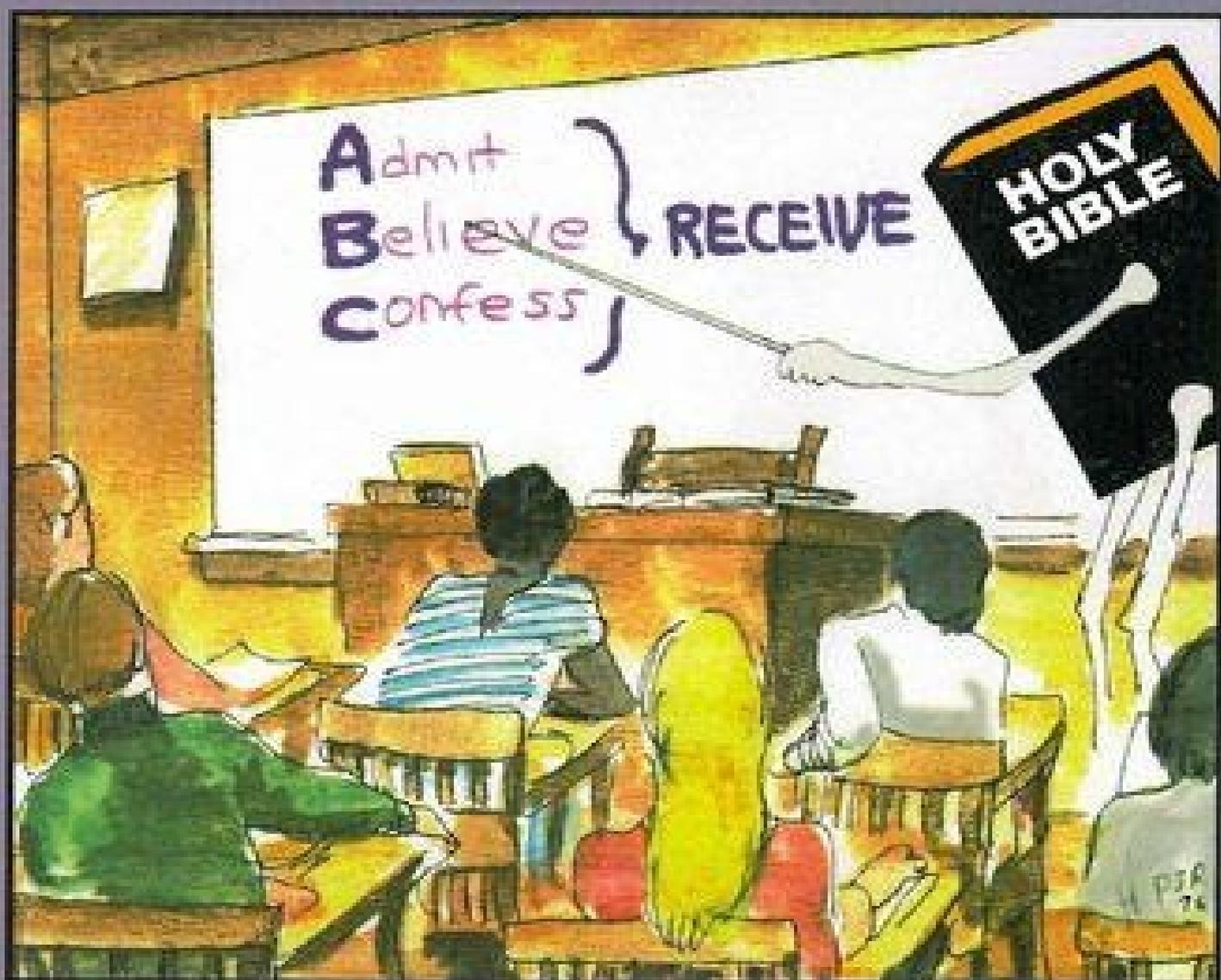


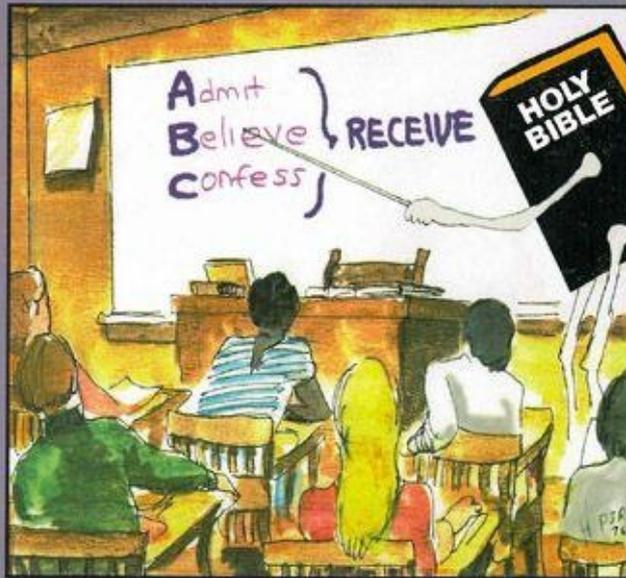
The Simplicity Of Salvation



A Message

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THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION

Turn in your Bibles to 2 Corinthians 11:1–3. The Bible says, **“Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”** I would like to call your attention to the last half of verse three which says, **“...so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”**

Bob Jones Sr. said to me once, “You are going to find, Pete, that not many people will follow you in the strong emphasis that you give.” I didn’t know what he meant by what he said. As far as I was concerned, I wasn’t emphasizing anything too strongly. He said, “Sometimes, you know, it is a good idea to remember that people can use a little milk as well as meat, and people can always use a little bit of milk for something.”

With that in mind, I would like to bring a message on the simplicity of salvation. The text says that Paul was worried about their minds becoming corrupted from the simplicity that is in Jesus Christ and the simplicity of the gospel. Did you know that the gospel is so simple that most people will never be saved? People want something that is complicated. Salvation isn’t complicated. A famous preacher said, “Simplicity is truth’s most becoming garb.” By that he meant that truth looks best dressed up in something that you can understand.

There is an old saying that one day truth and error went swimming. While they were swimming, error got out and stole truth’s clothes. The truth came out naked, and he has been naked ever since. Because of that, error always looks like it is so because it has on the wrong clothes; but you can always spot truth because it is naked. That is, truth is always something plain and easy to grasp.

We preachers sometimes get the reputation of making salvation so hard that you have to be a marathon runner or a high hurdler to get to Calvary. I thank God that I have never been guilty of that sin. I make it pretty tough for a Christian to live for God. I’ll grant you that. I’ll grant you that I put up every obstacle that I can to test your discipleship. But when it comes to salvation, I think it’s as easy as falling off a log backward! I really mean that.

