proves that he is not a christian. In contrast to that a believer is one who confesses his sins and knows that God is faithful and righteous to forgive his sins and to cleanse him from All unrighteousness.

And the answer to Vs 10 is Vs 1 and 2 of Chater 2. Jesus is the propitiation for our sins. So, we have an advocate: ^{Jesus Christ}

I think it is very important to ^{Understand} ~~look at~~ this. Because ^{the first} ~~if what I am telling you is the truth about that passage, and I do believe it, then it is true that~~ a step or a condition for salvation is ADMITTING THAT WE ARE SINNERS.

How can you say that you believe in the Gospel..that Christ died for your sins..without admitting that you are a sinner. It is an impossibility.

This ^{Came} ~~came~~ home to be once when I was sharing Christ with a man in his home. And this man prayed and ask Christ to come into his heart. And after the prayer I said to him. "Isn't it wonderful to know that our ~~departed~~ and sinful heart has been cleasned by the blood of Christ." He said, "talk about yourself ^{brother} ~~brother~~. But that is not true of me." I am not that kind of a person."

He said, "I have been raised in the church. I am a good person". And right at that point I begin to get a little bit nervous. And I said, Now, wait a minute. Do you believe that you are a sinner? And he said, "that depends on what you mean." So, I spelled it out. Do you lie..cheat..gossip..tell or listen to dirty jokes...You know, I begin to spell some of these things out.

He said, "What I mean is that I don't do a whole lot of it."

I said, "~~wait a minute~~ ^{OK But}. Do you believe that you have a nature that is sinful? And that without Jesus Christ you would die and go to Hell?"

He said, "Hay! I don't believe that." "Are you telling me that people will go to hell just because they sin ~~you know~~?"

Now, mind you. this man has just prayed to receive Christ. So, I am getting more and more confused. And the longer we talked the more I realized that the cultural environment that we live in is not subject to the Biblical doctrine of sin. Therefore, we don't see our need of a saviour. It is right what many older theologians have said: in order to see your need of a saviour, you must understand that you are a sinner.

Now, some folks say, "Well, that wasn't really explained when I received Christ." But, I tell you if the Holy Spirit worked in your heart, you knew it. Whether you understood at that point, or later on, you knew that you were a sinner. Otherwise why did you need a saviour?

When we say that we believe that Christ died for our sins, we are admitting that we are sinner. And we need his precious atonement in our behalf.

So, let me show you the issues and you decide for yourself. If we must confess our sins in order to be a christian, and to confess means that we agree with God that we are sinners. If that is true, then what are the issues involved. I believe that there are four issues.

(1) Number one, the confession of sin, which we have just looked at. You say, if I am confessing sin, what am I confessing? ¹ Sin, we know, is disobedience to God's law. ~~Write these references down and study them laterly on.~~

I John 3:4 tells us that sin is the transgression of the law. So, any time that I disobey any known law of God, I have sinned. And that makes me a sinner.

(2) Secondly, we know in Romans chapter 14 that sin is violating your conscience, When my conscience tells me that something that someone wants me to do is not right for me. Yet, I go ahead and do it. God calls that sin in Romans 14:23.

So, if I am going to confess that I am a sinner I am going to recognize the extent to which sin has effected my life.

(3) A third point that we would have to confess is that we fail to do what is right. James 4:17 says "to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

So, we have definitions of sin in the Bible.

The Bible says it

Now, one other reference which is used a lot is Romans 3:23 which says, "for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." - *What does that mean*

(4) I would add a fourth point when I confess my sin, it is a failure to glorify God. And all are sinners because we come short of the glory of God

Let me show you that in a little different way. You see, The standard of God, almighty, is absolute perfection. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. And when you talk to someone about Christ and their need of salvation you will discover that people differ over the extent to which they understand themselves to be a sinner. There are some people who do not see themselves as bad as others. They think that they are pretty good. They have done a few good things in their life. They have avoided the big 5 or the nasty 9 or whatever it is. They have sort of forced or controlled themselves not to do those things.

