

Just in Case

10/10/21

By C. Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

In preparation for this message today, I went online to a link from Billy Graham Evangelistic Ministries that was entitled "Pray the sinner's prayer with Billy Graham".

Billy Graham is likely the most popular preacher in modern history. His prayer that he asks the sinner to pray is somewhat lengthy, stating several actions on the part of the person praying that the sinner, in most cases, does not know what these actions mean, and is then guaranteed by preacher Graham to go to heaven if he prays this prayer.

I also checked out the most popular preacher in America currently and his invitation to be saved is very much the same, as is with most preachers across America today.

Preacher Osteen's invitation is a little shorter and goes like this. "Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins, come into my heart and wash me clean. I make you my Lord and savior."

He goes on to say, 'the Scripture says that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved...and you just did that. We believe that if you prayed that simple prayer, you just got born again'.

I'm pretty sure just about everyone here today has heard some preacher somewhere tell you to call on Jesus and ask Him to save you. I'm sure you have heard it many times and may have done it many times.

Back before I was saved in February of 1977, I had heard this instruction or something similar to it many times. I actually heard it again almost the same on the night I was saved.

Before I was saved, I can remember having this sort of crazy plan floating around in the back of my mind that when the car wreck or the hunting accident or the drowning or the whatever happened that was to take my life, I would with my last breath cry out, "Dear Jesus, please save me", just in case!

Just in case those preachers were right. After all, I wouldn't be sinning anymore after I died, right?

I have actually asked several believers about this and found that I was not the only one who had this crazy plan going on in their head, not that most people would ever want to admit to such a thing.

So much so that there may well be someone here right now with such a crazy plan...just in case.

And, why not, after all? Why would anyone listen to some unknown preacher in a small, obscure Church somewhere in southern Texas, instead of the most famous preachers of our age - when nearly every one of them, right down the line, tell you virtually the same thing.

Not only that, most of the hundreds of thousands of gospel tracts available today, in their conclusion, ask the reader to pray some version of a sinner's prayer. Although some do a fair job of explaining the gospel, most leave the reader with the idea that calling on Jesus, asking to be saved, inviting Jesus into the heart or some other variation of a sinner's prayer is what determines your destination when you leave this world.

Although not stated, they all suggest that salvation is something you can do at the last moment, "just in case".

One might ask:

I. Just in case of what? For some:

A. Just in case there really is a God?

1. What if there really is a God?

2. That's all right, you're not the first person who has asked a really stupid question.
3. Look around you! The heavens declare His glory!
4. From vast universes that go on farther than the mightiest telescopes can see; down to the tiniest electrons whose existence is only known by their power...all of it working together in amazing harmony.
5. What does it take for someone to believe there is all this creativity without a creator?
6. How does one believe that this all came from nothing when "nothing" exploded and blew all this matter into existence and then over eons of time some of that matter somehow hiccupped into life and then somehow evolved into what we see in the world and the universe today?
7. What if there really is a God? I hope I didn't offend you if you thought I meant that was a really stupid question.
8. That's alright! Although Jesus will not save someone who is trusting in his good works, He does occasionally save people who sometimes ask stupid questions. (I suppose several of us are actually proof of that).

Just in case of what...Maybe...

I can tell you all about what Jesus did for you and how very much He loves you and how He suffered and bled and died to pay for your sins and rose again the third day.

I can show you how to know for sure about the Bible and even know for sure that you will go to heaven...

But I can't make you want to know Him and God won't.

But when the time comes that you really do want to know Him, (and that is going to be by your choice) God will likely hook you up with some unknown preacher in some obscure Church somewhere that knows what we know and is willing to share it with you.

When you are ready, we will gladly share it with you.

As for your crazy plan to cry out to Jesus just in case; well you sure as hell need a better plan than that!

Because, "If you don't know for sure that you are saved, it's just not safe to die".

...Then it follows that you cannot be sure about Jesus...or how to get to heaven...or how to avoid hell...or anything else that 'only' the Bible teaches us, including that 'asking Jesus to save you' thing!

4. People say, "But I'm not sure if the Bible is true and I'm not sure about Jesus and I'm not sure there really is a God."
5. What do those same people say when they want to emphasize that something they really do believe is true?
6. The most powerful expletive that is commonly used by the world to confirm certainty is "you can be sure as _____" What?
7. Maybe they know more than they think they do.

In Conclusion:

Jesus said:

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

B. Just in case the Bible really is true?

1. Everybody knows the Bible was written by men, right?
2. Aren't all books written by men?
3. What is so special about this book? Actually, many things.
4. Although only a few have ever sat down and read it from cover to cover, it is still the best-selling book in the history of the world.
5. According to Guinness World Records as of 1995, **the Bible is the best-selling book of all time** with an estimated 5 billion copies sold and distributed.
6. The Bible is also the best-selling book of the year, every year... The amount spent annually on Bibles has been put at more than half a billion dollars.
7. That certainly makes the Bible special, but that doesn't make it true; but what if it is really true?
8. Maybe there is a way to find out?

Just in case of what....

C. Just in case that prayer thing might actually work if I try it one more time?

1. Even though nothing really happened all those other times you asked Jesus to save you, who knows, maybe if you try it one more time...
2. I know, you maybe didn't really repent of your sins; you did turn right around and sin again right after you prayed that sinner's prayer the last time; even the same day.
3. Maybe that is what you did wrong?
4. Maybe it might work if I call on the Lord **as I am dying**...I won't be sinning anymore after that, right?
5. Sorry, Jesus said in **Matthew 7:21-23**
21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
6. What are you going to say then? 'But Jesus, Joel said I got born again!'

I still better cry out to Jesus...

II. Just in case Jesus is all they say He is?

A. You will find out the answer to that question one way or another.

1. Is He real? Is He God? Did He really pay for my sins?
2. One of those obscure unknown preachers said, "If you don't know for sure that you are saved, it's just not safe to die".
3. You have yourself a real problem!

B. The only way there is to know about Jesus on this side of the grave is through what it says about Him in the Bible.

1. Even the famous preachers (at least by far most of them) will acknowledge this.
2. Yes, you may have asked a few stupid questions in your life but that doesn't mean that you are stupid!
3. See if you are smart enough to agree with this:
 If the Bible is the only way to know for sure about Jesus... (and it is!)
 ...And you are not sure if the Bible is true...