

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark grey turtleneck sweater and dark blue trousers, is sitting on a light-colored carpeted floor. He is leaning his back against a white wall on the left side of the frame. His hands are pressed against his face, with his fingers spread, suggesting a state of deep thought, stress, or emotional distress. He is looking towards the right side of the image. In the background, there is a window with a white frame and a light-colored curtain. The room appears to be empty and brightly lit by natural light from the window. The overall mood is contemplative and somewhat somber.

you matter

**You do matter to the Lord, to our church, as well as to me. One of the most familiar Scripture verses of all time is John 3:16 and it says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**

That beautiful verse speaks of a love that is so profound that none of us will ever understand it fully. We want you to consider attending our church worship services and Bible studies. At Taylors First Baptist Church, we believe that the love of God draws us to want to know Him more and to share that with you as well. **Would you please consider attending our church worship services this coming Sunday?** Would you consider being a part of one of our Bible study groups? We will assure you that we will not waste your time. In fact, our Pastor has said that he will give a “time back guarantee.” In other words, if you feel that your time is wasted, let me know, and I will repay you in time by washing your car, cutting your grass, or whatever you would like. You do not get that kind of guarantee in many places, do you?

Why have hundreds of persons joined us in our church in the last few years? We are experiencing a wonderful time studying the living Word of God. Would you please let me take you to church Sunday? **We want you to know how the Lord has changed our lives and can change yours.**

**God does have a purpose for you.** The Bible says that the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23). That means that God wants you to live forever with Him. Along with that, we can live a full and meaningful life right now. Jesus said in John 10:10, "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full." God's purpose is beautiful and clear.

However, we need to understand that there is something very powerful that blocks us from God's purpose for our lives. To be honest, most do not talk about this problem any more. The problem is sin, and the Bible makes it clear that **we are all sinners by nature and by choice.** In fact, the Bible says in Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." It is also extremely important that we know that we cannot save ourselves. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:9, "That salvation is not by works, so that no one can boast." We deserve death and hell because of our own sin. Romans 6:23 states, "The wages of sin is death."

This puts us in a serious position. While on the one hand, God has a great purpose for us, on the other hand our sinfulness creates a need that we cannot overcome. **The good news is that God has provided for the forgiveness of our sins.** God's provision is Jesus Christ. He is God and yet He became a man (John 1:1, 14). Jesus died for us on the cross to take away our sins, the very sins that block us from God. The Bible says in I Peter 3:18, "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

It is important to realize that Jesus was also raised from the dead. The Bible says in Romans 4:25, "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." That is wonderful news, isn't it? Our Lord Jesus is alive today and continues His loving ministry toward us.

I have shared some bad news with you and some great news with you. However, our response is extremely important. God will not force His way into your heart. **Our response is to receive Jesus as our Savior and Lord.** In order for this to occur, several things must happen in your heart. First, you must repent of your sin. Acts 3:19 says, "Repent then and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped

out.” Please understand that repentance is not just feeling sorry for our sin. It is turning to God and away from sin. It is like making a u-turn. And as we turn, we place our faith in Jesus. The Bible speaks an important message when it says in Ephesians 2:8, “For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves. It is the gift from God.” Faith is not just believing facts about Jesus. Most everyone believes in Him, at least intellectually. **Faith is trusting in Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life.** We must surrender to Jesus as Lord. The Bible says in Romans 10:9, “If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Surrendering to Jesus Christ is not just saying we give our lives to Him. Surrendering to Jesus as Savior and Lord means giving Him control of our lives.

I hope that this has made sense to you. **Remember you matter!** Would you be willing to place your faith in Jesus Christ and turn away from sin? Please remember that the Bible says in Romans 10:13, “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **You need to ask the Lord Jesus to save you.** Perhaps this prayer to the right would guide you as you give your heart to Jesus Christ.



Dear God,

I know that Jesus is your Son and that He died on the cross and was raised from the dead. I know I have sinned and need forgiveness. I am willing to turn from my sins and receive Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for saving me. In Jesus Name, I pray, Amen.

Whether you use those words or your own words, please know that if you call to the Lord with a sincere heart, Jesus Christ will become your Savior and Lord.

If you have prayed this prayer or a similar one, then I welcome you to the family of God. You can be sure that you are saved and have eternal life.

Please remember that you do matter! I want to help you grow in the Lord. I, along with our church, want to help you grow in the Lord. We want to help meet the needs of your life. **Please remember that you matter.**

**Frank S. Page, Pastor**

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