God made salvation easy because of love. Tell me something. If you are on the outs with your wife or husband right now (like some of you probably are), and you love them, would you make it especially difficult to get back together and get things right? Imagine a man that loves his wife saying, “Okay, I’ll tell you what honey, we’ll get things put back together provided that you do this and this and this and that and this....” Listen, love will

make things easy.

You women, if you're on the outs with your husband that you love, you're not going to lay out a bunch of things like, "We'll back together if you'll help me wash the dishes every night and mend the screen door and never raise your voice at me...." That is not the language of love. When you tell me that it's hard to get saved, I'll tell you that you are out of your mind. If someone loved you enough to die for you, is He going to make it hard for you to get together with Him?

Jesus said, **"...I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"** (Matt. 9:13). **"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"** (Luke 19:10). Did you ever see people looking for a lost baby? The newspaper comes out telling the story of a little lost girl or boy. People turn out by the thousands to help locate the lost child. The whole town turns out. They beat the bushes; get out the hound dogs, sheriff's department, and highway patrol; and bust their necks to try to find that baby. That happens all the time. Now picture this lost sinner who is on his way to hell. The Lord is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Is He going to make it hard for him? Will He make it hard to get back? People don't use their heads. I think that a lot of the trouble with folks that get saved is that they get self-righteous. After they're saved, they look back trying to figure it out and say, "Well, maybe I *did* have something to do with it!"

