

Do I Need a Savior?

A question that reveals more about me than it does about the Gospel.

Luke 5:29-32

- “Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. 30 And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners? 31 Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Jesus the Physician

- Hosea 6:6 - “For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”
- Prov. 21:3 - “To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.”
- Micah 6:6-8 - “With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”

Do I Need A Savior?

- The sinners heard Jesus and followed Him
 - Mark 2:15 - “Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.”
 - Rom. 15:2-3 - “Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”

Do I Need A Savior?

- The “Righteous” non-Christians
 - Rom. 3:9-12, 23 - “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one... 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - 1John 1:8, 10 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us... 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

James 2:8-13

- “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
- The "righteous" un-saved are self-deceived. As long as they remain self-deceived, Jesus can do nothing for them

Do I Need A Savior?

- The self-“Righteous” Christians
 - Luke 18:10-12 - “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.”

Do I Need A Savior?

- The self-“Righteous” Christians

- Matt. 23:1-4 - “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2 saying: The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. 4 For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”

Do I Need A Savior?

- The self-“Righteous” Christians
 - John 9:28-29, 34 - “Then they reviled him and said, You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from... 34 They answered and said to him, You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us? And they cast him out.”

Do I Need A Savior?

- God wants believers to be holy as He is holy
 - Lev. 11:44 - “For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.”
- But holiness and righteousness is not an excuse to act arrogantly
 - Matt. 23:23-24 - “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. 24 Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”

Do I Need A Savior?

- No matter how holy we become, we still sin
 - Titus 3:3-5, 8 - “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, 8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.”

Do I Need A Savior?

- No matter how holy we become, we still sin
 - 1Tim. 1:12-16 - “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”

Do I Believe That I Need A Savior?

- Isa. 64:6 - “But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.”
- Phil. 3:9 - “And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith”
- Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Do I Believe That I Need A Savior?

- We are not made righteous by anything we can do for ourselves; we are made righteous through Christ
 - Rom. 3:24 - “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”

Eph. 2:4-10

- “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Do I Believe That I Need A Savior?

- What we received from the Lord that saves us reminds us to view others as our Lord views us
 - Matt. 20:25-28 - “But Jesus called them to Himself and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Do I Believe That I Need A Savior?

- What we received from the Lord that saves us reminds us to view others as our Lord views us
 - 1John 4:8-11 - “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Do I Believe That I Need A Savior?

- We must show mercy and compassion to others, even when they do not deserve it, because God showed it to us when we did not deserve it
 - Rom. 5:6-10 - “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Do I Believe That I Need A Savior?

- We must not look down on others, since Christ did not look down on us but felt compassion for us
 - Matt. 7:1-4 - “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?”

Do I Believe That I Need A Savior?

- We must not look down on others, since Christ did not look down on us but felt compassion for us
 - James 4:11-12 - “Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”

Do I Need a Savior?

- Our Lord ate and drank with sinners to work to save sinners. It was controversial then; it is controversial now.
- Jesus saves sinners, but even Jesus can do nothing for those convinced they are already righteous.