

We need a divine saviour

Jesus

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'Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." Col 2:6-12

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God promised a Divine saviour

This message declares that there is no other name under heaven by which we may be saved other than that of Jesus, (Acts 4:12) He is the Word of God who came to live with us as God's Son made alive in the flesh, so He could deliver us out of the darkness by His sacrifice on the cross, so that we may received eternal life in order for us to live in fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The message of God's Divine Saviour has its origin when God created all things in the beginning. This is when Adam was made with a divine nature when God breathed His life into him making him a son of the mighty God. But when Adam disobeyed God he sinned against God and died in his spirit to his divine nature of light, to be left spiritually destitute as just a man of flesh, (Gen 6:3) with a sinful human nature walking in darkness.

As a result, Adam could not remain living in intimate fellowship with God because there can be no fellowship of light with darkness. Thus it is

written, 'What partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?' (2 Cor 6:14) 'Therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.' Gen 3:23-24

Since that time, everyone born on earth is born with Adams sinful fleshly nature and carries his spiritual DNA which has a propensity or inclination towards sin. "Men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil." (John 3:19) Therefore just as God is light, man is born into darkness and does not have the light of life. 'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' Rom 3:23

'Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.' (Romans 5:12) 'For the wages of sin is death.' (Rom 6:23) 'So then as through one transgression

there resulted condemnation to all men.'
Rom 5:18

Because of the sinful nature we inherit from Adam, man is not capable of redeeming himself from sin; man is not able to change darkness into light or to produce light from his darkness. A tree can only produce fruit according to its seed, if the seed is bad the whole tree and its fruit will be bad. Consequently man is not capable of healing his own sinful nature so he is helplessly lost in the darkness, and remains far from the light of the Kingdom of God unless God intervenes on his behalf.

'The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall and dust vou shall go. eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (Gen 3:14-15) From this point on, we see in Scripture our true need for the Messiah, Jesus Christ, And because of the

mercy of God we are promised a Saviour who would bless the whole world.

Gen 12:3

This Saviour was to come to His people as a newborn baby. (Genesis 3:15) He would come from the seed of a woman, since he would be born of God by the Spirit and not from the seed of Adam. (Matt 1:18) The baby was to be a boy. (Isa 7:14) This baby's name was going to be *Immanuel* which means God with us, for He was to be the promised Saviour who would come from God. (Isa 7:14 Matt 1:23) And be God's only begotten Son in the world.

Psalm 2:7

The baby was to be born into a Jewish tribe, the tribe of Judah as a descendent of King David. He was to be born into the family of Mary and Joseph, and since both Mary and Joseph were of this tribe, they would teach the baby boy the Scriptures and train him in all of God's law.

Genesis 49:10 Isaiah 11:1 Isaiah 55:3

The baby would be born in the town of Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2) He would be a prophet like Moses. (Deut18:15, 18, 19) He would be betrayed

for 30 pieces of silver by one of His own people. (Zech 11:12, 13 Psalm 41:9) He would be tried and condemned to death. (2 Samuel 7:12-14 Isa 53:1, 3, 8) He would be struck in the face and spat upon by His enemies. (Isa 50:6) He would be silent before His accusers. (Isa 53:7) He would die as a sacrifice for sin. (Isa 53:5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12) He would be crucified. (Psalm 22:14, 16, 17) He would not see death but would rise again and live forever.

Psalm 16:10 Daniel 7:13 Psalm 110

The most irrefutable evidence of Jesus' divine nature comes to us in the beginning of John's Gospel. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.'

John 1:1-4

God gave us His Son as the way to life

When the time was just right, Jesus came from God into the world of darkness as the *light and the*

life of men. (John 1:1-4) He came so that all who believe in Him might walk in the light as children of God. (John 1:12-13) God was not going to leave men without hope. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

John 3:16-17

Jesus didn't come to condemn but to die for our sins so that we could live. 'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Rom 6:23

However if anyone doesn't believe in Jesus as Lord and saviour, he is condemned in his sinfulness to be eternally separated from God. 'He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.'

