

NO DIFFERENCE

"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:22-24.

There have been many changes in this world. Numerous changes have taken place in the governments that have ruled the world. The political forms of government have changed greatly. The world changed from a theocracy to a monarchy that was at first absolute and then limited. Then some nations changed from a monarchy to a democracy. There have been many changes scientifically. Things have changed tremendously so far as the educational world is concerned. Many religious changes have taken place also. Even though men live in a world of constant change, from a spiritual point of view, they are on the same plain as that on which Adam and Eve found themselves when they were driven from the Garden of Eden.

There are all sorts of mental distinctions, social strata, educational qualifications, monetary differentiations, political categories and national barriers. There are the rich and the poor, the wise and the foolish, the refined and the uncouth, the strong and the weak, the righteous and the wicked, the sincere and the pretentious. One person will be thrilled by the musical productions of a great master, while another listens disinterestedly and wonders what anybody can find in such music to thrill a soul. One person will go into ecstasies over some jazz tune, while another will turn away in disgust.

Is there no common denominator of life? Is there no point at which it can be said, "There is no difference"? Yes, birth is a common denominator of life. No person has ever lived in this world except he was born. Death is a common denominator of life. None of us can hope to escape death.

In the spiritual realm there are some common denominators comparable to those we find in the physical. Spiritually people are in exactly the same place where men were at the time Paul wrote, "there is no difference." Concerning the spiritual life of all those who are not Christians the Bible plainly teaches us certain things. From it we learn that "there is no difference" in the following:

I. The Need Of Salvation.

Adam needed salvation the day he was driven out of the Garden of Eden. Eve needed salvation that same day. In Genesis 8:21 God said, "And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done." David, the sweet singer of Israel wrote, "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psalm 14:2-3). "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies" (Psalm 58:3). Jeremiah the Prophet said, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). Listen to the Apostle Paul: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin" (Galatians 3:22). In the light of these scriptures we are justified in saying there is no difference as to the matter of salvation.

There are vast differences between men, such as culture and ignorance, riches and poverty, morality and immorality, respectability and reprobation, but there is this feature which is common to all--the sense that there is a gap between what we are and what we ought to be. The best as well as the worst are conscious of this gap. All alike were born in sin. Philosophize, analyze and psychologize about it all you please, but God's Word still declares that fact. "If we say that we have no sin,

we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." "If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." All have practiced sin. "There is no man that sinneth not." Your own hearts corroborate this truth. Your experiences and observations will verify it. Surely no intelligent, honest person would dare insist upon being sinlessly perfect. "For there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

There are degrees of wickedness and guilt, but all have come short of the standard, which is the righteous life of the Lord Jesus Christ. All come short of that glory. If you will place your life along side that of Christ, you will be ashamed. These words, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," accurately describe all who have not received Christ as their Saviour from the guilt, the penalty, the power and the consequences of sin.

II. The Way Of Salvation.

All are sinners. The child in its simplicity, the maiden in her modesty, the woman in her maturity, the youth in his vigor, and the man in his manhood are all human and every one is menaced by that human failing which is called sin. There is in all of us the fatal taint of sin, but there is for all of us a sure cure of sin. Thank God, the remedy reaches as far as the disease.

The way of salvation is the same for all. It is to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." The only way to be saved is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is not one Saviour for one kind of sinner and a different Saviour for another kind of sinner. Nor is there one condition of salvation for one sinner and another for other sinners. "There is no difference." God is no respecter of persons. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him," (John 3:36). Believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is the simple way and the only way of salvation for any sinner, no matter where he may live.

The Lord Jesus Christ has provided salvation for all who will believe on Him. There is a balm in Gilead. There is pardon on Calvary for all who will avail themselves of the matchless grace of God. The blood of Christ will cleanse from all sin, for all time and eternity, for all of those who will come unto God by Him. His precious blood has never lost its power. Its crimson tide has never abated its force or lost its fulness. It is just as efficient today as it was when it flowed from Immanuel's veins on Calvary.

III. The Invitation To Salvation.

In Genesis 7:1 God said, "Noah, come thou and all thine house into the ark." Thus God invited a man and his wife and their three sons and their wives to come into the ark for safety. That ark is a type of our Lord Jesus Christ. As they were invited to come into the ark for safety, so Christ Jesus today invites sinners to come to Him for salvation, for He said: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

In Isaiah 55:1 we read, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat: yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Listen to Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."

In the early days of the Bible the invitation was "to come." In the closing days of the Word of God the invitation was "to come." So, there is no difference in God's invitation. It is the invitation for the sinner to come to Christ.

God wants you to be saved. He wants you to be saved from sin and hell. He wants you to be saved for Christ and to heaven. If you die in your sins, it will be because you have abused the love of God, refused the mercy of God and rejected the Son of God.

Christ died for you. "For God so loved, the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:5-6). His death is sufficient for all, but efficient only to those who believe on Him. Any soul may be washed clean in His precious blood. That is the best, the greatest and the most inspiring news in the world.

The Holy Spirit invites you and tries to persuade you to come to Christ and to receive His salvation. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." How could an invitation be any simpler, broader, more inclusive, or more appealing? Hear and heed the call of the Spirit as He pleads with you to accept the free bounty of God's love and receive eternal salvation. If you want your sins to be forgiven, you will receive forgiveness upon your acceptance of Christ as your Saviour. If you have a desire to go to heaven, you may certainly do so provided you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the One Who loved you and gave Himself for you.

There is no difference in the need of salvation. There is only one way of salvation. There is no difference in God's invitation to salvation. Christ is able and willing to save all who will come unto Him. Unsaved friend, won't you come to Christ and trust Him to save you now?