

## The Source and Necessity of a Supernatural Illumination for Salvation.

The process of a person passing from death until life is characterized primarily by an illumination of the conscience through the power of a properly articulated gospel. Until such illumination occurs, it is pointless to try to get a person respond to God in a saving way by believing.

By the way, I am not espousing the teaching of Calvinism which teaches that man is so depraved he must first be regenerated before he can believe. Very clearly the Scriptures teach that faith precedes the new birth. But the Scriptures also teach that comprehending the gospel message precedes faith. This is made obvious by the verse below:

**Ephesians 1:13** In Him you also , after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

When such an illumination of the conscience has occurred there will be only a little need to explain to the yet to be converted what they need to do to be saved, for they will be anxious to do so. All they will need to do is to exercise receptivity towards that message they have just heard by an act of faith which rests the eternal destiny of their souls upon the facts they have just heard in the presentation of the gospel.

The illumination of the Conscience which enables a person to believe the gospel and be saved is a supernatural work upon the human conscience which is made possible by that supernatural message of the cross. Until the significance of that message has dawned upon the human conscience, urging someone to believe is pointless.

A person cannot from the heart embrace a concept they do not understand. A divine illumination must take place upon the human conscience, a divine illumination which occurs when a conscience concerned about where he or she will

spend eternity is enlightened by that supernatural incorruptible seed of the word of God as it pertains to the gospel of grace.

1 Peter 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

There exists today a lot of man made responses to God through which people suppose that they can be set on the right path to an eternity with God. The surrender to the Lordship of Christ Gospel, the Ask Jesus into my heart gospel, the ask God to forgive all of my sins gospel, are just a few modern such responses. They all have one thing in common, they are counterfeit ways to God which do not involved the illumination of the conscience with the power of the message of the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God

Notice in our verse it that message of the cross which is the illuminating power of God unto salvation. When that facts of the gospel message impact a soul hungering and thirsting for righteousness, understanding springs up in that person's conscience, an understand which enables them to believe.

**1 Corinthians 1:21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

A divine illumination of the conscience preceding faith must occur prior to believing because God's way of salvation is not a plan that the mind of an unregenerate man can produce. Every man made religion in the world has at its core a personal merit based salvation in which that which merits an eternal relationship with God is a devotion to the deity cited in the creed of the religion. This is the case because all of these religions have as their source the satanic frame of reference of the its founder, and the only relationship with God a satanically manipulated frame of reference can produce is a relationship which only a fallen angel can comprehend: a relationship based upon strict obedience.

Only Judeo-Christianity has at its foundation a relationship with God which has at its core a Saviour-God, whose selfless sin settling sacrifice is that which merits an eternal relationship with God.

**Colossians 1:20b, having made peace through the blood of His cross.**

The above conclusion is not a conclusion concerning a relationship with God that a man could ever come up with on his own. It is a conclusion that man can arrive at only as his conscience is illumined by a supernatural message; and that message is the message of the gospel of grace. A person is saved by believing a living, supernatural, life giving message:

Galatians 1:11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Notice what Paul says in the above verse. The gospel is not a man contrived message. It did not originate in the heart of man, it originated in the foreknowledge of God. It is this supernatural Gospel message which is the which is the power of God which illumines the conscience to be able to believe and be saved.

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it a righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

The illumination power of God leading to a person to be able to believe and be saved comes through an explanation of why Jesus died and what was accomplished for us in that death. Notice once again in Romans 1:17, just what it is about the gospel which gives it its illuminating power.

For in it a righteousness of God is revealed.

In the gospel a righteousness of God is revealed.

The righteousness of God of which this verse speaks is not that fundamental characteristic of God's character. Because the definite article is absent from this verse, the correct translation is A righteousness of God is revealed: A righteousness He based upon the sacrifice of Christ which he intends to bestow upon us through or faith in that sacrifice.

The gospel reveals a righteousness of God's provision which He intends to bestow upon us as a free gift. The gospel is the good news that Christ has offered himself up to God to pay for the sins of each and every person on the face of the earth. Furthermore, the Gospel is the revelation that God the Father has accepted that offering of Christ as that which satisfies his righteous demands against our sins. The satisfaction with which the father views that offering of Christ for us can be our forever righteous standing before the Father, free for the believing.

The gospel invites us to believe in a source of righteousness outside of ourselves: Christ has brokered peace with the Father through the blood of His cross.

Colossians 1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Where there was enmity with the Father because of an unsettled sin debt, there is now a peace brokered by Christ's shed blood.

**Ephesians 2:16** and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.  
<sup>17</sup> And He came and proclaimed peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Notice that we gentiles who once had to stand afar off now have access to the father because Christ's offering has removed the barrier of our sin debt. Where there was the tension of an unsettled sin debt, there is not the peace of a satisfactory payment of our sin debt. We can rest in this satisfaction which Christ has accomplished for us concerning our sins. Because of the justice of God having been satisfied through the offering of Christ, the above passage invites us all to access the Father through the merits of Christ crucified.

