

SALVATION

Emerson Blythe

SALVATION
Series
By: Emerson Blythe

Table of Contents

Salvation, What does it Mean?.....	4
A. Important message.....	4
B. Some people make light of it.....	4
C. Salvation means more than how you feel.....	4
D. How God relates to you.....	5
E. Compare to physical salvation.....	5
F. About the soul and its eternal existence.....	6
G. After death, what then?.....	7
H. Right with God in life important.....	7
Salvation, Who Needs it?.....	9
A. Many people think they do not need it.....	9
B. Attitude in Jesus' day.....	9
C. Many of us convince ourselves that we do not need salvation by various false theories about salvation itself.....	10
Salvation, Do we Appreciate it?	14
Salvation, where do you get it?.....	20
Salvation, how do you take it?.....	26
Salvation, When do you get it and how do you keep it?.....	32
Parables & Stories Regarding Salvation.....	38
SALVATION: Do You Have It?.....	47
JUDGMENT DAY.....	53

Salvation, What does it Mean?

A. Important message.

Our message today is going to be a very important message.

Have you ever gotten one of those sales pitches that reads: IMPORTANT MESSAGE: OPEN AT ONCE ? That is the way it is with out message today.

Have you ever received one of those letters that says, THIS COULD CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE ? The message today is so important that it could do more than change your entire life: IT COULD CHANGE YOUR ETERNITY!

The title of our message today is: SALVATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The realization of the fact that we are dealing with **eternity** will shed new meaning on the topic of salvation. You see, you and I will always be around. It is important, as the Bible puts it: "that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." (1 Cor.5:5).

The apostle Paul said, (Rom 10:1 KJV) "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."

B. Some people make light of it.

A lot of people make light of "salvation." When someone talks about someone being "saved" it is not uncommon to hear people snicker, and say something like, "How long do you think it will last?" --as if salvation were a joke, or a farce.

But salvation is for real. The need for salvation is real. And we need to pause and think of WHAT SALVATION MEANS.

C. Salvation means more than how you feel.

We used to hear a lot of talk about POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE. Some folk seem to think salvation is just how a person feels about him- or herself. --That it is just a positive mental attitude, or feeling good about one's self. But salvation is much more than that.

Salvation involves:

D. How God relates to you.

Salvation revolves around the question of: Do you know God---and does God know you. Of the Judgment Day, Jesus said, (Mat 7:22-23 KJV) "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

So salvation relates to the question, Does God know you? Will He accept you? Are you in right relationship with Him? Salvation has a lot to do with which road you are on: Are you on the road to Heaven, or are you on the road that leads to destruction?

E. Compare to physical salvation.

We know what it means to be "saved" in the **physical** sense. We read about people being "saved" from a burning building, or from a shipwreck at sea. Being **SAVED** means being rescued from imminent danger or ill fate.

We realize what it means to be **lost** in the physical realm. To be "lost" means that you are in need of being "saved." We talk about the "saved" and contrast them with those who are "lost." I'm afraid many people do not realize what it means to be spiritually "lost."

Jesus said, (Mat 18:11 KJV) "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost."

He says, (Luke 15:4-10 KJV) "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? {5} And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders,

rejoicing. {6} And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. {7} I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. {8} Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? {9} And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. {10} Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Concerning the Prodigal Son who had returned, the Father said, (Luke 15:32 KJV) "It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found."

Those who are without salvation may not realize they are lost. Compare it to being lost in the woods. You walk for a long way, and are enjoying the day. You have no idea that finding your way out would be difficult until the sun sets, you find you are disoriented, and nothing looks familiar. You were "lost" all along but did not REALIZE it until the need arose. And then horror grabs your heart, for you realize that nightfall will bring on the darkness and the cold, and you are unprepared. You feel your hunger, and realize that you have nothing to eat. You begin to think of all the wild animals roaming the forest, and realize that unless you are saved, you may die!

Yes, it is bad to be lost, even though you don't realize it until it is too late. And it is bad to be spiritually lost, too. The seriousness of being lost may not dawn upon you until some calamity befalls you, and God is not there; or in sickness or distress, death is knocking at your door. Then you will realize how terrible it is to be lost and without God in the world. The Bible depicts the lost as people who are walking about dead, and not realizing it, (1 Tim. 5:6). When mankind lifts his eyes to behold the eastern sky rending to reveal the coming Christ, and suddenly realizes he is lost--what a horror that will be! As John the beloved looked down through the annals of time, he saw that day. In describing it, he said, (Rev 6:14-17 KJV) "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. {15} And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; {16} And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: {17} For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

F. About the soul and its eternal existence.

The Bible teaches that at death, the soul departs the body and lives on, (Ecc. 12:7). My soul, and your's, will live eternally in Heaven or in hell. Whether we are saved or not determines the place. The apostle Peter asks, (1 Pet 4:17-18 KJV) "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? {18} And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

And The apostle Paul answers: (2 Th 1:7-9 KJV) "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, {8} In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: {9} Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

That, my friends, is what it means to be saved.

G. After death, what then?

The story is told of a father who was talking to his teen-age son. "What are your plans for life, son?" the father asked. The son replied, "Well, I guess I'll stay in school and get my diploma." "That's fine," the father replied, "but what then?" "Well, I guess I'll to a good college, and earn a degree." "That's fine, son, but what then?" "Well, I guess I'll get a good job with an established business where I can make a good living." "That's fine, son, but what then?" "Well, I guess I'll find the right girl, get married, settle down and raise a family." "That's fine, son, but what then?" "Well, I'll work hard, do a good job, prove my worth, and I might even get to be the president of the corporation one day." "That's fine, son, and what then?" "Well, I guess I'll build some security and retire with a good living, and take life easy for a while." That sounds good, son, but what then?" "Well," the son says, after hesitating for a moment, "I guess I'll eventually grow old and die, like everyone else." And the father says, "Yes, son... and what then???"

And that's the question for us all. We work hard and make plans for everything else, except for the salvation of our souls and the life to come... but we need to be thinking, "What then?"

H. Right with God in life important.

Being saved is important in regard to the hereafter. But it is also important in regard to this life. (1 Tim 4:8 KJV) "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." It pays to be on God's side here, and hereafter.

CONCLUSION: So, What does salvation mean?

Salvation means:

1. Being reconciled to God. (Col 1:21 KJV) "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled"
2. Being "Justified". And that means being declared just, not on your own varacity, but on the merits of Christ. (Rom 5:1 KJV) "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
3. Being forgiven. (Col 2:13 KJV) "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;"
4. Being made heirs. (Rom 8:16-17 KJV) "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: {17} And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."
5. Having an inheritance. (1 Pet 1:3-4 KJV) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

SALVATION MEANS MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE REALIZE!

Salvation, Who Needs it?

Important message:

I want to encourage you to pay very close attention to this message. Have you ever gotten one of those sales pitches that says in bold letters on the outside of the envelope: **IMPORTANT MESSAGE--DO NOT DISCARD ?**

Well, usually they are not very important, but this message today is. It could very well be the turning point in your life--a turning point that could redeem your soul from an eternity in hell!

Salvation, Who Needs it? (Good people, bad people, likable people, despicable people, rich people, poor people, everybody out in the world, and a lot of folks in church!) Who needs Salvation: EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ALREADY HAVE IT!

A. Many people think they do not need it.

Convincing lost people that they need salvation is much like trying to convince a person who feels fine that he needs to see a doctor. Many times lost people do not "feel" lost. They have never stopped to contemplate the road they are on and their standing before God. I am persuaded that the reason so many people are lost is that they have never realized their NEED FOR SALVATION!