If you are unsaved, I'll tell you what to do to go to hell— NOTHING! I'll tell you what to do to go to heaven—take what God did for you! You say, "It's not that simple." You're cuckoo; it's that simple. I'll tell you what your trouble is—you want to get a hand in it. When it's all over, you'd like to stand up and say, "I'm a self-made man. I pay my debts. I've always paid my own way and toted my own load. I've always carried my own burden. I...I...I...I...I...." That's your trouble, bud. That's why a lot more women get saved than men. Most women have more sense about yielding to Christ. A man will stand up and say, "Well, now, I...." That will be your downfall, fellow.

Listen, it is easy. Why is it easy? Because of love. I wish that I loved souls more than I do. Do you know why Jack Hyles wins a lot of souls to the Lord? Whatever else he may do, that fellow has a genuine compassion for individuals. He really does! Whatever other troubles he may have, that's one trouble he doesn't have. One time one of the little bus kids from Hyles' church came up to him wearing an old, dirty dress and tennis shoes with her hair uncombed (probably had a mother that couldn't rear a dog, much less a child) and said, "Well, we're leaving."

He said, "You are?"

She said, "Yeah, we're going away. We have to move."

He answered, "Well, I sure am sorry, honey."

She said, "Yes, but we're going away and not coming back again."

Hyles replied, "I sure am sorry about that, but there's nothing I can do about it."

She continued, "Yes, but you don't understand. We're going, and we're not going to get to come back here again."

He said, "Well, I heard you, honey."

She declared, "Yes, but you don't understand. You're my best friend, and I'm not going to see you again."

He replied, "Well, I'm sorry."

She asked, "Well, ain't you going to cry?"

He cried.

See?

Listen, if the Lord knew that you were going to leave Him and never see Him again and were going to go off into a lake of fire and never be happy again and be in torment forever; if He didn't want you to go and gave His life so that you could get out of there, what do you think He'll make you do to get saved? The Lord knew if you went to hell and burned forever you couldn't be saved. If you did the best you could do, you couldn't be saved. If you suffered as bad as you could, you couldn't get saved. Why do you think He would make it tough on you? It's easy!

Picture a fellow out in the lake drowning. He screams, "Help! I'm drowning!"

I come up to him and say, "Do you believe in the virgin birth?"

He answers, "Glub, glub...."

I say, "Do you believe in the bodily resurrection and the crucifixion?"

He replies, "Glub, glub, glub...."

"Do you believe in the second coming and the pre-Tribulation rapture?"

"Glub, glub...."

"Do you believe in the one holy, apostolic church and that Jesus suffered for your sins and that He was buried and rose again the third day and that He is seated at the right hand of"

"Glub, glub, glub, glub...."

He's going *down*! Listen, you don't have to understand the whole Bible to be saved.

I talked to a fellow one time who had studied the Bible for twenty-two years. I said, "What for?"

He answered, "To know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

I said, "Are you saved?"

He replied, "I hope so."

I asked, "How do you get saved?"

He answered, "You have to repent, confess, believe, and be 'buptized.'"

I asked, "Have you repented?"

"Yes."

"Have you confessed?"

“Yes.”

“Have you believed?”

“Yes.”

“Have you been ‘buptized’?”

“Yes.”

“Are you saved?”

“I hope so!”

What a fool, man! The fellow had been studying the Bible for twenty-two years to find out something that God offered him for nothing. If you studied for twenty-two years, it wouldn't save you. There are some people who are going to hell since they can't figure out who Melchizedek *wasn't*. That's right, brother. Imagine a fellow going around trying to win souls to Christ, sitting down in your home trying to teach you Matthew 24! What a place to start! I have been saved for over thirty years and can read Matthew 24 in Greek and don't totally understand it! Are you going to try to keep them out of heaven because they don't understand Matthew 24? God made it easy. Do you know what the trouble is? Men make it complicated. They twist it up. They make it just as difficult as they can.

