

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

THE SIMPLE PLAN

By Jeff Sweeten

The Gospel plan of salvation is simple and has been simple since its inception. One must ask the question: To what audience was this plan preached? To the literati (the theological scholar)? To the “clergy” of the day (who can explain it to those of us less spiritually discerning)? To some especially “gifted prophet” whose direct, personal link to God gives him special revelation (notwithstanding 2 Peter 1:20)? NO! The Gospel was preached by individuals accused of being “*unlearned and ignorant men*” (Acts 4:13) and was set forth “*not with wisdom of words*” (1 Corinthians 1:17) nor “*with excellency of speech or of wisdom*” (1 Corinthians 2:1) but so understood clearly by the target audience (the sinner – Luke 19:10) that the “keepers-of-the-faith” were green with envy (Mark 15:10). Salvation is simple (2 Corinthians 11:3).

The source of my faith is readily available since “*faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Romans 10:17). This faith is essential since “*without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*” (Hebrews 11:6); and Jesus said, “*if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins*” (John 8:24).

However, I am saved “*not by faith only*” but by a faith that works (James 2:24). Accepting God’s revelation that I am a sinner (Romans 3:23) must produce godly sorrow that “*worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of*” (2 Corinthians 7:10), “*for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*” (Romans 10:9-10) because “*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven*” (Matthew 10:32-33).

If I understand and obey the preceding Divine demands, “*what doth hinder me to be baptized*” (Acts 8:36) since “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16) or, as Peter put it, “*baptism doth also now save us*” (1 Peter 3:21)? Finally, I will be “*faithful unto death*” so as to receive “*a crown of life*” (Revelation 2:10).

Now, did you need professional help to understand this article? Did you need an elitist, religious pretender to explain it? I didn’t think so. The simple plan is just that: simple.

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