



Reversing the Vaccination

Smallpox was going around and although British dairy farmer, Benjamin Jesty, was immune, having survived the disease as a child, his pregnant wife Elizabeth and three kids, Robert (age 3), Benjamin (age 2) and baby Elizabeth were very susceptible. There was a common belief among country folk at the time that those who had contracted the mild disease, Cowpox, didn't normally catch smallpox. This appeared to be true for his two milkmaids, Ann Notley and Mary Reade, who had nursed many smallpox patients without getting the disease, so a plan formed in Benjamin's mind. He would protect his family members by giving them the cowpox disease. Out in the open field one day in 1774, he opened a wound in his wife's arm with a stocking needle and infected it with puss from an infected cow, the procedure was repeated on the boys. This is the first known vaccination. (The word vaccination is from the Latin "vacca" meaning cow.)

Vaccination is putting just enough of a disease into one's body (in a controlled environment) to help it to build up immunity and keep it from getting the real thing. Unfortunately, in the Midwest many people have just enough religion to keep them from getting the real thing—they're vaccinated against saving faith!

John 8:31-34—This problem was shared by the Jews of Jesus' day. They were immunized to the truth by their heritage. They didn't realize that they were slaves of sin.

Luke 18:9-12—To get a better look at this problem let's look at a parable. Notice that the Pharisee prayed about *himself*. Too often our religion is all about us. We're doing what's right or expected so we can feel good about ourselves. A prayer of pride and a life of boasting may help you to feel better but it doesn't connect you with God or set you free from sin.

Luke 18:13, 14—The tax collector's sincerity was real. He probably could have come up with something about which to boast but when he saw himself in the light of God's perfection he was overwhelmed and simply begged for mercy. He realized his need of God.

2 Corinthians 11:21-23—If anyone had a reason to boast in his religious accomplishments it was Paul the Apostle. He was, after all, the most successful Christian missionary in history. Yet Paul says that such boasting is for fools.

Galatians 6:14—Paul finally concludes that the only thing worth boasting about is the Cross of Jesus and the Salvation He offers.

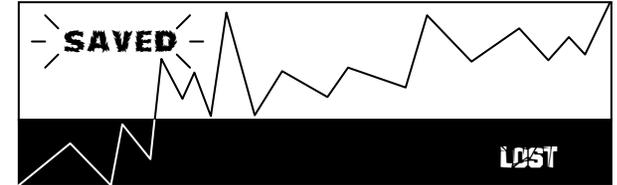
John 8:35-38—When you give up your spiritual security blanket of self righteousness and come to Jesus for salvation He will set you free from slavery to sin and give you a place in the family of God!

The Message Our Church Must Continue to Believe, Live and Share

2 Peter 3:9—God wants to save you.

Hebrews 7:25—God is able to save you completely from sin and death. God's grace is greater than all your sin.

1 John 5:11-13—Your salvation is reliant on Jesus. If you are connected with Him, you are saved. If you rely on self, you are lost, regardless of how good you may be acting.



How Do You Obtain Salvation?

1 John 1:9—(1) Confess your sins.

Romans 10:9-13—(2) Profess (confess) your allegiance to Jesus. Confession is more than admitting sin. It is also "to acknowledge belief or faith in; profess." ¹ You could say that a wedding ring is a confession (or profession) of marriage. (3) Believe—especially in the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's easy to say we believe but if we really believe then we will be willing to act on that belief. We are to openly confess—profess—faith in Jesus, believe enough to act, and (4) call on Jesus for salvation as the tax collector did.

Today Jesus is still offering His grace to set us free from sin and death. But just like the scribes and Pharisees, do you have just enough religion to keep you from getting the real thing? Do you ignore the offer or rely on your religiosity or good works to gain it? Or instead, will you simply believe that Jesus wants to save you from your sinful condition and that He is able to do so by His own power, not yours? Why not give Him permission to save you today?

Heavenly Father, I accept Jesus as my personal Savior. I give You my hopes, my dreams, and my desires. I give You the good, the bad, and the ugly in my life. I'm guilty, Lord, and I give You my guilt right now; thank You for taking it from me. I confess that I am a sinner; please forgive me. I surrender my will to You. I ask that You fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I ask that You direct my will. Thank you for giving me eternal life right now. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

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