# HOW CAN A PERSON RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE? By Frank A. Eberhardt

The answer to the question "How a person can receive Eternal Life?" is a simple one "Believe the Gospel". But that answer is one which needs some explanation you need to know, "What is the Gospel?" The Scripture says in *1 Cor 15:1-4* "Moreover, brethren, <u>I declare unto</u> <u>you the gospel</u> which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how <u>that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures</u>; 4 And that <u>he was buried</u>, and that <u>he rose again the third day according to the scriptures</u>:"

Every one says they believe Christ died, was buried and rose again from the dead. However, it is not enough to say you believe the words you must believe their meaning to have Eternal Life. Looking at *1 Cor 15:1-4* you see how important this is, if you receive this Gospel you will stand on this truth of God (as taught in God's Word) meaning you will stake your life, your eternal life and well being, on it and then you are assured it is by this "Ye are saved." So we must ask again what the Gospel is. The Gospel is divided into 3 parts, similarly God is 3 distinct persons, and these parts are:

- 1. How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures
- 2. That he was buried
- 3. That he rose again the third day according to the scriptures

You first see the phrase "according to the scriptures" repeated twice. These point out the importance of the Scripture in understanding the Gospel; it is all "ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURE" and not of the will of man nor a Church body but the Gospel is according to the will of God alone. Let's go one point at a time and see what God says the Gospel is.

# HOW THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

It is Christ who died for our sins making him the one around whom the plan of God revolves. The Gospel is not about OUR good works or MOTHER MARY'S prayers nor is the Gospel found in any thing like a CHURCH DENOMINATION or the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Listen to Acts 4:10-12 "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." The first point shows us that to believe the Gospel is to place all our faith in CHRIST and No One Else!

Christ died for our sins confirming the fact that we are all sinners, guilty before God. If we were not sinners Christ did not need to die for us, but we are sinners and that is why Christ came. Jesus said, *Luke 5:32 "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* Some may say that "I'm a good person, I follow the Ten Commandments, I don't do bad things" that may be the case in your eyes, but remember that the Gospel is according to the Scripture meaning we are to believe things as seen through the eye's of God. God sees us as sinners

needing a Saviour. Rom 3:10-12 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Rom 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Listen to what God sees in Rom 3:19-20 "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." We can not be guiltless when we tell little white lies or have impure thoughts or steal pencils from our work place, these are little things but they are sin as James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." The eyes of God see us as guilty of sin because our righteousness is insufficient in his sight as he says in Isa 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." The Gospel is not about whom and what we think we are it is about Christ dieing for us sinners according to the Scripture; according to the verdict of God.

We have seen how the Gospel is centered on and about Christ alone as Saviour and how the Gospel shows us to accept the truth that we are all sinners; now the last part of point 1 is that Christ died for our sin. What does it mean that he died for our sin? Sin makes us guilty before a Holy God; we stand condemned and incapable of reaching Heaven by any means except through the grace given as the gift of God. **Rom 5:17-18** "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." Believing Christ died for our sin is to be made righteous by God because as children of Adam we were all made sinners, now Christ has paid for and removed all our sin by his death on the cross.

Jesus took our sin upon himself in order to pay for it in full because we were incapable of doing so. Isa 53:5-6 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Peter says, 1 Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." This is why we look to Christ alone as redeemer, forgiver and Saviour. By looking any where else we will not be saved because no one else bore our sin. 2 Cor 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." The Devil is a liar and wants man to deny Christ is the only Saviour of God. He tries to fool people into thinking we need more to save us than what Jesus has done. What more do we need when Jesus has carried our sin by enduring the pain and shame of the Cross? The truth is that Christ didn't stop with pain and shame and humiliation, he DIED for our sin, Christ Died for us, GOD DIED on our behalf. Why do you want to look for salvation and forgiveness any where else? What more do you want to do, what more could you do for salvation, and what more could God require of Himself? Heb 12:2 tells us to be "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

#### THAT HE WAS BURIED

This is the second part of the Gospel and it is just as important as Christ dieing for our sin. Death is finality of all things associated with <u>this earthly life</u> including the sin of man. Burial is the proof of God that the work of our Redemption is complete, there is nothing more to do or that has been delegated for us to perform. As Christ stated in *John 19:30* "*It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*" Jesus carried our sin and then buried it never to be remembered again. *Ps 103:12* "*As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*" God has former a covenant with his people as stated in *Heb 10:16-17* "*This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*"

Scripturally the burial had to be as God required that an undeniable picture would be drawn showing that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah or God the Saviour) who would take away the sins of the world. Isa 53:9 "And he made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth." The burial place of Jesus was with the wicked (the poor and common people) as Matt 27:9-10 says, "Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; 10 And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me." The Scripture continues that he would be buried with the rich in his death which was fulfilled in *Matt* 27:57-60 where it says, "When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: 58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. 59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed." Men don't have two graves but Jesus did, one paid for with the 30 pieces of silver given to betray Christ; the other given freely by a rich believer who loved Christ.

