

Ask Jesus Into Your Heart???

- * History: the phrase "ask Jesus into your heart" comes from the missionary movement beginning in the mid 1800s called REVIVALISM
 - * We have been given one vehicle with which to communicate the Gospel – words!
 - we must not be careless in our choice of words
 - we must be as biblical and as clear as possible
1. Asking Jesus into one's heart is not biblical
 - no one in the Bible preached it or responded to the Gospel in this way
 - it is not taught or commanded in the Bible
 2. It does not accurately communicate the truth of the Gospel or the response to it
 - it circumvents repentance
 - it circumvents faith, the entrusting that saves
 3. It is a confusing concept for children
 - young children have not developed abstract thinking skills
 - they struggle to understand symbolism
 - the concept can even be frightening for children
 4. Actually it is obscure, perhaps even unintelligible for adults as well
 5. It can result in at least 3 possible negative scenarios
 - a) a false sense of assurance that salvation has taken place even if there is no evidence of genuine regeneration
 - b) constantly recurring cycles of doubt without any lasting assurance of salvation
 - c) a disillusioned sense of disappointment and bitterness that causes the work of Christ and the Gospel to be ridiculed and dismissed
 6. The Good News, the Gospel, is not in the first place about Jesus' work in our hearts and lives, but about Jesus' work in history
 7. We are not saved because of our asking but because of what Jesus has done
 - asking ≠ salvation
 - a prayer ≠ salvation
 - a confession ≠ salvation
 - believing in the heart ≠ salvation
 - REGENERATION = SALVATION**
 8. It puts the results of salvation ahead of salvation itself
 9. God saves only those who repent, turn away from sin and fully trust in Jesus' accomplished work on the cross
 10. It presents God (Jesus) as a beggar, hoping desperately for an invitation into our hearts and lives
 11. Salvation is not a matter of invitation but of command and compulsion
 12. It robs God of His glorious sovereignty in the salvation of all true believers
 - He is the author and finisher of our faith (Jesus)
 - He is the finisher of the work He has begun
 13. Rather than we sinners accepting Christ as our Saviour, we should entreat Him to accept us
 14. Rather than saying we have made Jesus Lord of our lives, we should continually bow the knee to His lordship ... even in the biblical communicating of the Gospel