

We Need Jesus

Revelation 3:15-20

I've known people who've been satisfied with their religious life. And if you invite them to study the Bible or to worship with you at church, they see little need because they're happy as they are. They may be happy, but they aren't asking the right question – **The question is whether God is happy with them.** People can easily deceive themselves into spiritual complacency and forget about God. They may think they have all that they need spiritually, but without God they're only fooling themselves.

Jesus told the story of a young man who got his inheritance early. He thought this would make him happy; and for a while it did. He found out, however, that worldly happiness

never lasts. **Luke 15:14** says, “*Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.*” He had placed his happiness and hopes on money in a far country. But when he ran out of money, he had nothing. Fortunately, he came to his senses and he saw for the first time in a long time what he really needed. So, he came home to His Father and home to God.

If you ask people what they need, they may list several physical needs: air, food, water, clothes, and shelter. They need medical care, financial resources, education, training in many skills, family, and social relationships. *But each person is more than flesh and blood; He is also soul and spirit.* Just as people have physical needs, they also have spiritual needs. People are

disadvantaged if even one of the needs are not met.

As a child and as a young man, “*Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and men*” (**Lk. 2:52**). As God’s people, we have mental, physical, social, and spiritual needs. Most of us are well aware of our mental, physical, and social needs; but we may not realize how vital and significant our spiritual needs are. Through His kindness and grace, God meets our spiritual needs in abundance in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Eph. 1:3** says, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*”

We need several spiritual blessings, but none is more important than our need to be

saved from the consequences of sin. Sin causes people to become spiritually sick, needing a spiritual physician. Thankfully, there is a balm in Gilead that heals the sin-sick soul. There is hope for the person who feels trapped and enslaved to sinful practices that destroy their lives. **Mt. 9:10-12** says, *“Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, ‘Why is your Teacher eating with tax collectors and sinners?’ But when Jesus heard this, He said, ‘Is it not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.”*

The Lord Jesus is in the saving business. So, he said to the tax collector Zacchaeus in

Lk. 19:10, *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

His very reason for coming into the world was to save sinners. **1 Peter 2:24-25**

explains, *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.”* Every whip strike, every wound, every blow to his body, He endured to bring healing to your soul, to bring forgiveness and transformation.

1 Peter 3:18 says. *“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”* Now in Christ we die to the

enslaved, sinful life and can begin fresh, and born again, to a new life free from sin and following righteousness, God not only frees us from the sin; *He helps us change our hearts so that our lives take a different direction.* **Rom. 12:2** says, “***And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.***” Now, taking the sin away, He gives our hearts a new focus, and that is *the will of God.*

The will of God is indeed good; it lifts up, blesses everyone, encourages righteousness, and brings an inexpressible joy. When people have lived God’s will, they find it truly is acceptable as a way of life. It is indeed the best way to live; and people who

are willing to do God's will realize that it truly comes from God (**Jn. 7:17**). Not only is it good and acceptable, the will of God is perfect. When people are unwilling to accept the will of God, they settle for something less. They settle for something that can never give them what God's will gives them. **What does Jesus give us?** **First, *Jesus give us faith.*** The more we know about Jesus, the more He will build our faith and trust. **Jn. 20:30-31** says, "***Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.***" When we read Scripture and study who Jesus is and what He was able to do, it builds our faith in Him. The confession of Christians is that Jesus

Christ is indeed the Son of God. His love, His miraculous powers, His teaching, and His resurrection point to His divine nature as God's Son.

And whether we trust in God matters.

People who lack confidence in God lose out on the blessing that God offers believers.

Prov. 3:5-7 says, “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and tur away from evil.*” Rather than live by our own rules, let us have faith in God and in His ways. If we don't believe what God says, we don't believe God.

Second, Jesus gives us hope. 1 Tim. 1:1 describes Jesus as our hope. **Mt. 9:36** says,

“But When He saw the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the harvest.’” Historically our world has lived in chaos with false ideologies, which leave people with confusion and uncertainty. Jesus brings grace and truth, which give us hope.

Even in times of temptation, the Lord gives us hope. **Hebr. 4:14-16** says, *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One*

who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Third, *the Lord Jesus give us and teaches us about love. 1 Jn. 4:19 simply says, “We love, because He first loved us.”* Without love, we profit nothing and we are nothing. The Lord Jesus said in **Jn. 13:34-35**, *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* The love of Christ has made our world a better place. His love teaches us to share with others. And without the love of Christ, our world would be a sad and evil place.

Fourth, *the Lord Jesus came to give us truth.* He Himself is the source of truth. *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:14).* Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:31-32).* Jesus answered Pilate question, *“You say rightly that I am a King. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (Jn. 18:37).*

Fifth, *Jesus gives us strength, especially in our times of weakness.* The apostle Paul suffered much during his lifetime and often

went through times when he had few financial resources. Paul said in **Phi. 4:12-13**, *“I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how-to live-in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”*

When we face those times of temptation, the Lord provides the strength that we need to overcome. Paul encouraged the church in **Eph. 6:10-11**, *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”* In Christ, we have strength to stand firm when we are challenged.

Finally, *the Lord Jesus provides for us a future*. While secular disciplines can tell you nothing about what happens once our lives are over, the Scripture give us confidence of eternal life. The Lord has graciously provided for those who remain faithful to Him a home in heaven. Paul speaks of his own confidence in **2 Tim. 4:6-8**, *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

Likewise, James speaks of the Lord's gracious blessing to those who endure. **James 1:12** say, "*Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*" Because of Christ we have a home in heaven with God awaiting us.

The Lord Jesus spoke plainly to a church in Laodicea that thought they had everything they needed. In our affluent society, many think they have outgrown God and don't need Him anymore. In some cases, the people who think they don't need Him are the very ones that need Him the most.

Listen to the words of Jesus in **Rev. 3:15-20**, "*I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither*

hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore, be zealous and repent. 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with me.'"

Is the Lord knocking at your door? Have you closed your heart to Jesus? Isn't it time

to open the door before it is too late? He won't knock forever!

When you live without Christ, your spiritual needs go unmet. You may not realize it at first, but there is a hole inside of all those who do not have Christ. There is a space inside each human being that only Jesus Christ can fill. In **Jn. 15:4-5** he said, ***“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”***

The Lord asks us to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him. He wants nothing less than a total commitment. Many people play with their faith and wonder why

it doesn't work for them. They rarely pray, rarely worship at church, rarely study their Bibles and then wonder why their faith has so little meaning or value. Why not give Christ your all? (**Acts 2:38**)