



I was about to graduate from high school, and as I sat in the main lobby, I started to think about what my fellow students would be doing a few years into the future. I wondered who would be the doctors, the lawyers, the factory workers, the politicians. The more dignified the profession, the harder it was for me to imagine who would fit the mold. Then I said to myself, “Who might ever become a preacher? NOT ME!” That I knew for certain. Then I looked around at my friends and chuckled, “Not him, not him ...” Then I thought, “Well, in a few years there probably won’t be any left.”

From the time I was 13 years old, I knew exactly what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I decided that the most fulfilling thing I could do was to be a rock and roll musician. This was the only trade I knew of where you could get paid while having a good time! On a piece of paper I outlined some things I wanted to accomplish as I got older. Amazingly enough, in a few short years I started to see many of my goals come to fruition.

Like most young musicians, I played the local night club circuit. One of the goals I wrote down was to own my own night club. When I was 18 years old I talked my dad into getting out of the barber business and buying a night club. When I was 20 years old my dad asked if some day I wanted to take over his business. Little by little, every goal that I had began to materialize. I went to college for music, made good money, and toured with a dynamic band that had a record contract with a major label company.

Our band had just completed a tour of Florida and had signed a contract to produce a new album when the leader of the band, Peter Accardi, called for a special meeting.

At this meeting Peter shared how something supernatural had happened to him, and he knew he was going to heaven. His life was changed and he tried to share how we all needed the same thing in our lives. Much to my shock, Peter totally left his career as the lead singer of our band and began to talk about going to Bible college to be, of all things, A PREACHER! A few weeks after this, I went back to Peter’s house to try to reason



Peter Accardi before and after his salvation

II Cor. 5:17...If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:

Peter, along with Carl Shanosk, a godly deacon from his church, reasoned with me all night from the Bible concerning my need to be (what they called) “SAVED.” I argued from history that Christianity had a long record of corruption. In secular college I was told that Christianity was really a synthesis of many religions. I came that night fully prepared to argue that this was so.

I was challenged to prove from the Scriptures that I was right, and of course like most college students of my day, I had to admit I had never read the complete Bible! At that point, these two men shared the following:

#1. All mankind are sinners. We all have inherited sin and have personally committed sin! Because of this, no one deserves heaven. Quite to the contrary, we all deserve to be punished for our sins.

Rom. 3:23 – For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Rom. 3:10 – There is none righteous, no, not one.

Eph. 2:8-9 – For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast.

#2. Furthermore, I was told that the punishment that all men deserve for their sin is death and hell. This truth was the toughest for me to swallow. I said, “You mean to tell me that everyone I know is hell bound?” I soon realized that I knew very few people who were saved. I was amazed as I heard these truths:

MAT 7:13-4 Jesus said, .. “ broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ... strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

#3. The next truth that I was told was that Jesus (being God in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16 KJV), paid the price of death and hell for everyone!

Jesus bypassed the sin nature of Adam by being born of a virgin and was the only man that didn’t deserve hell. Jesus lived a perfect life and on the cross of Calvary paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world.

Rom. 5:8 – But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...

I John 2:2 – He is the propitiation for our sins; and not ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world ...

#4. At this point I thought, “That’s great! If that was really true, then everyone is going to heaven!” Carl shared however that we must hear and believe this message in order to be saved. The Scripture teaches that just knowing these truths will not save you (James 2:19). We must receive Christ to be saved:

Rom. 10:9 – That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Rom. 10:13 – Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 1:12 – But to as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name ...

I soon realized the awesome implications of these truths and my exact words were these: “I can’t believe it is as simple as that. You mean to tell me that all a person has to do is believe that they are a sinner, and that Jesus paid for their sins, get on their knees and confess Him as Saviour, and really believe in Him, and that’s it?” Carl said, “Yes, it’s as simple as that.” At that point I said, “It’s too simple! And if this is true, then what kind of person would I be if I didn’t tell everyone I knew about Jesus?” Peter said, Yes, that’s why we’re telling you, and when you receive the Lord Jesus you can get busy telling others who have not yet received Him!”

Rom. 10:14 – How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Suddenly I became fearful. Fearful of the logical conclusion of these verses. If what I heard was true, and if I really cared about my family and friends, I too might become A PREACHER!

