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SINE QUA NON



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"Sine qua non" is an often used Latin expression literally meaning "without which not." Many who speak only English, use this expression.

Something inseparable from the existence of another thing, is called a sine qua non of that other thing. In many Christian circles, lipservice is given to the importance of a complete gospel message. Anything else is a false gospel. However, much preaching (especially on TV) deemphasizes the sine qua non of a faithful gospel salvation message. What is this sine qua non of salvation? Let's examine Scripture to find out.

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"... I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Matthew 9:13, Mark 2:17, Luke 5:32)

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This great prophet, John, spoke to wicked King Herod regarding the things of God. He didn't mince words in telling Herod that his unlawful relationship with his brother's wife was sinful. Herod didn't like this and ultimately beheaded John.

Today, most televangelists soft-pedal the issue of sin. After all, who wants to send money to a "ministry" that makes them feel uncomfortable? They emphasize techniques for realizing the full potential of God's blessing in this life. They present stirring messages about using powerful positive thinking to overcome obstacles. Jesus, however, dealt with sin! The religious leaders of His day were offended and asked if He was accusing them of sinfulness. He replied:

" If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth." (John 9:41)

Repentance from sin is a sine qua non of possessing salvation from Christ. He bore sin's penalty by His sacrificial death, on the cross, as God the Son. He was buried, and rose again the third day, fulfilling ancient Scripture. The Apostle Paul summarized this issue of sin, ap-

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