

Am I Saved or Lost?

Am I saved or lost? To be lost in the darkness of night, on unfamiliar streets in a strange city, in a storm adrift at sea are terrifying experiences. Tragic though such ordeals are to be lost in sin and under eternal condemnation through endless ages is immeasurably worse.

How may salvation be obtained? The correct answer is dependent on the viewpoint from which it is raised. (1) Unregenerate man is lost in a sense in which he cannot save himself, his friends cannot save, and if he is saved at all, God must do it. (2) There is another sense in which man is lost and cannot save himself, friends and loved ones cannot save him, and God will not save him! For the first sense see John 3:16, Romans 5:8-11 and 1 Timothy 1:15. For the second, see Matthew 7:21 and 1 John 2:4. Is it not strange that in view of the many positive affirmations of human responsibility in the Bible, there are yet those who teach that there is nothing one done, or can do, in achieving his own acceptance before God? It will be seen from the passages cited herein that to refuse these conditions God has made precedent to salvation is as fatal as the attempt to do that which only God can do in saving us.

The principle of salvation is grace - the unmerited favor of God. Man's guilt has been irrefutably established (John 3:18). It is impossible for him to ask for annulment on the grounds that the sentence is incompatible with the evidence. It is equally impossible to argue for mitigation of sentence on the allegation that the sentence is too severe; the Judge of the earth can only do that which is right. Salvation can neither be earned nor purchased through good works. Un-demanded by justice and unpurchased by worth, grace is the principle of salvation.

The motive of salvation is love - that factor in the Divine Mind that brought our Lord to the earth to make atonement for sin (John 3:16; Romans 5). The immeasurable love which prompted the Creator's offer of salvation through Christ is affirmed: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The procuring cause of salvation is the blood which was shed by our Lord at Calvary, without which there would be no forgiveness (Hebrews 10:1-4). Here, and here alone, is the cleansing fountain, the precious laver where the obedient are washed and made clean from all of the sins.

The agent of redemption is the Holy Spirit but for whose revelation in the Scriptures we would be without knowledge of our guilt before God or of the means by which to be cleansed from its stain (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:8-13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The power by which salvation is obtained is the Gospel (Romans 1:16). No instance exists of anyone being saved, following the beginning of the Christian age on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1ff), apart from, and independent of, the Gospel - the divine instrumentality of salvation (Romans 1:16-17; Mark 16:15; I Corinthians 1:21). It must be heard, believed and obeyed to secure the blessings of salvation and redemption.

The place of salvation is in the church. God designated the place where, and there alone, His blessings are available. Salvation from the flood was in the ark (1 Peter 3:20); the Israelites found deliverance from the plague only in the brazen serpent (Numbers 24:1-9), and the sojourners in Egypt were delivered from the Death Angel only in those houses over whose doors blood had been sprinkled (Ex. 12:21-26) Salvation is only in the body of Christ - the church (Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 1:19-23). Here alone is divine deliverance from the guilt, the power and the presence of sin. To the church---the one we read about in the Bible---the Lord adds all who submit to His will (Acts 2:47).

--Guy N. Woods

Prayer Requests

Terresia Weaver had a white blood count test on Monday. This was so she could continue her chemo treatments.

Craig Wesson underwent surgery for a broken nose on Monday, January 31st.

Ora McAfee's hip surgery went well. They found no bleeding on the brain and nothing wrong in her neck. She had her surgery done in Plano, TX.

Mary Brown is having a lot of pain in her body and especially the sciatic nerve pain in her leg.

Tiffany Horton (Tom & Bonnie's daughter) had a surgery on Monday to retrieve a lymph node for testing. They will find out the results next week.

Glenna Callendar Glenna had a scheduled consultation appointment Wednesday, February 2nd in Lubbock, regarding her oblation surgery on her heart.

Lon Howard (former member) suffered a stroke on Monday. He has 99% blockage in one carotid artery and 85% blockage in the other. Lon will have surgery (bypass surgery) done in Austin. The last report said his speech had improved and he was able to move his right hand. Keep Lon in your prayers.

Announcements

The ***“Exit Door by the Men’s Restroom”*** does not completely close all the time. When going out, please make sure it is securely closed. It’s for our building’s safety.

February 6th, 2022	AM	PM
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Don Easlon	Jackie Perkins
Second Prayer	Tommy Garcia	Jacob Carson
Closing Prayer	Gary Loving	Bill Ryan
Lord’s Supper (Scripture Reading)	Cody Wesson Jr. Munoz Kirk McFarland Tom Sorenson	Richard Siler Communion (In Library

Our Records

Bible Class... 49
Morning Worship...82
Evening Worship ...41
Wednesday...43
Contribution....\$4,043.00

Wednesday Night Song Leaders

February 2nd Craig Wesson
February 9th Jon Roemisch
February 16th Oliver Hernandez
February 23rd Jacob Carson