John 3:18

God had to send His Son because sinful man cannot die for his own sin, let alone die for the sins of others because of his sinful nature. 'For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.'

Rom 5:6-8

To be a perfect sacrifice, it must be without sin in order to justify the guilty, so God sent His Son to be born as a man of the seed of God and not from the seed of Adam. Even then, although tempted in every way as we are, He did not sin and remained the perfect offering for sin. 'For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.' (Heb 4:15) 'For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.' Heb 10:14

Jesus is God's Just sacrifice

Furthermore, to expect God would provide a way of salvation that didn't conform to His Just Law would mean He was a weak and inconsistent God. To suppose God would only provide a saviour according to the ability of men is to expect Him to provide a less than perfect sacrifice that cannot atone for sin. A less than perfect sacrifice of a natural man of the world couldn't be without sin, and would therefore be ineffectual for cleansing and justification. To offer anything less than a perfect and just sacrifice would display double standards by looking to creation the deliverance. This would mean God's righteous judgement would be abrogated and overturned in favour of double mindedness and hopeless inconsistency. We could therefore conclude that God could not really be a God we could trust if He was inconsistent. He would be untrustworthy.

Good works won't work, for it is impossible for anyone not to transgress at all. 'For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.' James 2:10

So there is no possibility of salvation without a perfect sacrifice because sin leaves a dark stain of guilt on the soul that cannot be removed by any good works or religious practice on behalf of man. Only God's forgiveness and justification through the shed blood of His Son on the cross can bring the righteousness needed that cleanses guilt from the heart of man.

Therefore, anything less than a Just sacrifice couldn't deal with sin and its consequences, and would leave man in the same condition he had when all he could rely on was the system of animal sacrifice. 'For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.'

Heb 10:4

'By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.' Heb 10:10-14

He was God's just sacrifice because He was divine. 'For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.'

Col 2:9-12

'When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.'

Jesus taught that the Son has authority to forgive sins. (Matt 9:6) And the Jews said they knew only God could forgive sins. (Mark 2:7) So Jesus was indicating He was God. The Jews were offended by Jesus' claim to be doing the work of God and answered Him, "for a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.'

John 10:33

Jesus is the Word of God

From the beginning He was the Word of God. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.' (John 1:1-4) Jesus is the living revelation of God as our eternal Father; He is the only way to God, He is the truth of God and the life of God. Since nothing that has come into being comes apart from Him, the scriptures which points to Him are also of His doing. Jesus has always been the Divine Teacher,

for it is in Him 'In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.' (Col 2:3) And it is from Him and through His word that we can walk in His light.

As the Word of God, Jesus is the way to God, for He is the way, the truth, and the Light (John 14:6) for all those who hear His call and will follow Him as His disciples in obedience and truth. Those who follow Him and obey Him, will not walk in darkness but have the Light of Life. (John 8:12) Jesus has promised to come and live in us so we can walk as He walked, for His Spirit will teach us all things. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

'The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if

anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.' Rev 22:17-19

We need Jesus as our divine saviour

Since Jesus was without sin, His sinlessness was proof He had to be eternally God and not part of God's creation, for only one born of the perfect nature of God and not from the sinful seed of Adam could save us from our sin. Therefore He had to be God in nature and therefore perfect to be able to pay the penalty for all our sins. 'So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.'

Rom 5:18

Jesus willingly suffered in our place the separation from God that sin causes when He died on the cross. Because He was eternally one in Spirit with the Father, His greatest suffering was the separation He experienced from the eternal Father when He took upon Himself the sin of the world. But because He was God He couldn't die even though His earthly body was killed on the cross. So Jesus could confidently say before He was crucified "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

John 2:19

The fact He was to be raise from the dead did not lessen the awful pain of death to the presence of God that He undertook in our place. But His resurrection from the dead proved His claim to be the Son of God who had the power over life and death, not only for Himself but for all who would believe in Him. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matt 28:18) "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand." (John 3:35) "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father." John 10:17-18

The fact is, since God had to provide the only sacrifice acceptable for sin, it demonstrates the

seriousness of sin and the inability of men to make any atonement for sin on his own behalf.