Do you see that picture? Jesus died for wicked sinners having no sin of his own and in death freely gives (as a rich man, God who is rich in grace and mercy) of himself being wrapped in clean white cloths of glory to all who need his salvation. Died once, buried once never to die again because the work of redemption is FINISHED forever available to those who will believe this Bible truth. Listen to the way **Rom 6:10-11** describes it, "For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Jesus died once to give us Eternal Life. He did this by shedding his own blood once for us. **Heb 9:12** "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." One offering because it was the blood of God, Jesus Christ to save us. **Heb 9:28** '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."

If you believe in the FINISHED work of Christ then you have no further need to try to work for your salvation or obtain indulgences or purchase Mass Cards etc. The work of Redemption is either done or it is not, you must believe it is finished or you must keep working, the two can not exist together. You either believe or you deny, you are doing or you are done. Burial is God's proof that the work of Redemption is FINISHED.

#### THAT HE ROSE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

Christ rose again or as *1 Cor 15:13-17* teaches if there is no resurrection that would mean our faith would be vain, there would be no forgiveness of sin and no resurrection unto heaven or Eternal Life. Read *1 Cor 15:13-17 "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*" Since Jesus rose from the dead we now have the guarantee of God himself that if we believe we will also rise to be with him for eternity in heaven. Jesus did what man can not do because we are powerless due to sin. Jesus died to pay the debt of sin (which man could not pay); Jesus rose from the dead by his own power (which man could not do); and Jesus provides redemption from sin (which man is incomparable of doing). Listen to **Rom 5:6-8** "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

The Resurrection of Christ is the program of God coming full circle. Man was created to fellowship with the Lord; through sin Adam broke that fellowship and plunged the whole world into sin and death by sin. Through Adam all men die but the fulfillment is that through Christ rising from the dead all who believe shall be made alive again to fellowship with him. *1 Cor 15:21-22* "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." Christ's resurrection is the proof that one day even death will be destroyed (*1 Cor 15:26* "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.") because death is the result of sin. *Ezek 18:20* "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son".

Man can not enter heaven because of his sinful body the resurrection is the means of giving man a new body made in the image of Christ which can be with him for eternity. *I Cor* **15:49-52** "As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." As we have seen, without the Resurrection of Christ none of these things would take place. There would be No resurrection of the Christian from the dead, there would be No forgiveness of sin, there would be No fulfillment of God's plan for salvation of man, there would be No receiving of a glorified body to spend forever in Heaven with the Lord. Is it important to believe in the Resurrection of Christ? Yes it is since it brings many of God's promises to his people to fulfillment through Jesus Christ.

The phrase the third day is also to be fulfilled according to the Scripture. Our Lord gave us an example, another picture by which we would recognize that he is the Saviour in *Matt 12:40* Jesus said, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Three days and three nights Jesus would be in the grave before his resurrection paralleling Jonah spending three days and three nights in the whale's belly. Why is the number three so important? First, the Jews had a tradition that a man's soul could remain in his body after death for three days and thus be

resurrected by a prophet of God during that time. But on the fourth day all would be lost and there could be no resurrection unless God himself would do it. Jesus knowing this waited to raise Lazarus from the dead until the fourth day proving he is the Messiah. Read the account in *John 11:38-43* "Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. 39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. <u>Martha</u>, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. 40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. <u>And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father</u>, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it. that they may believe that thou hast sent me. 43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth."

The Second reason this number is important in the context of Jonah is because of Jonah's condition when he was expelled from the whale. Jonah is a type of the Resurrected Lord, three days and three nights and then seen in his white or radiant state before his glorification. The stomach acid of the sea creature would have bleached the skin of Jonah's entire body STARK WHITE after 72 hours (the process could not be accomplished in a shorter period of time). Remember how the Scripture says of Jonah, "*I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I*" *Jonah 2:2* Jonah was not just praying but also physically crying tears from his affliction (pain) as the acid eat away at his flesh it felt like the fires of Hell. Where was Jesus during those three days and nights while he was paying for our sin? Jonah's whitened condition upon leaving the fish is a parallel to Christ shining in brightness upon leaving the grave. It is important because if an average looking Jewish man would have approached the city of Nineveh crying, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." Jonah 3:4-5 they would have no reason to believe such a lunatic. But God had prepared the storm, the fish and Jonah to fulfill his will. Jonah was now Snow White looking either like an Angel or a walking corpse. Thus the scripture says, "5 So the people of Nineveh believed God."