I have here some notes that I have taken through the years to illustrate just how difficult men can make things. Here's a good one: “He possessed no follicle appendages on the cutaneous apex of his cranial structure anterior to the sagittal suture and posterior to the labial suture where the said follicle appendages habitually germinate.” You go to a doctor and pay him good money to tell you that. Do you know what he said? He said, “He doesn't have any hair on the top of his head.” But, you see, you can't charge a guy fifty dollars to say that!

Here's another one: “Regardless of their pigmentation under normal illumination, felines of all species have been observed to be achromatic when the atmosphere is enveloped in tenebroucity.” What did he say? “All cats look gray at night.”

If I had the time and the eyesight, do you know what I would do? I would go back to college and rewrite all of the college textbooks. I mean *all* of them—physics, geometry, geology, astronomy, the medical books—*all* of them! It wouldn't come out epidermis, dermis, and endodermis; it would be *top* skin, *middle* skin, and *bottom* skin! It would put every doctor in the country out of business.

Recently, in a certain gathering of great intellectuals and brains, someone as a joke hired a movie actor to give a prepared speech with a bunch of stuff like this in it. He gave the speech, and the listeners were asked what they thought of it. All of the Ph.D.'s and the doctors wrote what a great thing it was. All that the actor did was to read twenty-five minutes of gibberish! He said something like this, “We must utilize the criteria in value for the clarification of sexuality where the proliferation of the simplistic mentality is contemporaneously relationable to what might eventuate. The totality may not be its real self in the all form but the deep, personalized, in-depth study of the total meaning gives community involvement and expresses meaningful relationships where the real commitment is a focus on reality to utilize the feedback with a proper perspective in this

area of dialogue and gives the definitive content of the institutionalized structure where the real thrust of the validation of the dynamic whole gives ethic values to religious affirmation of that which is verifiable where the conceptualization of efficiency in an isolated orientation develops a sectarian mentality" Ah, your father's moustache! Do you know what that is! That's somebody trying to make it as difficult as possible.

Listen, you are a sinner. Got that? You're going to drop dead. Got that? You're going to hit the judgment. Got that? You aren't ready to hit it. Got that? The Lord says, "I'll take your place and get you through." Got it?

I copied a preacher in Panama City, Florida, preaching on Daniel. He said, "It is pertinent to scrutinize the secular history minutely and delve into the magnetic attraction of the threefold aspect..." (You see those big words and say, "Boy, oh, boy...." You might as well be talking in tongues for all of the good it is doing.) "...the threefold aspect of the prophetic realm to integrate the apocalyptic books into perfect harmony. The insidious approach that indignenimously questions the approbation and veracity of Daniel...." You say, "What did he say?" He didn't say one fool thing in this world!

Men make things complicated. Why is that? In the first place, men complicate salvation because they want to feel something. There are Southerners who will never get saved until they see a ball of fire go through their room. They heard their great-grandmother say, "The night I got saved, I saw the Lord stand at the foot of my bed, and a light filled the room. A ball of fire went through the room and out the window." So, a fellow waits fifty years to see a ball of fire going through his bedroom. It could have been a seagull flying through the room with a flashlight in its mouth!

I heard a fellow say once, "Let me tell you, bless God, when the Holy Spirit gets ahold of you, it will make your hair stand on end!"

I thought, "What if the guy was bald?" I mean, he'd be waiting all of his life for his wig to go up.

Wouldn't that be rough, man? Folks are waiting for a feeling and a shout. I know of unsaved people waiting to feel holy. They think that right before they get saved, they're suddenly going to get kind of a molasses, syrupy feeling and just drip with piety and walk out the door like an angel. You aren't supposed to feel holy. You're supposed to feel like the Devil before you get saved. When the Holy Spirit comes to a person and convicts him of his sin, He doesn't come there to make him feel holy. He comes to make him feel unholy.

I'll tell you another reason that men make salvation complicated. Men look at their own standards. They have some standards that they think God has to meet. They have the thing all prefigured. They say, "Well, now, if I get saved, it's going to have to be in the church that Christ founded." They they try to find the church that Christ founded.

"If I get saved, it's going to have to be with the people of my own crowd." There has to be a little bit of *elite* to it. There has to be a little *culture* involved.

