



What is the simple message of Scripture?

Salvation in Jesus Christ

- No other name through which men can be saved! Every other religious system is unreliable (they depend SOMEHOW on the perfection of the person who fails continually).



Message of the Old Testament

- **Acts 4:12**
 - o “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
- Christianity depends on the sacrifice of the perfect one = no blemish (see: payment for sins in Leviticus 1:1-9 below):



God Alone! (period).



Who then offers us to be related /connected /associated with Him. This happens by relationship with Him.



Our job is to WORK on our relationship with Him.

CHAT EXERCISE – Help come up with an acronym for “WORK”

W _____ O _____ R _____ K _____

The word RELATIONSHIP has the word REAL in it. Meaning:

- Not by manipulation
- Not for selfish gain (that's not a relationship)
- Not in hypocrisy
- Not under domination / fear
- Not for exploitation
- Not in infatuation

That is not a relationship.
Imagine selfish partners in a marriage?

What God intends in relationship is mutual trust, respect, commitment, loyalty, care, shared values (purpose) and communication.

One of the strongest illustrations God gives as model relationship He wants us to learn from is the marriage. Look at what God says in **Jeremiah 3:**

Jeremiah 3:11-15

¹¹ Then the Lord said to me, "Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah.

¹² Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say:

'Return, backsliding Israel,' says the Lord;

'I will not cause My anger to fall on you.

For I *am* merciful,' says the Lord;

'I will not remain angry forever.

¹³ Only acknowledge your iniquity,

That you have transgressed against the Lord your God,

And have scattered your charms

To alien deities under every green tree,

And you have not obeyed My voice,' says the Lord.

¹⁴ "Return, O backsliding children," says the Lord; "**for I am married to you.** I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. ¹⁵ And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Revelation 19:6-9

⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb** has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

DISCUSS: Look at the great benefit we graciously received from the cross of Jesus.

Leviticus 1:1-9

¹ Now the Lord called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, ²“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock.

³‘If his offering *is* a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord. ⁴Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, **and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.** ⁵ He shall kill the bull before the Lord; and the priests, Aaron’s sons, shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that *is by* the door of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁶And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces. ⁷The sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar, and lay the wood in order on the fire. ⁸Then the priests, Aaron’s sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat in order on the wood that *is on* the fire upon the altar; ⁹but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, **a sweet aroma to the Lord.**

ATONEMENT: - reconciliation between us and God; restoration of relationship; reparation for wrongs done against the LORD.

