

The Most Important Journey: The ABCs of *How to Respond*

This is now the hour of decision for every single one of us. Now is the hour of decision.

If you are not a Christian – you have the most important decision of your life – for eternal life – ready and waiting right here in front of you.

It all has to do with the Gospel of Salvation (the Good News of Salvation) found in the person of Jesus Christ. And so here is a simple ... child-like ... explanation of salvation by way of what we can call 'the A-B-Cs of salvation' – (meant in no way to insult anyone's intelligence.)

So, if based upon what we've seen together from God's Word just now – well, maybe He has your attention now. And it is no accident, by the way, that you have been exposed to these Scriptures today.

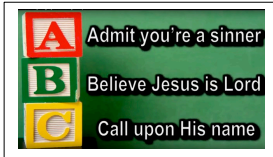
I want to explain to you – very simply – how to be saved. Saved from what? ----- Eternity in hell.

Hell is eternal – life is eternal. There is no 'in-between.' We're all going to spend eternity somewhere. And that's why it's the most important decision of your life ----- for eternal life.

It's the Good News of salvation – in Jesus Christ – because Jesus – the majestic Son of God – came here to earth ... the first time, and:

- **He lived a perfect life**—on behalf of sinners like you and me
- **He was crucified**—on behalf of sinners like you and me
- **He was buried in a tomb**
- And **He rose back from the dead** on 'the third day' **in triumph over sin, and Satan, and death**—on behalf of sinners like you and me.
- **AND – HE'S COMING BACK AGAIN** ... one day.

THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS.



So, what's **THE BAD NEWS**? Well, that's where the **A-B-Cs** come in.

THE BAD NEWS is ----- you are a sinner. We've all sinned. We were all born—sinners—which is why Jesus said we '**must be born again to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.**'

The '**A**' is for **admit and acknowledge that you've sinned ... that you're a sinner ... and that you need a Savior.** **Romans 3:10** says: '**There is no one righteous, not even one.**'

And **Romans 3:23** tells us **why** – it's because '**ALL have sinned**' – every single one of us – '**and fall short of the glory of God.**'

Romans 6:23 – for lack of a better way of saying it – 'packages' **THE BAD NEWS first** and then it immediately **follows it up** with **THE GOOD NEWS.**

See, there's **a penalty** for sin – and we've all sinned – so we're all now going to be **SENTENCED** ... for our sin.

And it's the '**death penalty**' – the **ETERNAL DEATH SENTENCE** that is rightly (righteously) brought against us – and that's **THE BAD NEWS.**

Romans 6:23 says: '**The wages**' (the payment for) ... '**the wages of sin is death—BUT**'—and here's **THE GOOD NEWS** ... '**the free gift**' —(meaning that this gift is **GIVEN** ... Jesus paid for it – as He **BOTH EARNED IT** by His **perfect life** here on earth—**AND—PAID FOR IT** by His **sacrificial death** here on earth – He did this **IN FULL** ... on the cross – and it cost Him His life ... it cost Him everything—**HE PAID FOR IT!** – and He now offers it to every single one of us: this free gift—'**the free gift of God [which] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**'

That's the '**A**' ... here's the '**B.**'

The '**B**' is for '**believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord**' – and – as **Romans 10:9-10** says: '**If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead – YOU WILL BE SAVED.**'

And then, lastly, the '**C**' is for '**call upon the name of the Lord**' – or – as **Romans 10:9-10** also says: '**If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead – YOU WILL BE SAVED**' – from what? God's Holy Wrath!

And here's why – '**For [it is with your] heart that you believe and are justified, and [it is with your] mouth that you confess and are saved.**'

How do you 'confess with your mouth'? Well, that's **Romans 10:13**: '**For EVERYONE who calls on the name of the Lord – WILL BE SAVED.**'