

It's

Who You Know

**That
Counts!**



“It’s not *what* you know, but *who* you know,” said a young employee just after receiving a promotion in his uncle’s business. Some people are fortunate to have influential friends. But the one Friend you really ought to know is Jesus Christ. He is valued by millions whose lives have been transformed by His mighty power. Do you know Him? I mean really know Him? Who He is? Why He came? What He has done?

His Person. The coming of Jesus Christ into the world changed the course of history. The event was so important, the whole world records today’s date as being A. D., which means “In the year of our Lord.” We recognize His glorious birth at Christmas. But His death is even more important because it made possible our own spiritual rebirth – and that’s a miracle!

His Miracles. A well-known religious leader said to Jesus, “No one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus referred him to the greatest of all miracles – the miracle of new birth. “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:2-3). New birth is actually brought about by the Holy

Spirit who produces divine life in our soul when we trust in Christ. Physical birth gives us physical life and makes us part of the human family. Similarly, spiritual birth gives us spiritual life and makes us part of God’s family.

His Love. True friendships are prompted by love, and Jesus Christ came from heaven because He loved us. He came to pay the price for our sins, and restore our fellowship with God. He is the giver of life to the spiritually dead. Jesus referred to this new life when He said to His Father: “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

His Salvation. Christ came to reveal God’s wonderful plan of salvation, which not only appeased a holy and righteous God who must punish sin, but also satisfied a loving and gracious God who would forgive the sinner. This divine plan was fulfilled by Jesus Christ when God “made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Your Submission. The new life in Christ is beautifully illustrated by the commitment made at a marriage ceremony. The brief “I do” seals a pledge of love by two people who promise they will no longer live for themselves, but for each other. The Lord Jesus wants to claim you as His own. He loves you, and longs for you to respond to His love. Love and eternal life are gifts from God (Romans 6:23). They do not result from practicing religion or doing good works, but from a personal relationship with His Son.

Your Action. To receive God’s Son as your Lord and Savior, you must take these four meaningful steps:

1. *Acknowledge* that you are a sinner;
2. *Repent* and ask God’s forgiveness;
3. *Believe* that Jesus’ shed blood paid the penalty for your sins;
4. *Receive* Him through prayer into your heart and life.

Your Guarantee. When you take these four steps, the Bible assures you of these four things:

1. *Forgiveness* of sins through repentance (Luke 15:7);
2. *Salvation* by believing (Ephesians 2:8);
3. *Peace* with God (Romans 5:1);
4. An *eternal home* in the “Father’s house” (John 14:2).

By accepting and confessing the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are born again and you become a member of God’s family and a recipient of His love and grace. God’s Spirit witnesses with your spirit that you are “a new creation” in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). You are now empowered to show forth Christian virtues which display a quality of life consistent with the Word of God.

Your Accountability. The possibility of rejecting, or even neglecting God’s offer of salvation is an awful thought – your eternal destiny depends on your decision. The Bible says “each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12). The sinner whose sins are not covered by the cleansing blood of Christ will be judged and condemned: “He who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36).

The sinner who is reconciled to God by the death of His Son will enter heaven. When he realizes the greatness of his salvation he will worship the Lord he loves, and with all the redeemed he will experience “fullness of joy” and “pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11).

Our Request. Remember, it’s not *what* you know but *who* you know that counts. Many know *about* Jesus, but we want you to really know Him *as* your Lord and Savior. The Bible says, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). Won’t you do this right now?

– G.H. Peebles

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