But, you see, the standard is the glory of God. Another way to put that, The Bible says that there is non righteous no not one. All have sinned. And all have come short of the glory of God. Now, some *FOLKS* may look better than others. *FOLKS* But we all fall short of the mark *what is God's glory*

Let me ~~Another simple~~ illustration. Two *guy* ~~people~~ are standing on the edge of the Grand Canon. They are going to jump across it. Now, one of these *guy* is a world class broad jumper. *and down* And the other *guys* has never jumped more than 2 feet in his entire life. So, both of them are going to jump across *the Grand Canon*

and
and
and

And so this broad jumper gets a long run. And he just takes off. / I mean he just jumps way out. It is his longest jump of his career. ^{30 feet} And this other brother who has never jumped before, he just jumps out about 2 feet and then starts falling. Now, can't you just picture this in your mind. Both of these guys are falling. And the broader jumper says: See! I can jump better than you.

Now, they are both going to fall short. Do you understand? So, what good does it do to brag. Do you understand?

And many people will say, "I am not as bad as so and so. Or, I have done the best I can." That is not the issue. ~~And we know it.~~ But, our culture wants us to believe that we are not quite as bad as what God says.

The world would have you believe that "sin is a complex." Hay! sin is more than a complex. ^{It is part of our nature} And our whole life has been effected by sin. And whether you are talking about disobedience to God's law. Or, the failure to do what is right. Or, the violation of your conscience. Or, the failure to glorify God. All of it is sin in the Bible.

And when I say that I need a saviour, I recognize that I am a sinner in terms of what God says. Not, what my generation or my culture says.

(2) A second problem which is very, very prominent in people's mind when they talk about sin and that is the cause of sin. WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF SIN? WHERE DID SIN COME FROM? That is a great question. We are talking about sin You need to understand that you are a sinner in order to be saved. O.K. But where did sin come from? I mean who started this whole thing?

Well, dear friends, we know from the Bible that God knows no sin. We just read 1 John 1:5 "In him is no darkness at all." We know that God cannot sin. Hebrews 6:18 says that it is impossible for God to lie.

We know that God never tempts anyone to sin. James 1:13-15. God never tempts any man to sin. Now, the Bible is clear on that. So, what is the cause? And the cause is Satan himself. The Bible teaches that Satan is the tempter. That he is the father of lies. And that he sinned from the beginning. And the Bible teaches that Satan is the cause of sin. God did not cause sin. Satan caused sin. You say, Well, God made Satan. Right!

But God made Satan with the ability to sin or not to sin. By the way, God created man in the same condition. You ask, "What if Adam had never sinned by eating of the fruit? What would have happened. If Adam would have never sinned by taking that temptation, he would have stayed in a perfect state and would have enjoyed eternal life. He never would have died if he hadn't fallen into sin.

But, Adam disobeyed. He was an agent who could choose. He could make a decision one way or another. And he choose to accept the bait of Satan. And so the Bible says, concerning that, in Romans 5:12 that "sin entered the world through the disobedience of one man, Adam."

Now, at this point our culture has prograded us to think: "Hay! that isn't fare. How can we say that everybody is a sinner because Adam sinned? I wasn't in the garden. So, isn't God blaming me for what Adam did?"

Now, before we answer that, let's look at it another way. If by one man sin entered the world. And that appears to be unfair to us. Why is it that we quickly believe that by one man, Jesus Christ, forgiveness and salvation could come to all who believe. If you are going to be just and fair, to those who receive Christ ^{deserve} ~~desire~~ what He has done? NO... If we got what we deserved we would all be in hell.

But, it is interesting. People can get troubled over every person being a sinner. Because one man sinned. Yet, they are not troubled over people becomeing christians because of one's man's righteousness. That whole argument is in Romans 5.