The skilled evangelist is always looking for new ways to make the gospel "click" in the conscience of the yet to be converted. And always praying for an opportunity for such a hearing.

The focuses agenda of the devil in this world is to prevent the supernatural power of a properly articulated gospel from impacting upon a fertile human conscience. Because when that combination happens, everlasting life is very likely to occur.

Notice in the context below how Paul's conduct amongst the unsaved is focused upon commending himself to every man's conscience in order that he might have access to that conscience to sow the seed of the Gospel.

<sup>NKJ</sup> **2 Corinthians 4:2** But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the **light** of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Notice in the above verse the devils energies in this world are focused on preventing the conscience of the unsaved from understanding a message. He doesn't care how good or bad a person is. He doesn't care if you go to church. He doesn't care if you sing in the choir, preach in the pulpit, or serve on the stewardship committee. The only thing he cares about is that a properly articulated

gospel does not illumine your conscience to the point of you being able to exercise saving faith. If he can do that, he's gotcha.

In fact the more religious you can be while missing that all important message, the better the deception is.

Understand this, the devils number 1 mode of operation in the world is one of deception. The strength of a deception is to what degree it resembles the real thing. Thus the devil counterfeit a genuine relationship with God with his satanic counterfeit, which allows a person to get just as busy religiously as they want, just so long as that supernatural message of the cross never impacts a fertile human conscience. Notice that in the two verses below, the mode of operation of the devil is deception and counterfeiting.

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

You know I was talking with a young man this week about the gospel. And one lament he told me was this, "How come I have been going to church all my life and have never heard this??"

Because the devils ministers, many who stand in pulpits Sunday after Sunday, who do not even know they are doing the devil's biddings, are preaching about a whole lot of stuff, while, Sunday after Sunday, not presenting and explaining the only message that can illumine the conscience to the point of saving faith. That's

how it happens, all the time. I can't tell you how many people I have led to faith in Christ who, upon their conscience being illumined and the blinders coming off being really angry because, for years they sat in a church, Sunday after Sunday and NEVER heard the gospel explained.

You know, it is a very scary thing when for the first time in your life, the lights turn on in your soul because of a properly articulated gospel and then and only then do you realize how deceived you were IN CHURCH your entire life. Oh my Dan! I would have gone to hell, having sat in church all my life, because the preacher did not know what he was talking about!

How does this happen? Maybe the preacher, who entered the ministry for vain glory, was just going through the motions without having ever come to grips himself with the life giving message of the Gospel. Maybe he was simply parroting how others had told him to lead people to Christ, without any original soul searching contemplation of the matter.

Understand this, the first step in a genuine conversion experience is a divine illumination of the conscience brought about by that supernatural message of the cross.

Twice in the book of Hebrews. salvation is said to begin with illumination.

**Hebrews 6:4** For *it is* impossible for those who were once (for all) enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, **6:5** and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

Hebrews 10:32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings.

Here are three more verses which demonstrates that it takes the illumination of the conscience through a properly articulated gospel to beget a new person in Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

James 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Luke 8:12 "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

Let's talk a little about the Crossless gospel light bunch. The crossless gospel light gang mentions the sacrifice of Christ in their gospel presentation but still presents the idea that being saved is all about a person believing THE PROMISE. They mention the sacrifice of Christ but still press for a decision to believe the "promise", not at all discerning whether or not the person they are sharing the gospel with is getting it. Understand this, Just mentioning that Christ died as part of the "Romans Road" is not going to bring about the illumination to the conscience through the facts of the gospel. An evangelist must explain the gospel, explain what Christ actually accomplished on the cross and the value of that to the yet to be converted. Moreover, the evangelist will know if the Holy Spirit is creating illumination. If illumination is not occurring, the skilled evangelist does not press for a decision, pressing for a decision without divine illumination will only be promoting a counterfeit conversion experience.

The gospel is not about believing a promise, it is first and foremost a divine illumination of the conscience brought about by a proper articulation of a supernatural message, the gospel, a message which the Holy Spirit uses to create understanding in the hearts of hungry souls, souls hungry to hear and appropriate gospel truth.



By the way, the message of the gospel Is an offer of an everlasting right relationship with God. As we read in Hebrews 10:14, For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14)

But what the crossless gospel and the crossless gospel light crowd fails to understand is that you don't just mention the sacrifice of Christ and then press for a decision. Rather, you articulate the value of the sacrifice of Christ until the value of that work DAWNS upon the conscience of the unsaved, and then and only then do you invite them to believe the MESSAGE you have just proclaimed. The successful evangelist is not pressing for a decision, he is pressing for an illumination of the conscience through an explanation of the value of the finished work of Christ to the yet to be converted.

So my problem with most people I know who try to evangelize is they do not utilize the illuminating power of the gospel. They are pressing for a decision not a persuasion concerning the all sufficient nation of the sacrifice of Christ. They are so desperate for a decision, they do not give the gospel a chance of illuminate a conscience unto eternal life.