I heard a fellow say, "I'd go to hell before I would get saved in a rescue mission." He'll probably go to hell, then, because the Lord heard him say it! You don't have to be saved in a rescue mission, but I'm telling you that if you're waiting to get saved where

they have an organ fifty feet high and paid opera singers in the choir and stained glass windows, the chances are that the Lord isn't going to mess with you anyway. I'll grant you that it's easy to get saved, but it's a mess if you don't realize you're lost. There's no use throwing a drowning man a life preserver when he's going down for the third time if he doesn't think he's drowning!

I'll give you another reason that men complicate salvation. They argue about the Scripture—fussing all of the time. I have talked to unsaved people who have quoted Acts 2:38; Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 6 and Hebrews 10. I've talked to unsaved people who have argued about eternal security. What would an unsaved man know about eternal security, anyway? He doesn't even have *temporary* security! What is funnier than a bunch of unsaved people sitting around arguing about whether or not you could lose salvation once you got it? They don't even have it! When it comes to salvation, there's nothing to argue about in the scripture.

There may be some things to argue about in the Scripture—some fine points, after you're saved—but there is no argument about how to get saved. There is only one way to get saved.

O Sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns Thy only crown,
How art Thou pale with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish Which once was bright as morn!

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And, should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love to Thee!

If you are saved, you know that the only way to heaven is the substitutionary blood atonement of Jesus Christ. If you don't know that, it's because you are *lost*. Now, go and argue! Go on and fight! Say, "Baptism, sacraments, church, hold out..." Go on and argue about it! If you are saved, you know that the transaction that placed your sins on Jesus Christ was done by God and you didn't have a hand in it. Folks want to argue about the Scripture.

A fellow came to town one time and saw two churches, one on one side of a street and another across the street. He said to another man, “Those two churches look like the same person built them.”

The man answered, “Well, it was the same folks. They split up.”

The first guy asked, “What was the difference?”

He replied, “The folks on this side of the street say that Pharaoh’s daughter found Moses in the bulrushes, and the people on the other side of the street say that she just *said* she found him.”

You wouldn’t think that folks would split up over a thing like that, but you have bigger splits than that in your town over less than that! Where did the church start? Who cares? *Are you in it?* Question: Where is the church that Christ founded? I have a better question—Do you know the Founder? The Bible says, **“He who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.”**

How easy does God make it? I’ll give you six things. I want to show you how easy getting saved really is.

— Number One —

Getting saved is as easy as taking a drink of water. Are you thirsty? Turn it on, put it to your mouth, and swallow it. Do you know what the Bible says? **“And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”** (Rev. 22:17). What did it say? *FREELY!* Then why is someone trying to tell you that you have to do something? He said *freely*. You don’t go up to a drinking fountain and find a sign that reads, “Insert 35 cents into the slot”!

I was in Bay Minette, Alabama, one time, dealing with an unsaved fellow. I finally said to him, “Why don’t you get saved?”

He answered, “I guess I just don’t understand it.”

I said, “I’m pretty thirsty. Would you give me a drink of water?”

“Sure,” he said. When he came back from the kitchen, I thanked him, drank the water, and placed the glass on the table.

I asked, “Did you give me a glass of water?”

“Yes.”

“Did I drink it?”

“Yes.”

“Did I pay anything for it?”

“No.”

“How did I get the water?”

“You asked for it and took it.”

That's how you get salvation. You just ask for it and take it.

— *Number Two* —

Getting salvation is as easy as receiving a gift. When Christmas rolls around, you come in and find a pile of junk on the floor under the tree. You go to that pile of presents and find a tag that reads, "Merry Christmas To So-and-so, From So-and-so." You pick up that present and open it because it's yours. See? You don't send them money for it. That would hurt their feelings. You don't exchange it. Have you ever met anyone to whom God gave salvation that ever traded it in for something else? I never have yet.

An old farmer gave me a watch once for Christmas. It was a big engineer's watch. He said, "I think any preacher ought to know when to shut up," and laughed.

He thought it was a good joke, you know. He was an unsaved drunk.

I took the watch from him and said, "Thank you. I appreciate this. What if I just don't take this watch and ask you to take it back?"

