

EVANGEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

2040 N. WESTRIDGE, WICHITA, KS 67203

(316) 942-5882

E-Mail Address: church@evangelpca.org

Web Page: [Http://www.evangelpca.org](http://www.evangelpca.org)

Sunday Worship 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Senior Pastor: Donald W. Rackley

Associate Pastor: Tim Rackley

April

2008

Volume 20 No.4

Salvation That Is Real

Someone has said, "Christianity can be condensed into four words: ADMIT, SUBMIT, COMMIT, and TRANSMIT." I believe that these words, properly understood from God's point of view, have much to teach us about a proper relationship with God.

The word ADMIT carries the idea that Jesus expressed when He said, "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil." Paul added, "All have sinned and fall short of God's glory." Many people feel that they are acceptable to God because they have not committed any "serious" crimes. Isaiah 53:6 describes us as sinners deserving God's judgment because "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..." There is no basis upon which God can save a person who does not ADMIT that he is sinful and in need of God's forgiveness. Jesus said to the self-righteous, religious people of His day, "I have not come to call the righteous men but sinners to repentance."

When a person has come to agree with God concerning his sinful condition, then he is inclined to come to Christ for forgiveness. This is the idea of SUBMIT. We are invited by God to "Come let us reason together... though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool." It is necessary to understand and believe several facts about Jesus Christ before one can COMMIT his life to Him. The knowledge of these facts however, will not make one a child of God. One must understand the significance of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. He lived a perfect, sinless life because He was and is God's Son. He died a cruel death for sins which He did not commit. He arose physically from the grave. All of these things qualify Him to be the Savior of those for whom He died.

Jonah said, "Salvation is of the Lord." From beginning to end it is the work which God has undertaken to do. We sinners can only receive and participate in that which He has done. But, to have a part in His salvation, we must ADMIT we are sinners and SUBMIT to His word.

The word of God commands "That all men everywhere should repent, because He has set a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." This passage, coupled with many commands to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ found throughout the New Testament, form the basis for salvation. Conversion is a radical thing. It is described by such terms as "born again," receiving a "divine nature," "a new creation," and "being delivered from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God." The divine requirement then is the COMMITment of oneself to God. The idea is not one of simply believing a number of truths, but of COMMITting oneself to Him completely. This truth is captured in the answer by some of God's children when their life was threatened for refusing to bow before an idol. "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up" (Daniel 3:17-18).

The natural result of receiving God's love is sharing it. Paul said, "The love of Christ controls us." He tells us how we are to TRANSMIT God's love in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." The saved person is a changed person; he can no longer be as he used to be. God's salvation only starts at conversion—it continues forever. Peter, addressing Christians, wrote to those of us "Who are chosen... by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ..."

The true child of God is one who, in answer to his own need, has registered his complete dependence upon God and has committed himself to God for keeping and for service. This person is recognizable by his character and his message.