

### False Remedies to Sin

People have tried to save themselves from sin in 4 main ways:

1. By being good (Personal merit- righteousness). Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 5:20. A person's righteousness in relation to God is like filthy rags. Righteousness acceptable to Holy God is not inherent in a person. Note: some people are better behaved than others but self-righteousness cannot be measured against Holy God (Amos 7:7-8; 1 Peter 1:17).
2. By doing good (performance/works; religious ritual; keeping the law). Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:15-16, 21; Galatians 3:11; James 2:10. Righteousness cannot be gained by what we do.
3. Because of whom they are (religious heritage). Romans 2:25-29; Romans 1:16; John 1:29. Righteousness does not come by natural birth or by cultural, ethnic, or religious tradition.
4. Because of what they know (wisdom and intelligence). 1 Corinthians 1:18-22; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Matthew 16:16-17. The reality of who Jesus is cannot be discerned by a person but must be revealed by God Himself. Righteousness does not come through knowledge alone.

### APART FROM GOD SALVATION REALLY IS IMPOSSIBLE

The clear teaching of Scripture is that only God can save - apart from God salvation is impossible.

Isaiah 59:1-4; 15-21; Luke 18:23-27; Romans 5:6-8.

The reality is that apart from Christ

1. All people are lost and helpless.
2. All people are condemned to die for their sins.
3. All people are separated and alienated from God because of their sin.

The doctrine of salvation has to do with God providing a way to deal with a person's lost, sinful state that would not violate His holiness and justice. And only God could do that for a person lacks the ability and capacity to save him/herself from sin.

Sin caused a person to lose his/her righteous state. Righteousness is "right-relationship" with God. It leads to rightness (actions), moral purity (constitution) and right-standing (placement) with God.

Most unbelievers are convinced that:

1. They are not really sinners
2. They are not as bad as some other people
3. Hell is not real
4. Their righteous deeds (good) will outweigh their wicked deeds (bad)
5. A loving God would not allow people to go to hell
6. Somehow all people will be saved in the end

The only problem with these beliefs is that none of them are true - they are all unbiblical (i.e., do not align to what Scripture teaches about God).

### True Remedy for Sin

Salvation is founded in 3 aspects of God's character.

1. God's love. John 3:16; John 15:12-13; The unfailing, unconditional commitment of God to a person
2. God's mercy. Romans 9:10-18; Jude 21. The withholding by God of deserved punishment
3. God's grace. Ephesians 2:4-1; Titus 2:11. The granting by God of undeserved favor.

No one is saved based on personal merit, heritage, performance, or good works- salvation is grounded in God Himself.

**What exactly must a person believe to be saved?** Saving faith includes believing that you are lost and professing and inward belief that: Romans 10:9-10

1. Jesus is God. John 8:18, 23, 58; John 10:30; John 17:11, 24
2. Jesus died on the cross as a substitute for our sins. John 10:11; 1 John 2:2
3. Jesus was buried and rose on the 3rd day. 1 Corinthians 15:3-5; John 11:25

#### Results of Salvation

1. Forgiveness of sins- Ephesians 1:7
2. Position in Christ- Colossians 1:27
3. Christ as life- Colossians 3:3-4
4. Reconciled to God- 2 Corinthians 5:18
5. Destined for eternal life- John 3:16
6. Redeemed from slavery and sin- Romans 6:20-23
7. Dead to (separated from) the power of sin-Romans 6:6-7; 11-12
8. Now a child of God- John 1:12-13
9. Permanently indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit- Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
10. Transferred from Satan's kingdom of darkness to Christ's kingdom of light- Colossians 1:12-14
11. A new creation in Jesus Christ- 2 Corinthians 5:16-17
12. Set apart to serve Christ- 1 Timothy 1:12