

**Reaching the lost....**

**Five facts every person needs to know!**

**Intro: I remember as a boy playing church with my brother. I was the “preacher” and he was the “song leader”. I remember one of my "sermons" was drawing a set of stairs on a chalkboard to what a person must do to be saved. I knew that my teachers had taught me that there were five things every person must do to go to heaven. So, on the stairs I wrote each step: hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized. As a boy I knew what God required to be saved; but I did not really understand the facts behind those commands that made them so important and that really compel us to obey them.**

**Today I want to share those facts also with you--Five facts that every person needs to know.**

**The glorious God who created us has revealed to us His will for our lives.**

God's existence and glory is seen in the creation.

*The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. (Ps. 19:1)*

This glorious God created us in His image.

*Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (Gen. 1:26)*

Would it make sense for God to create this world and man as the head of it; and yet never communicate with us--never declare to us His purpose for creating us? The Scripture affirm that God has revealed His will to us.

*The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. (Ps. 19:7)*

When we have become sufficiently impressed with the testimony of the universe, we will begin to seek the will of God. We will turn our minds to the word that claims to reveal His mind to us, His will for us, and we will HEAR OR LISTEN TO GOD!

*“No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. (Jn. 6:44-45)*

**The gospels of the NT contain the eye-witness & carefully-researched testimony of the life of the most unique individual who every lived, Jesus of Nazareth, who claimed to be the son of God and proved it by miraculous signs.**

*What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that*

*you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:1-3)*

If we apply to the gospels the same principles of historical inquiry that we use of other ancient documents there can be no doubt that the gospels accurately present the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

The apostles had the opportunity to know the life of Jesus first hand and reported it with a sincerity that was proven by their willingness to give their lives for their report.

Their testimony was originally accepted by reasonable people who could verify its truthfulness.

Their writings were carefully authenticated and collected by the early church.

They have been passed down to us in thousands of manuscript copies that may be compared so that we know the message has been reliably transmitted.

The message of the apostles is that Jesus.

Claimed to be God.

Demonstrated the works of God culminating in His resurrection from the dead..

Thus He was the Son of God.

*Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)*

When a reasonable person honestly confronts this testimony he will BELIEVE.

*"I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins." (John 8:24)*

Of course, it is not only important to hear what the Scriptures say about Jesus; it is also important to hear what they say about us.

### **Every accountable person is under the wrath of God because he has violated the holy law of God.**

Though we enter the world innocent and safe, we grow into a state of accountability to know and obey God's will. We are confronted with temptations which leads us to disobedience or sin. Paul described the process: *And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; (Rom. 7:9-10)*

Paul's experience is every person's experience:

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Rom. 3:23)*

Consequent we are under God's wrath for our sins:

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (Rom. 1:18)*

When we have seriously and honestly considered this fact our conscience will not let us rest until we REPENT of our sins.

*“I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. (Lk. 13:3)*  
How we respond to our sin will determine our eternal destiny. And that leads to our fourth fact.

**At the judgment on the last day, Jesus will either confess us or deny us.**

***All of us will give account of our earthly life before Jesus, our judge, at the last day.***

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)*

And we need also to know that He will do with us as we have done with Him!  
*“Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. “But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. (Mt. 10:32-33)*

Think about what it will be like! I suggest that when we seriously consider this fact we will willingly and unashamedly CONFESS Christ to be what He claimed to be--God's son.

And so the Scripture teaches we must do:

*that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Rom. 10:9-10)*

But what remedy is there for the sins we have committed?

**God loved us so much that, though we were sinners against his law, He sent his son to die for our sins in order that through the cleansing of his blood we can be saved from eternal wrath.**

***Jesus said he came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10); to give himself a ransom for many (Mt. 20:28).***

***Likewise His apostles proclaimed His death:***

As a manifestation of the love of God for the sinner

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

As a sacrifice for the sins of the world

*But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. (Hebrews 2:9)*

As the only hope of redemption and forgiveness

*To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Rev. 1:5-6)*

*When we honestly consider this fact in the light of our sins, we will want more than anything to unite ourselves with the death of Christ. Out of trust in Him we will do, as Paul said the Romans did, "BE BAPTIZED" into His death"!*

*Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? (Rom. 6:3)*

**Conclusion:** In other words, when we honestly consider these five facts I have presented, we will obey those five steps that lead to the forgiveness of sins--**H,B,R,C,B**. That of course is the beginning of new life in which we live out those principles for remainder of our lives.

**God's plan is simple; yet based on the most profound truths that we must understand and accept. Do you?**