Warning: Old fashioned stuff still matters.

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Who am I who speaks the Lord's oracles?

If you are reading this BUT you not sure that you would get into heaven - in your present state this state being - the things you do, the things you think and the things you say, then it means you are in danger of hell fire and if you are, then you need to immediately change your life - but you can't change it on your own, for if you could, you would have done it by now.

You need help - and that help comes from God himself.

Now, in case you are wondering about me. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, Mamayi a slave of Jesus and he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to declare that prisoners are free, sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free and to announce that this is a year of the Lord's favour (see Luke 4: 18-19).

I was a slave of sin for 20 years. Oh, how I run from the Lord as a prodigal son, indulging in all sort of sin, but eventually he won me over and set me free from my chains and after he saved me, I later heard him say to me: "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" I was deeply moved by him so I cried: "Here am I, send me!"

I am therefore here carrying good news, like fresh water on a hot day and today is your day of salvation, if you are willing to accept the words from the throne of God, which words are true.

On the before and the after

So, I told you that there are certain things which can prevent you from getting to heaven and instead send you to hell. You probably already know in your own heart when you do something wrong but to help you see more clearly, these "things" are what God calls "sin" and what type of things are these?

Now the Lord, who is The Spirit was resting on Paul also a bond servant of Christ and in about 53 AD, that is almost 1,800 years ago. He caused him to write to the Corinthian Church. He wrote eternal truths thus:

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 KJV.

Now I have read that scripture in "Old fashioned English" but so you don't miss the core meaning, let me also read it in "modern English". Here goes:

"Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NLT

From reading these two versions, you can see the nature of the things God saves us from when we come to him as explained to our generation. Some of them include as you have heard:

- Fornication which is sexual sin typically sleeping around before you are married.
- Idolatry which is worshiping idols. This means bowing down to images on earth, beneath the earth and in the heavens. It can cover the images in our hearts.
- Covetousness is greed. When you want "more more more". Never content with what you have.
- Revilers are abusers this means those who speak in a despising or abusive way about others, for example internet trolls and gossipers.
- Extortioners or those who cheat people includes those who take bribes or are corrupt.

This passage in addition if you don't notice describes two states of an individual:

- A before state it says "some of you were ONCE like that"
- An after state it says "you were made holy, right with God" and this happened "by calling on the name of Jesus"

Before God calls you - you do these various things which God hates. The words used "some of you were once" as you notice it doesn't say "you did these things" it implies "you were these things". Being something represents a character, a life style. This is not someone who does these things once in a while - but daily such that they become him or her. This is the "before state" of us humans.

Then the "after state" comes when God causes you to start feeling guilty about these things and then when you become humble and can hear him, he calls you and his son Jesus executes a rescue mission in your life using the power of the Holy Spirit. The "after state" therefore represents the complete opposite of the "before state" for the one who calls is Holy (which word means "set apart") and so it would be absurd for a God who hates things to transform you and then give you power that is Holy and then you continue to do the old things - how can that be a turnaround?

This turnaround is what is called "repentance" and this "after state" is what is called "finding salvation" or "being saved".

How to turn around to be begin to hear the voice of God

So how does this turnaround start?

It has been taking place since the beginning of time when our ancestors called Adam and Eve rebelled against God's perfect plan. This introduced sin into our world, that was originally perfect and once we fell - then all sorts of evil came in and so our world became broken as you see it today.

God was grieved but then he got to work.

He did this by sending someone, a man - God, Jesus, my master and Lord. This Master of mine came here about 3,000 years ago. He chose 12 men, as his disciples. These twelve he used to launch his plan or manifesto. Among these 12, one called Judas later betrayed my Master, so he could be killed by jealous rivals – who in Jesus' day were called "pharisees" and "Sadducees".

This man Jesus, also called the "lamb of God" because he represented a sacrifice God was willing to accept in order for you and I to be saved, he died - at the hands of these rivals as I have explained but 3 days later, something miraculous happened! He rose from the dead and presented himself alive as proof to these close followers, now 11, plus another many who followed him and believed his message.

He told them to stay in the city of Jerusalem until he sent them a helper - the Holy Spirit, who is the breath of God who would empower them to preach the good news - the good news being that men don't need to fear death anymore because their Lord Jesus in dying for them, as a lamb that was perfect had satisfied God's requirements and so we can live forever with Jesus and his father for after we die - we shall rise again – and then will live forever more.

This is good news for everyone and this is the good news that was put together in what is called "the bible".

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It was written for you and I – as a message of food news for some but a warning for others. First the good news:

- Are you oppressed? Jesus once said: "come to me you who are heavily burdened, I will give you rest" Matthew 11: 28.
- Are you poor? He said: "Blessed are you who are poor for the kingdom of heaven belongs to you" Luke 6:20.
- Some of you might be in jail, might be burdened by sin, might be angry, might be confused, might be living in sinful situations every day. For all such he says: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it in its fullness." John 10:

Warning: what happens if you refuse Jesus?

