

## Adding R to the ABC of Salvation

By Marlene H Roessiger

I just love TRUTH. I just love when God brings truth to my life. I would say that I'm a kind of Christian just like those mentioned in **Acts 17:11** - from Berea. They were always searching the scriptures to see if what they were heard from preachers were true. I started to do the same years ago, and I still do, and I have found so many lies and so many half-truths. I encourage you to do the same. It doesn't matter if the preacher is your favorite pastor, prophet, evangelist, teacher, priest, or even me. After you read what I wrote, run to the Word of God to check the preaching out. The Holy Spirit will guide you in all truth (**John 16:13**). So get ready because I will share with you something that God showed me by His grace about salvation.

Each one of us has different way to lead someone to Christ. Some (like us) use scripts, some use ABC (A = admit you have sinned - B = believe in Jesus Christ - C = Confess and forsake your sins), and many other different methods that I'm not aware of. Different methods but all of us believe in one thing: JESUS is the way to get saved and go to heaven. But something very crucial and vital is missing in our message: the factor of REPENTANCE!

God enlightened my eyes when I started to read the book Heaven is So Real, by Mrs. Choo Thomas and the book Christian Going to Hell, by Seung Woo Byun. I was stunned, Mrs. Choo Thomas said that Jesus told her that only 20% of all the Christians in this world would enter in His kingdom and many pastors are going to the valley of death with their whole congregation. She said that so many Christians called themselves Christians but they still pursue worldly things. They do not obey God's Word. They think they're saved, but they are disobedient and are going to hell.

When I read it I was concerned about my own salvation and my own preaching of the message on the streets. What kind of Gospel have I been preaching all this time? I felt totally regretted and I cried like a baby before the Lord. What I was preaching was an easy gospel with an easy way to get to heaven - a kind of "say-this-pray-and-get-your-free-ticket-to-heaven". I'm not coming against any script or methods, but my intention is to add to the ABC'S of salvation an "R" meaning REPENT!

There's a forgotten message of repentance, and God shook me and rebuked me because I have a covenant with Him in **Mark 16:15-20** to preach THE ENTIRE GOSPEL - not half of the Gospel but THE FULLNESS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. Yes! If you call upon the name of the Lord, you shall be saved. Right at the moment you call upon His name, there's a surrendering, so you receive the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ by faith. After that there is a daily walking. You will still have to make choices: life and death, holy walk or sinful life. The gift is free but it will cost you everything. It will cost you a turning away from sin! This must happen!

People confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior but actually they still continue to live their own lives doing whatever they want to do, saying whatever they want to say as if there is no lord at all. The Bible is clear says **"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my father who is in heaven." Matthew 7:21.** Jesus came to call sinners to repent (Luke 5:31-32) not to receive eternal life through a quick prayer but to turn away from sin, pick up their crosses and die to themselves, and to deny the lust of the flesh, deny the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, and to hate evil. He is calling us to live a life of holiness through the power of the Holy Spirit, to be abandoned in Him, to a lifestyle of obedience to His Holy Word - the Bible.

Charles Finney said:"The individual who truly repents, not only sees sin to be detestable and vile and worthy of abhorrence, but he really abhors it, and hates it in his heart...when he truly repents, he most heartily abhors and renounces it."

One day I had this dream: I was in Brazil in my home church - Methodist. In my dream we were having Sunday Bible School and I was a teacher. My class was waiting for its turn to stand up and read a scripture. I got nervous because I didn't have any Bible passage to read, and my pastor was expecting me to read something from the Bible. My Bible was in my lap. I looked at it but my vision was blurred. I couldn't read a thing. Our turn came up. I went up front and my pastor was behind me. I didn't want to upset him. My students were looking at me. My church was expecting what we were supposed to do: read a Bible verse. Then I opened my mouth and nicely I was gave to the church a very nice Methodist greeting. My pastor smiled at me and nodded his head as a sign of his approval. Then I said:"Well, the Bible verse for today is..." Then, suddenly, I caught myself screaming "REPENT. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND." While I was saying that I heard the most amazing sound: the sound of many waters. Angelical voices were joining my little voice.

When I woke up God explained my dream. He told me I will never preach what men wants to hear but what they need. He showed me that I have inside of me a great treasure: HIS WORD - the living word of God. Oh, glory! The words that I spoke were full of power and angels came to back it up! What a glorious sound! What a grace! When I start digging deep into the Word to learn more about repentance. I saw that John the Baptist was preaching the same message many years ago. Then when John was in prison, Jesus came to preach for the very first time the same message: "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15. I'm so hungry to see this kind of repentance not only in my own life but in people's lives that I asked God how can this happen. He told me: "Preach on repentance. How are they going to believe if nobody preaches on it?" I said yes.

I'm talking about that kind of repentance: the one which will make you hate sin and everything that is opposed to the Word of God! We need the kind of repentance that King Josiah had **"And like unto him there was no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him." II King 23:25.** This is the kind of repentance that saved a sinner. I pray that you, who are reading this right now will repent with all your heart, soul, and might according to the WORD OF GOD. God loves

us. He is patient. He is waiting and waiting for you to repent. **"He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." I Peter 3:8-9**

**"I have declared to both Jews and Greeks they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus." Acts 20:21** I have declared to you Christians, church, to you who do not believe that all have sinned and all come short the glory of God, to you who believe that it is fine and ok, to you who have 100% assurance that you will make it to heaven just because you are a good person, or a good preacher. I have declared to you all and also to myself: we all need to repent and have faith in the Lord Jesus.

If you need a sugar-coated message of encouragement, you can turn on the TV or go to any church on the corner and you will hear sweet-talking preacher. There was a time when the word REPENT was preached. There was a time when after one heard the message of repentance, one would tremble and cry out for mercy. Now there is no message of repentance being preached and when this message is preached (like just now) people are so full of pride that they think the message is not for them. And guess what? This message is for the preacher and for the listeners. Sometimes when the message of repentance is preached, they say "Lack of love. This message is too harsh." This reminds me of when Jesus was speaking the Truth his own disciples had the same thought. **"Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this they said, this is a hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, does this offend you? The word that I speak is spirit and life." John 6:60,61,63.** After that, guess what happened? Many of His disciples went back and walked no more with him. **(Verse 66)**

The foundation of repentance mentioned in Hebrews 6:1 was removed by men and has been replaced by doctrines of man and false gospel. It seems that the Gospel of Jesus Christ does not require anything from us. It's so easy. We can be saved and at the same time keep doing whatever we want. No. We can't. Few will inherit the kingdom of heaven. I, with all reverence and fear of the Lord, hope that you and me are included among them.

If you need a real message of encouragement today, here it is..."Jesus hasn't come yet, so still you have time to repent." Today you have time to search your life and see if your life is lining up with the Word of God. If not, repent, turn away from your ways and run quickly back to God. Narrow is the path says **Mathews 7:14.** We need to work out our own salvation says **Philippians 2:12** so our name will not be erased from the Book of life as states **Revelations 3:5.** Beloved, do not neglect such a great salvation, **Hebrews 2:3.** I pray that the goodness of the Lord leads us, all of us, to repentance **(Romans 2:4).**

Until He comes, that is the message I will preach: the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins (Mark 1:4). I will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn back the hearts of the father to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord **(Luke 1:17).** I've been asking God for this, and I will see it happening on the streets and wherever I go.

Because I love, I will say again, again, and again: **"The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at**

**hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15).** And the angels say: Amen!

In Him, we love you all,

Marlene H Roessiger