

THE RESPONSE OF THE RICH YOUNG RULER PROVED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE WITH GENUINE FAITH

The willingness and the desire to submit to Christ is the result of regeneration and not the prerequisite.

The prerequisite of regeneration is to believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead to take away our sin and that He is Savior and Lord of all creation, especially those in creation who believe in Him.

Genuine faith in Jesus which produces regeneration, results in the salvation experience. The salvation experience is sanctification and ultimately glorification.

Sanctification involves: following Jesus, a life-time of repentance, confession, and striving to obey the commands of Christ, denying self, submission, giving up whatever the Lord should ask of you.

The rich young ruler was turning away from the salvation experience of sanctification because he was not yet born of the Spirit. If he had truly submitted to the righteousness of God with saving faith, he would have obeyed Jesus and followed Jesus. Matthew, the tax collector, had genuine faith, and as a result he left all to follow Jesus. Matthew 9:9-12

The response of the rich young ruler simply proved that he had not yet cooperated with the Spirit and received regeneration. The response of the rich young ruler was not proof that he had to be submissive to Jesus before he was regenerated. His response was proof that he had not been regenerated.

Jesus is Lord. Submitting to His being Lord is our work in our sanctification which shows that we have truly believed in Jesus' power to save us from sin. Anything not done in faith is sin. Trying to obey without genuine faith, is trying to achieve eternal life through the wrong gate. The rich young ruler proved that he wanted eternal life by entering through the wrong gate. Mark 10:17-23

The rich young ruler did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish his own. He did not submit to God's righteousness. Romans 10:3 Therefore he could not obey Jesus and could not follow Jesus. A lost sinner cannot obey, submit to, and follow Jesus. A lost sinner must cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and allow himself to be brought to saving faith.

WHO DID JESUS COME TO SAVE?

The poor: poor in spirit, the meek and humble with a readiness to receive because they are destitute of righteousness. Luke 4:18

The brokenhearted: those who want peace because they are heavy-laden over their sin. Psalm 51:17

The captives: Those who are captives of Satan and are doing his will. 2 Tim. 2:26

The blind: Those blinded by the god of this age to the light of the gospel. 2 Cor. 4:4

The oppressed: Those oppressed by the devil. Acts 10:38

Jesus preaches the gospel to those who recognize their sin and their lack of righteousness. Only those with readiness of mind to hear the gospel can be preached to. All others will ignore the preaching of the gospel.

Jesus died sinless thus condemning sin to the fullest. Jesus resurrected with the right to make you a new creation in Christ. In Christ, you are in the process of becoming sinless and righteous (a new creature in Christ). To be "in Christ" is to believe in the sinless death and the resurrection of Jesus and His power to save you from sin and being destitute of righteousness. As you walk in this newness of life, you are presently being saved from the power of sin.

HOW DID THE CROSS LEAD TO SALVATION?

Jesus died sinless with a consciousness of all sin being against Him. The Law of Sin and Death is that the person who sins dies. But Jesus never sinned. Sin killed the physical body of Jesus. Therefore sin is condemned for killing an innocent man (Romans 8:3). Sin is sentenced to removal from all creation. Jesus resurrected with all power over sin and death. In the New Covenant, Jesus presents His plan for total sin removal over all creation. God will complete the work He began in all who believe in and receive Jesus. Believers will enter the presence of God totally sinless and totally righteous.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Jesus became the sin offering, not sin. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Man must be reconciled to God. God does not need to be reconciled to man. God never changes.