

# BEHOLD, TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION

*I scooped up his mangled body with one arm under his head. The strident sound of an approaching ambulance, car owners moving their cars to clear the way for its arrival, and someone in the background speaking animatedly with a 911 operator imposed an atmosphere of utter confusion on the neighborhood. Jim opened his eyes, and looked at me with such an unusually peaceful look. His face was slightly sweaty. I could feel waves of spasm coursing through his body. "Buddy, I got Jesus..., Jesus got me", he gurgled through a mouthful of blood. Then with great effort, he tried a smile that did not quite come through, jerked once, and suddenly became flaccid in my arms, his eyes slowly closing as he did.*

Jim has been my auto mechanic for 23 years. From my 1992 Ford Mustang to my 2015 Ford Explorer, he ensured that I kept running smoothly. Over the years, our relationship has evolved significantly. From Thanksgiving in November, Christmas in December, Superbowl in February, to the Easter celebration in the spring, my family and his were always together. Jim was the kind of guy you would describe as a naturally good person, a perfect gentleman. Eric - my seven years old son called him his second dad.

While I was raised by committed Christian missionary parents who had traveled the world but now do volunteer work for the Christian community in Crystal Lake, Illinois where I made my home, gave my heart to Jesus at thirteen, sang in the choir, and was always beside dad on Saturday morning as he goes from house to house to preach the gospel, Jim was the key witness to his parent's tumultuous marriage, their bitter divorce, and the untimely death of his father in an auto crash a few months later. From that point on, he was raised alone by a mother who was constantly in and out of the hospital. Despite the circumstance, however, Jim somehow managed to grow up into a perfect gentleman.

When our paths crossed decades ago, I wanted him to be saved. So I ensured that he consistently heard about God's salvation plan. In response, he would look at me, laugh, and go "hey buddy, I'm doing just great.

See, I don't drink, never did drugs, and never cheated on my wife. Can a man be any better? Give me a break, I don't want any of the religious craps." Often, I would invite him and his family to Sunday service or bible study in our home on Sunday evenings which he honored.

Three Sundays ago, I and my wife noticed an unusual change in Jim. During the bible study, he was unusually quiet and curiously asked a lot of questions about salvation, the new life in Christ, death, and the hereafter. When I asked him if he would like to give his heart to the Lord, he smiled and replied "we shall see" Before departing, I made an appointment with him to work on my car the following Saturday. Meanwhile, we continued to keep him and his family in our prayers.

A few minutes before my arrival at his workshop, there was an accident. I was told that the hydraulic lift in Jim's workshop had inexplicably malfunctioned, dropping the suspended car under which Jim was working right on him!

Consider this my dear friend: life is short, death is sure, yesterday is gone, you have only today. "Behold, today is the day of salvation..." (2 Corinthians 6:2), tomorrow is uncertain for no one. "It is appointed unto man once to die, after this judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). "Therefore, seek the lord (today) while he may be found, and call upon him (now) while he is near..." (Isaiah 55:6). Jesus Christ has already paid the full price for all your sin with his blood. Today, he freely offers you the gift of salvation. Won't you receive it?

*I laid his lifeless body on the stretcher, took a last look before the stretcher was rolled into the ambulance, turned, dug my bloody hands deep in my pockets, hunched my shoulders, and walked slowly to my car with tears in my eyes but joy in my heart. His last words "buddy, I got Jesus..." continued to ring in my ears till today. I knew Jim went to heaven.*

We would like to help you grow in your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ if you have decided to make Him the Lord of your life. For further help towards your Christian growth and maturity, write to us at [info@viewpointministriesinternational.org](mailto:info@viewpointministriesinternational.org) or visit [www.viewpointministriesinternational.org](http://www.viewpointministriesinternational.org)

