

Dear brethren,

The peace of God.

Salvation is universal in the sense that it is offered indiscriminately to every human being; the only requirement is genuine faith in Jesus Christ. Anyone who believes and accepts Him as their only, personal and sufficient Redeemer will be saved, as long as they remain faithful and not abandon the grace of God until the end. Jesus died for all mankind to cleanse and rescue them from the curse of eternal fire. However, not everyone will be saved.

The Lord's sacrifice only justifies those who believe in Him and receive this saving grace through faith in His Name. The price paid for our salvation was the life and blood of the Son of God. It was too high a price to be despised.

Christ left His divine glory and descended from the highest heaven to the lowest parts of this world; He took on the nature of a man to fulfill His mission to rescue lost souls.

Those who believe in Jesus Christ receive the righteousness of salvation through faith, but those who do not believe receive the justice of condemnation for rejecting Him.

The greatest error of mankind is to reject and despise Jesus Christ and His Holy Word; this choice leaves no alternative but eternal condemnation.

Everything began with Him and will end in Him. He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of everything. Therefore, redemption does not depend on any religious denomination, any person, or anything else in this world. It is only through the miraculous work of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary that mankind can be saved from a hopeless, miserable and terrible finality in the eternal bottomless pit, forever suffering and separated from God.

This heavenly and wonderful gift of grace saves the believer from condemnation; it justifies him and leads him to eternal life (Ephesians 2:8 and Titus 2:12). Jesus Christ opened to us the revelation of His Word. Through faith, He has given all men access to God by sending us the Holy Spirit. Our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified to fulfill the plan of God, forgiving our sins and reconciling us to God.

On the cross, the son of God accomplished the work of reconciliation, uniting men and women as brethren, spiritually reconciled to God, and adopted as children through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

*"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his*

*Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Rom 8:29)*

*"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)*

The Lord died for all mankind - for those who will be saved as well as those who will be condemned. The composition of these two groups - the saved and the condemned - is the consequence of accepting or denying the spiritual calling, which is freely chosen or rejected by each individual person. The redeeming grace and power of God is limitless, so it is never the case that God's grace was insufficient to save the souls.

The apostle John by the guidance of the Holy Spirit wrote that God's desire is for all mankind to be saved. They only need to accept the gospel of the Lord Jesus, believing in Him as their Lord and Savior.

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:16-18)*

*"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." (John 6:29)*

The Lord is the Lamb of God who was sacrificed to take away the sins of all those who desire salvation:

*"[...] he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:2)*

*"... if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom 10:9)*

*"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Corinthians 3:17)*

The conditions stated in this chapter of Romans, namely: "...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart..." would not make sense if this confession and belief

were arbitrarily and unilaterally imposed by God. Here we understand, on one hand, the responsibility of the individual to believe, and on the other, the divine willingness to welcome all those who accept the truth of the Gospel. We know that faith comes from hearing and accepting the Word of God.

*"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:" (Act 17:30)*

As evident in the divine invitation:

*"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:21)*

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)*

And again:

*"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18,19)*

*"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:22)*

Therefore, all those who accept the gospel will have life, because God doesn't want any to perish. We read in the letter of Peter:

*"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)*

All those who have experienced the new birth through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will receive enough strength to keep themselves sanctified, firm and faithful to God, which is the condition to remain in God's grace. Anyone can know their spiritual condition by simply examining whether they are walking in faith and sanctification. Those who are in Christ, having the Holy spirit dwelling in them, are in the light, and their works will necessarily reflect that light.

Your Brothers in Christ,

**Council of Senior Elders**