# Friends

### John 15:13

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down His life for His friends." This one scripture tells us so much about God.....

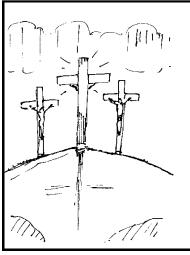
### #1 God loves you..!

He cares about you, He knows you! He has love for all mankind, and a special, personal love, just for you! And how has God expressed this love for you..?

#2 Jesus has laid down His life for you..!Jesus Christ became a man, led a sinless life, and offered Himself as the sacrifice for your sin!

CUT--HERE

### The Thief



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"Two others, criminals, were led out to be executed with Him at a place called "The Skull." There all three were crucified--Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side." [Luke 23:32-33]

"A signboard was nailed to the cross above Him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews."

"One of the criminals hanging beside Him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself--and us too, while you're at it!" "But the other criminal protested. "Don't you even fear God when you are dying? We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man hasn't done one thing wrong."

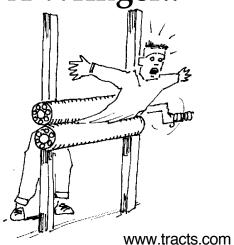
"then he said, " Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

"And Jesus replied, "Today you will be with me in Paradise. This is a solemn promise."

[Luke 23:38-43]

CUT--HERE

# Put Through A Wringer!!



Many people feel they've gone through so much difficulty in this life...



...pain, abuse, disease, financial burdens...the list is endless!!

And some have come to this conclusion...

"There must be a reward for me after I die.....!

...I'm going to Heaven, because I've already been through Hell!!"

"And when I get there, the first thing I'm going to do is ask God why He put me through all that suffering!!!"

Well folks, I have a news flash for you... it wasn't God who made you suffer....!

It was the devil who put you through the wringer! He's the one who punishes people, who causes pain and trouble, and I'll tell you why...... He shed His blood, He laid His life down, suffered and died, so you may be set free from the bondage of sin!

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Jesus died so you can be saved!

He rose from the dead to give you the free gift of everlasting life! So you can go to heaven!

Have you asked Him to be you Savior..? But there's even more..!

## "...(Jesus) lay down His life, for His friends."

#3 <u>Jesus Christ wants to be</u> your friend!

Almighty God, the creator of all things, wants to know you\_as a friend! He wants you, just as you are, to have a lifelong friendship with Him!

Trust me, He's the greatest friend you will ever have!

Have you asked Him to save you?

He wants to be your friend!

Accept Jesus Christ as your Savior by saying this simple prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. But I believe that you died upon the cross for me. That you shed your precious blood, for the forgiveness of my sin. And I believe that on the third day you rose into heaven to prepare a place for me.

I accept you now as my Savior, my Lord, my God, my Friend. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and set me free from my sin. And, because you are my Savior, Jesus, I "shall not die, but have everlasting life".

Thank you Jesus!

And after you accept Christ, tell others! God now lives inside of you, and He wants to do His ministry--through you--toward others. Serve God!

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The Bible says that this man was a "thief." His crime must have been very bad to deserve crucifixion as punishment. Remember he was justly accused of a crime, unlike Jesus who was completely innocent. And yet, having led the life of a criminal, certainly never before knowing Jesus...he was assured, by Jesus, of going to heaven!

The thief did three things:

- 1. He recognized Jesus Christ as God
- 2. He recognized himself as a sinner (see verses 40-41)
- 3. He asks Jesus to save him! (verse 42)

When the thief did this, Jesus answered in no uncertain terms that his sin was forgiven and the thief would be in heaven when he died...a "solemn promise" (verse 43).

So it is very clear that salvation is obtained by:

- 1. Believing Jesus Christ is God (John 1:1-4)
- 2. Confessing to Jesus that you are a sinner (Romans 10:9-10)
- 3. Believing Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life! (Hebrews 5:9)

Can you do this? Right now, wherever you are, you can receive the free gift of eternal life, by saying from your heart, this simple prayer....

Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. But I believe that you died upon the cross for me. That you shed your precious blood, for the forgiveness of my sin. And I believe that on the third day you rose into heaven to prepare a place for me. I accept you now as my Savior, my Lord, my God, my friend. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and set me free from my sin. And, because you are my Savior, Jesus, I "shall not die, but have everlasting life".

Thank you Jesus!

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The devil causes trouble so we'll become bitter toward God and unbelieving. He'll throw anything he can at us... sickness, stress, abuse, you name it.---just to keep us from God's love, which is summed up in one simple fact... Jesus Christ died for you!

He's paid the price for all your suffering and created the way for you to have eternal life with Him in heaven! Jesus Christ desires to heal you! Jesus desires to deliver you from all your problems! He can give you a new life! A new birth! By a simple prayer of faith, you can accept Him right now as your Lord and Savior...

"Whom the Son sets free, is free indeed."

[John 8:36]

Accept Jesus Christ as your Savior by saying this simple prayer.....

Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. But I believe that you died upon the cross for me. That you shed your precious blood, for the forgiveness of my sin. And I believe that on the third day you rose into heaven to prepare a place for me. I accept you now as my Savior, my Lord, my God, my friend. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and set me free from my sin. Heal me Lord-deliver me from all my problems. I love you Lord Jesus!".

And after you accept Christ, tell others! God now lives inside of you, and He wants to do His ministry--through you-toward others. Serve God!