Sometimes people who feel well DO need to see a doctor. When there is a severe contagious disease outbreak, those who are exposed need to see a doctor for treatments to keep the lethal disease from developing. A person who has been bitten by a rabid animal may feel fine, but he realizes he still needs to see a doctor for immunizations. And no matter how well you feel now, YOU STILL NEED TO SEE THE GREAT PHYSICIAN FOR SALVATION!

B. Attitude in Jesus' day.

Jesus came to this world on a saving mission but people did not appreciate it because they did not realize their need for salvation. (Luke 19:10 KJV) "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (John 1:11 KJV) "He came unto his

own, and his own received him not."

Paul said, (Acts 13:46 KJV) "...It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."

It is a great mistake to reject God's offer of salvation and eternal life.

The Jews of Jesus' day had no inkling of their NEED FOR SALVATION. (John 8:31-36 KJV) "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; {32} And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. {33} They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? {34} Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. {35} And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. {36} If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

A fish does not realize he's been hooked until he tries to swim away. A fly does not know he is stuck on the flypaper until he tries to fly away. And a sinner does not realize how he is hooked on sin until he tries to free himself from it. Only then will he realize his NEED FOR SASLVATION.

People are going through this life like the man that's fallen asleep on the railroad tracks. He feels peaceful and secure until he looks up and sees that one big headlight! And, friends, that train is coming for those who are lost in sin!

The sinner doesn't realize his need for salvation until he realizes just how lost he is.

(Rev 3:17 KJV) "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

Isaiah said: (Isa 64:6 KJV) "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

Many people will awaken too late! (2 Cor 6:2 KJV) "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

C. Many of us convince ourselves that we do not need salvation by various false theories about salvation itself.

1. If good outweighs bad.

Some people like to picture the judgment as a time when God will place all of one's bad deeds on one side of the balance, and all his good deeds on the other--and if the good outweighs the bad, everything will be OK. But this is not the Bible picture. The Bible indicates that *one unforgiven sin* is all it takes to keep one out of Heaven. (Rev 21:27 KJV) "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Look what a good man Cornelius was: (Acts 10:1-2 KJV) "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, {2} A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always."

There was just one thing wrong with him: he was not a Christian, his sins were not covered by the blood of Christ, *and thus he stood in dire need of salvation!* God told him to send for the preacher, Simon Peter, "Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved." (Acts 11:14 KJV)

2. If keep ten commandments

Then there are those who will tell you, "If a person will just keep the Ten Commandments he will go to Heaven." No doubt, keeping the Ten Commandments will make you a good person. But a person can keep the Ten Commandments, and still never obey the gospel of Christ or be born again. (Rom 3:20 KJV) "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Jesus days, (John 3:3 KJV) "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:5 KJV) "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

3. If go to church (or a member).

Some people seem to think just because a person goes to church he is sure to make it to Heaven. But I suggest to you that there are many people in church--indeed many church members--who are in need of salvation!

A certain preacher I used to know would often say, Sitting in the church building will

no more make you a Christian than sitting in a hen-house will make you a chicken. And that is pretty much true. (1 Pet 4:17 KJV) "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (Mat 7:21 KJV) "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

SALVATION--Who needs it?

You need it if:

1. You are not right with God
2. Your sins are not forgiven
3. You have not been born again
4. You are spiritually dead.

PITY THE MAN (song)

I

I GUESS WE SHOULD PITY, THOSE IN THE WORLD.
WHO MUST USE THE EARTH FOR A BED.
I GUESS WE SHOULD PITY, THE MAN WHO MUST TOIL.
FROM DAWN TILL DUSK FOR HIS BREAD.
BUT THESE CAN BE RICH, IF THEY HAVE CONTENTMENT.
AND SHARE IN GOD'S SALVATION PLAN.
BUT IF YOU KNOW ANY, WHO THO THEY HAVE PLENTY
ARE LOST, THEN PITY THAT MAN.

II

I GUESS THERE ARE THOSE, WHO PITY THE SAVED.
AS THO THEY'RE MISSING LIFE'S BEST.
FORGETTING THAT TREASURES OF EARTH PASS AWAY
AND HEAVEN'S THE PLACE TO INVEST.
MEANWHILE ESTEEMING, THE MAN WHO IS SCHEMING
TO HOLD ALL THE WEALTH THAT HE CAN.
BUT IF HE'S NOT GIVING, TO GOD WHILE HE'S LIVING

HIS SOUL THEN PITY THAT MAN.

CHORUS

PITY THE MAN WHO HAS TREASURES TO HOLD,
AND OWNS NOT THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE.
PITY THE MAN THO HE LIVE LONG ON EARTH
IF HE KNOWS NOT THE GIVER OF LIFE,
DOCTOR OR LAWYER, TRAVELER OR MERCHANT
THE BUILDER WHO BUILDS ON THE SAND
PAUPER OR KING, TO BE SAVED IS THE THING
IF HE'S LOST THEN PITY THAT MAN.

Salvation, Do we Appreciate it?

We have noticed:

1. Salvation, What does it Mean?
(some people make fun of it, etc.)
2. Salvation, Who Needs it?
(Good people, bad people, etc.)

This lesson is going to focus on how precious this salvation is, how we ought to appreciate it, AND HOW WE OUGHT TO BE THANKING GOD FOR IT WITH ALL OUR HEART EVERY MINUTE WE LIVE!

(Psa 9:14 KJV) "That I may show forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation."

(Psa 13:5-6 KJV) "But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. {6} I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me."

(Psa 20:5 KJV) "We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions."

(Psa 21:1 KJV) "To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!"

(Psa 35:9 KJV) "And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation."

(Psa 40:16 KJV) "Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified."

1. Some don't appreciate it because they see no need for it.

As we noticed before: (John 8:32-33 KJV Jesus said...) "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. {33} They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?"

2. Think about where we would be without it.

(Eph 2:11-13 KJV) "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; {12} That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope, and without God in the world:** {13} But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

How sad, the phrase, "Having no hope, and without God in the world."

Think about the horror of being lost: Being at enmity with the Creator and Ruler of the universe; knowing that no matter how horrible a thing comes your way, there is no use to cry to Him for help, for you are alienated from Him.

Think of how hard it would be for you to pillow your head at night, realizing that there are sins between you and God; knowing that if you did not awaken to greet another sunrise you would be doomed to a devil's hell for a never-ending eternity all because you are LOST and not in right relationship with God.

Suppose no salvation were available. No matter how much you wanted to be saved, have your sins forgiven and be right with God, there was **no way** it could be accomplished. We would be worrying about it all the time, wouldn't we? We would be figuring and scheming and thinking and planning on how salvation might be had. If a gospel preacher announced that he had good news of salvation through the blood of Christ, there would be a massive stampede of soul-weary sinners at his door.

But since it is there for the taking, **why, oh why** are men so inappreciative of it?

3. Some are like pigs that turn again and trample precious jewels under their feet.

(Mat 7:6 KJV) "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

(Mat 22:4-5 KJV Of the Lord's great invitation...) "Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. {5} **But they made light of it,** and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise."

What a sad commentary concerning God's invitation to salvation: ***But they made light of it.***

They made light of Noah's impending flood until it finally came and swept them all away. They made light of Lot's promised destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah until the fire devoured them. And those who make light of God's gracious offer of salvation will do so to their own destruction!

