

Growing up attending a Lutheran church with my family and going to a Catholic high school, God has always been part of my life and I have never strayed from my belief that He exists. I did, however, have a misplaced understanding of Him. As is seemingly so common today, I thought salvation was works-based (Do good, go to Heaven, do bad and go to Hell). Then, on a Christmas morning a few years ago, the Spirit tugged on my heart to read the Bible for myself. I started a Bible in a year plan and stuck with it and my life was changed forever. As I read, I discovered that salvation is a free gift and there is nothing I can do to earn it. We all fall short of God's standard and the only way we can be made right in God's sight is through Jesus. He paid for our mistakes and there is nothing we can add to his finished work. As Jesus himself said, "It is finished." I firmly believe the words of Paul when he said in Romans 10:9-10, "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and ~~it~~ it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved." I believe in my heart that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead.

Now, through Baptism, I am openly declaring my faith and placing my trust and hope in Jesus alone, for "There is salvation in ~~no~~ no one else. God has given ~~no~~ other name under heaven by which we must be saved - Acts 4:12

Emerson Roth