

Salvation Testimony – Ryan Davis

Before Salvation -

Hindsight is a crazy thing. I look back at my life growing up, and I was part of a normal church-going family. Born and raised, Sundays and Wednesdays, church life was normal. I knew of Jesus, the Christmas story, Easter, asking for forgiveness, and the Ten Commandments. I walked the aisle when I was 11 or 12, mostly feeling like I needed to, as others had been doing so recently. My life didn't change, though, and looking back, it makes sense because I don't know that I knew what was supposed to change...I just wasn't "going to hell." I was not following Christ.

I grew, I lived like the world, I prayed when I needed something or was in a bad spot. Anna and I got married, and we attended Snyder for years, but it's fair to say it was just ritualistic. We were spotty in attendance even though we literally lived across the street. There was a Sunday when I didn't want to go, I don't recall why, but we ended up going, and the sermon was on the marriage supper. I listened and realized I was the man who didn't have the appropriate garments. I knew it without a doubt. I had no relationship with Christ, no desire for Him, I was a dead outcast, and I knew it. I went home that day and lay on the bed and just cried. I knew I wasn't saved and reflected on all the things I'd done wrong in my life and had no idea how to be saved. I'd already said the sinner's prayer a hundred times by that point, one of the worst feelings was to continually pray that "prayer" and never understand why I never felt different, and that left me feeling hopeless.

I struggled with this for two years or so, consuming sermons hoping to hear the golden nugget on salvation that would finally bring me peace. What did I need to do? So frustrating, wanting something so badly but not having assurance.

We left Snyder and ended up at Berean (somewhat long story). There wasn't a "day" that everything came together, but I became aware of several things:

- 1 - the severity of my sin
- 2 - I needed to submit to Christ
- 3 - Just Believe

4 - I could do nothing for my salvation.

It seemed too simple to be the answer, but I put my assurance in the works of Christ, and that He covered my sin. I gave it all over, little by little, and started making decisions each day based on what would be pleasing to Christ. I heard a testimony read before someone else was baptized. They said, "I realized I was either going to obey Christ or myself." That was very impactful, and I keep that even today. After acknowledging my true salvation, I was baptized again at Berean in October 2022.

After redemption, I'd say my life is different because I'm different. I recall in the past complaining to Anna about a friend that only wanted to talk about biblical things, and I was just like, "Is this all you know about? Can you talk about sports or anything else?" It was so frustrating, but now I get it. Instead, now I get frustrated when I want to talk about Christ with others, and they don't seem interested. I enjoy reading now. I enjoy teaching the children in our church, and leading my family in bible study. It's fulfilling and edifying for me, not just them. The Lord has changed my interests and my attitude for the good, for His good. I have the assurance now that I wanted years ago, and I do not waver. I have a grip on my sin (mostly), I am submitting to Christ, I do believe, and I'm thankful to the Lord that He paid for my salvation. Amen.