(Luke 14:16-20 KJV) "Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: {17} And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. {18} And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. {19} And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. {20} And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." And the Lord said, Not one of these men will taste of my supper, for they are unworthy!

How inappreciative can one be of salvation!

4. Some count the blood of the covenant an unholy thing and treat Jesus spitefully

(Heb 10:28-29 KJV) "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: {29} Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath ***trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?***"

Imagine, being so inappreciative of salvation as to tread God's Son underfoot, like an old dirty rag!

Imagine, treating the precious blood of Christ as an unholy thing--like the blood of a dog!

Imagine insulting God's Holy Spirit as He comes offering pardon!

(1 Pet 1:18-19 KJV) "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; {19} But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without

blemish and without spot:"

Who could have asked God to give the life of His Son to make a way of salvation for us? Who could have asked Jesus to go to the cross in our place? But without our asking, He did it, to make salvation possible. How can we but appreciate it with all our being? We need to be saying, "Thank you, Lord," with every breath up to and including our last!

5. Some pay little attention and neglect so great a salvation

(Heb 2:1-3 KJV) "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. {2} For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; {3} How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him...?"

When some great national or world event transpires, we sit "glued" to our radios and TV's to hear every word of what is happening. But when it comes to the gospel message pertaining to the salvation of our souls and our eternal destiny, how can we pay so little attention???

6. It is so great that even angels desire to look into it

When Jesus paid the supreme price for our salvation, he was dying, not for angels, but for fallen mankind. It is so phenomenal that the angels find it fascinating.

(1 Pet 1:8-12 KJV of the Lord...) "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: {9} Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. {10} Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: {11} Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. {12} Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; *which things the angels desire to look into.*"

7. If we rightly appreciate it, Beautiful are the feet of those who bring salvation's message!

(Rom 10:14-16 KJV) "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? {15} And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! {16} But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?"

8. The Gospel message of salvation is sent to those who appreciate it:

(Acts 13:26 KJV) "Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent."

9. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation

In the long ago, the Psalmist prayed: (Psa 51:12 KJV) "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

How many of us are rejoicing in our salvation today? How many of us are delighted and enthused and excited at the privilege of being Christians? (Acts 4:12 KJV) "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

10. We should have great joy in "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." (1 Pet. 1:9)

(Titus 2:11-14 KJV) "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, {12} Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; {13} Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; {14} Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

11. Because salvation is "free," does not mean that it is "cheap."

Many people seem to have the attitude that because something does not cost them a lot, it is worthless. Back (as a dealer) when satellite TV receivers cost 4- and 5- hundred dollars apiece, people cherished them, and took care of them. Now that many providers are "giving" people the receivers just to get them signed up as subscribers, people have a whole different attitude toward them--they put them out on the porch in the rain, they don't take care of them, they move off and leave them in vacant houses. What they don't realize is that they still cost about the same, and though *they* did not have to pay for them, someone did.

And that is the way it is with our salvation. We don't have to pay for it, because there is no way we could pay for it. But that does not mean it is "cheap." Salvation is precious, and it cost God's Son dearly: it cost Him His life blood.

If you do not have salvation today, do you appreciate it enough to eagerly take it?

If you DO have salvation, do you appreciate it enough to cherish it, and share it, and praise God for it every day of your life?

Salvation, where do you get it?

We have looked at several things regarding salvation in our previous studies:

- a. What salvation means
- b. Who needs it
- c. How we ought to appreciate it.

In all these studies one thing in particular has remained prominent: The importance of salvation; the sadness of being lost, the importance of being saved.

If we don't already have salvation, we know that we need it, for "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," (Rom.3:23).

Our topic today is: **Salvation, where do you get it?**

This may seem obvious to most of us, but for a person seeking salvation, it is a most important question.

You don't go cutting down trees looking for gold: you know it is found in the earth. You don't go digging in the earth looking for turpentine, or maple syrup, because you know each comes from a tree. You don't go to a grocery store to buy a coat. You don't go to a clothing store to buy a loaf of bread or a gallon of milk. You don't go to the hardware store to buy gas, or to the filling station to buy a pound of nails. If you want something, you need to know where it is found!

When Jesus was born, the wise men had to inquire where Jesus should be born, or they would have been seeking him in the wrong place.

When Jesus was 12 years old, his parents sought him, but they did not find him because they were looking in the wrong place. They were seeking Him among the relatives, but instead He was back in town, in the temple. They did not find Him until they looked in the right place!

When Jesus was resurrected, the angels asked, why are you seeking the living among the dead? They were trying to find Jesus in the tomb. Needless to say, they did not find him there, for they were looking in the wrong place.

Like Ponce De Leon's elusive fountain of youth which he sought in Florida and never found, salvation is elusive if it is sought in the wrong place.

In Romans chapters 9 and 10, the Apostle Paul pointed out that the Jews did not find salvation because they were looking for it in the wrong place.

(Rom 9:30-33 NKJV) "What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; {31} but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. {32} Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. {33} As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.'" (Rom 10:1-3 NKJV) "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. {2} For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. {3} For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God."

(Jer 2:13 KJV says:) "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

You don't find water in a broken cistern, and you don't find salvation in false religion!

The Bible tells us clearly that there is only one source for salvation. (Acts 4:10-12 KJV) "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. {11} This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. {12} Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

So I tell you without reservation today that Jesus Christ is the ONLY source of salvation under the sun. I know it is being "narrow-minded" to say that. I know it is not politically correct to state that one religion is better than another. I realize that it is not mannerly to say that other religions, as Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Shinto, Judaism, and Islam are powerless to save--but if you want true salvation you must look not to any of these, but to the Jesus of the Bible.

The Bible speaks of a god that cannot save. (Isa 45:20 KJV) "Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save."

Let's think of some places people look for salvation where is not to be found:

Salvation does not come by time--by waiting (for sins to be forgotten.)

Sometimes two family members will become estranged by some unkind deed or hurtful wrong. Instead of making any effort to reconcile, many times they simply wait for time to heal. After many years have passed they may tend to forget the wrong and restore their friendship.

Some people seem to think that salvation can come about by the same means--by simply waiting for God to forget where we have wronged Him and let us be his friends again.

Salvation does not come about by time. God does not forget. There must be something more to take away our sins.

Salvation does not come about by self-abasement sacrifice.

Some seek salvation through self abasement and self sacrifice. We think salvation comes about by merely punishing ourselves for the wrong we have done. This is no new idea. Some had it as far back as Bible times. It wouldn't work then, and it won't work now. (Col 2:20-23 KJV) "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, {21} (Touch not; taste not; handle not; {22} Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? {23} Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."

(Col 2:18-19 KJV) "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, {19} And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God."

Salvation does not come from self at all.

(Eph 2:8-9 KJV) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast."

(Isa 64:6 KJV) "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

Does not come about by money, silver or gold.

(Psa 49:6-9 KJV) "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; {7} None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: {8} (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) {9} That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption."

(1 Pet 1:18-21 KJV) "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; {19} But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: {20} Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, {21} Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."

Does not come from the wisdom of men.

(1 Cor 2:1-8 KJV) "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. {2} For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. {3} And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. {4} And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: {5} That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. {6} Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: {7} But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: {8} Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

Does not come from men.

Does not come from any other religion than Christianity.

Does not come from false doctrine.

(John 8:31-32 KJV) "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; {32} And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

(2 Th 2:12 KJV) "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

If you want salvation, look to the Bible.