Finally the Resurrection is important because it proves that if Jesus could come back from the dead as he promised then we can believe him to do all that he said he would. John 2:19 "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Jesus promised Eternal Life if we believe in him as the Scripture teaches in John 17:2-3 "As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." Jesus promised no condemnation of sin if we believe in John 5:24 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 3:18 "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Jesus promised to answer prayer in his name in John 14:13-14 "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." Since Jesus did keep his promise to rise from the dead at the third day then we can believe he will fulfill all the other promises he has made including the promise of Eternal life to all who believe.

The Gospel is stated in *1 Cor 15:1-4* and it had three parts:

- 1. How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures
- 2. That he was buried
- 3. That he rose again the third day according to the scriptures

Now that we know the explanation of the Gospel from the Scripture, do you believe the Gospel or do you believe in some other version with additions or subtractions? Nothing else is THE GOSPEL anything else is a fake. Paul in *Gal 1:8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."* We know what Paul said the Gospel is, and he asked God to send himself or even an Angel to Hell if they were preaching any other gospel than the truth. Those are strong words because they are dealing with our eternal soul.

Based upon what you believe you will spend eternity in either Heaven with the Lord or Hell with those who believed a lie. You don't have to believe me, though I have nothing to gain from you. I have no Church for you to attend, I ask no money for this Biblical Exegesis, I only ask that you check the references I have given and pray that the Lord Jesus Christ give you Grace to understand God's plan of salvation and believe in Him. Jesus was also concerned that people believe the truth so he said in **John 12:47-48** "And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." By not receiving the Word of God as the truth and believing it you are rejecting Christ and one day the Word of God will judge you for sin because you refused to believe what God said is the truth about receiving Eternal Life. Who would you rather listen to men or God?

# WHAT IS THE PLAN OF SALVATION?

- a. God not church loved us and gave Jesus alone as our Saviour, John 3:16
- b. We deserve Hell, but God gave us the <u>gift</u> of Eternal Life, Rom. 6:23
- c. <u>Repent</u> and believe God, or refuse Him and be Lost for eternity, *Luke 13:3, 5*
- d. Believe in Jesus as you're only Saviour, repent and confess him today, Rom. 10:9-10

#### **THE GOSPEL PRESENTED:**

#### **JESUS ALONE**

John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

God loves us so much that he doesn't want us to spend eternity in hell so he sent his only begotten Son into this world. He became man through the miracle of the Incarnation, lived a perfect life, healed the sick and taught us the truth of Salvation. Jesus said in *John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Jesus is the one God has sent to be our Saviour and no one else.

Once, while explaining this point, I used this illustration. The family had a young son under two at the time, and they could not understand why God wouldn't accept the help of Mary and others for salvation. I said, "Let's grow little Christian up to the age of 10, one day while he

is out front, playing with the other children, he sees a man at the end of the block wearing leather, chains and wielding a knife. Christian recognizes the danger and begins yelling for the children to run to their homes. He even helps some of the smaller children to safety. As he helps the last child into their home, the man now extremely angry, lunges at your son, beats, stabs him and leaves him in a pool of his own blood to die. How would you feel if after the funeral those same children, that Christian died for, came to you and said, 'you know Christian didn't have to die. We were all going in different directions, and the man wouldn't have caught us, we would have been safe without little Christian. You know Christian was really stupid, because we could have been safe without him'."

I asked, "How would you feel?" He replied, "I'd kill'm. They called my son stupid for dying for them, he saved them and they ignored his sacrifice." I couldn't ask for any better response. I said, "And how do you think God feels when you deny your one hope of Salvation is the sacrifice of His only Son? You are effectively saying to God, 'It was stupid to let Jesus die for me when I had my own way to be saved and reach heaven'. After ridiculing Jesus that way, what do you think God wants to do to you?"

There is Salvation in only one person; the person of God's choosing Jesus Christ. And God has made Salvation extremely simple. You can't buy it, you don't have enough money, you can't earn it you could never do enough, you can't go to any one else because they didn't die for you and can not give you the gift of God. Only God can give the gift of God which is eternal life through placing your faith in what Jesus has done for you. Faith is something we all have in varying degrees. Since we only need faith the size of a Mustard Seed (extremely small) all men have enough faith. Have you placed your faith in the right place or person? Jesus died for you and he wants to give you the gift of Salvation if you trust him and ask.

