

## ***THE "SIMPLE" PLAN***

I have in my file a tract entitled. "GOD'S SIMPLE PLAN OF SALVATION." As I read its contents, I was impressed with the approach the author made to the subject of salvation. He even took note of the account of Christ dealing with Nicodemus and the emphasis on being "born again." He made it clear that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and that ALL are in need of forgiveness.

Then I became disappointed when he gave the example of the Philippian jailor, and **STOPPED SHORT** of the whole account! What he wanted to believe, was in Acts 16:31. But the account does not stop with Paul's admonition, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." In verse 32, Paul and Silas "spake the word of the Lord" to all that were in the house. And then in verse 33, "...; and was baptized, he and all his, immediately." Without the consideration of ALL of the evidence, the author makes this statement: "*Simply believe on Him as the one who bore YOUR SIN, DIED IN YOUR PLACE, was buried and was raised for YOUR JUSTIFICATION. Now call upon Him.*" Then he repeats Romans 10:13 twice to PROVE (?) all that is necessary is to "*lift up your heart to God in prayer.*" He also says that "*The first prayer for a SINNER to pray is given in Luke 18:13 "God be merciful to ME A SINNER."* Since when does the prayer of a publican that Christ used as an example, become the pattern for the sinner's prayer? If it is, where did the apostles ever tell **ANYONE** to pray it?

The statement is also made, "*You say, 'Surely that is not all that is necessary to do to be saved.' Yes it is, absolutely all.*" This is the same person who says, "**AFTER YOU ARE SAVED THERE ARE THREE THINGS TO PRACTICE DAILY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH: PRAY-you talk to God. READ YOUR BIBLE - God talks to you. WITNESS - You talk for God, THEN YOU SHOULD BE BAPTIZED and unite with a Bible - believing church.**" If prayer brings about salvation, and nothing more is required, what is the purpose of baptism? Was baptism something required of the saved or the lost? In Acts 2:38, baptism coupled with repentance is "unto the remission of (your) sins." In Acts 22:16, baptism washes away sins. The misconception of Romans 10:13 that a verbal calling upon the name of the Lord is sufficient is formed without due consideration for other passages of the New Testament. According to Acts 22:16, arising and being baptized constitutes "calling on His name." Christ taught that it is not the ones who cry "LORD, LORD" who will see heaven, but those who "DO the will of the Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

If you have been deceived by someone who is teaching a doctrine of "faith only" as the means of salvation, examine the Scriptures for yourself, and you will see that God's plan of salvation is a simple one indeed. But it must be OBEYED in its entirety in order to achieve a home in heaven after awhile.

\*\*\*Gailen E. Evans\*\*\*