

THE ALIEN SINNER'S PRAYER

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Often in public places one will find a tract or a booklet titled "God's Simple Plan Of Salvation" advocating the alien sinner's prayer, containing two statements that are totally false, completely contrary to scriptural teaching.
2. It's the purpose of this lesson to take notice of those two statement and show the fallacy of both of them.

II. DISCUSSION

A. #1. ON SALVATION THE BOOKLET OR TRACT WILL SAY:

"Just pray: Oh God, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus was my substitute when He died on the cross. I believe His shed blood, death, burial and resurrection were for me. I now receive Him as my Savior. Thank you for the forgiveness of my sins and the gift of salvation and everlasting life, because of your merciful grace. Amen."

1. Mt., Mk.,Lk.,Jno. contain the Great Commission. The commission of the Apostles of Christ.
2. The Book of Acts is the record of Apostolic gospel preaching and conversions under that gospel preaching.
3. It is interesting to note that in the Bible conversions, not one single person, not one single alien sinner, was commanded to pray "the alien sinner's prayer" for salvation from past sins.
4. We have two Bible examples of sinners praying for salvation from sins but neither one was an alien sinner – both were in covenant relationship with God when they were praying.
 - a. Lk.18:13.
 - b. Ac.8:22. Simon the sorcerer was commanded to repent and pray for forgiveness for a specific sin; but he had already believed and had been baptized for remission of past sins as an alien, 8:13.
5. Furthermore, Jno.1:11-13 tells us believers are given "power to become the sons of God," not that they are forgiven and are sons of God at the point of believing on the name of Jesus Christ.
6. The simple answer to the question of the alien sinner, "What must I do to be saved?" is clearly set forth in Ac.2:21,36-41,47. Note this:

- a. Peter standing up with the eleven preached Jesus Christ.
 - b. The people were convicted.
 - c. Convinced of their sin, and as believers in Jesus Christ, they asked for instructions; they asked, “What shall we do?”
 - d. Peter answered these believer’s question.
 - e. By faith they obeyed Peter’s instructions.
 - f. The Lord added them, the saved, all the saved, to the church.
7. Cf. Other cases of conversion: Ac.18:1-8; 9:1-6; 16:25-34; 22:6-16; See Heb.5:8,9; Mt.7:21-23; 2Th.1:6-10. See Jno.9:30,31; Prov.28:9.

B. #2. ON BAPTISM THE BOOKLET OR TRACT WILL SAY:

“You should be baptized in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ as a public testimony of your salvation, and then unite with a Bible believing church without delay.”

1. In other words, you are saved before being baptized; then you should be baptized because you have been saved and then join the church of your choice.
2. Nowhere in the N.T. do you read that sinners were first saved then baptized because they had been saved ,or as a public testimony of the fact that they had been saved.
3. However, you do read in the N.T. that baptism was and is:
 - a. For (unto) remission of sins, Ac.2:38. Cf. Mt.26:28 on “for”, eis
 - b. To wash away sins, Ac.22:16.
 - c. To put one into Christ, Gal.3:26,27.
 - d. To put one into Christ and the benefits of his death, Rom.6:3,4.
 - e. For salvation, 1Pet.3:21; Mk.16:16.
4. Nor do you read where the saved were told to join the church or the faith of their choice.
5. And we do read in the N.T. that the Lord has one church that belongs to him, to which he adds all the saved, and of which he is the head and Savior, Mt.16:13-18; Ac.2:47; Eph.1:22,23; Eph.5:21-27; Eph.4:4-6; Col.1:18,24.