He answered, "Well, ah, well..."

I continued, "I'm going to take it. I know that it's a Christmas gift. But I'll bet you'd get pretty mad if I turned it down."

He said, "No, I wouldn't get mad." He was beet red.

I said, "Now, I'm going to take it, but can you imagine how God feels when you turn down the gift of God which is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord?"

He turned around and went out the door. I heard that later he was saved. I sure hope so. If he got saved, do you know how he did it? It's as easy as taking a gift.

— *Number Three* —

Getting saved is as easy as picking up money at the bank that someone else put in for you. If you have trouble paying your taxes and a friend of yours goes down to the bank and deposits a check in there for you and says, "I want this in So-and-so's account so that all he has to do is come down and pick it up;" all you would have to do is go down and get it. Aren't people strange?

If I owed someone fifteen thousand dollars and a friend of mine put that in my account and said, "I'm giving you this because I love you, and there are no strings attached;" do you think that I would go down there and declare that I was going to pay it myself and didn't want his charity? You're a blank fool. If a man loved you enough to do that with no strings attached, you'd be a proud fool to turn it down. That's the trouble with men.

Let's say I owed a debt that I couldn't pay and I went to the bank and said, "I just wanted to come down here and tell you how sorry I am that I borrowed money from you."

They'd say, "We are, too. When are you going to pay it back?"

I'd say, "I came down to promise you that I'd never borrow another nickel from you

again.”

They’d say, “That’s the best news we’ve heard in years. What about the five hundred dollars you already owe us?”

“Well, I’ll never borrow from you again.”

“Good. What about the five hundred?”

“Well, I swear by God that I will never hit you up for a cent again. You’ll never have to worry about me.”

“Good. *What about the five hundred?*”

Do you want to know how people are? They get down and pray, “Oh, God, I’ll never do it again. I’m going to straighten up. I’m going to live right. I’m so sorry.” What about the *past*, boy? What about the last fifty times you came up and borrowed a hundred dollars that you didn’t pay back? You have a record of sin that dates back almost to your birth. Who pays for them? You do, or someone else does.

Imagine my going down to the bank, and the bank manager says, “Look—you owe a great big debt here. You messed up here. You messed up there. You messed up over there. There was that mess in the Philippines, that mess in Hawaii, that mess in Japan, that mess in Oklahoma, that mess in Texas, that mess in Ohio, and those messes in Alabama and Florida. What are you going to do about it?”

I say, “I’m broke. I can’t do anything about it.”

The bank manager looks at me and says, “Well, you’re lucky that you have a friend.”

I answer, “Who’s my friend?”

He declares, “Someone named Jesus Christ came in here a while back and wrote out the whole thing and said that all you had to do was to come down and pick it up.”

I’d say, “I’ll take it!”

That’s the difference between the way some of us handle this thing and the way some of you handle it. For instance, you hear about it and say, “Well, I know about a man who collected the receipt and still smokes. I knew a deacon once who said he got the receipt and” Listen, if you’re not stuck on yourself, why don’t you pick up the receipt? It’s easy. Paul said that he was afraid that his readers would be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. What could be simpler than going down and picking up something that someone else gave you?

— *Number Four* —

Getting saved is as easy as answering an invitation (or a proposal, ladies). The fellow asks, “Will you marry me?”

The lady answers, “Yes” or “Maybe” or “No.” If she answered “Maybe,” she answered, “No.” “Maybe” turns him down flat—like a bedspread.

Some guy says to a girl, “Let me hear those three little words that will make me walk

on air.”

She answered, “Go hang yourself!”

I heard of a case once of a man who proposed to a girl whose father was worth four million dollars. He said, “Will you marry me?”

“No,” she replied.

“I didn’t think you would,” he said.

She asked, “Why did you ask, then?”

He said, “I just wanted to know how it felt to lose four million dollars.”

Suppose I get an invitation that says, “You are invited to Buckingham Palace on such and such a night for dinner with the heads of state of all the countries in Europe. Please tell us whether or not you can come.”

What if I wrote back and said, “Sorry, Liz, I’m going mullet fishin’ that night.”

