

# THE WAY OF SALVATION

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Ephesians 1:11 states that God “*works all things after the counsel of his own will.*” A major part of the “counsel of God’s own will” is that He desires every soul that He has made to be saved. In Ezekiel 33:11, the Lord told the prophet to instruct Israel: “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, *I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*” The New Testament teaches the very same point. The Lord “is longsuffering to us-ward, *not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (2 Pet 3:9). Also, God “*will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth*” (1 Tim 2:4). God has done and continues to do many great and wonderful things in His work to save souls.

## **The revelation of God’s existence**

According to Romans 1:19-20, God has revealed His existence to all men by the creation: “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; *so that they are without excuse.*” Psalm 19:1 similarly says, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork.*” No one can truthfully claim that they do not know there is a God. They may deny it, but they know it nonetheless (Rom 1:28). “Know ye that the Lord he is God: *it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture*” (Psa 100:3). There can be nothing made without a maker (Heb 3:4). The knowledge that all men have concerning the existence of God gives everyone the responsibility to seek their Creator (Acts 17:24-27), to learn His will and obey it, to serve only Him (Rom 1:20-25). That is what it means to “love” this truth about the existence of God (2 Thes 2:10), to “hold it in righteousness” (Rom 1:18), and to “acknowledge” it (2 Tim 2:25). Thus, God has given every man the opportunity, responsibility and choice to either serve their Creator or not. Therefore, no man has an excuse for not seeking and serving God (Rom 1:20). In the end, no man will be lost because they did not know they should seek God.

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(continued)

## **The sending of God's Son**

The *sending* of Christ was not as a reward for our righteousness, but was in spite of our wickedness (Rom 5:6-11). That is why the scriptures state that we are "saved by grace" (Eph 2:5,8). We all know John 3:16: "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*" Titus 2:11 says, "*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.*" The fact that God, by His love and favor towards all men, has given His only Son for our salvation does not imply that all men will be saved. In fact, Jesus taught only a few will be saved (Matt 7:13-14; Luke 13:23-24). The very grace of God that gives all the opportunity for eternal salvation teaches us the necessity of repentance and obedience to God (Titus 2:12-14). We are saved by grace *through faith* (Eph 2:8), which comes by hearing God's word (Rom 10:17). That faith must be a *living faith*, demonstrated by *works* (Jas 2:14-26; Gal 5:6). For example, all men everywhere are commanded to *repent* (Acts 17:30), or else we will all perish (Luke 13:3,5). Jesus Christ has become "the author of eternal salvation *unto all them that obey him* (Heb 5:9).

## **Seeking God**

The God "that made the world and all things therein" has "made of one blood all nations of men" for the purpose that "*they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us*" (Acts 17:24-27). God has promised to draw near to all who draw near to Him (Jas 4:8). What about someone who lives in the most remote jungle or mountain on earth, who may never have seen a Bible in his or her life? As God is able to send the rain wherever it is needed, somehow and somehow He will get a preacher to whomever is seeking Him (Matt 7:7-8; Rom 10:13-17). God says that His word "*shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it*" (Isa 55:11). All men who sincerely seek God *will* hear the gospel, and have the opportunity to believe and obey it and be saved. There is and will always be one way of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord (John 14:6; Acts 16:17; Eph 4:4-6).