

"G P S"

God's Plan of Salvation

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss God's Plan of Salvation as it applies to all of us today.
2. GPS
 - a. Global Positioning System
 - i. It is a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) developed by the United States Department of Defense. It is the only fully functional GNSS in the world.
 - ii. It uses a constellation of between 24 and 32 Medium Earth Orbit satellites that transmit precise microwave signals, which enable GPS receivers to determine their current location, the time, and their velocity¹
 - b. Individual GPS systems are used in cars to navigate
3. Church Sign - Lost - Try GPS - God's Plan of Salvation
4. We are on a journey to Eternity
5. When we teach a person "God's Plan of Salvation" we teach the things they need to know and to do in order to become a Christian and receive the forgiveness of past sins and live with the hope of eternal salvation.
6. There is more to God's plan of Salvation than just the steps of Salvation.
 - a. It would include all things that God did from eternity to redeem man.
 - b. A book by Robert Milligan is entitled "The Scheme of Redemption". In this book he traces the development of God's plan of salvation from the creation, through the crucifixion of Christ and the establishment of the church.
7. This is "God's Plan of Salvation"

Discussion

I. Faith

- A. Heb. 11:6 NKJV "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
- B. Faith involves belief in everything that God has revealed to us
 1. We must have faith about God, that He Exists and is our Creator
 2. Christ - birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension - He is our Saviour. - He died for us - Rom. 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
 3. Faith in the scheme of redemption as it is unveiled in the O.T.
 - a. Gen. 3:15 - prophecy about Christ
 - b. Gen. 12:3 promise to Abraham that "in you all families of the earth shall be blessed."
 - c. I sa. 2:2-3 = predicts that in the "last days" the "house of God" or the church would be established in Jerusalem.
 - d. I sa. 7:14 is a prophecy about the virgin birth of Christ
 4. Birth of Christ is recorded in Matthew and Luke -
 - a. His life is recorded in the Gospels
 - b. He told us in Matt. 16:18 that He would build His church
 5. The church was built or established - Learn of this in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost

- C. Saving faith is taking God at His word.
 - 1. There is One Faith - Eph. 4:5 - this is the system of Faith
 - 2. Romans 10:9-10 "believe in thy heart"
 - 3. We are not saved by Faith Only - James 2:24 "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."
 - 4. Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
 - 5. The faith that saves is an obedient faith.
- D. In God's Plan of Salvation the first thing we must do is have Faith

II. Repentance

- A. Repentance occurs in the heart
 - 1. Definition - "To change one's mind" It is to change from evil to righteousness
 - 2. It is a turning around and going in a new direction
- B. John preached repentance - Matt. 3:1-2 "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!""
- C. Jesus preached repentance - Matt. 4:17 "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.""
- D. We are commanded to repent
 - 1. Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized"
 - 2. Sin has separated men from God.
 - 3. Sin must be stopped in our lives
 - 4. We bring forth fruits of repentance as we turn away from our old life.
 - 5. In God's Plan of Salvation we must Repent of our sins

III. Confession

- A. Jesus said in Matt. 10:32-33 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."
1. Confession is necessary
 2. If we do not confess Him then He will deny us before God
- B. Paul tells us in Romans 10:9-10
1. We confess with our mouth
 2. It is something that we say about what we believe
- C. Confession is often misunderstood and false teaching is practiced
1. Some churches teach that the sinner confesses all of his intimate sins to another man. This is not the confession we read about in the N.T.
 2. Some religious groups tell their people that the confession is: "I believe that God for Christ's sake has pardoned my sins."
 - a. This is a false doctrine.
 - b. Forgiveness takes place in the mind of God only when the sinner has obeyed all of God's commands.
 - c. Confession comes before baptism. Baptism is for the remission of Sin.
 - d. Therefore it is unscriptural to confess that God has already pardoned our sins.
 - e. A person cannot be scripturally baptized for the remission of sins on such an unscriptural confession.
 3. Some churches tell the person to confess: "I accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour". That is not found in the Bible.

D. What then is the "Good Confession" which must be made unto salvation?

1. "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Matt. 16:16 - confession made by Peter
2. Peter said to Jesus in John 6:69 "'Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"
3. The Eunuch made this confession before he was baptized: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Acts 8:36-37
4. This great confession affirms that the person known in the scriptures as Jesus, born in Bethlehem, reared in Nazareth, later dying on Calvary's cross was, and is, and ever will be the only hope for sinful man. He is the One of whom the prophets spoke when they spoke of a redeemer. HE IS THE ONE !!!

E. Confession by itself does not bring salvation, but it is essential because it is one of the parts of God's Plan of Salvation

IV. Baptism

- A. Three times in the book of Acts the question or it's equivalent is asked: "What must I do to be saved?"
1. Acts 2:37 the people on the day of Pentecost asked "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
 2. In Acts 9:6 and 22:10 Paul asked the same "Lord, what do you want me to do?"
 3. Then in Acts 16:30 the jailor asked "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

B. The answer in every case involved baptism

1. Acts 2:38 Peter told the people to repent and be baptized. And this was for the Remission of Sins - about 3,000 people were baptized
2. Saul was commanded to arise and be baptized - He immediately did that.
3. The jailor and his household were baptized the same hour of the night

C. What is baptism?

1. It is a burial in water - it is immersion
2. Sprinkling or pouring water on the head is not Bible baptism
3. Col. 3:2 "Buried with him in baptism"

D. Is baptism essential?

1. Mark 16:16 - Jesus placed baptism between belief and salvation
2. In Acts 2:38 baptism is for the remission of sins
3. Acts 22:16 baptism is for the washing away of sins
4. Gal. 3:27 - baptism is how we get into Christ
5. 1 Cor. 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." - We read in Ephesians 1:22-23 that the Body is the church.
6. The Bible clearly teaches that baptism is essential for the salvation of our soul.

E. There is much false teaching about baptism

1. Babies are not subjects of Bible Baptism - they are not in a lost condition
2. Sprinkling or pouring is not Bible Baptism - it is by immersion
3. Telling people that they are saved before baptism is not Bible baptism.
4. You cannot be taught wrongly and be baptized correctly.

F. 1 Pet. 3:21 "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

G. Baptism is an essential part of God's Plan of Salvation.

CONCLUSION

1. Prov. 14:12
2. Illustration: A gospel preacher was talking to a woman who said when she knew she was saved. The preacher said, "How do you know you are saved?" She made the following reply: "I was attending a religious service one time and all of a sudden I felt light as a feather...I felt I was floating...I felt I was saved." The preacher questioned the woman as follows: "Were you really floating?" "Certainly not," she replied. "Were you light as a feather?" He asked. "Of course not," she said. "Were you saved?" Asked the preacher. "Oh, yes, I was saved," the woman replied. The preacher than asked this significant question, "Lady, if you could not trust your feelings about the first two things, why do you trust them about the third thing? Even though you felt light as a feather that didn't make it so. Even though you felt you were floating, you were not floating. And because you felt like you were saved that didn't make it so."
3. G P S God's plan of Salvation includes man's part to
 - a. Believe in Jesus Christ
 - b. Repent of his sins
 - c. Confess him with his mouth
 - d. And be baptized in the name of Jesus to receive the forgiveness of sins.
4. On our journey to Eternity we must allow GPS to guide us safely home.

End Notes

1. Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Positioning_System

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning Jan. 18, 2009
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org