



***“Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.” (Isa 55:6)***

Imagine a life without God. Total darkness. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). Lost without God. No one to call upon when we are suffering. No one to vent all our frustration. No one to ask for help. No one to love us like God loves us. We are strangers on this earth looking for a homeland (Heb 11:13-14). Jesus is the way (John 14:6). Once we die, it will be too late. Now is the time to call upon Him. Now is the time to ask for His help. Tomorrow's sun may never rise for you. Do not let His word depart, be saved today. He who believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16) ... if you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard (Col 1:23).

Keith Crews



***“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” (Isa 53:5)***

The prophet Isaiah (750 BC) speaks of the Messiah (Hebrew), the Christ (Greek), the Anointed One (Luke 4:18; Acts 4:27; Acts 10:38; Heb 1:9). The one who would be king would suffer for us. "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). "You say rightly that I am a king" (John 18:37). "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). "He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Pet 2:24). "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Rev 1:5).

Keith Crews



## Not Enough

Jesus pointed out that some will say “*Lord, Lord...*”, but He said that was not enough, that one must do the will of the Father in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. See Matt. 7:21-23. On another occasion Jesus asked the question, “*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say?*” The word “Lord” is used to refer to one who is supreme in authority. Therefore to use the term in addressing one is indication of recognition of the authority of the one addressed.

The lesson here is that it takes action on our part that is in keeping with the commandments of the Lord in order to be pleasing to Him.

To illustrate: Jesus said “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*” (Mark 16:16). What benefit is it to the sinner who calls Jesus Lord, and then refuses to obey His command to be baptized? Does the Lord promise to save that person?

What about the person who has sinned, knowing that Jesus said “*Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3), yet refuses to repent, does Jesus promise to save such a person as that?

Jesus also said to His disciples regarding those who were teaching false doctrines, “*Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch*” (Matt. 15:14).

Let us be doers of the word, and not hearers only.

Sam Binkley Jr.



