

"Why Not Now"

3/8/92 AM

One Day Dr. Oswald J. Smith who was pastoring a church in Canada told a story about an experience he had had, in trying to witness to a banker -

He told how he had tried his best to explain the Great Truth that "The death of Jesus on the cross in our place was the only thing that would satisfy God -"

As you can imagine, "The banker found that too much to believe" // **You see this banker was like many people today -** // He felt that if ever he was going to be saved, it would be by his own accomplishments, by his own efforts - Not those of someone else = (kids make a good point like that)

Believing that we can,

The man was praying Ephesians 2:8 & 9 // Now Dr. Smith, seeing the man's problem said to him,

"Oh I see, you feel that you have
the right to reject God's laws and
manufacture your own."

Then Bro. Smith said: "Let me ask
you Sir, Suppose I come to you
in great need - And I want to
make a loan / Tell me "Do I have
the right to make the terms
and conditions on which the
money is to be loaned?"

"Who has the right" / The Banker, or
the man in need?"

Well you can imagine the answer the
Banker gave "Why the Banker has
the sole right to set the conditions /
The man in need would have to
meet my terms —

Oh listen dear hearts! That's exactly
how it is with God / He has set
out the terms & conditions for us
to be saved, and they never change

A lost person must see themselves as
one with a great need / And they must
come to see God, as the only one able
to meet that need thru His Son
Jesus Christ — //

Oh listen, God has every right
to make terms and to set down
conditions — Amos. / And if ever
a lost person is saved / These
terms and these conditions must
be met — //

When I begin to consider God's plan
of salvation, a number of scriptures
immediately come to mind —

Scripture like Isaiah 45:22 & New
God said: "Look unto me, and be saved
all the ends of the earth"

New God is saying: "Let all the world
look to me for salvation, for I
am God, and there is no other"

Now let me say to every person here, saved or lost, you need to be waiting these verses of Legitimate Laws?

Some of you have said "Pastor, I don't know what to say to a lost man" Here's what you need to say Beloved — Go back and write down Isaiah 45:22

And when I think of God's plan of salvation I think about Luke 19:10 where it's written, "The Son of man (Jesus) is come to seek and save that which was lost." Luke 19:10

And I remember a question asked of the apostle Paul in Acts 16 verses 30 & 31 "Sir, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" //

In Ephesians 2:8 you may read: "By Grace are ye saved" And verse 9 says, "Not of works" /

Now that knocked out the banker's plan didn't it? He said, "I must help God" // And Paul said: God doesn't need help.

But you must accept this if you are to be saved
Paul also wrote in 1 Timothy 1:15
Christ Jesus had one purpose in
coming to the earth, "to save sinners"
"to save lost people" //

He also said: "Here's your lost dear
lost helpless sinner, "Confess with
your mouth the Lord Jesus, and
believe in your heart that God
raised Him from the dead, and then
thou shalt be saved" Romans 10:9

Let me ask you dear hearts / are
you writing these verses of Scripture
down? // If Not, you need to, because
they will help you talk to a lost
person —

oh but let me say this, "with all
the scriptures God has made available,
there are many who die lost" // There
are many who still believe their
plan is better than God's plan —

Oh but read Proverbs 14:12 if you
really want to know how foolish that
is // listen As I read it
"There is a way which seemeth
right unto a man / But the end
thereof are the ways of death"

Oh listen, Proverbs 14:12 was not
written for old Testament people
only // It was written for you and
me today — and it's still the truth

Would you believe that in the early
days of the church after Jesus had
died on the cross, satisfying all
God's demands, that some men taught
"Except ye be circumcised after
the manner of Moses, ye cannot
be saved" (read it for yourself
in Acts 15:1)

Paul said: "forget it" // it doesn't
work that way ^{any} // It may seem right to
man, but it will cause someone to die lost //

There are ^{still} people today who teach
Untruths regarding "God's Way of
Saving People" //

Some day "Religion will be 'A'" // all I
have to be, is Religion to be saved //

There are many today depending on
"Church Membership" // According to the
Very Word of God, a person can join
every organization calling themselves
a church they are blind, and die
lost — You need to belong to a church //
But you need to join a church because
you are saved. // not to get saved. //

Matthew wrote in Chapter 1 Verse 21 "Then
I shall call his name Jesus, for he
will save people from their sins"

Paul said in Acts 4 Verse 12, "Neither
is there salvation in any other,
for there is none other name
under heaven, given among men,
whereby we must be saved" //

If you are lost, and ever get saved,
you must be saved by believing in Jesus //

By Accepting Jesus As Lawless —

The Apostle Paul was very likely
the most Religious person in his day —
when he spoke of himself, he
used terms like, "Zealous For God"

① He had been Circumcised.

