

Hebrews 4:15

A God Who Sympathizes

The great work of salvation is the message of the gospel; Jesus The son of God, Our great high priest, has passed through the heavens and become a man.

Tempted in all ways as we are, yet was without sin...

He faced every single thing that killed (and is still killing) us and defeated them all. He alone is qualified to be our substitute in the price and become our entrance into the presence of God. It is His work and worth that is our hope... but so many believe that He did what He did under duress, against His will and was literally forced to become a man and pay the price of our life. But the message of the scripture is quite different. The Bible teaches us that God freely gave and Jesus freely came. That the whole structure is built on something beautiful. And the beauty of the gospel revolves around the attitude and motive of the Godhead. God is sympathetic to our plight and desires to save us.

I. MOTIVE IS LOVE

God loves us. Period. He has set His love upon a people and nothing will ever dissuade Him from that motive and purpose. He desires to love us, and proves it plainly

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1Jn 4.7-11

II. SCOPE IS PERSONAL

This is not a religion of far off and obligated, ritual duty. This is a dynamic union with the Risen Lord Jesus. He is both the method and the goal of our salvation. For He is beautiful and worth the loss of all things.

Consider the words of Jesus about the failure of the religious Jews of His day -

John 5:39–40

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Peter and the Disciples understood this fact and were committed to staying with Jesus despite his growing unpopularity.

John 6:68–69

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Paul understood this fact and made the sacrifices that this knowledge demands.

Philippians 3.7-11

III. ATTITUDE IS COMPASSION

The attitude which we receive from God is one of acceptance and love, born of His compassion for us and His love, He understands what we face and knows our frailty. He was one of us and extends the mercy to us which we need.

Titus 3:3–7

3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Our text tells us of His compassion and mercy and that the result of that should be repentance and grace.

IV. REQUIREMENT IS THE NEW BIRTH

It is at this point that many become confused.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 1.12-13

1John 5.1-5

The new birth is NOT a reward for belief, it is the gift of a heart that WILL believe. No one can come to Christ unless the Father draws him

John 6.44-45

V. DEMAND IS BELIEF

The first act of a living heart is belief, followed closely by repentance.

John 6:29 (NKJV)

29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

Acts 17.29-31

VI. Promise is Mercy

Matthew 11:28–30

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

VII. GIFT IS ETERNAL LIFE

Romans 5:20–21 (NKJV)

20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2:1–10