(2 Tim 3:14-17 KJV) "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; {15} And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. {16} All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: {17} That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

(Col 2:8-9 KJV) "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. {9} For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

(Rom 1:16-17 KJV) "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. {17} For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Salvation is found in the Lord's church

(1 Tim 3:14-15 KJV) "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: {15} But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

(Eph 3:8-12 KJV) "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; {9} And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: {10} To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, {11} According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: {12} In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him."

So, where can you find salvation? If you are seeking salvation, go to the Lord's church, go to the Bible, and they will point you to the Savior, Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12 KJV) "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

(John 3:17 KJV) "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Salvation does not come from a man-made gospel, a perverted gospel, or a watered-down gospel. It comes from the gospel of Christ that points us to salvation through His blood. (Rev 1:5 KJV) "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

(1 John 1:7 KJV) "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Are you seeking salvation today? We have seen today where it can be found!

Salvation, how do you take it?

Some say Just believe

Lay hand on Radio

Pray through

Call on the name of the Lord

The Bible says you need to *Obey the gospel*.

1. What is wrong with just believing? (John 3:14-18 KJV) "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: {15} That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. {16} For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. {17} For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. {18} He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

BELIEVING INCLUDES OBEDIENCE:

(James 2:14-24 KJV) "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? {15} If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, {16} And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? {17} Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. {18} Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. {19} Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. {20} But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? {21} Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? {22} Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? {23} And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. {24} Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

THE BIBLE REQUIRES OBEDIENCE:

(Heb 5:8-9 KJV) "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; {9} And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"

SOME PEOPLE SEE THE BOOK OF ROMANS AS TEACHING SALVATION BY FAITH ONLY. (Rom 5:1 KJV) "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

BUT IT IS A FAITH THAT OBEYS:

(Rom 1:5 KJV) "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:"

(Rom 16:26 KJV) "But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:"

(Rom 10:16 KJV) "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?"

(2 Th 1:7-9 KJV) "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, {8} In flaming fire ***taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*** {9} Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

(Acts 6:7 KJV) "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."

WHAT IS WRONG WITH PRAYING THROUGH?

It is always good to seek the Lord. I don't want to discourage anyone from seeking the Lord.

But pleading with the Lord for salvation leaves the impression that we have to try to persuade the Lord to save us. But the truth of the matter is that He is ready and eager to save us, but the next move is up to us!

RATHER THAN PRAYING FOR GOD TO SAVE, PAUL PRAYED THE PEOPLE TO ACCEPT SALVATION:

(2 Cor 5:20 KJV) "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

(2 Pet 3:9 KJV) "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all

should come to repentance."

(1 Tim 2:4 NRSV) "(God) desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

BUT DOES NOT THE BIBLE SAY SALVATION IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD? (Yes.)

(Acts 2:21 KJV) "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

BUT THERE IS MORE TO CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD THAN CRYING, LORD, LORD!

(Mat 7:21 KJV) "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

BUT HOW DO WE REALLY CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD FOR SALVATION?

SAUL OF TARSUS HAD BEEN **PRAYING** AND **FASTING** FOR THREE DAYS, BUT ANANIAS THE MAN OF GOD CAME TO HIM AND ASKED: (Acts 22:16 KJV) "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

It is in the process of baptism that we are calling on the name of the Lord for salvation.

SO, HOW DO WE ACCEPT THE SALVATION THAT JESUS OFFERS?

The Bible declares that it is "***by grace through faith.***"

The fact that it is by grace means that it cannot be earned or merited. Grace means unmerited favor. If we try to ***earn*** a home in heaven by our own good works, or ***achieve*** our own righteousness through our own goodness, we will never make it.

(Eph 2:8-10 KJV) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast. {10} For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

The fact that it is "*through faith*" means that we trust in the sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ to make us right with God. Through faith we believe that he died in our place, thus paying our debt of sin, and through our faith in that can claim it as our own righteousness with God.

(Rom 3:23-27 KJV) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; {24} Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: {25} Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; {26} To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. {27} Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith."

This is hard for a lot of people to understand. If a person cannot be saved by his own merit, then why try to live right; why try to be good?

This was an attitude the apostle Paul encountered, and he made this argument against it: (Rom 6:1-2 KJV) "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? {2} ***God forbid.*** How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

(Rom 6:15-18 KJV) "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. {16} Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? {17} But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. {18} Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

Though we cannot merit or achieve our own salvation, we cannot be saved without cooperating with God.

Think of it this way. Suppose a man falls overboard in the midst of the Atlantic Ocean. Is there any way he can save himself? Can he swim hundreds of miles to the shore? Of course not. But suppose a helicopter comes to pick him up. He cannot save himself, but he still needs to be cooperative. By the same token, God is not going to save us against our will. As Jesus put it to the people of His day. (Luke 13:34 KJV) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, ***and ye would not!***"

1. We, then, accept the Lord's salvation by faith. If you do not believe that Jesus died

in your stead, or if you do not believe He is the Son of God, you have a great problem standing between you and salvation. (Heb 11:6 KJV) "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (John 8:24 KJV) "...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

2. We accept it by repentance. As long as we like it in sin, and like to do wrong, we will never see deliverance. Only when we are ready to denounce sin for the ugliness it really is are we ready to receive the Lord's salvation. (Luke 13:1-5 KJV) "There were present at that season some that told him (Jesus) of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. {2} And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? {3} I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. {4} Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? {5} I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

The apostle Peter said, (Acts 3:19 KJV) "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"

3. We accept the Lord's salvation by confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord. Jesus said, (Mat 10:32-33 KJV) "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. {33} But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

Or, as the Apostle Paul put it: (Rom 10:8-10 KJV) "...The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; {9} That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. {10} For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

4. Then, having believed and confessed, we accept the Lord's salvation in baptism. Jesus said, (Mark 16:16 KJV) "He that believeth *and* is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

The Apostle Peter said, (Acts 2:38 KJV) "...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

And again, (1 Pet 3:20-21 NRSV) "...God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. {21} And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,"

So, in the words of Ananias: (Acts 22:16 NRSV) "And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name."

Of the Philippian jailer: (Acts 16:30-34 NRSV) "Then he brought them (Paul & Silas) outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" {31} They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." {32} They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. {33} At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. {34} He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God."

Salvation, When do you get it and how do you keep it?

One of the saddest things in the world is to lose something valuable that you have had for a while.

If you have a nice diamond ring, and then lose it, it troubles you much more than if you had never had it to begin with.

If you had a nice home for a while, and then lost it to fire or storm, you would miss it much more than if you had never had it in the first place.

Couples who had a child and lost it to disease or accident are much more hurt than those who had no children to begin with.

As Jesus illustrates the point: (Luke 15:8-9 KJV) "Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? {9} And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost."

And how much more is this true of the greatest possession man can claim: **THAT IS SALVATION!**

Based on a mis-application of certain verses of Scripture, there are some who teach that salvation cannot be lost. But the truth of the matter is, It CAN be lost. Many people lose it. And the Bible teaches that finding salvation and then losing it is even worse than not having found it yet.

Paul said, (1 Cor 9:27 KJV) "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

John said, (2 John 1:8 KJV) "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

The Hebrew writer said, (Heb 4:11 KJV) "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

Jude reminds of the danger of falling in these words: (Jude 1:5-6 KJV) "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having *saved* the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward *destroyed* them that believed not. {6} And the *angels* which *kept not their first estate*, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

He alludes to the children of Israel, once SAVED out of Egypt, then later DESTROYED because of their unfaithfulness. Paul also cites this example as a warning to us: (1 Cor 10:1-12 KJV) "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; {2} And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; {3} And did all eat the same spiritual meat; {4} And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. *(In other words, they were REALLY GOD'S PEOPLE --E.B.)* {5} But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. {6} Now these things were our *examples*, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. {7} Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. {8} Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. {9} Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. {10} Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. {11} Now all these things happened unto them for *ensamples*: and they are written for *our admonition*, upon whom the ends of the world are come. {12} *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*"

The apostle Peter wrote, (2 Pet 3:17 KJV) "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness."

