

SAVED BUT SINNING?

Michael Venya

Drowning beneath the crashing waves you cry for the lifeguard to save you and suddenly discover yourself safe on the shore. But after catching your breath, feeling the sun burn your skin, you long for the cool, smooth, ooze of ocean water and dive back in. Soon, you find yourself thrashing against the cresting and smashing swells, gasping for air, submerged, bursting the surface, submerged. A fellow swimmer calls out “Are you okay?! I’ll call for the lifeguard to save you.” But you manage to gasp “No, I’m already saved; I asked the lifeguard to save me ten minutes ago.” Thinking that you are currently saved from the water because you were formerly saved from the water, you stop striving against the water that you think that you are still saved from, and relax, unaware of the gathering tidal wave looming above you which tumbles and pummels you to an underwater death.

You cannot be saved from water while you are drowning in the water; you must either be in the water or on land. In the same way, you cannot be saved from sin while you are still committing sin; you must either be in the water of sin or on the shore of sinlessness. God the Holy Spirit says, through the apostle John, “He that committeth sin is of the devil...He that is born of God doth not commit sin” (1 John 3:8-9). Choosing to commit one sin is choosing to leave the sinless shore of Christian sonship in the family of God, and dive into satan’s storm-swirled sea of sin. “Sin is the transgression of the Law” (God’s Ten Commandments) (1 John 3:4, Exodus 20:3-17). If you have ever lied, you have broken God’s Ninth Commandment; you are a liar and “all liars will have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone” (Revelation 21:8). If you have ever had a sexual thought about anyone besides your husband or wife you have broken God’s Seventh Commandment; you are a fornicator, an adulterer, and “neither fornicators nor adulterers shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). If you have ever felt anger or hatred towards anyone you have broken God’s Sixth Commandment; you are a murderer in danger of hellfire who does not have eternal life” (Matthew 5:21-22, 1 John 3:15). Because you have chosen to sin by breaking God’s Commandments, you have chosen to separate yourself from God (Isaiah 59:1-2), you have chosen to have God blot you out of His Book (Exodus 32:33), you have chosen to die (Ezekiel 18:4), and you have chosen to have God cast you into the lake of fire for your sin (Revelation 20:11-15).

Your only alternative to spending eternity in hell for your sin is choosing to stop breaking God’s Law immediately, confessing every sin that you have ever committed to God, committing your entire life to loving, and living solely to please and obey the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God Who lived a life of sin-free obedience to God, died on the cross as

a substitute and sacrifice for your sin, was raised from the dead, and ascended to Heaven, where He has prepared a place for you, if you choose to grab His Hand, wade with Him out of the floodwaters of sin and live with Him on the shore of sin-free obedience to God.

You cannot be saved from sin while you are committing sin. Stop sinning and obey Christ completely, before it's too late.