Will, did sin enter the world through Adam's disobedience? YES...You say, "O.K. but their was no law. There was no standard. God never told them what was right or wrong. So, how could you say that sin entered the world."

Romans 5 answers that question. It says this: From Adam to Moses even over those who did not sin, after the likeness of Adam's sin, still died.

You see, whether you believe it or you do not believe it, the unquestionable fact is that everybody still dies. Now, if they were not deing because of the disobedience to the law of Moses which had not been given yet.

Then, on what ground and bases was anyone deying between Adam and Moses?

And the

And answer is because of the depravity and nature of sin in every persons heart

From Adam to Moses there was no law. There was no way of knowing right from wrong. But everybody still died. The fact is: it is appointed unto man once to die. And that alone proves the existence of sin. So, you can sit and argue all day. But it is there. Everybody dies.

2. So, what is the condition of man? That is also related to the sin question

Now, a person who receives Christ is not going to go through all these things when he recieves Christ. But, I believe it is important for the person who is telling somebody about Christ, and about the Gospel to tell them the truth about what God says.

Example: Some people when they share Christ try to avoid the subject of Hell. They say it is to negative. You are right. it is negative. It is a bad place. And people say that they don't like to bring up the subject of Hell because it is offensive.

When I hear things like that I wander..Do we really know the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I really wonder if we see the importance of the death of our lord for sin. That is such a critical, such a serious issue. The whole subject of Hell.

Let's look at the condition of man. Take your Bibles and turn to Ephesian; chapter 4. Ephesians chapter 4. What is the condition of man. And why is he in such a need of a saviour. Ephesians 4 verse 17.

The Bible teaches that man is in mental darkness. He is unable by his own reasoning powers to comprehend his need of a saviour. And this might help us to understand why you cannot talk somebody into Christ. If the Holy Spirit isn't working in the heart, you are wasting your time.

We need to share the Gospel of Christ. But sometimes I think that we think that our little salesmanship technic that we can talk people into becomeing a christian. If the Holy Sprit isn't doing it friends, it will not happen. You see, a lot of people are being talked into conversion that are never really saved. YOU SAY, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

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Well, this sound ridiculous. But a student in one of our graduate School in our state did a survey related to people who had received Christ. This was done back in 1982. So, it is not too out of date. He ask all denominational agencies and para-church organizations to turn in the total number of people who had received Christ. As it turned out he had to use there 81 figures. Under the 1981 figures that he studied, out of all these organizations that he studied, he found a very interesting fact. In 1981 more people received Christ then live in America.....

And you know, it is not even funny. It is sad. Because the truth of the matter is that every year we hear about some poll telling us that 50 million people have been born again. And yet, when I look at society I see the other side of the coin. And you do to. I do not see the multitudes of Christian believers. I see more and more the isolation of Christians in a society that is growing more and more secular. And more and more turning away from Christ. And I ask: what is wrong here? It is because our definitions are wrong.

I remember talking with a guy about christ. And he ask, "what does it mean to be born again. I have been confussed since Jimmy Carter."

Do you understanding? We have been throwing that term around freely. And yet people were not understanding the issues. So, we speak about being born again. But we don't understand the issues.

The Bible says that man needs a saviour because of the condition of his own mind. Vs 17 of Ephesians 4 says....(READ VS 17-19)

That is a serious issue. Mental darkness...

I would like you to turn to 2 Corinthians chapter 4. You talk about the tough problems of witnessing. Look at this vers. How hard is it to talk to somebody about Christ? Well, the Bible tells us how hard.

2 Corinthians chapter 4 verse 3 says..(Read Vs 3-4)

You see, the god of this age, the Devil himself, is blinding the minds of those who don't believe. There minds are darkened to spiritual things.

I Corinthians 2:14 says "But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Man's condition: mental darkness. But, there is something else. He is also morally helpless. That is what the Bible says about man apart from Jesus Christ. He is morally helpless. By himself he cannot be saved.

