

# THE SAVIOUR'S INVITATION

## And Other Evangelistic Sermons

by

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### SERMON SEVEN

#### THREE TREMENDOUS TRUTHS

**“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”** (Romans 5:8).

This is another of the great statements concerning the plan of salvation contained in the Bible. God is very concerned that none of us should miss these eternal truths. You will find these vital verities reiterated in God's Word again and again. God knew that we would be spiritual children all of our days. The best way to teach children is by the process of repetition. The Holy Spirit is the greatest of all pedagogues. His program of instruction follows the psychological principle of stating and restating the facts until they are burned into our very souls.

This text divides itself very clearly into these three tremendous thoughts.

First, we are all sinners.

Second, God loves each of us.

Third, Christ died for all of us.

We are not all Jews. We are not all Gentiles. We are not all of the same nationality, of the same age, of the same sex. We do not all like the same things. But in this one thing we are all alike: we are all sinners.

*First, we are all sinners by birth.* Over that we have absolutely no control. The Bible says, **“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”** Again it teaches, **“The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.”**

This is God's dictum covering every one of us today as it has covered all the generations of men since Adam and Eve. Can any good thing come out of an evil? Is still the problem of the universe. Because our forbears were evil their wickedness was reproduced in us. Because we are tainted with sin we pass on the same corruption to our children. Deny this and you deny the Word of God, you deny the findings of physiology, you deny the discoveries of the psychology which is beginning to catch up with the age-old pronouncements of Scripture.

*Second, we are all sinners by choice.* We all know the basic requirements of God. We have heard them in our homes, in our schools, in the pages of the Bible, in our Sunday schools, from our pulpits; we have read them in our Bibles. Yet, knowing God's will for our lives, we persist in disregarding it. True, Satan is ever ready, ever present, ever tempting us; nevertheless, the choice to sin is ours. We are free moral agents. Irresistibly coerced transgression is not sin.

*Third, we are sinners by conduct.* The Bible says, "**There is none righteous, no, not one.**" "**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us . . . If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**"

We know this by experience. We find no inherent strength in us to resist temptation. Our minds are stained with the memories of countless faults and failures. We know this also by observation. We see others about us, struggling, stumbling, sorrowing over evil tendencies, wicked propensities. There are degrees of sinners among us. We are not all murderers, thieves, liars, but we are all sinners. We have not all sinned alike, but we have all alike sinned.

*Fourth, we are sinners under condemnation.* It is written, "**Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.**" Again we read, "**The wages of sin is death.**" That applies to all of us. "**Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire . . . He that believeth not is condemned already . . . He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**" These are the inexorable, unchangeable, universal decrees of God. There is no escape from them, no exception, no excuse. We are under doom. The curse of the law hangs over our heads. We are condemned already. There is nothing we can do for ourselves, for each other. We are standing on the brink of hell with the ground crumbling beneath our feet. We are helpless, hopeless, undone.

But wait! Hearken! There is another word. "**God commendeth his love toward us.**" God loved us and loves us. This is our plea. This is our hope. This is our cure. This is our way of escape. God's love reaches down for our souls! Oh, the vastness, the wideness, the mightiness of God's love!

It is an ennobling love. Some love is degrading, for example, the love of Cleopatra, Helen of Troy and Hollywood's so-called beauties. There is a love which is nothing but lust, defiling, debasing, desecrating, dragging down. God's love is pure, holy, elevating, uplifting. God's love transforms a sinner into a saint, a slave of Satan into a child of God. God's love reaches into the very depths of our beings, using the blood of Jesus Christ and the regenerating influence of the Holy Spirit to cover, to cleanse, to conquer whatever of evil in stain or tendency there may be found.

*God's love is an enabling love.* Permit an illustration.

In a Louisiana town, the pastor and his wife had a tiny baby daughter, Martha, who was learning to walk.

One day we visited the pastor's home and witnessed a delightful scene. The nurse and the mother were on each side of a room, Martha between them. First the mother, then the nurse coaxed the toddler. "Come here, Martha! Come here, Martha!" The nurse placed her hands underneath Martha's arms and started her off. As the child took one unsteady step after another, the nurse gently removed her own hands from the child's body. Martha hesitated, looked back, then sat down without even trying to walk. Then the mother repeated the process, with the same result. As soon as the child realized that the supporting hands no longer held her, she did not even try to walk. Minute after minute, for a long period, nurse and mother continued the teaching, the loving, the petting, the pleading, until finally Martha assayed a few steps alone.

Oh, beloved, the same is true of God. The only difference is this: God never expects us to walk alone. He never takes His great hands from us. He is a God of infinite, inexhaustible, patient, forbearing, enabling love. What would any of us do without the enabling love of God, keeping us from stumbling, watching over us sleeplessly, tirelessly, eternally, supporting us in trial, sustaining us in sorrow, supplying us in need.

*God's love is enduring love.* This is not always true of human love. The best of us are changeable, variable, affected by moods and circumstances. We fall in and out of love quickly. The passions of one day become the regrets of another. Oh, how rare on earth is enduring love! Friendships are quickly broken. Misunderstandings are frequent. Time changes us. God's love is God Himself, for God is love, without variableness or shadow of turning. We can depend on the perpetual strength of God's love. We can build on it as on a solid foundation.

The third tremendous truth in this text is that "**Christ died for us**". That was the bitterest condemnation of our sins, the choicest demonstration of God's love. The world may criticize our living. The world may deny our preaching. It cannot disprove the love of God. Given the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, that He lived upon the earth, that He suffered the cruel Roman scourge, that He submitted Himself to the bitter agony of Calvary's Cross, you, I and all the wide world must believe that God is love.

*Jesus Christ died voluntarily.* Not all the powers of earth and hell could have forced Him to the Cross had He been unwilling. Of His own free will He bore our sins in His own body on the tree. For sheer, pure, unadulterated love for each of us, He submitted Himself to the torments of hell, voluntarily assuming our nature, our burdens, and our sins.

*Jesus Christ died vicariously.* "**He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him . . . he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**" It was our punishment that He endured. It was our pain that He suffered. It was our death that He took upon Himself. We live because He died.

*Jesus Christ died victoriously.* "**As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation . . . For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**"

By His death this victorious Victim, for all of us, conquered sin, discomfited Satan, defeated death, tore asunder the grave. His victory is ours. Through Him and in Him we are more than conquerors.

What more can I say? I must add a closing thought.

- We know that we are sinners. Our hearts convict us of that.
- We know God loves us with an unchanging, unmerited, everlasting love.
- We know Jesus Christ died for us, spilling His blood to redeem us from sin.

God stands before you now. He speaks to your heart. Hear His words. “You are a sinner. You are lost. You cannot save yourself. I love you. My Son died for your sins. There is salvation in His shed blood; in Him is salvation for you. Will you accept the offer of My mercy?”

Oh, beloved, by the burden of sin on your hearts, by the blood of Calvary’s Cross, by the mighty love of God, I plead with you. Come to Jesus. He is standing here before you. His pierced hands are stretched out to you, pleading with you to come.

- If you realize you are a sinner,
- If you know God loves you,
- If you realize that Christ died for you,
- If you have the slightest desire for salvation, accept God’s invitation.

Take your stand on God’s promises—now.

**~ end of sermon 7 ~**

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