

## Be Not Beguiled

Do you believe that God is such a “loving God” that He will not commit any to the torments of separation from his presence? If you do, you might want to consider what the Apostle Paul said to the Thessalonians, saying, “and to you that are afflicted rest with us, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, [even] eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Do you believe that “ALL” you are required to do is “believe that Jesus is the Christ, and receive him in your heart, and you will be saved”? If you do, you may want to consider a couple of factors: (1) you will not find that phrase anywhere in the scriptures. (2) The apostle Peter said, “if any man speaketh, speak as it were the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11), is an admonition to those who speak of divine matters that they do so according to the oracles of God. Does it not seem strange that the apostles, who spoke the oracles of God, failed to reveal what uninspired men preach? In Acts 2:37, on the day of Pentecost, after hearing the gospel message, believers asked the question, “what shall we do?” If “believing that Jesus is the Christ, and receiving him in your heart” is all God required, wouldn’t you think that would have been an appropriate time and response for Peter to answer? But that is not what Peter said. What he did say, was, “Repent ye and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins.”

Do you believe that “just believing in God” is sufficient unto salvation?” If so, you may want to consider the statements of James, who said, “Thou believest that God is one; thou doest well, the demons also believe, and shudder. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith apart from works is barren? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect; and the scripture was fulfilled which saith, And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God. Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith” (James 2:19-24).

Do you believe that saying the “Sinner’s Prayer” will place you in a proper relationship with Christ? If you do, you might want to know that the “Sinner’s Prayer” is no where to be found in the scriptures, and not one time, in the processes of conversion in the book of Acts, is a repentant believer instructed to say the “Sinner’s Prayer,” but in EVERY account, the believer is to be baptized, which Peter, and Ananias says washes away sin (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

The apostle Paul, said to the Corinthians, “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity that is toward Christ” (2 Cor. 11:3). Two millennia has passed since penned, but still a valid concern. Ross Triplett, Sr.