## THE GIFT OF GOD

# *Rom 6:23* "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

God does not owe us Salvation he owes us death as the wages of our sin. How can we make God owe us eternal life? We can't force him, or bribe him or even sweet talk him into giving us his gift of eternal life. We are sinners, sinners must pay fore their sin or have some one else pay for them. That is what Jesus did for us; he died on the Cross to pay for our sins. He did this to save us. **2** Cor 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." But this is a gift which no one deserves for it was paid for in the blood of God's own Son. So in repentance we may ask God to save our soul and as he promised he will give eternal life to those who truly believe what Jesus has done for us.

While witnessing to a striking airport worker I used this story. "What if your boss, after the strike, came to you privately and asked if he could hold your pay just for this week in order to make up a shortage in the receipts. You were assured it would only be this one week and that all your back pay would be made up with interest. Being a nice guy, you agreed for the good of the company. But what if he did the same thing for three more weeks? What would you do?" He exclaimed, "I'd demand my pay, I worked for it and I earned it." I told him "In God's sight, the only thing you've earned is death and hell, according to Romans 6:23. But heaven is not earned. God made a contrast here between what we are owed and what He gives as His gift through Jesus Christ." He said "Well, ya but I'm a good Catholic and I believe I'll make it to heaven because I attend Mass, I follow the Ten Commandments and if every thing else fails, I make the

first 9 Friday Novena prayers to Mary and she'll take me to heaven, she promised." instead of attacking what he had said, I replied, "So you believe in the Mass, you good deeds (merits) and Mary?" I had my Bible open so he could see it and I turned to Rom 6:23 and read it this way.

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life *by going to Mass on Sunday.*" He saw that I had read it incorrectly and said, "That's not right." I asked what it did say. And he said, "It's through Jesus our Lord." "It doesn't say the Mass?" "No," he replied "It doesn't say anything about the Mass." I read again, "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life *by obeying the Ten Commandments.*" He yelled, "It doesn't say anything about the Commandments!" He assured me "NO"! And I began to read again "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life *through the help of Mary.*" This time he was ready for me. He very soberly replied, "What are you, STUPID?" To which I asked "If it doesn't say that, what does it say?" "It's through Jesus Christ our Lord" he said without hesitation. I made him repeat that two more times before the truth finally sunk in, that salvation was not through his Masses, Merits or prayers to Mary. He then understood that salvation was in Christ alone. He wasn't saved then but he came to Christ two weeks later. He said that he couldn't run away from the truth. Today he is a Pastor in my home town.

# **REPENT AND BELIEVE GOD**

#### Luke 13:3 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Jesus began his preaching ministry this way, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt 4:17 Repentance is the picture of some one going a direction then realizing it was the wrong way, they turn around and start to go the right way. All men want to go to heaven but getting there is either our way which is wrong or God's way which is the right way. Only when you realize you are not following the Word of God can you repent and change directions. You must trust that God's Word is the truth, believe what it teaches about Jesus the only Saviour paying for your sin and then turn to Christ with all your heart asking him to save your soul.

I have never met anyone who, when we became very serious, did not know where they would spend eternity. Deep in peoples hearts they know that they are not good enough for heaven, and though reluctant to admit the truth they will if you can clearly present the alternatives. Disbelief warrants Hell, trust in Christ alone allows Him to save your Soul. "If you don't know where you will spend eternity, could it be that your church has never told you the whole truth? In repentance (turning) from those things which keep you from heaven, you may need to repent of your church that has failed to assure you of salvation, so you could turn to Christ the true Saviour."

Some one may argue, "That's not what the Church teaches about the Bible, that's your interpretation." "Ok", "Then get a pair of scissors and cut out every verse you or the Church says is wrong, then what will you have when you're finished? You'll have the Bible you want, not the entire Bible that God gave to us." You must accept that God's Word is truth; Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17

## ASK CHRIST ALONE TO BE YOUR SAVIOUR

**Rom 10:8-10** "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt

believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

If you are to confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord your Lord, then you must understand that the term Lord shows final authority, ownership and allegiance to him alone. Therefore, to call upon Mary, or others, to help save the soul is to deny Jesus is the only one God gave to die for us on the cross and save us from our sin. Our confession of sin is to the Lord, our hearts trust is to the Lord and our salvation is entirely from the Lord. To believe that God has raised Jesus from the dead is important because Jesus is the only religious leader who has come back from the dead and by this has proven that everything He taught is true. No other ruler, priest or Pope has ever returned to confirm their teaching to be true. The only leader we can trust without reservation is Christ, and His words are recorded for us in His book, the Bible. Won't you Repent and believe God that he gave Jesus to forgive us of our sin and by receiving Christ as our only Saviour you can have Eternal life?