Wouldn’t that be something? Listen, the King of glory says, “I have a banquet in the skies for you. I have a wedding feast. Come, for all things are ready. I’ve prepared a table. It’s all stretched out. I have a reservation for you. Do you want it?”

You say, “Sorry, J.C., I think a fellow ought to live it.”

That is what is going on. You simply answer an invitation. I answered Him and said, “Yes, Lord, I’ll be there, Lord willing.”

The Lord said, “I’m not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” The Lord is going to get me there.

Jack Hyles said that when he had that little church in Texas many years ago, there was a man there named Carmen Hatsfield. Carmen and another man named Cortez were working for the church one afternoon about four o’clock, and both were wearing overalls. Carmen said that he was called to preach but didn’t have anyone to preach to. Cortez said, “Well, you can preach to me.”

So, they went inside that old country church out there in the back end of nowhere about 4:30 that Saturday afternoon. Cortez sat in the back, and Carmen got up front and began to preach. Each time Carmen would say something good, Cortez would say, “Amen.”

Carmen would say, “You’re going to hell.”

Cortez would answer, “Amen.”

“You need to come down here and get saved,” Carmen would shout.

“Amen,” would be Cortez’ reply. There were just the two of them in the building.

After a while a young man in high school was coming home from a football practice and heard what was going on in the church. He came by and looked in the door and saw Carmen preaching to Cortez. That young man came in and sat down in the back and started to listen to the preaching. When Carmen gave an invitation, the young man came forward and was saved. Folks say, “Well, it just couldn’t be that simple.” Yes, it’s just that

simple.

— *Number Five* —

Getting saved is as easy as taking a shower. The Lord asks, “Wilt thou be clean?”

The leper answers, “I will.”

The Lord says, “Be thou clean.”

Who doesn't want a good shower when you're hot and dusty and tired? I learned how to appreciate a good cold shower at OCS in CMTC. After you've been out in those coveralls in the Georgia dirt, you have to scrub those things with that GI brush and GI soap. I'll tell you, when you come in, you appreciate a good cold shower or a cold drink of water.

One of the funniest things I ever saw in my life was at the bleachers at Fort Benning, Georgia. It was about the tenth of July and *hot!* They say that it was so hot that a dog was chasing a cat, and they were both walking. When it's like that, you stop sweating and sort of glow like a stop light up there in those bleachers. I saw a letter that some mother had written her boy. Some GI had dropped it in the bleachers. It said, “Dear Sonny, Please don't get too hot ...” (You know, the mother was trying to take care of her child at OCS.) “... and if you do get real hot, don't drink anything cold right away.” You should have seen “Sonny” when he got back to the PX. He was going back there getting a canteen cup full of ice cream, putting root beer across it, filling up the cup with cocoa, dumping that thing across ice, and just throwing that stuff down his throat. When a man gets thirsty, he'll go after that stuff. Do you know why some of you aren't saved? It's not because it's complicated. It's because you are not thirsty, and you don't want to be clean. All you have to do is step into the shower and turn it on.

I saw God wash the world last night with His sweet showers on high,
And then when morning came I saw Him hang it out to dry.

He washed each tiny blade of grass and every trembling tree.
He flung His showers against the hills and swept the frothy sea.

The white rose is a cleaner white, the red rose is more red,
Since God washed every fragrant face and put them all to bed.

There's not a bird, there's not a bee, that wings along the way,
But that is a cleaner bird or bee than it was yesterday.

I saw God wash the world last night; Ah, would that He had washed me,
As clean of all my sin and dirt as that old white birch tree.

Do you want a bath? It's free. It's as easy as taking a shower. Some of you folks are stained with sin, and you're just like the little boy in the Peanuts cartoon—Pigpen.

— Number Six —

Getting saved is like letting someone in the door. I am sick and tired of preacher saying, "Well, it's the baptism. It's the tongues. It's living it. It's having faith. It's realizing ..."

Do you know what it's *really* like? It's like saying, "Come on in!" The Bible says, "**Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me**" (Rev. 3:20). I heard the Lord knocking at the door. I said, "Who's there?"

