

Luke Andrew Miller's Testimony

Like most people in this area I was born into a Catholic home. I attended Catholic school as my mom thought it was wise for the nuns and priests to keep me in line as my dad passed away when I was one. Throughout school I was pretty sure that I was at least going to purgatory, maybe get into heaven if St. Peter was in a good mood.

I was told that as a little baby I was baptized into the Catholic system which took care of all of my original sin, which of course is not in found in the Bible and would make the blood of Christ of no effect. Like a good Catholic boy I had first communion, penance where I confessed my sins to a priest every month or so then confirmation which I was forced into, all of which made the blood of Christ no effect.

All through the school years I prayed to St. Anthony for lost items, St. Francis for animals and our pets, St. Christopher for safe passage by car and of course Mary because she was my in to get to Jesus as he was too important to hear my prayers. Plenty of statues and medallions, bath tub Mary's, St. Blaze's throat blessings, rosary beads and all the pomp and circumstance especially around the holidays.

The so called great thing was that I believed in God, my puppet and not only that, he was one God, and many people could get to him through their blind faith using there vain religion. I had no clue that the Bible said James 2:19 *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."* Now I heard the gospel a few times before but I did not hear. I berated the holy rollers and never knew what Jesus did or why he came. This is after 12 years of Catholic school.

One day I heard my mom telling my sister she is in a cult; of course I wanted to hear more about this as I thought there would be some entertainment about to start and I didn't want to miss it. My sister whose name is Grace and I do see the irony here, she proceeded to tell about this new religion, but it wasn't religion at all. I listened that day, and for the first time my ears were opened and I heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. She told me he is the only way to God and why he came to die for my sins and there was absolute no work I could do to earn my way into heaven. One thing was for sure I knew I needed Jesus Christ and that very moment I believed with the measure of faith given to me through Grace as Ephesians 2:8-9 says *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."*

From that moment I was now a child of God, and Jesus Christ was my mediator. A few days later I recall I was playing basketball with my friend and told him on how I was going to heaven because Jesus died for my sins and he is my Savior and he could know him to. How can you not tell people about Jesus Christ, I think I would burst, boy he thought I was wacky but so began the journey with Christ. I didn't plan on being saved that day nor was seeking Christ but as Isaiah 65:1 says *"I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name."*

A few months later my first job out of college was at IBM in Burlington VT where my mentor was a born again Christian who mentored me for about 3 years. That was not luck but the providence of God my Father to allow me to grow. I began to read the Bible and renew the mind.

And aspects of life began to change. As I walk more and more with the Lord I see new sins that must be dealt with in my life, and he is faithful to do such. I now crave truth as it is so rare but is found in that greatest book, the mind of God the bible! Tired of being disobedient to God, and to be faithful in the little, I am going to be baptized into Christ Jesus such that I can have a good conscience toward him, how else could I? If I disobey the conviction of the Holy Spirit to do so?

My relationship with Christ is the greatest thing that has or will ever happen to me, for all of this time and eternity. My mother and brother are now believers all from the Grace of God from the mouth of my sister Grace.

Please read the tract below and consider what is more important than your soul? Matthew 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

God’s Simple Plan of Salvation

My Friend: I am asking you the most important question of life. **Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer.** The question is: **Are you saved?** It is not a question of how good you are, nor if you are a church member, but **are you saved? Are you sure you will go to Heaven when you die?**

God says in order to go to Heaven, you must be born again. In John 3:7, Jesus said to Nicodemus, **“Ye must be born again.”**

In the Bible God gives us the plan of how *to be born again* which means *to be saved*. His plan is simple! You can be **saved** today. How?

First, my friend, you must realize **you are a sinner.** **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:23).

Because you are a sinner, **you are condemned to death.** **“For the wages [payment] of sin is death”** (Romans 6:23). **This includes eternal separation from God in Hell.**

“ . . . it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

But God loved you so much **He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, to bear your sin and die in your place.** **“ . . . He hath made Him [Jesus, Who knew no sin] to be sin for us . . . that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”** (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus had to shed His blood and die. **“For the life of the flesh is in the blood”** (Lev. 17:11). **“ . . . without shedding of blood is no remission [pardon]”** (Hebrews 9:22).

“ . . . God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Although we cannot understand how, God said **my sins and your sins** were laid upon Jesus and **He died in our place**. He became **our substitute**. It is true. God cannot lie.

My friend, “**God . . . commandeth all men everywhere to repent**” (Acts 17:30). **This repentance** is a change of mind that agrees with God that one is a sinner, and also agrees with what Jesus did for us on the Cross.

In Acts 16:30-31, the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas: “. . . ‘Sirs, what must **I do to be saved?**’ And they said, ‘**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved . . .**.’”

Simply believe on Him as **the one who bore your sin, died in your place**, was buried, and whom God resurrected. **His resurrection powerfully assures** that the believer can claim everlasting life when Jesus is received as Savior.

“**But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name**” (John 1:12).

“**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**” (Romans 10:13).

Whosoever includes you. *Shall be saved* means not maybe, nor can, **but shall be saved**.

Surely, you realize you are a sinner. Right now, wherever you are, repenting, lift your heart to God in prayer.

In Luke 18:13, the sinner prayed: “**God be merciful to me a sinner.**” Just pray: “*Oh God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus was my substitute when He died on the Cross. I believe His shed blood, death, burial, and resurrection were for me. I now receive Him as my Savior. I thank You for the forgiveness of my sins, the gift of salvation and everlasting life, because of Your merciful grace. Amen.*”

Just take God at His word and claim His salvation by faith. **Believe, and you will be saved**. No church, no lodge, no good works can save you. **Remember, God does the saving. All of it!**

God’s simple plan of salvation is: You are a sinner. Therefore, unless you believe on Jesus Who died in your place, you will spend eternity in Hell. If you believe on Him as your crucified, buried, and risen Savior, you receive forgiveness for all of your sins and **His gift of eternal salvation by faith**.

You say, “Surely, it cannot be that simple.” Yes, that simple! It is scriptural. It is God’s plan. **My friend, believe on Jesus and receive Him as Savior today.**

If His plan is not perfectly clear, **read this tract over and over, without laying it down, until you understand it.** Your soul is worth more than all the world.

“**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?**” (Mark 8:36).

Be sure you are saved. If you lose your soul, you miss Heaven and lose all. Please! **Let God save you this very moment.**

God's power will save you, keep you saved, and enable you to live a victorious Christian life. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Do not trust your feelings. They change. Stand on God's promises. They never change. 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.

You should be baptized in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ as a **public testimony of your salvation**, and then unite with a Bible-believing church without delay. "**Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord . . .**" (2 Timothy 1:8)

"Whosoever therefore shall confess [*testify of*] Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

Copyright: Robert Ford Porter, 1991