And again: (2 Pet 2:20-22 KJV) "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is *worse* with them than the beginning. {21} *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.* {22} But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

People get confused about salvation, "when" you receive it, and if it is possible to lose it,

because salvation is spoken of in *two different senses* in the Bible!

Some people say that because the Bible refers to salvation as *eternal* salvation, there is no way it can be lost. If it is *eternal* it cannot end, or be lost.

Well, it is true that the Bible speaks of eternal salvation. (Heb 5:9 KJV) "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

And it also says, (Mat 24:13 KJV) "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Paul said, (Col 2:18 KJV) "Let no man beguile you of your reward... "

Jesus said, (Rev 3:11 KJV) "...Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

How could one take our crown? --by leading us astray! James said to Christians, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; {20} Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." (James 5:19-20 KJV)

Jesus said, (Rev 2:10 KJV) "...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

It is evident, as you read the Bible, that salvation is spoken of in two different senses or stages.

Jesus said, (Mark 16:16 KJV) "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

But then, the apostle Paul said, (Rom 13:11 KJV) "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation *nearer than when we believed.*"

You believe and are saved, but then as time goes by, your salvation becomes *nearer*. It has to be two different stages.

Think about it: when you become a Christian by believing and obeying the gospel, your sins are forgiven, you are made right with God, and thus to that extent you are saved. But you haven't reached Heaven yet. As time goes by and you remain faithful to the

Lord, you are getting nearer and nearer to Heaven. In that sense, salvation is nearer than when you believed.

Think of it this way: The initial stage of salvation occurs when you get on the boat that's headed for Heaven. Ultimate salvation does not occur until that boat docks on the shores of eternity. Because of who the captain of that boat is, you know that your salvation is secure--you know the boat is going to make it. But yet due to no fault of the captain Himself, you could still fall overboard and be lost.

The apostle Paul speaks of (1 Tim 1:19 KJV) "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck."

We are saved through faith, but there are those who ***depart from the faith!*** (1 Tim 4:1 KJV) "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times ***some shall depart from the faith***, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." The Hebrew writer said, (Heb 10:38-39 KJV) "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man ***draw back***, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. {39} But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

Jesus said, (Mark 13:13 KJV) "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but ***he that shall endure unto the end***, the same shall be saved."

Paul said, (1 Th 5:8 KJV) "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the ***hope of salvation***." The fact that we are to HOPE for salvation proves that we have not yet received it in the ultimate sense. Yes, it was to Christians, saved people, the apostle Paul was writing. But they were still HOPING for salvation. And the Apostle Paul made the comment (Rom 8:24 KJV) "For we are saved by ***hope***: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet ***hope*** for?" The very fact that we still HOPE for salvation proves that we do not yet have it in the ultimate sense.

Note what the apostle Peter said, (1 Pet 1:3-9 KJV) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, ***reserved in heaven for you***, {5} Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto ***salvation ready to be revealed in the last time***. {6} Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: {7} That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: {8}

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: {9} Receiving the *end of your faith*, even the salvation of your souls."

Romans 5:10 has us reconciled to God in the present tense, but we are not going to be saved until; some future time. (Rom 5:10 KJV) "For if, when we were enemies, we *were reconciled* to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we *shall be* saved by his life."

Reaping the end result of salvation requires some perseverance. (1 Cor 15:1-2 KJV) "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; {2} By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

(Heb 2:1 says KJV) "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."

And again, (Heb 3:13 KJV) "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

Yes, it is up to us to keep our salvation and not fall away. (Jude 1:21 KJV) "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

James said, (James 1:27 KJV) "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep *himself unspotted from the world.*"

John said, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God *keepeth himself*, and that wicked one toucheth him not." (1 John 5:18 KJV)

As Jesus said, (Mat 24:13 KJV) "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

And the Hebrew writer warned, (Heb 6:4-9 KJV) "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, {5} And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, {6} *If they shall fall away*, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. {7} For the

earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: {8} But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. {9} But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."

The apostle Peter tells us how to avoid losing our salvation. (2 Pet 1:3-11 KJV)
"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: {4} Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. {5} And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; {6} And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; {7} And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. {8} For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. {10} **Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:** {11} For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

These warnings we have looked at today are not meant to discourage anyone. You will notice even interspersed among these warnings are words of encouragement. We are to keep ourselves **through the power of God**. God has given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness. And after warning: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 10:12,) Paul assured us in the next verse: {13} "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

But these warnings are here to help us see the importance of cherishing and nourishing the salvation God has blessed us with. (Heb 2:1-3 KJV) "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. {2} For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; {3} **How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;** which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him...?"

On that morning when the heaven has been rolled back like a scroll, all the material things we know are no more, and we stand before God to be judged for all eternity, our soul's salvation will be the only thing that matters. (Mat 16:26 KJV) "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Parables & Stories Regarding Salvation

We have talked about thus far:

1. Salvation, What does it Mean?
(some people make fun of it, etc.)
2. Salvation, Who Needs it?
(Good people, bad people, etc.)
3. Salvation, Do we Appreciate it?
4. Salvation, where do you get it?
5. Salvation, how do you take it?
6. Salvation, When do you realize it and how do you keep it?

Today we want to look at SOME PARABLES AND STORIES OF JESUS REGARDING SALVATION, AND THE LESSONS IMPLIED THEREIN.

1. The lost coin and sheep, Lk. 15

(Luke 15:1-11 KJV) "Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. {2} And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. {3} And he spake this parable unto them, saying, {4} What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? {5} And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. {6} And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. {7} I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. {8} Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? {9} And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. {10} Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. THE SERIOUSNESS OF BEING LOST.

The Pharisees were complaining about Jesus associating with SINNERS. They felt that sinners ought to be shunned and left along. Jesus felt that sinners needed to be ministered unto and SAVED! On another occasion when the Pharisees were making a similar complaint, (Mat 9:11-13 KJV) "And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? {12} But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. {13} But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: ***for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.***"

SO, IF A PERSON IS LOST IT IS A SERIOUS MATTER, AND SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE ABOUT IT!!!

Then Jesus gave the stories of the lost sheep and the lost coin to being the lesson home. When you lose a sheep or a coin, you are not unconcerned; you go about to make it right. You search diligently until you find it. How then can we be so unconcerned when our brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, parents or children are LOST IN SIN???

Second, we learn the lesson of how Heaven rejoices at the salvation of a lost soul. As the Shepherd rejoices with the sheep, or the woman with the coin, Jesus says, ***I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.***

2. The Parable of the Lost Son (Prodigal Son).

(Luke 15:11-32 KJV) "And he said, A certain man had two sons: {12} And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. {13} And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. {14} And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. {15} And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. {16} And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. {17} And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! {18} I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, {19} And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one

of thy hired servants. {20} And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. {21} And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. {22} But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: {23} And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: {24} For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. {25} Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. {26} And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. {27} And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. {28} And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and entreated him. {29} And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: {30} But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. {31} And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. {32} It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found."

