

Send for this FREE tract.



Word of Life



“Holding forth the word of life”

WOL

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

WOL

Church of Christ (Rom. 16:16) Mission USA

Perry Sexton 1763 Highway 166 N. Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474

Email: [jpsexton@peoplepc.com](mailto:jpsexton@peoplepc.com)

Website: [www.mission-usa.org](http://www.mission-usa.org)

Volume VI

August 2013

Number 12

## Saved Like The Thief?

by Perry Sexton



Many believe it!

**But**

**is that what God would have us to  
do to be saved???**

(Please study all Scriptures and their context, King James Version used. Please read all verses.)

In all sincerity many people think they can be saved like the thief on the cross, but is this true? If it is not true, then many people will be lost eternally because of this false doctrine. Now is the time to learn the truth before it is everlastingly too late (compare [cp.] Matt. 7:21-23).

Please read the inspired account of the thief on the cross in a reliable version of the Bible such as the KJV or NKJV: **Luke 23:32-43.**

## Why Do You Transgress the Commandment of God by Your Tradition? (part 1 of 2)

by Perry Sexton

Mankind was created by God and placed on the earth for each individual to be tried and proven, whether or not they will be suited to live with God eternally. There are many Scriptures to prove this such as: “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:” (1 Peter 4:12). And “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:” (1 Peter 1:7). Consider also James 1:12 “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (cp. Revelation 2:10; 3:10, etc.). To be sure, God does not tempt anyone: “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: <sup>14</sup> But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:13-15).

**The great test is whether or not man will obey God.** This is seen from the beginning in the Garden of Eden. Good and evil, life and death was placed before man in the very beginning: “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: {17} But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:16 17). In Genesis chapter three we find

Satan (cp. Revelation 12:9) tempting Eve with the three major categories of sin with which every man is faced: “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2:16, please see the context). Compare Genesis 3:6.

**Plainly stated to the Israelites:** “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:” (Deuteronomy 30:19 cp. v.15). The key to life and blessings is to obey God: “Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; {27} A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: {28} And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known” (Deuteronomy 11:26 28).

**For us under the New Testament Age the test is no different,** but more revelation has been given (2 Peter 1:3), and the law has been changed (Hebrews 7:12) based upon “better promises” (Hebrews 8:6). But do not err, mankind still must obey God in order to be saved eternally (Hebrews 5:8,9). The test is whether or not we love God! We prove our love by our obedience. Jesus said: “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). And: “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

**Many claim to love God, but the proof is in obedience.** Jesus said of such people: “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. {9} But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:8 9). Throughout the ages few people have served God acceptably. Therefore, few people will be saved. Jesus said: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: {14} Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13 14). However, the majority of people think they are saved. Consider this judgment scene: “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. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:21 23). This picture of the judgment shows that many thought they were serving God faithfully, but had never done so. A close study of the matter reveals that these many people had never obeyed the gospel of Christ (cp. Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9).

**Why so many fail the test.** Like Eve, many people are deceived by Satan (cp. Revelation 12:9; Matthew 7:15; 15:13,14, etc.). But the good news is, we do not have to be deceived! We have God’s Word which, for the most part, is easy to understand. How hard is this to understand: “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17)? Not hard at all! What then is the problem??? Well, Eve was deceived, but there is an underlying reason for her being deceived. And that reason is common with most people who are deceived by Satan. It is selfishness! Mankind wants to do what they want. This is true in everyday walk of life and this is true in religion. Of course, most people want to be saved, but they want to be saved their way. Most people want to “serve” God, but in their own way. This is seen from cover to cover in God’s Book. We have God’s Word showing that true obedience is the good way, and the only way that leads to eternal life and that disobedience leads to eternal ruin (Matthew 25:46, etc.).

**The problem today is not that God’s Word is hard to understand.** The problem is that mankind still wants to do things their own way. Multitudes of Scriptures could be presented that are easy enough to understand and compared to what the vast majority of religious people are doing, we find they are not obeying God! There are many ways in which man justifies himself in what he wants to do. They “add to” and “take away” from the Word of God (Revelation 22:18,19); They “wrest” or twist the Scriptures (2 Peter 3:16); They “pervert” the gospel of Christ; They show great “wisdom” (1 Corinthians 1:18ff) in explaining away the truth, and in general, just ignoring the plain commands of God (cp. Psalm 119:126, 139; Hosea 4:6; Malachi 2:7,8). ♥ [Conclusion next month]