② He had kept the Law

Yet he was Lost, even tho he
would not admit it — He was
Religious, But He Was Lost //

Let me Ask this Question, "If Religion
Could Save, Why Did Jesus have to Die?"

If Religion Could Save, "Why Calvary" //

Think About It —

There are many today who feel "Morality"
Can Save a Person = ("Just Being Good")

Let me Ask: If Just Being a morally
Good Person Can Save ^{you} / _{have to} "Why Did Jesus
Who knew No Sin, Become Sin For Us?"
Can you Answer That?

Why did He take off Royal Robes
and put on Swaddling clothes? Why
did He leave a Throne to be
Bears in a manger?

Why did Jesus die, if just being a
Mortally God Person would suffice —
(Can you answer that?)

Listen, If we could Love Ourselves, we
would never have needed Jesus — He
could have stayed home — Oh BUT

Listen, "There is a way, that seems
right to a man, BUT in the end
it leads to death" (That way is Man's way)

Now someone may be thinking, "Oh I hope
the preacher doesn't hurt someone's
feelings or chase some one away with
that kind of preaching" //

Will you listen to this, "The preacher is
only being obedient to God" // "And people
can never be any further away from
God than when they are lost" // They
need this message —

⇒

Oh yes, some call this "Foolish preaching,"
but let me tell you, It makes a lot
of sense — Amos —

Dear Lost Person, You are not here
by accident // This is a "Divine
Appointment" // "There is a loving God,
reaching out to a lost sinner, by
the preaching of His Word" And
by the prayers of God's people //

Did you know there are loved people ^{And} who have
been praying for you for a long
time — // If they could, they would
make your decision for you / but
it doesn't work that way

Salvation is a personal experience /
And the decision you make in the
next few minutes could very
well be the decision of all
decisions — // for it could very
well determine where you spend
eternity // Let me tell you, It'll
either be Heaven or Hell —

You will either say Yes to Jesus,
or you'll say No. ~~But~~ ^{also} let me tell
you Dion last lesson, with all the
love I have in my heart, you
need to understand ^{this} / Having heard
the Gospel this morning excuse
any legitimate excuse you might
have had for not getting saved //

The Apostle John wrote these words,
"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.
He's talking about Jesus, my friend

Paul said in Acts 16:31 "Believe on the
Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt
be saved" //

And we read in John 3:16 "Who so ever
believeth in Jesus shall not perish,
but have everlasting life"

Would you Accept Jesus as Your
Savior this morning Dear Lost Person

Now Don't Worry Ask that we do
something this morning that we've
not done before - And here it is, "If
You are able to do so And will,
Don't Worry Ask, that Right Now, before
we begin "If you are praying for
someone in this building to make a
Decision that you come kneel ^{at this altar} and
pray for them / Right Now = If you
can't kneel, ~~as~~ there's no room then
come sit at the front bench - or just
stand up here praying //

Beloved, we need to show people that we
really care - And your coming will be
them saying, "I care" // J.N. Jay, "Lost
Person, Don't Worry for you //

Now Dear Lost Person, someone down here
Right Now could be praying for you ^{calling out your name!}
Perhaps Even Now, your parents are
asking God to save your soul before
it's too late -

parents if you have lost children
above the age of accountability you
should be down here baptizing too —

Now the invitation is for every lost
person here today to accept Jesus as
Savior. You can do it where you are.
But if you do you ought to be
down here joyful & happy to share
your experience. I urge you to
come to that now. If you don't
understand come let me explain how
you can be saved.

The invitation is ^{also} for parents to come
committing themselves to the Lord
and His Church. Some of you need to
join this church. And bless your heart
you know it. You could be keeping
your children from coming.

The invitation is for all the saved
here today to be committed your life
to Jesus & His Church.

And it's also for Any who feel
God leading you to do so, to unite
with this church —

Prayer —

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is very light and difficult to decipher.]