Jesus Christ said, "It's me."

I said, "What do you want?"

He said, "I want to come in."

I said, "The door is open; come on in."

You say, "Well, I just don't believe that. It can't be that easy."

You do have a problem with unbelief, don't you? You hear a knock at the door. You look out the door. There is someone standing outside with holes in His hands and feet and a scar on His side. He has blood running down a gory face and spit dripping from his half-plucked beard. The tears are running down His face as you say, "Who is it, and what do you want?"

He replies, "It's me, Jesus Christ. I did this for you because I loved you. May I come in?"

Then you say, "Well, I think that if a fellow repents and confesses and believes and is baptized..."

Shut your mouth! Salvation is easy. Listen, when you make salvation hard, you blaspheme God. When anyone has put forth that much effort to save you, who are you to make your own little demands on what you have to do? The effort has already been made.

I read of a case years ago of a lady who was waiting to have an operation performed on her child that had been born blind. She wanted a great Viennese doctor to perform the operation. He was the only doctor in the world who could perform that type of operation, but even then it would take several months and many operations with the doctor having to live in Chicago the whole time. The mother waited and waited for an announcement in the newspaper of the doctor's arrival in the United States. She was then going to contact him about the operation. However, she never saw an announcement. One rainy afternoon, she heard footsteps on her front porch and went to the door only to find a funny looking man standing there with a big hook-nose, wearing a raincoat and funny looking hat. She

thought he might be a thief and said, “Get off my porch. You can’t stay here.”

He said, “Vell, it vas raining a little bit, and I thought I would stand on the porch out of the rain a bit. I have to walk a couple of blocks down the street.”

She said, “I don’t want you staying around my house. Get off!”

Off he went.

She watched the newspapers day after day for about two weeks. Finally she saw an article that said the Viennese doctor had been in the States and had been in the local hospital for a week but had gone back to Vienna not planning to return for another three years. There in the newspaper was his photograph. Do you know who it was? It was the man who had been on the front porch.

Listen—Jesus Christ has come closer than that to some of you, and you still haven’t asked Him into your house. The Doctor is on the front porch. Ask the Lord Jesus to save you now. Trust Him; He can open your eyes.

Would You Like to Know

How to be Saved?

Those of you who have read this book are faced with a choice: to respect and believe what the Bible says, or to reject the word of God as unimportant and ignore it. Ultimately, your fate is entirely up to you: whether you wish to go to heaven, or whether you wish to remain lost in your sins and hell bound.

The final question is this: Where will you spend eternity?

- (1) Living with God in a perfect universe forever (Heaven).
- (2) Burning with Satan in fire and brimstone forever (Hell).

These are the only two options presented in the Bible, and the Bible has never been wrong about anything. If you wish to live with God, then you have to accept His terms.

Since you, as a human being, cannot make yourself holy (“Not by works of righteousness which we have done...” Titus 3:5), the Lord is ready to give you His Righteousness (His Goodness) instead. His Righteousness is contained in Jesus Christ, who went to the Cross “to be sin for us...that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus Christ came to save you from hell when He suffered for your sin on the cross. If you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then you receive perfect Righteousness and Holiness, so that you can please God and be acceptable in His sight. Any other attempt to gain God’s acceptance will not work. God “now commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). That means you have to give up your old way of thinking and living, and turn to God. The Bible says, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13). That is the invitation. Neither your “church,” your “baptism,” nor your “good works” can save you: you must trust Jesus Christ alone, by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8–9). It’s very simple. Wherever you are, bow your head and pray a simple prayer something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and unless you save me, I am lost forever. I now come to you, the best way I know how, and ask you to save me. I receive you as my Saviour and trust you to forgive and justify me, and present me without fault before God’s throne in the day of Judgment.”

If you have done this, then you have made the greatest decision of your life. Don’t be ashamed of this decision. “Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed” (Rom. 10:11). You should find a Bible-believing church and start attending that you may grow (2 Pet. 3:18). Also begin to read your Bible (*Authorized King James Version*) daily and talk to God in prayer. God has given you a brand new life (2 Cor. 5:17); live it for Him.