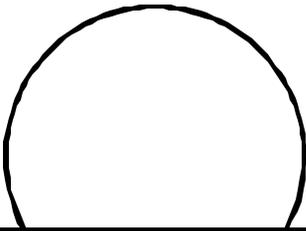


Will This be the Day of Your Salvation?



BY BUDDY DANO

But these are written, that
ye might believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the
Son of God; and that
believing ye might have
life through His name.
John 20:31

I recently received a letter from someone I didn't even know. But that letter is the inspiration behind this book, and the reason I felt so compelled to put down in writing some of the most personal experiences of my life.

Dear Friends at Houston Bible Church,

A friend recently gave me a copy of a pamphlet put out by your church. They thought it could really help me through some difficult times in my life. It really helped me a lot. In fact, it helped me make a very important decision – to accept Christ into my life as Savior. Since then, I have gotten a Bible and have begun to read about the promises of God.

If it weren't for your church, I might not have ever received this gift! I thank each of you for reaching out to people like me who never understood that God loves me. People and churches in my own neighborhood never did take the time for me to explain this to me. At least you did this for me (even if you didn't know that you were).

I am enclosing a small gift that I hope can help you with your publications. Please keep reaching out to people – other people probably need it as badly as I did. I wish I could send more, but I am a widow on a very small fixed income. I am 81 years old and felt I had nothing left to live for. Now I know that is not true. Thank you, friends, for reaching out to me.

Imogene Jenkins

J U L Y 1 5 , 1 9 6 1

**Jesus saith unto him, I am
the Way, the Truth, and
the Life: no man cometh
unto the Father, but by Me.
John 14:6**

John 14:6 is among the very first verses of Scripture ever shown to me. I was 39 years old at the time.

I was attending a Christian Anti-Communism Crusade in Florida to hear a man by the name of William P. Strube, Jr. speak about the threat of communism taking over a greater part of the world. It wasn't that I was interested in the Christian aspects of the gathering. I was participating because of the anti-communism angle.

So there I was, all ready to hear this well-known speaker talk about the communist threat, and one of his first statements was, "My mother didn't raise any crazy children."

Now, I had no idea in the world what that had to do with anti-communism, but I sort of humored him in my mind. After all, I had heard this guy was really good.

But then he went on to talk about how he had this beautiful home in Houston, and that his "mother didn't raise any crazy children," so he also had a much better home – a mansion in Heaven.

Well, that really caught me off guard. But it also really caught my attention. When the meeting was over, I followed him to his car to try and find out just exactly what he was talking about.

I caught up to him and asked him if he could show me the statement he made during his speech. He looked puzzled and said, "Which statement are you talking about? I've been speaking for the last two hours."

I said, "The statement you made about your mother not raising any crazy children, and how you have this mansion waiting for you in Heaven."

And he sort of smiled, and he opened up his Bible and showed me the following verses:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither Thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." John 14:1-6

And when I saw for myself that it was just as he said it was, I knew then my life would be changed forever.

I wonder, will yours be?

S E P T E M B E R 1 6 , 1 9 6 1

Verily, verily, I say unto
you, he that believeth on
Me hath everlasting life.
John 6:47

At the time that I attended the Anti-Communism Crusade where I spoke with William Strube, my wife was dying of cancer.

When I came home and told her about what happened, she mentioned that Billy Graham was going to be coming to Miami to hold one of his crusades. To my knowledge, that was the only time he has ever been in Miami for a crusade. (My wife and I later laughed that Billy Graham came to Miami just that once to get me into the Plan of God.)

Well, my wife literally had to drag me to that Billy Graham crusade, and I don't think I would have gone had it not been for the fact that she was dying of cancer. But I went, and I made her promise that we would sit way up in the corner so no one could coerce me to come forward.

I had a bad opinion about preachers and evangelists, and I was never too impressed with any of them. But when Billy Graham came across the stage, he appeared to be very well-groomed and he had a stateliness about him. And as he approached the pulpit, I noticed a big banner hanging across the back of the stage.

I can't remember anything else in my life ever catching my attention as much as that banner did. There were just a few words on it, very easy to read, even from way up where my wife and I were sitting.

The banner read:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." John 14:6

I couldn't believe it. The first two times I see verses of Scripture, and it's the same verse. The first time presented by an insurance salesman speaking about the threat of communism, the second time by a Christian evangelist named Billy Graham – both of them speaking about our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of God is truly alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. What I came to realize then, perhaps you will come to realize now.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." John 6:47

A P R I L 2 , 1 9 6 2

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.
Ephesians 2:8-9

After having seen the same verse of Scripture twice in such a short period of time, I guess I began to get interested in the Word of God, even though I didn't know it at the time.

