



The Camden Companion

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"Come let us reason together says the Lord" (Isaiah 1:18)

THE BLESSINGS IN FRONT OF US

The story is told of an old lady who lived in an impoverished country overseas. The village had no food and living conditions were deplorable.

A reporter from the United States was doing a human interest story in the village when he happened upon the old lady.

"Does your son in America never send any money?" he asked. "NEVER!" was her reply. "Surely he sends you something" the reported inquired. "Oh, he sends me pictures - plenty of pictures - but never what I need which is money."

"May I see the pictures?" asked the reporter. When he looked into the old lady's hut he was stunned at what he saw.

On her walls were pictures of Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Grant, and Hamilton. What the reporter saw was a fortune in American money. The old lady didn't realize what she had tacked to her walls.

Like the old lady, God blesses us but we fail to see His gifts and instead cry out for His lack of concern.

"ACCEPT JESUS AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR"

Preachers on TV, radio, and in many religious groups often invite people to be saved by telling them to "accept Jesus as your personal savior." This is never taught from Scripture with people being shown HOW to accept Jesus as a personal savior. Why rely on a doctrine that is not backed up by Scripture? Yet many do.

The Bible is clear that Jesus is a "savior." *"you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins"* (Matt. 1:21.) Acts 4:12 and John 14:6 teach the same thing. Without Jesus, there is no salvation. It is that plain and simple. He is the one who died for us.

It is also true that Jesus is a "personal" savior as seen in Romans 14:7 and 2 Cor. 5:10 among other scriptures. Fact is that a parent cannot make their children Christians by virtue of the parent's faith. No government leader's obedience will have as saving effect on the subjects. Each person has the responsibility to accept or reject Jesus and each will answer for the choice (Phil. 2:9-11.)

Those who cry out to "accept Jesus as a personal savior" leave mistaken and unscriptural ideas of HOW we do the accepting. The idea conveyed is "accept Jesus and ask Him to come into your heart" But notice that Jesus Himself said, *"Not every one who says Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven"* (Matt. 7:21.)

The question is logical and the answer is obvious to all who have the courage to accept truth. If Jesus says not everyone will be saved just because he asked, then how is it that many teach that ALL who ask will be saved. I think it safe to go with Jesus on this one. Salvation is in the doing of God's will and when we truly accept Jesus, doing what he says will be an easy thing. Even baptism (Mk.16:16.)