

*and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” I needed to confess or admit that the Lord Jesus Christ was the Lord. I needed to believe in my heart that He died for my sins on the cross of Calvary, that He was buried and that He rose again from the dead on the third day.*

After confessing and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior, I needed to apply these truths to my soul by calling on His name or asking Him to save me. I did just that, and that day, July 5, 1974, I found the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior. This made me a saved soul and a **new creation in Jesus Christ**. Salvation is *“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).

My life began to change immediately. That night I looked at all the musical recordings in my bedroom and knew I had to make a break from listening to them. I broke all except two or three and put them in the trash. I soon realized that the remaining records had to go as well. I immediately started reading my Bible every day and praying. I began attending every possible

church service and often gave out Gospel tracts. Then I began studying at an evening Bible college.

I have never been the same since, and I have never regretted for one minute coming to Christ to save me.

Won’t you do this today, my friend, and find new life in Christ and a home in Heaven forever? Don’t delay or it might be too late for *“behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (II Corinthians 6:2). *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27).

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**Come as you are!**

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Over the centuries, hundreds of people have considered coming to the Lord Jesus for their soul's need of salvation. They have heard that they need a Savior to cleanse them from their sin to be able to enter the heavenly gates. But the important question is, How were they to obtain this salvation? Let me tell you my story and how I thought I could come to God for salvation.

My name is Keith Ekberg. When I was about 16 years of age, I started to see that I was a sinner and needed a Savior to come into my life and save me from my sin. I thought that one day I would become a Christian after I had first cleaned up my life and stopped practicing so many bad and sinful habits.

I began trying to clean my life of bad language, drinking, partying, etc. This process went on for about three to four years, and it appeared to be working very well. But one thing puzzled me. I could stop certain lifestyles, but what I could not change was that I still had the same desire to do everything I had done before.

I was making only an outward, shallow change—not a true, inward change. I was not really changed at all. I was no more than

a hypocrite. I was just acting the part. Why? Because I could not change my heart. A heart change was what I needed.

I soon discovered a Bible verse that spoke about this matter very clearly, although at first I did not understand this truth.

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**“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

II Corinthians 5:17

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This verse got me thinking. “*Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*” (II Corinthians 5:17). If I were to change, I needed to be in Christ Jesus as a new creation. This would make the old, sinful Keith Ekberg into an entirely new man. The Lord Jesus had provided a way for this to take place in my life.

At this time, I was about 20 years old and working at a furniture warehouse. One of my

co-workers gave out gospel tracts and placed them on a table in our warehouse office. I noticed the tracts, and my interest grew as I looked at one particular tract. I decided to order some for myself. I remember getting the tracts in the mail and was excited to look them over. They were small pamphlets that gave the Gospel. My attention was especially drawn to one entitled *How to Pray to God*. That night after reading this tract, I knew clearly how I could come to Christ. I needed to come to Him for His salvation just as I was and not wait until my life was cleaned up, for that would never happen.

I knew that I was a sinner. “*Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*” (Romans 5:12). I realized that I needed to have a change of heart and mind. This is called repentance. Romans 2:4 teaches us that God’s goodness leads us to repentance. In order to clean up my life, I needed a complete change of my mind. I read in Romans 10:9-10 “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;*