If God was going to send a saviour to redeem the world from sin as He promised, that saviour had to be divine in nature and in practice. That saviour would have to be as God amongst men, Immanuel. "Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father: how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father." John 14:9-12

God wants us to be sure of eternal life

God so loved the world that He wanted to give us every assurance that whoever repents and believes in His Son could know for certain that they had eternal life. "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36) Our Father did not want men to have no real hope of salvation so that they would never knew if they were saved until they came to the last judgement. God loves us so much He gives us certainty; so that believing in His Son and obeying Him means we receive eternal life. Ultimately the only way God could give us this certainty was to save us Himself. Therefore God would pay the price for our freedom from sin so we could live with Him.

It should go without saying then, that we don't need more laws, we don't need another religion, and we don't need more religious works, we don't need to sacrifice any more animals. We need Jesus the saviour of the world. The Word of God became flesh and dwelt amongst us to be the sacrificial Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice given us

by God so we can have a perfect life.

John 1:29

Jesus came that we might be like Him

Jesus the divine saviour didn't just come to cleanse us from sin. Jesus came to die for our sins so that we could be cleansed in order to born again of God so that we might live with Him in eternal fellowship. "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3) 'But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.' (John 1:12-13) "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.' 2 Pet 1:3-4

And it is the Fathers perfect plan that we are transformed into the image of the Son of God so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:29

Jesus came from God and taught us that the unapproachable God of Mount Sinai was now eminently approachable and wants us to know Him as our Father who cares for every aspect of our lives. Jesus even taught us that His desire was that we become one with Him and the Father. "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."

John 17:20-21

Only God can give life to the dead, only God can forgive sins, and only God can transform us into the image of His beloved Son. Only God can raise Himself from the dead. And only God can give the Holy Spirit for the purpose of changing us into His image. So our God has given us the Holy Spirit

who would be our constant companion, (John 14:16-17) teaching us all things. John 14:26

Our choice is clear

God's saviour is His Son Jesus. Jesus calls on all who will follow Him to be disciples in all obedience and truth. These disciples are to follow His example and do what He says in exclusion to all else, so they can become like Him. 'Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.' 1 John 3:2

Because we have been given Jesus as our divine saviour, we know He chose to die in our place, and we know He Has atoned for our sins by taking our punishment upon Himself. We know He has redeemed us by the shedding of His blood so we are freed from the power of sin and consequently free to live unto God. We know He justifies us who are guilty before God so that we can be made righteous and set apart for life with God. We know He died the death we deserved so we can

live His life. We know when we surrender our life in the flesh to serve Him we know we are born of His divine nature. Consequently we can know He has reconciles us with God because He gives us His life and His Spirit, so God the Father, Son and Spirit can come to abide in us so we will never be alone again.

The proof of the effectiveness of Jesus as our one and only Divine Saviour is the transformation that takes place in the lives of those who surrender all to follow Him in all obedience and truth.

Consequently, it is not everyone who says to Him, "Lord, Lord" who can claim Him as their own. Those who belong to Him show the evidence of His obedient life made alive in them; since they have died to self so that they may live in newness of life as His life is made alive in them. It is these who the scripture refers to when it says 'We will be like Him.'

Jesus is our saviour, therefore, 'Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.'

Phil 2:8-11

Jesus says to all who will listen "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies." John 11:25

Because we have a divine saviour we can be sure of His forgiveness if we repent. We can be sure we can walk with God because He gives us a new divine nature. We can therefore be sure we can walk with God today because He is the perfect sacrifice for a perfect life lived with God.

If the saviour of the world is divine, surely it is incumbent on us to do things His way if we intend to share in the work He has done on our behalf?

The question is, will we abide in Him?

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies."

John 11:25

