**Life in 6 Words – Week 5 - “EVERYONE”**

*“Everyone who trusts in him alone has eternal life.”*

Review God created us to be in a personal relationship with Him. Our sins separate us from God. And our sins cannot be removed by good deeds. Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. That was for everyone.

Personal Illustration: 2019 Zipline, where exercised “faith.” Had to put the full weight of faith in that zipline harness.

**“Everyone who trusts in him alone has eternal life.”**

This statement sets Christianity apart from every other religion in the world. This statement is unique because it’s explosive, it’s exclusive and it’s extensive!

1. **It’s explosive (“Everyone who trusts”)**

**Because it is open to all!**

*“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13*

Numerous people get hung up on the “who” and the “how” of salvation. It is common to find people who believe that they could never be saved. They think of it as something only for “good” people, and assume they are too bad to be saved. But the Bible makes it clear that EVERYONE who calls on the name of the Lord – Jesus—can be saved.

Maybe those of us who have known Jesus for years have struggled with this. Even a murderer? Gangster? Child molester? Even the worst sinner... yes, through the power of the gospel, if they trust in Jesus alone to save them, they can and will be saved.

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” “Everyone who trusts in him alone has eternal life.”

EVERYONE! It’s explosive because it is open to all!

**Because it’s by trusting, not trying!**

This is what frustrated the Pharisees and other religious leaders of Jesus’ day. It was explosive and offensive because it makes us totally dependent on Jesus. And totally turns us away from our own efforts.

*“Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.” -* Galatians 5:11

The offense of the cross is that it has nothing to do with what we do and everything to do with what he has done. The offense of the cross is that we receive it, we don’t achieve it. The offense of the cross is our belief, not our behavior. The offense of the cross is that Jesus gets all the glory because he did all the work.

Romans 4:5 reminds us that it’s by trusting, not trying:

“*However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.”* Romans 4:5

**“…does not work but trusts God.”**

Illustration: Zipline in the opposite direction, 150 meters times 2. Michael wants to go with me. Because he had this absolute trust that if anything should happen to him, I will be there to help him, catch him, grab him, save him. Talk about faith.

This is how we are saved. Not by good works, not by depending on anything that we can do, but by fully trusting Jesus alone to save us.

Ephesians 2:8,9 reminds us that it’s by trusting, not trying…

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”* - Ephesians 2:8,9

We are saved BY grace. God’s amazing grace. Grace means “unmerited favor.” We don’t deserve it, we can’t earn it, and we could never repay it. That’s what makes it grace, and that’s what makes it amazing. We are saved BY grace, THROUGH faith. In God’s wonderful plan of salvation, we receive His grace, through faith.

Illustration: One of my birthday gifts (Toiletry bag). It was a very good and useful gift. Three in one shower gel, deodorant, the bag itself. I was very excited and I immediately thanked the person who gave it to me. But what if that person said, “You’re welcome, but you owe me R10 for that gift!” Would that still be a gift. No! You don’t earn a gift, and you don’t repay someone for a gift. Because...it’s a GIFT!

Ephesians says that it is a gift of God, not of works – not of good deeds – so that NO ONE can boast. There will be NO ONE in heaven boasting about how they got there on their own. There will only be boasting in Christ and Christ alone.

The thief on the cross believed and received this gift shortly before he died, as he hung on the cross next to Jesus. He did not grow spiritually. He did not get baptized in obedience. He could not tell anyone about his decision. He received salvation as he was being executed for his crimes.

Yet he is in heaven, not because of what he did, but because of Jesus. As far as salvation is concerned, we are no different than that thief on the cross. Our good works have NOTHING to do with our salvation. Just like the thief, one day we will be in heaven, boasting only of God’s amazing grace.

Luke 18:9-14 reminds us that it’s by trusting, not trying:

*“Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector!**I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’*

*I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”* Luke 18:9-14

At the root of trying is pride. But at the root of trusting is humility.

1. **It’s exclusive (“Everyone who trusts in him alone…”)**

***“****Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” -* John 14:6

*“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” -* Acts 4:12

Jesus is the only way. There is no other name!

Illustration: We receive salvation by putting the full weight of our trust in Christ alone.

The Chair: Do I trust in the chair if I put my arm on that chair only, or my foot. I trust in the chair when I put my weight on the chair, and sitting on it.

The Point: To trust in Christ alone, is to put the full weight of your trust in Christ alone. Not one foot on Jesus, and another foot on something or someone else. Only Christ can save us, so we must put our trust in Him, and Him alone.

Faith in Jesus is our only hope.

It’s explosive. It’s exclusive.”

1. **It’s extensive (“Everyone who trusts in him alone has eternal life.”)**

This might sound, “Too good to be true”. When it comes to God’s plan of salvation, based on what the Bible says, people may often respond with those very words: “It just sounds too good to be true”.

Maybe today this truth has hit you so that you realize that you’ve never

actually received salvation. Because you’ve been trusting in yourself or

someone/something else. Trust in Jesus right now!

Maybe you are a Christian but not walking in ongoing trust in Jesus. Yet the

same faith that saves you sanctifies you!

*“For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith****from first to last*** *just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’*” - Romans 1:17

***“****I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” -* Galatians 2:20

Invitation/Response Time