

WHY "TED" NEEDED TO BE SAVED: AN EXPLANATION OF SALVATION



The reason Ted needed to be saved had nothing to do with Ted's "sins." the wrongdoings, shortcomings, lustful thoughts, acts of immorality, use of profane language, and other immoral involvements were the result of Ted's "separation" from God. However, the cause of that separation was not Ted's fault. And it was not the result of his birth.

In fact, Ted was separated from God the moment of his conception. Ted was the heir of his ancient forefather's sinful act of disobedience that resulted in all people of all ages being separated from God. Romans 5:12. Because of Adam, the first man, the whole family of mankind was separated from God and was destined to an eternal death - eternal separation from God - all because of Adam's sin of disobeying God who cannot accept sin.

Ted's "sins" were the result of Adam's sin.

Ted, like all members of the human family, had no relationship with God beginning with his conception. As an heir - with the now sinful bloodline of the first man, Adam - Ted inherited Adam's status of being separated from God. Consequently, Ted was also separated from God and, like his forefather, lived to satisfy his natural senses, urges, and lusts. In living to satisfy his natural senses, he was ignoring the needs of his spirit-man.

Ted is a "three-part" being.

The "real" Ted is his spirit-man. His spirit has been placed by God in a body that has a soul (mind, will, and emotions). Ted is therefore a "three-part" being: spirit, soul, and body. 1 Thessalonians 5:23. God, being spirit, communicates with Ted "spirit" to "spirit" and only to his "spirit." if Ted - the spirit of Ted - is separated from God because of Adam's sin, then Ted cannot receive communication from God. This is because Ted must communicate with God in "spirit and in truth." John 4:23.

Ted will have no guidance from God until he is reconciled to God. So, Ted, for all practical purposes, is "dead." Sure, he still has a soul (his intellect, will, and emotions) operating within his body that is alive, but the "real" Ted - his spirit - is of no value to him as long as it remains "dead." In fact, his soul - intellect, will, and emotions - takes control of all his thoughts. His body acts and reacts in accordance with his thoughts. This results in Ted thinking and doing everything that will cater to and satisfy his five senses and his fleshly desires and lusts. Galatians 5:19-21. His spirit - the "real" Ted - is relegated to being ignored and unimportant.

God understood Ted's plight and made it possible for Ted to have a relationship with Him.

God, with all-knowing powers, realized long before Ted was conceived that Ted would inherit the "sin" legacy and sinful bloodline brought about by Adam's sin. Knowing that Ted would never be able to meet His requirements for being "sinless" through his own efforts - doing good things - God assigned His son, Jesus Christ, to come to earth as a human child to live a perfect, sinless life as a human being.

Because the Holy Spirit initiated the pregnancy of Jesus' mother, Mary, in a miraculous manner (no man had intimate relations with her), Jesus could live sinless as He was born without the sinful, bloodline heritage that all other human beings have. Luke 1:31-35.

Jesus, though tested and tempted in many ways, succeeded in living a sinless life, without using divine powers, for all the years He lived on earth. This was a direct consequence of Jesus having a pure bloodline - different than the now-tainted bloodline of Adam - and a willingness to live every day in obedience to the ways of God. Now God could take the next step necessary for Ted to have a relationship with Him.

God shows his mercy and love for Ted.

As Jesus had agreed prior to coming to earth, because of His love for His created beings, He would take all the punishment for all the sin and sinful actions man ever and would ever commit. John 3:16. God, the Father, then placed all the sin and man's past, present, and future wrongdoing upon Jesus Christ. Romans 3:25, 26. Now, Jesus, who had no sin because of His sinless life, bore all man's sin.

For man to be reconciled to God, no other choice was available to God except to condemn Jesus to death because of those sins. That He did and Jesus died a cruel death upon a cross. Now the sin and sins of Ted, and all human beings - past, present, and future - had been paid for by a loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

Once that debt had been paid, then God, the Father, and God, the Holy Spirit, restored life to Jesus Christ. Luke 24. Then Jesus returned to heaven where He has assumed his rightful position and power as the Son of God. Luke 24:51.