If you accept this Jesus then he will send his Spirit who will take residence in your heart and begin changing you from the inside to the outside, it will be a difference as night and day - to make you become like God, slowly by slowly. This is what scholars called "sanctification" or "becoming holy".

What's the price for Jesus' offer? **Nothing.** It costs you nothing. There is no catch. It's free because the God who makes such generous offers has already given us examples of such generosity.

- The sun rises every morning we pay nothing for the warmth. When you know the price of heating in winter then you appreciate that the free warmth of the sun is priceless.
- The air we breathe is free. Do you know how much it costs to be put on an oxygen machine, from example when suffering from COVID-19? Once you know the price, then you will know that the free air is an extravagant gift.
- Water is free, love is free, kindness is free. As one musician sang: "the best things in life are free". She should have added: "They are free because an extravagant God gives them to his children who he loves so much".

If you however refuse this Jesus, perhaps believing this story to be nonsense, too simple, too ignorant then you have made a choice to reject the only son of God and in rejecting him, you have aligned yourself with one called Satan, the enemy of God, the one who is the prince of this world - the one who wants to rule over you, so he can kill you, so you can be in hell - where the torment never ends, in fire that burns forever and ever and ever.

Now someone might come back to challenge me and perhaps say something like this:

"What God of love would send someone to hell. He can't be good if he does this."

Another might also say:

"No, hell can't be forever. In fact, everyone will eventually be saved, even those who never heard of Jesus or those of other religions – such as Buddhism. Even the devil will be saved because after death and in hell perhaps, someone has a chance, even if it takes millions of years of discipline or punishment to eventually come to repentance, with God purifying them until everyone is eventually in heaven – for we are after all his creation and he loves us and he has given us free will – which continues even after death."

Yet a third person might argue that the God of the bible is not the final authority and thus the bible is not the "only truth" – "who is to say if God has not also manifested himself through Buddhism for example or the Bahai faith?" they might say.

These thoughts in themselves are not new. For example, a man called <u>Origen</u> as early as just over 150 years since Jesus' resurrection proposed similar ideas – that is, that all will get saved and early

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Christians rejected his views and in fact by around 500 AD, more than 1,500 years ago his ideas were formally called a "heresy" – the equivalent of taboo.

These ideas nevertheless persisted and by the time a man called <u>Charles Finney</u> came onto the scene in America, to draw people back to Jesus, starting around 1825 in a revival called the "Second Great Awakening" in America, this idea which is called "universalism" was still spreading.

Which tells us something interesting about us humans, "the more things change, the more they stay the same". An idea like this has persisted for thousands of years and so this old-fashioned stuff is still here and so likewise, the Lord sends to us an ancient message from the bible to warn us about this stuff because in our generation, we somehow believe that if Christians were more loving, spoke about hell less, accepted all religions, then more people would become Christians. Ha ha, Jesus who was perfect love appeared in history – and instead he was killed by those who hated him!

This idea ultimately implies that in reality it is not necessary to be good/holy in this life because:

- 1. Eventually everyone will be saved so why strive.
- 2. There is a chance even after death to change it so death is not the final chance as the Christians say.

Being "universal" is not the answer and also it is wrong. Wrong because the bible shows something else, it shows us through many passages that we are to work hard:

"But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure" (1 John 3:2–3).

In light of the world's coming dissolution, 2 Peter exclaims, "You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming" (3:11–12).

And Paul's letter to Titus connects our "blessed hope" (2:13) with a summons "to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (2:12)."

What the bible says about the end of all things

Since I as a servant proclaim the word of God, I know it is true and there is no other means by which you may know the truth and this word of God declares the following:

About what will happen – when Jesus returns.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (KJV).

About God's final judgment – based on our deeds while alive.

Then I saw a great white throne and the One seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. And there were open books, and one of them was the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their deeds, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead, and each one was judged according to his deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. And if anyone was found whose name was not written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20: 11 – 15 (BSB).

These messages we preach are from the gospel that is faithful from the start and we have no other. We don't add to it and we don't take away from it.

Why hearing God and repenting of your sins is critical for your salvation

The only reason someone can feel guilty over their sin is because God in his mercy sends his Holy Spirit to make you feel guilty.

The person who rejects the Spirit commits an unpardonable sin ^{iv}because without the Spirit of God, your heart becomes hardened to sin and it's impossible to need a saviour because sin brings pride – and since that's the root of sin, pride means you in fact laugh at the idea of a saviour for you are your own god - needing no one to tell you what's right and wrong!

