

**Christ' blood was shed "for the remission of sins"** (Matt. 26:28) "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

**God demonstrated His great love for us** (John 3:16). And Christ did likewise. God did not just tell us that He loves us He showed us. Love that is not demonstrated is not true love.

1. **God is love** (1 John 4:8).
2. **Christians are the spiritual offspring of God**, therefore His children is love also. But if we have not this true love are we the true children of God: "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (1 John 4:8).

**In fact, if we have not this true love will we even become the children of God? No.** Because to become a child of God one must be born again: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). And to be born again one must obey the truth: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: <sup>23</sup>Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:22,23). Baptism is essential to one's salvation: "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:" (1 Peter 3:21).

**Jesus said:** (1.) "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15) and "If a man love me, he will keep my words" (v.23). But note what Jesus said further: (2.) "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Baptism is a part of the Great Commission that will last until the end of time (Mark 16:15,16).

**If you love God** will you not do as these people did: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). They were added to the church, the family of God (v.47). And so can you be. May we assist you? ♥



## **"Holding forth the word of life"**

WOL

(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

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Volume VI

May 2013

Number 9

### **What If I Am Lost? (Part 2) (Does God Care If I Am Lost?)**

by Perry Sexton

In looking back to when the jealous-stricken enraged King Saul was after David trying to kill him, David penned these words: "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; **no man cared for my soul** (Psa. 142:4). At times we may feel the same way, but God through His Word has shown us that He greatly cares for us.

**God the Father cares 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).

**God the Son cares for you:** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). Think of the many things Christ suffered because of His love for us.

**God the Holy Spirit cares for you:** The Holy Spirit's great work was to bring unto mankind "the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15-17).

**The Godhead greatly cares for you and all people.** From the beginning of this world we find the three Persons of the Godhead involved in their perspective roles concerning man and his well being; especially man's eternal well being (Gen. 1:1,26,27). In this article we want to focus our attention upon the member of the Godhead who became flesh and died for us upon the cross of Calvary representing to us the love of the Godhead (read John 1:1-14).

**Does Jesus Care?** The answer we find throughout the Bible is YES! Yes He cares. And because Jesus cares, we find that Jesus

“went about doing good” for mankind (Acts 10:38). As a matter of fact, He did so much good that the apostle John went on record to say: “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen” (John 21:25).

### **Let Us Look At A Few Examples Of His Loving Care**

**We learn from the Word of God that Jesus cares for our physical well being.** Jesus has compassion on the sick: “He healed their sick” (Matt. 14:14). The Lord’s compassion is seen toward the two blind men; Jesus had compassion on them and healed them (Matt. 20:30-34). “Jesus moved with compassion” and healed a leper (Mark 1:40-42). Jesus has compassion on the hungry and those in need: He fed 5,000 (Mark 6:44) and then 4,000 more were fed (Mark 8:9).

**Think about this:** How much do we (Christians) care about the well being of other people? Are we like the Dead Sea always receiving, but never giving of our money and time to help others? Jesus cares greatly for us, but are we like minded in caring for other people? Do we do good for others (Matt. 7:12)?

**Jesus has compassion on the bereaved.** The shortest verse shows this, “Jesus wept” (John 11:35). Jesus had compassion on the widow of Nain whose son died and raised him from the dead (Luke 7:11-15).

**Jesus has compassion on the persecuted for righteousness sake:** “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:10). When Stephen was stoned to death, before he died, he was allowed to see Jesus, “the Son of man standing on the right hand of God” (Acts 7:56). Surely this was showing the compassion and concern of Jesus and giving Stephen great assurance.

**Jesus has compassion on those that suffer because of calamities.** In a great storm upon the sea the disciples woke Jesus and asked Him: “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” See Mark 4:36-41. Yes, Jesus cares. He arose and calmed the storm.

### **Most Of All, Jesus Is Concerned That We Perish Not Eternally**

Jesus has compassion on our spiritual well being: “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). We see Jesus’ great concern for mankind in Matthew 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them

which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!” Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41). God cared so much that He gave His Son (John 3:16). Christ cared so much that He gave His blood, His life (Acts 20:28).

**Again, think about ourselves (Christians):** how much do we care about the souls of others? Do we care enough to talk to them? Often times we may not talk religion with others because we don’t want to upset them. Would we rather upset them and perhaps save their souls, or not risk upsetting them and let them perish eternally? Again we find that Jesus was “moved with compassion ... he began to teach them” (Mark 6:34). Yes, Jesus cares more than we can ever know. But what about ourselves, how much do we care?

**How much do we care for our own souls (non-Christians)?** Do we care enough to learn the precious Words of life? Only truth can save (John 8:31,32; 17:17). Please note these verses concerning obeying the truth:

1. (1 Peter 1:22) “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:”
2. (Matt. 7:21) “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”
3. (Heb. 5:9) “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

**Christ shed His blood for us:** “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28). Jesus shed His blood in His **death** (John 19:33,34).

**Those who obey the gospel are washed in His blood:** “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5). We are baptized into Christ and into His **death** (Rom. 6:3). We contact the blood of Christ in baptism. This is why our sins are taken away at baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16). God chose baptism to be the means to save us as He chose the ark to be the means of saving Noah and his family (cp. 1 Peter 3:20, 21).