Ted must learn that Jesus has enabled him to be in communication with God.

Without hearing that God has accepted Jesus' death as payment for Ted's sin, Ted will be unaware of God's provision. As a result, Ted will continue to be out of

communication with God. But God has commanded that other believers tell Ted and all men of every nation about Jesus' sacrifice. Mark 16:15.

When someone tells Ted about Jesus' great deed of love and mercy, then God, the Holy Spirit, begins convicting Ted of his need for God. The Holy Spirit reveals to Ted that Jesus has given him the opportunity to accept Jesus' payment for his sin. God wants Ted to know that he can be reconciled to God and communicate with Him.

Ted can now choose to communicate with God.

By accepting that Jesus paid the entire price for all his sin, Ted can become reconciled with God. God will supply him with the faith he needs to take that step. By "confessing with his mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believing in his heart that God raised Him from the dead," Ted (his spirit-man) is granted "the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ." see 2 Corinthians 5:21.

This means his "sinful nature" or "old man" has been crucified once and for all time with Jesus Christ and no longer exists. Romans 6:6. It also means that God has forgiven all his past, present, and future sins. 1 John 1:7. Ted - his spirit-man - has become totally new - even a new "species" that has never existed before - and without sin. 2 Corinthians 5:17.

The "real" Ted - now and forever without sin - is immediately "sealed" - not just "marked," but "preserved" - by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13) and placed in Jesus. Only if he, as a mature believer, denounces Jesus as his Lord and Savior, will his salvation be in jeopardy. Now as a "saved" person, Ted will be able to communicate with God through Jesus Christ whenever he chooses

When Ted chose to get "saved," the Holy Spirit took up residence within him.

The power and wisdom of God, the Holy Spirit, is now and always available to Ted. Ephesians 1:13, 14. He is always able to communicate with God and seek the wisdom of God. He can ask the Holy Spirit to lead him and to supply him with the power to overcome the desires and lusts of his flesh. John 16: 13-15.

Now that Ted's spirit is without sin, he will never again be dominated by fleshly desires and lusts unless he chooses to do so. Romans 6:14. Although all Ted's fleshly senses and desires will always try to get him to commit sins, Ted will have the power to live in accordance with God's word. 1 John 4:4; Romans 6:11. Because he is a son of God, if he commits acts of sins, he can repent of those sins and ask God to bring him back into full relationship with Him.

To discover how he is to live a victorious life full of the promised blessings of God, Ted is to renew his intellect, will, and emotions by reading and studying

God's word as mentioned in Romans 12:1, 2. God's word will transform his thinking, and renew his mind, will, and emotions resulting in him breaking away from the world's patterns for living. The knowledge, belief, and acceptance of God's word, covenant promises, and His love will allow the believer to call forth the manifestation of God's blessings while living on earth.

Ted is now learning to have a satisfying relationship with God.

When Ted got saved, he became a joint heir with Jesus, an heir of the covenant promises made to Abraham (Galatians 3:29) and an heir of God. Romans 8:17. Now he could approach God, his Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, with boldness and confidence. Ephesians 3:12.

The word of God provides Ted the information (called "faith" - Hebrews 11:1) that, if he "believes" that information, he can know that God has and will provide all his needs for now and for all eternity. He now has the right to look forward to God's power, protection and provision while on earth and then his transition to heaven when he has lived on earth the number of days God planned. Philippians 4:19. This is what happened, "when Ted got saved."

You, too, can be saved!

Just pray, "Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus. I confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in my heart that You have raised Him from the dead as Your word says in Romans 10:9, 10. I invite the Holy Spirit to live in me and provide me the power to live a holy life. Forgive me of all my sin and make me a new creation - without my past being held against me. I ask you to make me the righteousness of God in Jesus according to Your word. I thank You and I thank Jesus for saving me and allowing me to be reconciled to You. Amen."

Even if your name is not "Ted," you are now "saved!"

If you prayed the above or a similar prayer, you are now in an eternal relationship with God. You are a "new creation" and now your past does not decide your destiny! Praise God! More information? Just call Pastor Jim at 1-727-868-5527 or email him at pastorjrp@tampabay.rr.com.