It is for this reason that the unrepentant sinner and thus by extension Satan and his angels don't have access to the Spirit of our Master Jesus and so can never see their need for forgiveness and so never turn around and so never receive healing and so this goes on forever and ever - like a circle, with no end - hence eternal and because God is holy and must punish sin, as they sin eternally, he punishes forever - as the sin deserves.

This is why hell is eternal so now to you:

Do you feel guilty about your sins - then you are in a good place, it means the Spirit of Jesus is near you but don't you dare grieve his Holy Spirit- infact the more guilty you feel, the nearer he is! Don't let him pass you before touching and healing you! Don't let pride lie to you - don't let the son of God go for today is the day of your visit and woe to you if you don't recognise the day the king came to your house.

As for the others of you, if you don't even feel guilty then I pray that you recognise the danger. You are blind to the trap you are about to fall into and the loving God has sent me to warn you! The remedy for you, the ointment for your eyes to see is for you to go buy a bible or <u>download one</u> and don't rest until you eat it from start to finish. It takes only about 44 hours to read it from start to finish!

Don't rest because I don't know how much time you have. Who is to say whether this is your last day and the angel of death has an appointment BUT if you do this, fear God, then perhaps God in his mercy will tell the angel to draw back his sword.

I beg you by the mercy of the living God - Let today be the hour of decision. The day when the King visited and you invited him. Woe to you who spit in the face of the Master of the Universe. Who will plead your case if you reject the final one, the Supreme judge - beside him there is no other? There was never and there will never be!

Don't let go of his cloak!

There is no assurance that you will always live to see tomorrow and there is no truth that YOLO - You Only Live Once, No You Only Live Eternally (YOLE).

If you died tonight - then what?

It's therefore as simple as this - get right with God, tonight.

If you feel that what I am saying is tagging at your heart and you want to get right with God, but have questions then my Master wants you to ask questions for whoever asks, it is given to them, whoever seeks, finds and whoever knocks, the door is opened (Matthew 7: 7). I therefore invite you to what an earlier revivalist called an "inquiry room" – send me an email titled "inquiry room" and tell me your question and share with me your phone/WhatsApp so we can set up an urgent appointment to discuss.

If you feel you are ready to do this, right here, right now - because you want to get right with the Holy One, my master who has sent me to speak these words to you, then pray with me this:

"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen"

Now <u>write to me</u> and tell me what you have done so I can send you a gift to help you. This gift is what my Master got me to prepare for you to help you answer the many questions you will have so you don't return to the old ways which landed you into trouble in the first place.

Lots of love – and blessings from the throne of God the father and of the Lord Jesus.

Notes and about "catch the revival" including for those who want more revival

If you like the style of this message, this is in line with a word from the Lord for this year called "Catch the revival". He uses an example of one revival to get me to prepare his people. For this message, I was inspired by the example of Charles Finney, whose life story is captivating. Charles Finney aimed to understand the gospel in simple terms and his search for God revealed his excessive pride was preventing him from receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When he eventually confessed his sins, he experienced "liquid love coming in wave after wave" – this was the baptism of the Spirit. He eventually gave us his becoming a lawyer (he was studying to be a lawyer) and decided to preach the gospel. He told someone who had come for him to go to court to argue his case: "I've received a retainer from the Lord Jesus, I can't represent you". I have bought his book which you can find on Amazon.

It is during this revival that many common elements, still in place today were born, for example:

- Open meetings or tent style meetings
- Singing
- Prayer
- An altar call (this was introduced by Charles Finney).

This "Old fashioned stuff" is still important stuff because when the Lord visits he brings joy (and so we sing and dance), he causes us to be on fire (and so we pray) and he causes conviction of sin (and so we want to give our lives to the Lord).

What we need is more not less of this "old fashioned stuff":

- Preaching marathons by different preachers in crusades, tent meetings and similar types.
- Prayer meetings
- Choirs who sing songs of praise to God.

These things or "methods" for bringing revival as advocated by Charles Finney work if you want to "bring the Lord" because they are based on ancient principles:

- God is moved when people pray (See 2 Chronicles 7: 14).
- God is moved when people praise him for he inhabits the praises of his people (Psalms 22:3) and
- God has ordained that it is by preaching that the good news is spread for the word says: How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10: 14

When we do these things, revival will flow.

References

ⁱ See Isaiah 6 for the background to this.

ⁱⁱ For more on this idea of universalism and its history, a good article is here:

https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/universalism-a-historical-survey/

https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2019/march-web-only/michael-mcclymond-devils-redemption-universalism.html

iv https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-unpardonable-sin/

^v See 1 Chronicles 21 14-18 for reference.

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 $^{\rm vi}$ See references to Charles Finney here: https://www.christianity.com/church/the-2nd-great-awakening-11630336.html