There is something different about this story. The Shepherd left the ninety and nine, and sought for the one lost sheep. The woman swept the house and sought diligently for the lost coin. But the man in this story did not leave home and go after the lost boy. What is the difference? Someone has said, The lost coin did not know it was lost, and if it could have known, there was nothing it could do about it. The lost sheep knew he was lost, but he didn't know what to do about it. But the lost boy knew he was lost, and he knew the way back home, so it was not necessary for the father to leave home and go after him. And besides, if the father had gone after him, do you think the boy would have listened, before he hit rock bottom?

WHAT LESSON DO WE LEARN?

Number one, we learn that **WE HAVE TO LEAVE SIN TO RECEIVE SALVATION.** When the angel foretold the birth of Jesus, he said, (Mat 1:21 KJV) "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: for he shall save his people **from** their sins." Not "in" their sins, but "from" them.

The Prodigal Son did not call his father and ask him to wire him some money, but he said, "I will arise and go back home." He knew that's what it would take to be saved.

Some folks want to be saved from the CONSEQUENCES of sin, but they don't want to get out of it and go back to God. They want the father to wire them some money and let them stay in the hog pen. But that's not the way it works! REPENTANCE always comes ahead of salvation: (Acts 3:19 KJV) "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

AND, SECOND: we are impressed again with the joy associated with the lost boy who comes home: "It (is) meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found!"

3.THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS, Luke 16.

(Luke 16:19-31 KJV) "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: {20} And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, {21} And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. {22} And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; {23} And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. {24} And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. {25} But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. {26} And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. {27} Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: {28} For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. {29} Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. {30} And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. {31} And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

WHAT ARE THE LESSONS LEARNED? HERE THERE ARE MANY.

FIRST, THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN RICHES AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(1 Tim 6:5-6 KJV) Paul spoke of some "...supposing that gain is godliness:" and said, "from such withdraw thyself. {6} But godliness with contentment is great gain."

SECOND, WE LEARN THAT JUST BECUASE WE ARE DOING WELL THERE IS NO ASSURANCE WE WILL DO WELL IN THE HEREAFTER.

THIRD, WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE THOUGHT OF WHAT A NIGHTMARE IT WILL BE TO DIE LOST AND AWAKE IN THE FLAMES OF HELL WITH NO RELIEF AND NO ESCAPE!!!

FOURTH, WE ARE IMPRESSED WITH THE HORRORS OF HELL: JUST TO THINK WHAT A MAN WOULD GIVE FOR JUST ONE DROP OF WATER TO COOL HIS PARCHED TONGUE!

FIFTH, WE SEE THAT THE BIBLE IS WARNING ENOUGH, AND IF WE WON'T LISTEN TO IT, THEN GOD IS NOT GOING TO SEND SOMEONE FROM THE LAND OF THE DEAD TO WARN US. "THEY HAVE MOSES AND THE PROPHETS, LET THEM HEAR THEM."

SIXTH, IF ANY STORY JESUS EVER TOLD IMPRESSES WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF SALVATION, SURELY THIS ONE DOES! ARE YOU SAVED? --YOU DON'T WANT TO BE IN THIS RICH MAN'S SHOES!

AND, SEVENTH, IF ANYTHING WILL CAUSE US TO GET OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT, THIS ONE OUGHT TO. WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO BE A SUCCESS IN LIFE; HAVE A GOOD HOME, A GOOD JOB, AND A GOOD EDUCATION. BUT THIS STORY IMPRESSES US WITH THE FACT THAT WITHOUT GOD, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!!!

4. THE SUCCESSFUL FARMER OF LUKE 12:

(Luke 12:15-21 KJV) "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. {16} And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: {17} And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? {18} And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. {19} And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. {20} But God said unto

him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? {21} So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

AGAIN, THIS STORY IMPRESSES US WITH HOW WE OUGHT TO KEEP OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT. We let the farming and the barns and the jobs and the buildings and everything else come ahead of God and making things right with Him. Jesus calls such a man a "fool," and adds: "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

5. THE FIVE WISE AND FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS, Matt. 25

(Mat 25:1-13 KJV) "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. {2} And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. {3} They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: {4} But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. {5} While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. {6} And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. {7} Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. {8} And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. {9} But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. {10} And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. {11} Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. {12} But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. {13} Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

WHAT DO WE LEARN? (Mat 24:44 KJV) "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." As the old song says, "There is danger and death in delay."

6. THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS, Matt. 25

(Mat 25:24-30 KJV) "Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: {25} And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. {26} His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strowed: {27} Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine

own with usury. {28} Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. {29} For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. {30} And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

What a sentence: "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

7. THE STORY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT, Matt. 25

(Mat 25:31-34 KJV) "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: {32} And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: {33} And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. {34} Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

(Mat 25:41 KJV) "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

(Mat 25:46 KJV) "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

What horrible words to hear: The sentence for the lost: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

8. THE TREASURE HIDDEN IN THE FIELD, AND THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, Matt. 13.

(Mat 13:44-50 KJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. {45} Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: {46} Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. {47} Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: {48} Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. {49} So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, {50} And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of

teeth."

The gospel of salvation is like a treasure, or a pearl of great price. Those who find such sell all they have in order to buy it. Salvation is so important, and should be so important to us, that we would gladly give up anything that might get in our way in order to lay hold on it! Because the LOST will be cast into that furnace of fire where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

And, finally, there is the story of the marriage invitation, Matt. 22.

(Mat 22:1-10 KJV) "And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, {2} The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, {3} And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. {4} Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. {5} But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: {6} And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. {7} But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. {8} Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. {9} Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. {10} So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests."

FRIEND, YOU ARE BEING CALLED TO THE MARRIAGE FEAST OF SALVATION RIGHT NOW. IF YOU DON'T GO, THE LORD WILL FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO GO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY! THE LORD DOES NOT TAKE KINDLY TO SOMEONE SPURNING HIS INVITATION!

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF SALVATION, WON'T YOU RECEIVE IT TODAY???

PITY THE MAN (song)

I GUESS WE SHOULD PITY, THOSE IN THE WORLD.
WHO MUST USE THE EARTH FOR A BED.
I GUESS WE SHOULD PITY, THE MAN WHO MUST TOIL.
FROM DAWN TILL DUSK FOR HIS BREAD.

BUT THESE CAN BE RICH, IF THEY HAVE CONTENTMENT.
AND SHARE IN GOD'S SALVATION PLAN.
BUT IF YOU KNOW ANY, WHO THO THEY HAVE PLENTY
ARE LOST THEN PITY THAT MAN.

II

I GUESS THERE ARE THOSE, WHO PITY THE SAVED.
AS THO THEY'RE MISSING LIFE'S BEST.
FORGETTING THAT TREASURES OF EARTH PASS AWAY
AND HEAVEN'S THE PLACE TO INVEST.
MEANWHILE ESTEEMING, THE MAN WHO IS SCHEEMING
TO HOLD ALL THE WEALTH THAT HE CAN.
BUT IF HE'S NOT GIVING, TO GOD WHILE HE'S LIVING
HIS SOUL THEN PITY THAT MAN.

CHORUS

PITY THE MAN WHO HAS TREASURES TO HOLD,
AND OWNS NOT THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE.
PITY THE MAN THO HE LIVE LONG ON EARTH
IF HE KNOWS NOT THE GIVER OF LIFE,
DOCTOR OR LAWYER, TRAVELER OR MERCHANT
THE BUILDER WHO BUILDS ON THE SAND
PAUPER OR KING, TO BE **SAVED** IS THE THING
IF HE'S **LOST** THEN PITY THAT MAN.

SALVATION: Do You Have It?

