

A Little Humor, Followed By Some Serious Thoughts

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth up the bones." Proverbs 17:22

Jesus and Satan were having an on-going disagreement about which was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly, God the Father was getting tired of all the bickering.

Finally, fed up, The Father said, *"That's It! I have had just about enough! I'm going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from the results, I'll declare who is best."*

So, Jesus and Satan sat down at their respective keyboards and began typing away.

They did all sorts of complicated maneuvers!

Jesus worked with Heavenly efficiency, and Satan was hot as Hades!

Before they were done, they did every sort of computer-oriented task known to mankind!

Then, just before time was up, a huge storm rolled in. Thunder crashed in ear-splitting crescendos as lightning flashed across the skies. Rain drenched the landscape, and of course, the power went off.

Satan stared at his blank computer screen, uttering every curse word under the sun.

Jesus just sighed and waited patiently.

Finally, the electricity came back on, whereupon they each restarted their computers.

Satan, searching frantically, began to scream: *"No! No! It's LOST! I lost everything when the power went off!"*

Meanwhile, Jesus casually started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work.

Satan observed this and became irate. *"Wait a minute,"* he screamed, *"That's not fair! Jesus cheated! How come he still has all of his work, and I don't have anything?"*

God the Father just shrugged and said, **"JESUS SAVES!"**

This was sent to me by a friend. It's amusing, but certainly not doctrinally correct, and may unintentionally offend some. Yet on a more serious note, there are two key thoughts in the text that I want to address: Lost and Saved. To be specific, **"Jesus saves!"** Saves how? Jesus saves us from the penalty, power, and finally the presence of sin, when we who are saved enter Heaven.

The best part is, this new life is given as a free gift by God Himself, the very moment one repents and receives Christ. In short, it is forgiveness full and free for anyone and everyone, owing solely to God's redeeming Love and Grace, paid for in full on the Cross by the Lord Jesus Christ. Consequently, we can't earn this by good works. In fact, as a free gift, it cannot be bought at any price.

I distinctly recall, at age 21, the moment I was convicted by God's Holy Spirit, and came to the stark realization that my unrighteous lifestyle had doomed me to Hell for all eternity, without any hope of Heaven whatsoever. Terror gripped my heart, to put it mildly, before a righteous and holy Creator. In my panic, I did the only thing I could; I cried out for mercy.

At that moment, a marvelous thing occurred; the panic was immediately displaced by a warm sense of peace and serenity! When I told my friends, they thought I had gone off the deep end, or had *"gotten religion."* Not true! Once I was lost, but I had been found! I was now Saved! Pardoned! Forgiven by God! Before that, I never really understood what Jesus being the *"Savior of the World"* meant.

Life soon became dissatisfying as I realized that serving God was best of all. As time passed, I met a wonderful Christian girl. We were later married and entered the Ministry. God led us to work with people who did not have the Bible in their own heart language, as we are so privileged to have. As such, they had no chance to hear the *"Name above all names"*—**Jesus Christ**, Creator, Savior, and coming King!

Why is this so important? Because, as the Bible so clearly states in Acts 4:12, *"Neither is there salvation in any other [name or person]: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* And, concerning God's heart's desire, 2 Peter 3:9 states, *"The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

Repentance in Biblical terms means, to change one's mind in response to being enlightened with the knowledge of the truth—the truth about one's hopelessly lost condition, and the Good News of God's gracious provision. That is, to personally receive Christ, and be born anew into God's family, and be engifted with Forgiveness, Restoration, and Eternal Life.

How can anyone repent and receive Christ if they have not heard this Good News, and the Name above all names? They cannot! Some might contend that plenty of people here need Christ too, to which I fully agree. Yet there's a big difference. People here already *have* access to God's Word in their own language, thus, a chance; whereas, there are languages where the Bible has yet to be translated.

One of those places is Thailand, and specifically the Isan (*E'sahn*) or Northeastern Region, home of 23-million souls, one third of Thailand's total population. Amazingly, the Isan people do not yet have God's Word in their own heart language. And, we know that God desires they have His Word as well. This is where the special ministry that God has given us comes into focus.

Called *"God's Word for Isan,"* we have been laboring for many years, and are now only *three* books away from completing the Isan New Testament! We look to God to supply our needs, of course, yet we know He usually supplies through the gifts of His people. So, we thank you for your prayers and financial gifts. With your help we can finish strong, so that the Isan people can soon have God's Word in their own spoken language.



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