I was working as a bartender at the Miami International Airport, and one of my customers who had been sitting at the bar waiting for his plane left a piece of literature on the bar when he went to go catch his flight.

I called after him, thinking he had forgotten it, but he was already boarding, so I just placed it on the back bar. Later that day, when things had slowed down a bit, I went back and picked up the piece and began to read it.

It was titled, "Am I Going To Heaven?"

There were about six or seven squares that you could check if you thought one of them would qualify you for Heaven. Well, I read them all and I decided to check them all.

I figured if one took you to Heaven, then all of them surely would, and that was a flight I didn't want to miss.

When I got to the end, it said that none of the above would ever take you to Heaven – not water baptism, not joining a church, not walking an aisle, not feeling sorry for your sins, not making any vows.

At this point, I was completely confused. Then I read the bottom line. It said that there was only one way to get to Heaven, and that was to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

The verse which was quoted at the end was one that has stuck with me all the days of my Christian life, a verse which gives me the utmost assurance and confidence in my own personal salvation.

"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." Ephesians 2:8-9

God saves us by His Grace, not by our works. It is a marriage of Grace and Faith which produces a relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I found out later in life that this principle is the key to our salvation. And it's a principle repeated over and over again in the Bible as the only way to get to Heaven.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:5

AUGUST 23, 1962

**He came unto His own,
and His own received
Him not. But as many as
received Him, to them
gave He power to become
the sons of God, even to
them that believe on His
name. John 1:11-12**

When I began to explain to my wife the various experiences I was having, she said to me, "The Lord is talking to you."

I said I didn't know what she meant, and she suggested that I had better start studying the Bible. I asked her where I should start, and she told me to go to school. I asked her where, and she told me a new seminary was opening in Miami and that I should go over there right then and enroll.

Well, I went over to the school and found out they offered night classes, and since I was tending bar at the airport during the day, I figured that would be a convenient way to start. There was one night class a week held on Tuesday evenings, and it was called "Personal Evangelism," so that was the class I took.

It just so happened that the president of the seminary was the one who was teaching that evangelism class. He was a former Air Force officer, and he just didn't seem to fit the picture I had in my mind of what a president of a Christian school should look like.

But there he was, Ray Stanford. And I will never forget how he started the class that first night.

The first thing out of his mouth was a verse of Scripture which he quoted without even looking it up, which rather impressed me. But what made a bigger impression was the odd familiarity of the verse he spoke.

"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." Ephesians 2:8-9

Well, I thought, I guess this is going to become a regular occurrence.

Later on when I got to know Ray Stanford better, I found out that verse was his favorite, and the one he used quite often in leading others to the Lord. In fact, he had been led to the Lord by a clothing salesman who had used that same verse.

As it turns out, that clothing salesman had been given that verse by a retired president of Denver Bible College by the name of Dr. Fowler, who I later on in life had the pleasure of meeting and sitting under his ministry.

Well, I was beginning to see that the Lord was dealing with me through the Word of God. I realized He was giving me salvation verses time after time, because He was not willing that any should perish.

And what was true for me then, holds true for you today.

F E B R U A R Y 3 , 1 9 6 3

**For I am not ashamed of
the Gospel of Christ: for
it is the power of God
unto salvation to every
one that believeth; to the
Jew first, and also to the
Greek. Romans 1:16**

After attending the Personal Evangelism class on Tuesday evenings, I decided to go to the seminary full time. I left the bar business and sought other employment so I could support myself while attending school.

I was taking five classes a day, five days a week, and after the first year I was given what was called a teaching fellowship, which simply meant I didn't have to pay tuition any more.

There was one member of the college faculty in particular, Dr. Mark G. Cambron, who helped and guided me and, when he was absent, let me teach some of his classes.

On every Wednesday evening he would hold a Bible study for Jewish people, and he would serve corned beef sandwiches on rye, and sometimes bagels with cream cheese.

He asked me to assist him, so I set up the chairs in his living room, and I passed out the song books, and prayed when he called upon me to do so.

I remember that he would always open each study by singing "Pray, Pray, Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem." It was very, very moving.

There also was a particular verse that his ministry impressed upon me.

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

"To the Jew first" – that was the part that challenged Dr. Mark Cambron to be one of the greatest Jewish evangelists I have ever known. He was the one who challenged my wife as she was dying of cancer to have a love for the Jews and try to bring them into the Plan of God.

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26, 28

At one time, the Jews held the responsibility of being the disseminators and custodians of the Word of God. But today, it is "whosoever." And "whosoever" means you and I.