Thus far we have noticed:

1. Salvation, What does it Mean?
(some people make fun of it, etc.)
2. Salvation, Who Needs it?
(Good people, bad people, etc.)
3. Salvation, Do we Appreciate it?
4. Salvation, where do you get it?
5. Salvation, how do you take it?
6. Salvation, When do you get it how do you keep it?
7. Parables relating to salvation.

Today's final lesson: **SALVATION: Do You Have It?**

Jeremiah wrote: (Jer 8:20 KJV) "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, *and we are not saved.*"

(1 John 5:13 KJV) "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

We need to be able to say with the apostle Paul, (2 Cor 5:1 KJV) "For we *know* that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

It matters not how freely available salvation is, how much it cost the Saviour to make it available, what it means or how precious it is, **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE IT, IT IS WORTH NOTHING TO YOU!**

(Gal 2:21 KJV) "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the

law, then Christ is dead in vain." If YOU ARE NOT SAVED, then as far as you are concerned, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.

(2 Cor 6:1 KJV) "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." If you do not take advantage of this Salvation, then God's grace has been extended to you IN VAIN.

(1 Cor 15:2 KJV) "By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain." If you are not remaining faithful to the Lord, then you did BELIEVE IN VAIN!

Are you a child of God, or just one of the neighbor kids playing in the Lord's back yard?

You may call Him Father, but does He call you His child?

Will He say, Come, ye blessed of my Father, or, Depart, I know you not?

The Judgment Scene: (Mat 25:31-46 KJV)

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: {32} And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: {33} And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. {34} Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {35} For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: {36} Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. {37} Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? {38} When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? {39} Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? {40} And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. {41} Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: {42} For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: {43} I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. {44} Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? {45} Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the

least of these, ye did it not to me. {46} And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

You will be there. You will be placed on the right hand or the left. You will hear the Lord say either, "Come, ye blessed..." or "Depart from me, ye cursed...!" You will go away into life eternal or everlasting punishment. The question is, Which? And that depends on YOU... WHETHER YOU ARE LOST OR SAVED!

LOOK AT JOHN'S VISION OF THE JUDGMENT: (Rev 20:12-15 KJV)

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. {14} And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Every person who has ever lived from Adam and Eve on down will be there. You will be there. You will stand before God, your Creator. Imagine, standing before God to be judged. We picture God as mercy and salvation. He is now... but not then. He will be JUDGE then. And you will be standing before Him with your life exposed as an open book.

The books will be opened. One book to be opened is the Bible. Jesus said, (John 12:48 KJV) "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Another book to be opened is God's book of remembrance. In it will be recorded your life, with everything you ever did or did not do. A third book to be opened is God's Book of Life. The book of life is Heaven's roll book containing the names of every soul who is saved, who belongs to the Lord. Jesus once said (Luke 10:20 KJV), "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." If Judgment Day should be tomorrow, Are you saved? --Would your name be found written there?

There is a song:

SEARCH THE BOOK AGAIN

I THOUGHT THAT I HAD DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN,

I WAS STANDING JUST OUTSIDE THE GATE.
THE MAN FROM WITHIN SAID HAVE YOU BEEN BORN AGAIN,
IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.

I TOLD HIM OF THE DEEDS I HAD DONE,
I TOLD HIM OF THE TROPHIES I HAD WON .
THEN THE MAN SAID TO ME,
SON HAVE YOU BEEN SET FREE.
IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.

AND THEN HE TURNED AND LEFT ME, STANDING THERE
I KNEW IT WAS TOO LATE NOW FOR PRAYER
SO MY SINNER FRIEND IF YOU WILL ENTER IN
YOUR NAME MUST BE IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.

CHORUS

PLEASE SEARCH THE BOOK AGAIN,
I THOUGHT MY NAME WAS THERE.
I WENT TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY,
THOUGH I NEVER KNELT IN PRAYER,
PLEASE SEARCH THE BOOK AGAIN.
BEFORE YOU MAKE ME GO.

Jesus says, (Luke 13:24-28 KJV)

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. {25} When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: {26} Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. {27} But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. {28} There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out."

Try to envision this picture of the Judgment. This earth has passed away. People are standing before God, knocking at the gate of Heaven, desiring to enter in. But the Lord won't open the door to them. The Lord proclaims to them, I do not know you.

But these are people who are familiar with the Lord. Some of them lived during his time on earth and actually **DINED WITH HIM** while He was here. But His answer remains the same: I know you not whence ye are... Depart from me ye workers of iniquity.

Imagine standing there with entrance to Heaven refused. There is only one other place to go, and you know you don't want to go there, for the smoke ascends along with screams of anguish. But you are standing there knocking, with entrance denied. Then here comes Abraham. He walks past you and enters in. Here come Isaac and Jacob and the prophets. They walk past you and enter in. Your friends and relatives who are saved walk by you. But despite all your pleading, your entrance is denied.

Jesus says, "There shall be *weeping* and *gnashing of teeth*, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out."

What a horrible picture. But that's what it's going to be like to be LOST. That's why Jesus **SUFFERED** and **DIED** for us, so we would not have to experience this agony. And that's why this lesson is so important: **SALVATION: DO YOU HAVE IT?**

Judgment is surely coming, Coming to you and me,
We will be judged that morning, For all eternity;
Some will go into Heaven, Others will be denied;
Will you be in that number... Standing outside?

Standing outside the portals, Standing outside denied,
Knowing that with the demons Ever you shall abide;
Never to share the beauties, Waiting the sanctified,
O what an awful picture... Standing outside.

John wrote: (3 John 1:2 KJV) "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Could he say that of you and me? It is my desire that your soul may prosper and "be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." (1 Cor 5:5 KJV)

SALVATION: DO YOU HAVE IT? I would not want to go one minute being not right with God. (Mat 24:44 KJV) "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Mid the toil and strife of this busy life,
Is it well... with your soul?

Are you living right, should you die tonight?
Is it well... with your soul?

Have you lost your sin, are you pure within?
Is it well...with your soul?

Are you at the side of the Crucified?
Is it well... with your soul?

Do you praise the love of the One above?
Is it well... with your soul?

Will the crown be won, and the Lord's "Well Done?"
Is it well... with your soul?

Is it well with your soul?
Are you free, glad and whole?
Are you living right, should you die tonight?
Is it well... With your soul?

JUDGMENT DAY

Our text: (Heb 9:27 KJV) "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment..."

Just a word, before we get into the lesson:

Some of you may be inclined at this moment to turn off or tune out and not listen to this message, because it may make you uncomfortable to think about the Judgment. I beg you not to do that this time. First, ignoring it is not going to make it go away. And, Second, it may just be that God is speaking an important message to your soul through these upcoming words.

First off, the words of Heb 9:27 say that there is LIFE AFTER DEATH. The fifteen little words of our text have a lot to say. "***And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.***" Some people do not believe there is ***anything*** after death, for they think death ends it all. Many other people who are not trying to live right may not really believe this, but they are trying to wish it away, because they know they are not prepared for a Judgment if there is one.

The claim for life after death means that man is more than dust and clay. The Bible says, (Gen 2:7 KJV) "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; ***and man became a living soul.***"

(Eccl 12:7 KJV) Speaking of Death: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: ***and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.***"

The Bible tells us that after death, our soul lives on. Speaking of the early Christian martyrs, John said, (Rev 6:9-10 KJV) "...I saw under the altar ***the souls of them*** that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: {10} And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

NOTE:

1. People were still living on earth.
2. These martyrs had died.
3. Their souls lived on under the altar of God.

At the Resurrection, our bodies will be raised incorruptible and reoccupied by our spirits.

