

The Drowning Man

by Bill Jackson

A swimmer finds himself in difficulty while swimming in a deep lake, and frantically calls for help. A boat appears in the boatman calls to the swimmer, "I have good news for you; I have come to save you. There is a problem in that my boat is leaking badly, but I brought an inner tube in case we need it. Unfortunately, I forgot to put air in the tube, but I also brought along a rope. I probably should have tied the rope to a tree on shore, and to tell you the truth, I'm not a very good swimmer. But come along – I cannot guarantee that we will make it to land, but we'll try everything and do our best."

As he is speaking, another boat pulls up. It is a seaworthy vessel and the pilot calls, "I've come to save you. Give me your hand and I'll put you into my boat. We'll soon be on dry land."

WHICH BOAT WOULD THE SWIMMER CHOOSE?

A sinner realizes his sin will cause him to perish (Romans 3:28; 6:23).

A religious system comes to his aid, but all it can present are ineffective sacraments. He is told that if he tries real hard he might make it, but there is no assurance.

Then, the biblical message of salvation is presented to him. He is told that the Lord Jesus Christ is able to save to the uttermost (Hebrews 7:25); whoever receives Him becomes a child of God (John 1:12); He will save those who call upon Him (Romans 10:13); He will give you full assurance because you are trusting Him (1 John 5:13).

WHICH MEANS OF SALVATION WOULD THE SINNER CHOOSE?

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM. The Roman Catholic Church says this is the New Birth. The will of man must operate in any Baptism. God said man's will isn't involved in the New Birth (John 1:13).

PENANCE, or the Rite of Reconciliation, by which sins after Baptism are absolved. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that this remits only a part of sin's punishment.

CONFIRMATION, HOLY ORDERS, MATRIMONY. There is no teaching in the Bible to indicate that any of these aid in salvation.

HOLY COMMUNION, which is supposed to be a partaking of Christ, but doesn't save.

EXTREME UNCTION (Last Anointing). Even this doesn't guarantee salvation.

No single Catholic sacrament, devotion or prayer guarantees Heaven. No combination of them gives assurance. This unsure means of salvation is like the leaky boat with its ineffectual aids for the drowning man.

BIBLICAL SALVATION

There is only one perfect Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is impossible for any work, devotion, or prayer to supplement His completed work. Indeed, anything that professes to add to His work maligns and blasphemes His finished work for salvation.

Read Hebrews 10:11-18 to see the glory of His perfect sacrifice. Note especially three verses. In verse 12, Jesus offered one sacrifice for sins forever, then sat down at God's right hand, thus portraying His glorious resurrection from the dead. In verse 14, this offering perfected those who are cleansed thereby. In verse 18, where remission of sins is, there is no more offering for sin (No Mass!)

We sincerely invite you to forsake anything and anyone that has been offering an imperfect means of salvation to you. You may have been trusting in your morality, your church, membership, or your ability to hold on; you may have been hoping that some combination of religious acts and rituals would eventually see you through. Perhaps you are participating in Masses, devotions and penances – now you see these cannot save you!

when one trust Christ, the Perfect Saviour, one turns from everything that previously was thought to contribute to salvation. It is Jesus Christ alone, or you are lost.

If you will now put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your perfect Saviour from sin, please fill in your name and address and mail it to the address shown below.

Name _____

Address _____

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