

# IMPOSSIBILITIES CONCERNING SALVATION

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### I. INTRODUCTION

1. According to both O.T. and N.T., with God all things are possible.
  - a. Jeremiah, the O.T. prophet, inspired of God, said, of God, "...there is nothing too hard for thee," Jer.32:17.
  - b. According to Mt.19:26 and Mk.10:27, Jesus said, in response to his disciples who had asked the question, "Who then can be saved?", "with God all things are possible."
  - c. He also said in Mk.14:36, "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee."
  - d. And in Lk.1:37, the angel said to Mary, "For with God nothing shall be impossible."
2. However our lesson concerning things impossible pertains to salvation; and salvation pertains to sin and sinners; and sin and sinners pertains to man, the sinner, not to God who can't even be tempted to sin.
3. Furthermore, with man there are many things in this world, in many areas, which are impossible, with the area of salvation being one of them.
4. Our lesson pertains to impossible things concerning the salvation of the sinner, of which there are several to be considered, if any one of which are all are lacking – salvation of the sinner is impossible.

### II. DISCUSSION

#### A. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SINNER TO BE SAVED WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST.

1. He is the Savior, the one and only Savior, of man, Ac.4:10-12; Mt.1:21; Lk.19:10; 1Tim.1:15; Tit.2:13,14.
2. He promises to save only those who by faith obey him, Jno.8:24,21; Lk.6:46; Heb.5:8,9; Jno.5:39,40; Mt.7:21-27; Jas.2:24.

3. Therefore, without Jesus Christ no man can be saved; there is no other way; no other means; no other being.

**B. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SINNER TO BE SAVED WITHOUT THE BLOOD (i.e. the death) OF JESUS CHRIST.**

1. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins, so says Heb.9:22.
2. It was not possible for the blood of bulls and of goats required as an offering under the Law of Moses to take away sins, Heb.10:1-4.
3. Even those living under the law ultimately depended on the blood of Jesus Christ for the redemption of their transgressions, Heb.9:15.
4. Thus it is said in Heb.9:12, “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”
5. Also in Heb.9:26, “...but now once in the end of the world (age) hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”
6. If and when one, anyone, is redeemed, it is by, through, or with the blood of Jesus Christ, Eph.1:7; Col.1:14; 1Pet.1:18,19; Rev.1:5.
7. Rom.3:21-26 plainly declares the absolute necessity of the death of Jesus Christ for the justification of the believer – that there was no other way God could do it!

**C. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SINNER IN THIS THE N.T. DISPENSATION TO BE SAVED WITHOUT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.**

1. It is by the gospel the sinner is saved by an obedient faith, Mk.16:15,16; 1Cor.15:1,2; 1Pet.4:17,18; 2Th.1:6-10; Cf. Rom.1:5; 16:25,26; 6:16-18.
2. It is by the gospel that the righteousness of God is revealed, or by which God makes the sinner righteous or justified, Rom.1:16,17; 3:10-26; 10:1-4; Cf. Gal.2:16.
3. On Pentecost in Ac.2:37 when asked the question, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”, Peter answered in Vv.38-40. Their response is recorded in V.41.

4. Then Rom.6:3 reveals this is how and when we enter into Christ where salvation is and into the benefits of his death, his shed blood.
5. Only by our faith in and obedience to the gospel of Christ, which is God's power unto salvation, is this made possible!

**D. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SINNER TO BE SAVED WITHOUT HUMAN ACTIVITY.**

1. True, salvation is by the grace of God, Rom.3:24; 11:5,6; 2Tim.1:9.
2. In fact, the gospel, which is God's power unto salvation, is said to be, "...the gospel of the grace of God," Ac.20:24. Cf. Tit.2:11-14; Ac.20:32.
3. Though salvation is by God's grace; it is not by grace alone; Eph.2:8 declares, "For by grace are ye saved through faith..."
  - a. Therefore salvation is neither by "grace alone," nor by "faith alone"; it's by both grace and faith.
  - b. Since "grace" has reference to God's part – by grace he offers; he gives; and "faith" has reference to man's part – the one who believes, or by faith accepts what God in his grace offers or provides; there is both divine and human activity in man's salvation.
  - c. One without the other brings no salvation!
4. Consider the N.T. examples of conversion as proof of the proposition.
  - a. The Jewish believers on Pentecost in Ac.2: "What shall we do?"
    - (1) Peter's answer. What he did and did not say to them, Vv.38-40
  - b. The Jailor, Ac.16:30, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" – Human activity!
  - c. Cornelius, Ac.10:5,6; 11:12-14; 10:29-35,47,48.
  - d. Saul of Tarsus, Ac.9:6; 22:16.
  - e. "He (of 'every creature') shall be saved," Mk.16:16, "that believeth and is baptized."
5. Obviously, this of necessity involves human activity – faith and obedience on the part of man – without it no salvation for the alien!

6. Moreover, as a Christian, one must be actively involved in his salvation, Phil.2:12; 2Pet.1:5-11; Rev.2:10.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

1. God by his grace is ready, willing and able to save all men, 1Tim.2:3-6; Heb.2:9; Jno.3:16-18.
2. Jesus Christ, in Mt.11:28-30, invites all men who labor and are heavy laden:
  - a. To come unto me
  - b. And I will give you rest
  - c. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me
  - d. And ye shall find rest unto your souls
  - e. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
3. He not only invites all to come, but he reveals the way it is done. See Jno.5:39,40; Mk.16:15,16.