Then IN THE SECOND PLACE, our text tells us about something that we are going to face after death. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, ***but after this the judgment...***" Actually, as we learn from the book of Revelation, this day of judgment will be after the resurrection on the last day: (Rev 20:11-15 KJV) "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. {12} And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. {14} And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

The thought of standing before Almighty God, the Ruler of the Universe, in judgment is an awesome thought. (2 Cor 5:9-10 KJV) "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. {10} For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

The impending judgment is just as sure as was the resurrection of Jesus. In fact, the resurrection of Jesus is God's evidence to us that the Judgment is for real. The apostle Paul said, (Acts 17:30-31 KJV) "And the times of this ignorance God winked at (or, overlooked); but now commandeth all men

every where to *repent*: {31} Because he hath *appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*"

The term "JUDGMENT" carries with it the idea of "giving account." And we just don't like to have to give account. We don't like to be called on by a parent, or a spouse, or a boss to "give account" for what we did or how we used what we were allotted. And the idea that we would be called upon by God Almighty, our Creator, to stand before Him and give account for every thing we have done in life, and what we did with everything that He gave us, is almost overwhelming! But we will ALL be there! The Bible says we must ALL stand before the judgment seat of Christ. John saw the dead, small and great standing before God. There is no place to hide. You and I will be right there!

As John envisioned the last day, He described it like this: (Rev 6:14-17 KJV) "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. {15} And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; {16} And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: {17} For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

But the Judgment may be a little bit different from what we had imagined. It seems most people imagine the judgment as being more or less a "TRIAL" to determine our guilt or innocence. But there will be no "TRIALS" as we know them up there. There will be no Jurors, no accusers, and no defence. There will only be the Judge--and He already knows our guilt or innocence. So I like to think of the judgment day as basically the time of *sentencing*. And that may be either positive or negative--either in terms of rewards or punishment.

Most people do not like to think of the Judgment day, because they think of it

only in a negative sense, only in terms of punishment. But those who are right with God can LOOK FORWARD to the day of Judgment as the time when we will receive our reward!

Our attitude toward something is determined by our relationship to it. Suppose your grandfather is a member of the law enforcement agency--a sheriff, policeman or a state trooper. You see him coming to knock on the front door, and you have no apprehension, because he is your grandfather, and you have confidence that he is coming to pay you a friendly visit. If on the other hand, he is not your grandfather, and you have no good relationship with him and you see him approaching to knock at the door, you may have quite a bit of apprehension. Your attitude toward the man depends upon your relationship with him.

And the same is true with our attitude toward God. If we are in right relationship with the Lord we can look forward to meeting Him and receiving our reward.

Notice that the Bible speaks of the day of judgment in a very positive way for the faithful Christian. Jesus says, (Rev 22:12 KJV) "And, behold, I come quickly; and my *reward* is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

And the apostle Paul said, (2 Tim 4:7-8 KJV) "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: {8} Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, *which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day:* and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

James said, (James 1:12 KJV) "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

(Mat 16:27 KJV) "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

Those who are in right relationship will hear the Lord say, (Mat 25:34 KJV) "...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Or, (Mat 25:21 KJV) "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

So, being in a right relationship with the Lord will remove the dread and fear of the Judgment. John explained it like this: (1 John 4:17-18 KJV) "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. {18} There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

But back to Revelation chapter 20: Notice what is said about being written in the book of life: (Rev 20:13-15 KJV) "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. {14} And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} ***And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.***"

So in regard to the Judgment, the million dollar question becomes: ***Is my name in the book of life?***

There are also other passages of Scripture that stress this point. Concerning the Heavenly City it is said, (Rev 21:27 KJV) "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: ***but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.***"

What is this "Book of life?" --It is Heaven's roll book; the register of those who are citizens of Heaven. The apostle Paul wrote: (Phil 3:20 NRSV) "But our ***citizenship is in heaven***, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." James said, (James 5:9 KJV) "...Behold, the judge standeth before the door." He is talking about the coming of Christ. But if our CITIZENSHIP is in Heaven, then we can look forward to the coming of Jesus as our Saviour!

The Book of Life is the Lord's master church roll on high. Jesus told His disciples, (Luke 10:20 KJV) "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; ***but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.***"

And the Hebrew writer spoke of, (Heb 12:23 KJV) "...The general assembly and ***church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven....***"

When a person becomes a Christian in trusting Jesus and obeying the Gospel, the Lord adds him to Heaven's Roll-book. (Acts 2:38 KJV) "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:41 KJV) "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day ***there were added unto them about three thousand souls.***" (Acts 2:47 KJV) "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Or, ***were being saved***, as many translations put it.)

So that's what it takes to be enrolled in the Lamb's Book of Life. And what does it take to stay there? Jesus said, (Rev 3:5 KJV) "He that ***overcometh***, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." If the overcomer will ***not*** be blotted out of the book, then the inverse is also true, that the person who fails will be.

And that is what is really going to matter on the day of Judgment, for: ***"Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire,*** (Rev. 20:15).

Just imagine: The trumpet has sounded. The heavens have been rolled back as a scroll. The end has come. You and a sea of others are standing before the judgment bar of God. The books are opened. Heaven's gates are before you. Acrid sulfur smoke arises from the lake of fire beneath. You know that ***"Whosoever is not found written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire."*** Will anything else matter then? -Certainly not! And the time to do something about it is NOW! (2 Cor 6:2 KJV) "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee:

behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"

Who will be the Judge? --Jesus. He walked in the temple of flesh for 33 years. He knows our weaknesses and our temptations. He knows that with God all things are possible. He will know that, if we fail, it is because we failed to hold on to the hand of God. Jesus said, (John 5:22-23 KJV) "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: {23} That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."

What will be the Standard of Judgment? --God's Word. (John 12:48 KJV) "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

It would be unfair for a teacher to give students a test without first giving them the material they need to prepare for that test. And God would not do that, either. (Micah 6:8 KJV) "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Jesus said, (Mat 7:21 KJV) "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; *but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*"

Some people seem to think that the church will not be judged: only the people of the world will. God tells us, on the other hand, that judgment is going to *begin* with the church, and the people of the world don't stand a chance. The apostle Peter asks, (1 Pet 4:17-18 KJV) "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? {18} And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

And the apostle Paul answers the question, (2 Th 1:7-10 KJV) "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, {8} In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: {9}

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; {10} When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."

Conclusion

Will the Judgment be? --Yes. When will it be? --At the end of the way: once to die, and after that, the Judgment. How long will it be? --No one knows. But one thing for sure: if you are forty years old, it is forty years closer than when you were born. Who will be there? --You and I, along with everyone else that is living, has lived, or will live between now and the end of the world. Who will be the Judge? --Jesus. What will we be judged by? --The Bible, our works, and by whether or not our name is in Heaven's Book of Life. Will you be ready for the Judgment when you die, or when the Lord comes again? --Only you can answer that question. But if you are not ready for the Judgment *now*, it is very unlikely that you will be ready for it then--unless you decide to do something about it NOW.

I leave you with these impressive words from the pen of the apostle Peter:

(2 Pet 3:3-14 KJV) "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, {4} And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. {5} For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: {6} Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: {7} But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of *judgment* and perdition of ungodly men. {8} But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. {9} The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. {10} But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. {11} Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, {12} Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens

being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? {13} Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. {14} Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in *peace, without spot, and blameless.*"