

# 60 SECONDS IN THE SCRIPTURES

## THE SINNER'S PRAYER

### THE FACTS:

- ✓ Many people tell of their salvation “experience” with words like, “I got saved the other day” or “I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior” or “I have received Jesus into my heart.”
- ✓ These phrases indicate that many have been taught that prayer is the key to salvation; however, the Bible never teaches anyone was saved simply by prayer.
- ✓ The commands of men will never save (Mat. 15:8,9), but one such prayer is as follows: “Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.” (sinner-prayer.com)
- ✓ There is no command or example in the Scriptures of any prayer like this.

### THE FOCUS:

- ✓ Prayer is mentioned in three important accounts where people were not simply saved by their prayers.
  - Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9) – Saul was praying when Ananias found him and he was instructed to be baptized to be saved (Acts 9:1-18; 22:16)
  - Cornelius (Acts 10) – He was praying when an angel of the Lord told him to send for Peter. He was not told to receive Jesus into his heart, but that he would hear words to obey in order to be saved (Acts 11:14). Peter preached faith (10:43), repentance (11:18), and baptism (10:48).
  - Lydia (Acts 16:12-15)—Lydia and a group of women were praying, but Paul did not mention that prayer saved them. Lydia heard his preaching and learned that she needed to be baptized.
- ✓ We must all follow God's plan of salvation which includes: faith (Rom. 10:17), repentance (Acts 17:30,31), confession (Rom. 10:10), and baptism (Acts 2:38)