M A Y 1 2 , 1 9 6 5

For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only
begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in
Him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
John 3:16

After I had graduated from the seminary, I began teaching at the school as a full-fledged professor, and I also started a Bible Church in North Miami called Norland Community Church.

It was about that time that my wife became more critically ill, and she was in the sphere of what is called Dying Grace. Through those last years, my wife taught me many things from her deathbed.

I know that, before the Lord, if it were not for her illness and her faithfulness and love of the Lord and His Word, I would not be a pastor of a church today, and I would not have had the privilege of teaching the Word of God five times a week for the past 30 years.

I remember one Saturday morning in 1967 as I was sitting beside her bed in the hospital, my wife lost consciousness for the first time, and I suddenly realized we couldn't communicate. There was such a void. I felt like one of my arms was gone. There she lay, in a coma.

As I went to her bed, and leaned over her, and thought about her and me and the Lord, I remembered one of her favorite verses. And although she was in a coma, I told myself that I was going to quote her favorite verse to her anyway. So I leaned over the bed and quoted her favorite verse, and she groaned and squeezed my hand, and I knew that she had heard me, and we were one once again.

And I thought of the principle that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. And I thought that just maybe, the hearing goes last.

This was my wife's favorite verse, and I will always remember her by it:

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness."
Isaiah 41:10

I know that the Lord helped my wife, because He took her to be with Him, and she is now in a place where no longer will she ever suffer again. And I am thankful for that, after watching her suffer for so many years.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4

M A Y 2 0 , 1 9 6 7

And they said, Believe on
the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved,
and thy house.
Acts 16:31

The day my wife departed to be with the Lord was my birthday.

After that, I remember how I would come home from teaching at the seminary and there would be no one there. I was so used to taking care of her and feeding her and bathing her and running the errands. For a while, without her, I was lost and didn't know what to do.

At that same time the president of the college told me I wouldn't be able to teach there next semester because he was bringing his son in to teach. It seemed like the Lord was definitely closing some doors for me in Miami.

But I knew that if the Lord was closing some doors and I was still alive, then there was a purpose for my life and He would open some doors. And that He did.

It wasn't long thereafter that I received a phone call from a missionary who was working with the Indians in Colorado. I had met his wife and him when he had spoken one time at the college chapel. His name is Cliff Taylor.

Cliff called me because he had heard about my wife departing and the situation with my position at the college, and he asked me to come to Colorado and speak at an Indian Bible Conference he was holding. Cliff's grace toward me at this time in my life was overwhelming.

On the way back from the conference in Colorado, I stopped off in Houston to visit a friend who had been a student of mine in Miami. It was because of that visit that I wound up moving to Houston.

My friend invited me to go to church with him to hear a pastor by the name of Col. Robert B. Thieme, Jr. Well, I can't begin to tell you all the things I learned from his ministry. But one thing I can tell you is that one of his favorite verses is one that I have turned to time and time again in discussing eternal life.

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:31

Of all the verses on eternal life which are written about in this book, perhaps this is the verse you will claim to make today the day of your salvation.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

The Scriptures are declared to be the Word of God the Father, and they are also referred to as the Mind of Christ, and as the Voice of God the Holy Spirit.

They are said to be alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. The Lord Himself stated that He has magnified His Word above His name.

Based on the claims of the Lord about the Word of God and its impact on the lives of those who read it and believe, with true desire on your part, when you have finished this book, you can be assured of having eternal life.

A B O U T T H E A U T H O R

Buddy Dano has been pastor of Anderson Bible Church since 1997. His Grace-oriented ministry, which is based on line-by-line studies of the Bible in its original Hebrew and Greek languages, has reached from the White House, where his “Witness in the White House” series is on display, to the Astrodome, where he served as chaplain for the Houston Astros.

Prior to becoming pastor of Anderson Bible Church Buddy was the founder of Houston Bible Church in 1976. Buddy is a graduate of Florida Bible College, where he also held a teaching position. He is a veteran of World War II, having served as a member of the Army’s Signal Intelligence Service, and he is the father of a beautiful daughter, Bonnie.

MORE INFORMATION TO HELP YOU

- **Bible Study Publications** – written teachings of the Word of God with an emphasis on practical applications to various topics of historical and current interest
- **Bible Study Tapes** – recorded Bible classes from studies of the Old Testament and New Testament

If you would like to receive any of our publications or tapes, simply call or write and ask for them.

There is no cost to recipients for any of our publications or tapes. Support of Divine Viewpoint's written and recorded ministries comes solely from voluntary gifts from members and friends.

Buddy Dano, Pastor
Divine Viewpoint Bible Studies
www.divineviewpoint.com