

Claim of Christ – “no one comes to the father except through me”

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Our Situation

1) Our problem goes all the way back to the beginning.

Genesis 2:17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

2) Sin separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

The penalty for sin is death - Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...

All Have Sinned - Romans 3:23"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

3) The Bible pictures our situation as hopeless - the world is one big spiritual prison with no one on the outside to help us.

Galations 3:22 But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. 23 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.

Ephesians 2:12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

Good News

1) The good news is that God so loved the world – He sends a one man rescue team.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2) Jesus lived a perfect life and was completely without sin.

1 Peter 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

1John 3:5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

3) Because of Jesus, there is finally someone on the outside of the prison who can give His life for us.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

One Way Out

1) There is only one way out of prison – to have your fine paid.

Hebrews 9:22 without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

2) And there is only one person who can do it.

John 14:6 "I am the way the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father except through me", .

1 Timothy 2:5 "There is only one Mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men",

3) God doesn't have a plan B.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Terms of Release

1) Repentance

Acts 2: 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2) Faith in Christ – Putting my Trust in the Right Place

Acts 16:30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household."

3) Baptism – Public Demonstration of Repentance

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Two Questions

1) What is your hope for going to heaven?

A hope of going to heaven is based on anything other than Christ paying the price is a hopeless hope.

2) Based on what we've talked about – are you going to heaven?

Conclusion – John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."