

Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears – October 2008

"I AM THE WAY"

As we move into the Advent season and the celebration of God's incarnation as the Son on this earth, let us remember and take hold of a basic tenet of the Christian faith. In this day of multiculturalism and the push for equality (as opposed to equity), plus the concern of avoiding even the appearance of favoritism, some Christians have been reluctant to stand firm on a core doctrine of Christianity. Yet, Jesus Christ himself said it. "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) According to Peter the Apostle, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) In John 10:7-10, Jesus describes himself as the gate saying, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." Could Jesus or God have made it any clearer? There is only one way to salvation. There is only one way to God's mercy. There is only one way to be forgiven and made righteous in God's eyes.



And it makes sense, doesn't it? God came down to earth, took on the form of a man and the limitations of a man. He lived on this earth as a baby, a child, a teenager, a grown man; then he died a horrible, humiliating, painful, bloody death on a cross and lay in a tomb for three days—all so that you and I could have the option to partake of His righteousness and be saved. If you had sacrificed your only son so that someone else might live, would you give that person the option to refuse the gift and save his life in some other way? "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:13-14) Don't close your eyes to the truth and miss that gate, that only gate to God—the Lord Jesus Christ.

The anger of the Father toward those who refuse the gift bought by His only begotten Son's sacrificial death knows no bounds. His wrath will be poured out on them for all eternity. And each one who refuses the gift will suffer alone. Hell is the ultimate darkness, where no light from God ever shines. There will be no sense of shared fate, no relief from pain or sorrow or anger. Accept God's gift today and praise His Holy Name forever. Amen.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone. —Cindy Sears