Turn to Romans chapter 3. Romans chapter 3 verse 10 we get a picture of moral helplessness.....(READ Vs 10-13)

So, we learn in moral helplessness that man cannot do good in and of himself.

Now, turn over to chapter 7 of Romans and look at Vs 15. In addition to the fact that he cannot do any good, the Bible teaches that he cannot control his sinful desires. ..(Read Vs 15-20)

I cannot do good...I cannot control my sinful desires...But one more thing. Turn over to John chapter 8. The Gospel of John chapter 8. When we talk about moral helplessness, we mean that you can't do good..you cannot control your sinful desires...and a third thing. According to Jesus, you cannot respond to God and His Word on your own. You cannot respond to God and His word on your own.

John chapter 8 verse 43...(REAd Vs 43-47)

To me, that is very clear. A person without God cannot understand or respond to the Word of God. Moral helplessness.

You say, Hay! what do we do about that? Obviously we need a saviour. And we also need the work of the Holy Spirit. Apart from God's Holy Spirit, causing the new birth in an individual, he cannot respond to God. We are dead in our trespasses and sins says Ephesiand 2:1. How can a dead corpus respond to your presentation of the Gospel. It is an impossibility. Unless the Holy Spirit works on a person's heart they will not even want to respond to the Lord.

So, what we do is that we come up with a different technic. We try to sell them on a different line. And so they receive Christ, but not according the the Bible. The issues aren't sin..death,..and hell.

The issues become...well, I haven't been doing to well with my problems, or, I want my marriage to be put back together, or, I want my kids right, or, I guess it is about time that I joined the church.

Now, all these things are good in themselves. But they are not the reasons why we get saved.

So, When we say, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED, ^{we must} ..admit that ^{we} you are a sinner..

But, Not only because of what the Bible says about sin, but also because of the consequences. ^{Now let's look at} ~~WHAT ARE~~ THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN? ^{- ~~the consequences~~}

In our statement of faith, it quotes Ezekiel 18:4. "the soul that sins it shall die."

Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THAT?

Yes, it means physical death. We all ^{die} ~~is~~. But, it also means spiritual death. ^{or} Isa. 59: 1 and 2.....(Read Vs 1-2)

Ephesians 2:1 ^{Say that} that I ~~quoted~~ a moment ago. We are dead in transgressions and sins though I am physically alive.

There is not only physical death. There is also spiritual death. A person who is not saved is going to ^{die} ~~be~~ physically. ^{and} he is also already spiritual dead.

A believer is going to ^{die} ~~be~~ physically, but he is no longer spiritual dead, but spiritual alive.

2) But, there is a ^{second} death that is a consequence of sin that is fundamental to tell people if you are preaching the true gospel of Christ.

Turn to Revelation chapter 20...I am hoping, today, that some people will seriously consider what I am saying to the point that we will understand why so many people who say they are Christians, really are not. Because the issues of the Gospel have never really been clear to them. They have never fully understood their need of a saviour. When we talk about consequences. This is very serious.

Revelation 20 verse 11.....(READ VS 11-15)

Dear friends, I don't understand anyone's ^{Gospel} ~~gospel~~ presentation that does not understand the consequences of refusing Christ. A gospel that doesn't desire, with hearts of compassion, to keep people out of hell.

I ^{really} ~~really~~ believe this is a very serious issue...whether we are witnessing to someone in the market place or teaching a Sunday school class.

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Dear friends, you cannot present the true gospel without mentioning Hell. If you are doing that, then Praise God. But, you see, we all know that it is a general trend, in our society, to ignore the issues of sin..death..and hell. And we wonder: Do people really know the Lord? You see, I don't understand my need of a savior apart from the consequences of my sin. I am being saved from Hell. I don't want to spend an eternity in Hell. I want to be in heaven forever.....(quote: John 3:16)

It sure makes you love Jesus..Right?

(2B) (2)Now, let's come to step number two: In order to be saved we must believe that Jesus died for our sins and rose again from the dead. You see, the heart of the Gospel is to believe that Jesus died for our sins and he rose from the dead.

