

## 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