**Being a Christian Means Wanting Others to Be Saved**

Jesus’ Mission Statement is given very early in the Gospels. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for **He will save His people from their sins**." (Matthew 1:21, emphasis mine D.T.). Often we speak of Jesus being “The Great Physician” as He came to heal those who are spiritually sick. Some of the Jewish leaders were complaining due to Jesus’ spending time with tax collectors, and harlots but He responded with these words, “When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Mark 2:17). Luke’s Gospel records these words by the Son of God, "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10). Bluntly, without Christ man is eternally lost due to his sins.

Without Jesus’ death on the Cross all of mankind is without hope. During His earthly ministry, Jesus saw the great masses and saw their need for redemption. He also, wanted His disciples to see the same thing. Immediately after His conversation with the Samaritan woman by the well, and He pointed to the need of harvesters. "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36 "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.” (John 4:35-36). Obviously, He was not speaking of harvesting grain but sows. Much like when Jesus told them about becoming “fishers of men” in Matthew 4.19.

The Jewish religion was a teaching religion, one where the priest were to teach the people, and parents were to instruct their children in the ways of the Lord; but it was not an evangelistic religion. There was no great commission given to the Jews to go out and covert the world to Judaism. Jesus during His ministry was trying to get the disciples to have an evangelistic mind set. Not just to know who Jesus was and how mankind is to be saved but to share this knowledge with others. “And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:45-47).

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter preached the Gospel and spoke of it being for those who were “afar off” Acts 2.39. This refers not only to those in foreign lands but those not a part of the Jewish religion. The one thing everyone needs is salvation and that means learning how to be saved through the Gospel of Christ. “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.” (Romans 1:16). Going on in Romans, Paul spoke of his personal desire toward those who were rejecting the Gospel. “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.” (Romans 10:1). He was not praying for them to be saved outside or despite the Gospel but through their acceptance of its message.

The same need exists today. Man without Christ is lost in sin, Romans 3.23; 6.23. Only by His blood can our sins we remitted or washed away, Acts 22.16. Only by preaching and teaching those words will people know how to be saved. The message itself is simple, Jesus is the Son of God, He came and was sacrificed on the cross, His blood was shed on that cross, we are redeemed by His blood. We must confess Him as being our Lord and Savior, repent of our sins, be baptized for the remission of our sins, and live according to His word. There are no short cuts, no new conditions, no other Gospel.

Going back to the title of this article. Everyone who is a Christian now, became one through the efforts of others. A tract handed out, a website proclaiming the message, a person who sat down to explain the Bible, or some other means, but we came into contact with this glorious message because someone wanted us to be saved.

That is what every Christian should want for every person alive. We want our children to know God and the joy of salvation. But it should not stop there as we want our parents, our relatives, our friends, and even strangers to know Christ. This is what we should be working for in our homes, in our worship, and in our conversations. To see more Bible teaching, more conversions, and more being saved. Are we, you and I, doing our part? Are we fulfilling our mission statement? -- Dennis Tucker