In Acts 4 verse 12 Peter says.."And there is salvation in no one else; for there is ~~no~~ other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

In Acts 16 we find the story of the Philippine jailer. Paul and Silas were in jail. (tell the story)

You must believe that Jesus died for your sins.

Let me illustrate. On that day when Jesus Christ died, you know that the Bible teaches that two others died with Him. One ~~thief~~ ^{Thief} literally repented when he said to Jesus, "remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus responded, "today you shall be with me in Paradise."

The other thief rebuked Jesus. "If you are the Son of God, why don't you get us off this cross?"

Now, as I look at the sin issue I see a very interesting thing as I look at those three crosses. *Can you sort-off visualize three crosses in your mind?*

You see the sin of the thief who repented was placed over on the Lord Jesus Christ when he died. But, the sin of the other thief was still on him..

Let me put it another way. In the case of the thief who repented, sin was in him, but in was not on him. In the case of the thief who did not repent, sin was both in him and on him in terms of consequences. And in the case of our Lord, sin was not in him at all. But, all the sin of the world was placed on him. Isn't that wonderful? As you look at the issue as it relates to the cross of our Lord. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

(3B) This brings us to the third step. Turn to Romans chapter 10. Step number three is to confess that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior.

Now, in this third step we have a little problem in people's thinking. People often say, "Well, if you really believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your savior and Lord, why do you say that you must confess with your mouth?"

Well, I say that because the Bible says that. The Bible teaches that I should confess with my mouth. But, I believe we might have a little misunderstanding here. There is a difference between believing that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and confessing Him to be my savior and Lord. There is a big difference.

Look at Romans chapter 10 verse 8. (Read Vs. 8-11)

That phrase in Vs 11 "will not be disappointed" in the Greek literally translated says: "will not be put to shame." And it is connected with the word "confess."

Here is the point: if you are not ashamed of the Lord, and you say you believe in him, then you will confess with your mouth that you belong to Him. I

think that that verse teaches that there is something questionable about folks who say they are believers, but they refuse to acknowledge that fact in anyone's presence. I think that is dangerous.

Let me try and demonstrate. Let's take this chair that is up here on the platform. If you ask me. "Bill, do you believe in that chair." I would answer; "Yes, I do. I believe in that chair. I have great faith in that chair. I have seen chairs just like that chair many, many times."

Now, you probable didn't notice, but when I came up on the platform, I didn't get under that chair and check it out. I probable should have knowing my seize and weight. But, I did not. WHY? Because I have faith in that chair. I have seen chairs just like that chair. And I believe in chairs.

Now, let me ask you a question. I said I believe in chairs. But, do I have saving faith in that particular chair? NO! I haven't. WHY? Because I haven't sat in that chair, yet. Do you understand the issue? It is easy for me to intellectually agree that that chair will hold me up. To look at that chair and see how strong it is build and to say, I BELIEVE IN THAT CHAIR. But, to demonstrate saving faith, I must go over and set in that chair. Because when I do, I am trusting myself to the thing that I said I believe in. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

Some people say, "I believe in Jesus Christ." But, until you trust yourself to the one you say you believe in, you are not saved.

I meet many, many people who say: "I grew up knowing about Jesus." But, the issue is whether you have personally committed yourself to him as your

only savior from sin. The issue is whether you have acknowledge Him as Lord of your life; and the fact that there is no hope for you apart from Jesus. To confess Jesus Christ as Lord and savior is committing yourself to Him. Trusting Him and no one else for your eternal salvation.

Dear friends, when the Holy spirit of God is working on a person's heart, there will be recognition that they are sinners and they needs a savior. There will be a belief that Jesus died and rose again for my sins. But, there comes that moment to make that commitment. "Jesus! Come into my life. I confess and commitment myself to you. Make me a new person." And when that happens, you are saved. Old things pass away. All things become new.

Shall we close in prayer