Would I also leave all those things I worked for and loved in this world? Revelation 21:8 lists fear as the number one reason that people do not get saved. People are usually most fearful of what others may think of them if they get saved. Or, many times people do not get saved because they fear the loss of something they love in this world.

Matt. 16:26 – (But) what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul??

This fear was so strong that I did not receive Christ that night, but I never forgot what I needed to do to be saved. I thought I had all kinds of justifiable arguments against the Scriptures. What I didn't realize was that Satan blinds our minds with these ridiculous arguments (II Cor. 4:4). Some of the thoughts I had were these: "What kind of loving God would send people to hell?" "And I couldn't bear the thought of being, of all things, A PREACHER!!"

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God. (I Cor. 1:18)

The Scripture is clear however that God does not want anyone in hell, and that is why He has provided a way for all to be saved. **"God is not willing that any should perish..."** (II Peter 3:9). If men go to hell, it is only because they will not accept God's provision for their salvation (Jesus Christ). As far as being a preacher, the Bible is clear that there is no such thing as a clergy-laity distinction in this matter of sharing spiritual truth with others. The early church turned the world upside down because they were ALL preaching the Word (Acts 8:4). Every Christian has a moral responsibility to share the wonderful news that anyone can be saved if they will believe the gospel. This commission was never given just to the so-called "clergy." Eph. 4:12 tells us that every saved person is to be doing the work of the ministry. Eph. 4:11 tells how pastors (who most people think of as the only preachers) are given to help equip God's people to do this work.

I was right—what kind of person would I be if I believed this and didn't share it with others? The Bible says I would be guilty of the blood of those whom I could have warned. Paul, unlike many modern believers, could say **"I am free from the blood of all men!"** (Acts 20:26)

About a year after I first heard this message, I went to a church service where I saw ordinary people testifying of these truths. That morning, October 20th, 1974, I received Christ's payment for my sins. Since then, I've tried to share this great message with as many people as possible. Today I am thankful that I know I'm on my way to heaven, and like every true believer, the day I believed, God supernaturally changed my inner desires and direction of my life, and I now no longer think it foolish to be A PREACHER! In September of 1983 God also called me to the



*Frank Bissol at the pulpit of the Elkdale Baptist Church 1984
Pastor & Elaine New Years 2006 with 1st Grandson*

privileged position of being a Pastor!. Friend, let me encourage you to do the same thing that I did. I reasoned it through very carefully and realized I had everything to lose by not accepting Christ's offer of eternal life and everything to gain by coming to Him. Don't let fear, or this world, or Satan himself, keep you from receiving this tremendous gift of salvation. I've seen all that the world has to offer and it cannot compare with the love and beauty of Christ!

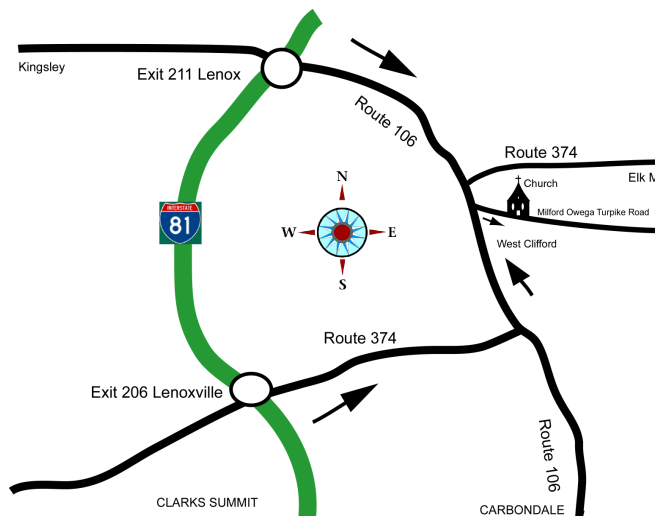
For over 30 years I have been sharing this wonderful message with everyone that I can. I hope you too will receive this wonderful gift and if you do let me encourage you to obey the following verses and let us know about your decision to follow Christ.

*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven.
Whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven... (Matt. 10:32-33).*

For further help contact us or visit us at:

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Not



Me!

**Can you predict
what you will
be doing
38 years from now?**