

GLEANINGS

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

We are not exercising saving faith in Christ until we admit there is nothing we can do to help to gain eternal life. There was not one saved person mentioned in the Old Testament who was baptized or who belonged to a local church. The thief who was saved on the cross (Luke 23:39-43) did not receive baptism nor did he become a member of a local church.

God's plan of salvation has always been the same. The only difference has been that the redeemed people who lived before the crucifixion looked forward in faith. They asked that the payment Christ would give one day in the future be applied to the sin debt they owed God (Romans 10:8-18).

⁶*Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*
⁷*Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. ⁸The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (Galatians 3:6-9 New International Version)*

The redeemed that have lived since the cross have looked backward in faith and have asked God to apply the payment Christ gave on the cross to the sin debt they owe (1st Peter 2:21-25). Salvation is obtained through faith. The people who were saved before the crucifixion did not need to exercise any more faith to believe He would die than we exercise by believing He has died.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah (Isaia) spoke of the coming Messiah.

6 We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the Lord laid upon Him the guilt of us all." (Isaia or Isaiah 53:6 Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition)

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