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God's Answers to Our Anxieties

James T. Jeremiah
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God's Answers to Our Anxieties

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GOD'S ANSWERS TO OUR ANXIETIES

JAMES T. JEREMIAH

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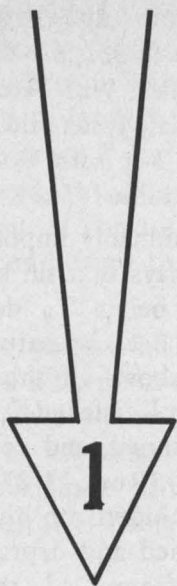
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To the alumni of Cedarville College
who are engaged in the ministry
of declaring the Savior's
answers to man's anxieties

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SIN

Shortly before his death, Robert Frost was interviewed on television by a group of reporters whose questions implied that this was the most difficult time in which man has ever lived. They kept trying to badger the octogenarian poet into saying what they wanted him to say. At last he succeeded in outshouting them and making himself heard: "Yes, yes, it's a terribly difficult time for a man to try to save his soul—about as difficult as it always has been."

It is difficult to say whether Frost understood that it is *impossible* for any of us to save our own souls. With reference to the salvation of the soul, Jesus said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

Salvation is humanly impossible because of sin. The Bible says that sin brings death, the unsaved person being "... dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). By nature man's heart is "... deceitful above all things, and desperately [incurably] wicked..." (Jer. 17:9). Man has "... sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23), and "... the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). Sin has so ruined and depraved man's soul, separated him from God, that his salvation can only be a reality by the power of God.

Because Jesus Christ gave His life on the cross to save us from our sins, the child of God can say with grateful assurance: 1) *He bore my sins*—"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24). 2) *He suffered for my sins*—"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18). 3) *He purged my sins*—"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,

and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:3). 4) *He removed my sins*—"Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back" (Isa. 38:17).

The great artist Joseph Mallord William Turner once invited a friend to view his latest painting. It was a vivid picture of a storm at sea. After gazing at the painting for several minutes the overwhelmed visitor asked the artist, "How did you ever paint such a realistic scene?"

The artist explained his secret. "I went to the seashore and hired a fishing boat. The pilot took me out into the sea even though we knew a storm was on the way. We sailed into the storm. Oh, how I wanted to hide in safety in the bottom of the boat, but I stayed on the deck, bound to the mast! I did not simply see the storm; I felt it—I breathed it—I lived in it—and I lived through it! Only then could I paint the picture."

As Christ came to this earth and lived among men, He was "... touched with the feeling of our infirmities... in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). He felt, breathed, and lived through

the storm—the storm of God's wrath placed upon Him in our behalf.

Sin, not necessarily personal sins, is the cause of all of our anxieties. Because we are sinners, we have problems. Since Christ died for us, the just for the unjust, and fully paid the sin debt against us, we can claim His victory in our lives. He is the answer to our anxieties.

For further study: Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:10-31; I Cor. 6:9-11; I John 1:8-10.