



KEYS TO THE KINGDOM – 6

“ENTERING THE KINGDOM”

May 25, 2008

John Tulio

SINNERS ARE NOT SAVED BY OBEYING GOD’S LAW BUT BY BELIEVING IN JESUS CHRIST.

Rom. 3:20 *For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. (NLT)*

Gal. 2:16 *Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. . . . For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law. (NLT)*

1. GOD REQUIRES PERFECT OBEDIENCE.

James 2:10 *A person who follows all of God’s law but fails to obey even one command is guilty of breaking all the commands in that law. (NCV)*

2. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SINNERS TO OBEY PERFECTLY.

Rom. 8:7 *For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. (NLT)*

Rom. 7:18 *And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t. (NLT)*

SINNERS ARE SAVED BY GRACE WHEN THEY BELIEVE IN JESUS BECAUSE SALVATION IS GOD’S FREE GIFT THAT THEY MUST RECEIVE BY FAITH.

Eph. 2:8-9 *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (NLT)*

Titus 3:5-7 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (NASB)*

Rom. 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (NRSV)*

FAITH IS THE BASIS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

John 6:28-29 *Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” (NRSV)*

Heb. 11:6 *And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. (NLT)*

Heb. 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (NRSV)*

GOD ACCEPTS SINNERS BY FAITH ALONE.

1. NOT BY FAITH + GOOD DEEDS

Rom. 3:27 *Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on our good deeds. It is based on our faith. (NLT)*

2. NOT BY FAITH + LAW OBEDIENCE

Rom. 3:28 *For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. (NRSV)*

GOD DECLARES GUILTY SINNERS TO BE “NOT GUILTY” WHEN THEY BELIEVE IN JESUS.

Rom. 3:21-25 *But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight – not by obeying the law but by the way promised in the Scriptures long ago. We are made right in God’s sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done. For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God’s anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us. (NLT)*

I NEED TO BE BORN AGAIN IN ORDER TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

John 3:3-7 *Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’” (NLT)*

HOW TO BE BORN AGAIN AND RECEIVE SALVATION:

1. BELIEVE IN JESUS.

John 3:14-18 *“And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. (NLT)*

2. TURN TO GOD AND CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT HIM AND YOUR SINS.

Acts 2:37-38 *Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (NLT)*

3. BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD AND CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT HE IS LORD.

Romans 10:8-10 *Salvation that comes from trusting Christ – which is the message we preach – is already within easy reach. In fact, the Scriptures say, “The message is close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart.” For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. (NLT)*



Key-6: BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST AS MY SAVIOR.