

Jesus: A Friend of Sinners

By: Michael Light

It is very easy to depersonalize sin. In our day it is very rare indeed to hear anyone be specific concerning sin and sinners. Usually we hear words like “mistake,” “error in judgment,” even “disease and disorder.” But the fact remains, the greatest problem on the earth today is sin (Isa. 59:1-2). Sin is what separates us from God. Sin is what will damn us to a devil’s hell (Mt. 25: 31-46).

It seems to be missed by many that Jesus came to the earth for a very specific reason. The reason was not to give the world a heart-warming story of the virgin birth. Nor was it to give countless millions a new fashion piece in the form of a cross to be worn as a necklace. He came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10). He came to do for us what we could never do for ourselves. In Hebrews 2:9 we read, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Jesus came to this world to die as the sacrificial lamb that through His blood we might be made right with God once again (Jn. 1:36).

We, like the apostle Paul, need to remember that we were all in a pitiful and lost state before the intervention of Jesus the Christ. In 1 Timothy 1:12-16 he relates an impassioned account of his wicked background and how Jesus bought him and made something useful of him. The same is true of you and me. Romans 3:10 states unequivocally, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:” In Romans 3:23 the Holy Spirit adds, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Note what is stated next,

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God (Rom. 3:24-25).

Friends, regardless of what you have heard. Regardless of what you personally think. Jesus Christ is your friend as He is mine (Jn. 15:12-13). He loves us all. Let's note very briefly a few things He has done that forevermore prove He loves us:

1. Christ Came to **Save** Sinners (Mt. 1:21; Jn. 3:17)
2. Christ **Died** for Sinners (Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 8:9)
3. Christ **Gave** the Gospel to Sinners (Mt. 28:18ff; Gal. 1:11,12; 1 Cor. 15:3ff.)
4. Christ **Invites All** Sinners to Come to Him (Mt. 11:28-30; 23:37; Rev. 3:20)
5. Biblical **Examples** of People He Showed Great Friendship Toward (Jn. 8:3-11; Lk. 7:36-50; Lk. 23:34)

Friends, Jesus is your truest friend. He will do for you what no one else can or will. He will save you from your sins (Acts 4:12). He will grant you an eternal home in heaven (Ps. 23:6). The only question that remains is, "Will you (a sinner) come to Him for salvation?" Admitting that we are lost and in need of salvation is very difficult for most of us. But until we admit we are wrong; we can never be right spiritually speak. Please read closely John 9:41 and the surrounding events. Then come to Jesus the Great Physician for healing, and He and you can be friends for life... and beyond.