

## The Oologah Informer June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Address

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### Service Times

#### **Sunday**

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.  
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

#### **Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

#### **Preacher:**

Russ Earl

#### **AM Sermon:**

VBS – The Bible, God’s Book

#### **PM Sermon:**

VBS – God’s love for us

#### **Sunday AM Bible Class:**

R. Earl

#### **Wednesday Bible Class:**

VBS

#### **In SEARCH of the Lord’s Way**

Tulsa KWHB-47  
Sunday mornings at 7:30 am

#### **Oologah Internet Radio Programs**

Russ’ Program on Friday’s  
@ 8am & 8pm

Vance’ Program on Wednesdays  
@ 6:30pm & Thursdays @ 6:30am

LIVE broadcast on Mondays @  
4:30pm

Visit [www.tgrn.org](http://www.tgrn.org) to listen!  
Now on iTunes.

### **God wants you to be saved!**

**By Jeremy Northrop**

There are many, even in religious circles, who have questioned whether or not God really wants man to be saved. In 1 Timothy 2:4, Paul said God “...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” This verse may be convincing enough for some. However, those who are skeptical might need further evidence. Therefore, consider four biblical reasons that show clearly God wants you to be saved.

First, God put a plan into place that could save mankind. Oftentimes, this is called God’s scheme of redemption. In Acts 2, the Bible says that those on the day of Pentecost were baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38-39). In verse 47, the Bible says that God added the saved to the church. Then, in Ephesians 1, Paul by inspiration says that God chose the members of the church before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). The plan for the redemption of mankind was put in place before the world began. The church or body of the saved is not something that some great scholar or theologian invented. It was created in the mind of God. And it originated before time began for mankind. Had it not been for God and His plan, there would be no hope for mankind.

Next, in order for man to be saved, God gave His own Son. John 3:16-17 says, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*” Hebrews 10:4 says the Old Testament way of atoning for sins was never complete. The sacrifices of animals was not enough to remove the sins of man and give man salvation but “...*how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance*” (Hebrews 9:14-15).

Then, God makes the salvation of man a relatively simple process. People must hear the word of God (Romans 10:17) and believe what they have heard (Mark 16:15-16). They then must recognize their sin and repent of them (Luke 13:3, 5). Further, they must confess Jesus to be the Son of God (Acts 8:37) and be baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21). Finally, they must live faithfully unto God for the remainder of their lives (Revelation 2:10). These are the steps that each person must take to get in Christ, and in Christ are all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). These are the steps each person must take to receive the grace of God. “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God*” (Ephesians 2:8).

Finally, God is a God of longsuffering — giving people time to save their souls. Peter said, “*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but*

*that all should come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9). Have you ever wondered why Christ has not yet come again? The reason may be because God wants to give the people of earth more time. He does not want to see anyone go to hell. He may be delaying the second coming of Christ and the end of time so that you will be saved. The reason why we write articles such as this one is so that more people can be saved. Have you ever wondered why God does not just take a person into heaven when they follow His plan of salvation? One reason is to give new Christians the opportunity to tell others about the saving power of Jesus Christ which they are commanded to do (Matthew 28:18-20). God’s longsuffering and His assigned task for members of His church to teach the lost exists so that more people can be saved.

It sounds obvious, but God indeed wants you to be saved. He initiated a plan of salvation for the sins of mankind. He sent His Son — His only begotten Son — to die so you could one day spend eternity with Him. There is a gospel plan of salvation that He has put in place so you can be saved. He is longsuffering in the second coming of His Son so you can be saved. Yet, it is a sobering reality that none of this makes any difference if you do not want to be saved. A person’s salvation depends solely on what each individual person wants to do. Dear reader, do you care enough about yourself to be saved?