

What It Means To Be Saved

Part 2

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James tells us---“*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.*” (James 1:12)

That is eternal life. Many people say because we are born again it gives us salvation and carries a ticket to Heaven: but it does not.

Hebrews 10:38-39, “*Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in them. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*”

This means just three things. First--the beginning of our salvation, after we have started, which is conversion, or the new birth. Then, we must take the second and third steps which completes salvation.

The first step is to confess and forsake all known sin and be born again. That is taught by the “Once Saved Always Saved” people and others.

Now, the second step is not taught by them at all; in fact, it is opposed by them--which is to surrender our life to God exactly as they did in Bible times and to receive the fulness of the Holy Spirit; which means the fulness and power of the Spirit. However, that is only a step in being saved.

Now the third step, the one which will settle whether we are saved, or not, is whether we meet the circumstances of life as the Bible directs in the New Testament. If we have met every circumstance according to the teaching of the New Testament, we will find ourselves on Scriptural grounds: spiritually, physically, financially, in our home-life, in our Christian work; then we can say we are saved, and not until then.

Think of people saying they are saved when they just have one little piece of it, one little fragment, and thinking they have a ticket to Heaven. That is

a most dangerous doctrine, because it fools the most honest people. We must get on Scriptural grounds in everything.

In these days we have the world and the church walking hand in hand. Ministers walk up on the pulpit and tell the men—“Give up smoking, or you will get cancer; give up your gambling; stay at home more with your wives; do not come home too late from the club; treat your wives a little better; you know you are bad people.

These preachers should be preaching the unadulterated or pure Word of God.

The average minister will not be too hard on them, or he will not get the fifty thousand dollars coming to him. He says, “Now, I know everybody wants to be saved, so come up and shake hands with me.” Those poor souls go to shake hands with him and then believe they are on their way to Heaven; they think they are a great Christian.

The minister asks who desires to become a Christian and tells them that they must accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. They promise that they will not smoke anymore, and it lasts for a little while; others promise that they will not gamble anymore; others stop drinking for a few days; then they join a denominational church. Then they believe they have a through ticket to Heaven; they have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour.

We may tremble and shake when we hear people talk in this way, for they do not know what it means. It is certainly a very serious matter, this matter of salvation. It means to trust in God for the healing of this body. This is brought out clearly from Genesis to Revelation, that we are to trust in God alone for the full deliverance from all bodily afflictions, and there was not a saved person, in the entire Bible, who ever took a dose of medicine or employed a physician; everybody was healed through the Power of God.

We must know that this really has a bearing on our eternal life. We may hear people saying— “Oh, do not worry, my eternal interests are all fixed up.”

We could ask such a person, “How do you know that your eternal interests are secure?”

They will probably say something like, “Because I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Bible says whoever believes on Him shall be saved.”

They may continue, "I believe John 3:16---'*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have ever lasting Life.*'"

That passage of Scripture is directed particularly to disciples, people who are following Jesus Christ. It means much to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

First of all, it means pardon and cleansing of sin. If we asked them if that was true, they would reply—"Yes, I believe it does mean that."

We know that it means that we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit which enables us to live a Scriptural life.

If we said to them, "Do you believe that?" They may respond, "I suppose it does mean that."

We might continue, "Do you believe that the Bible teaches that God will fully supply people's needs and give them the desire of their heart in answer to prayer?" They might say, "Yes, I believe it means that."

We then could say, "Will you give me a passage of Scripture which tells us God would do anything less in this age, or that His Word would mean anything different in this century, or that it would mean anything less to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?"

It takes three things to make a real Christian and to be really saved. The first is to confess and forsake all sin and be born again, which is the new birth. The second, to surrender the life to God according to Romans 12:1-2. The third is to obey the Word in every detail of life.

This does not mean that God will take you by the throat and throw you overboard because you do not obey every command at the very beginning. He will lead you, step by step, gently, day by day, as a loving mother would lead her tender child.

The will of God always leads to great blessing, and as we allow Him to lead us, we will be brought to the place where we will be on Scriptural grounds and obedient to every command of Scripture. This is what it means to be saved and nothing less.

If you meet a person, who is born again, filled with the Spirit, and led into all truth; they are saved, and not until then; they are saved from all their idols

and their uncleanness. If this has not been done, they are not saved in the scriptural way.

It is like a person going to school. After the teacher has taught them the ABC's, they would conclude that they were competent to go out into the world as a teacher. As a matter of fact, they are a long way from being a teacher--a long way from graduating. This cannot happen until they have learned everything in the books, and they are competent of helping others.

To be a teacher it is necessary to learn all there is to be learned on that particular subject; it is the same with salvation. When our lives are fully conformed to this Bible, then we are saved and not until then. This is the reason that God says—"*But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*" (Matthew 24:37)

There will be very few who will really be saved. As it was in the days of Lot, when only three persons were saved out of three cities; so, it is to be when the Son of man cometh to this earth.

"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." (Luke 17:28-30)

"Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

"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." (Hebrews 11:6)

The great factor in temptation is our privilege of dealing with God personally anywhere and at any time. That is the real critical point of the whole matter. Humanly speaking, no one desires to deal with God effectually and alone; they keep just as far from God as they can; they want to get everything second handed.

We are certainly in the secondhand business when it comes to Divine things. Many people do not like "warmed up" or "reheated" things, but they are very fond of them when it comes to Divine things. We much prefer to deal with God, through men, instead of going directly to Him.

Someone could ask us, “Who was your greatest teacher? What course helped you the most?”

We might reply—“I have received some encouragement from books written by men, some lessons and light from reading the writings of men concerning the Bible; but, the thing that I found of the greatest help, the big thing, the most important thing was what I found and received at the feet of Jesus Christ, like Mary of old; she received her information directly from the Master. That is where we can all receive it.”

The sooner we learn that we are to go directly to God Himself at the very beginning of our trouble and lay the case before Him, with an open mind, without reserve, the sooner will we be delivered, the faster will we grow, the more quickly will we get on Scriptural grounds. God may permit us to get them second hand for a while; but sooner or later He desires us to deal with Him directly.

The Word of God says we are to grow, we are to expand in our spiritual knowledge, not always to be dealing in secondhand goods; not always to be secondhand dealers; but we are to go to God directly. The Bible always points people to God alone--directly to Him in their trouble. The Blood of Jesus Christ has never done a greater thing than to give us that privilege.

2 Corinthians 5:19, *“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”*

Hebrews 10:18— *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, his flesh.”*

What a privilege this is! Suppose you had the privilege of going to see the President. You would think you were highly favored. Well, we can enter the secret place in our room and pray to our Father and our Father Who, seeth in secret will reward us openly. When you are in trouble, just go to your room and pour out your heart to God.

Hebrews 10:22, *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”*

This does not mean that we must wait until we are good before we draw near to God; but it does mean that we must mean business; a determination to receive what we go after.

There are times when salespeople must deal with people who come into the store and try on clothing or ask to see certain products or ask about things that are for sale only to have the potential customer leave without purchasing anything. Sometimes that person did not come to buy at all. They only came to see what was available.

Many people go to God in the same way---they do not expect to get anything; they are only experimenting. When we go to God, we must remember that the Blood has given us the right to have the deliverance, God is able and willing to give it to us, and there is no reason under Heaven, or anywhere else why we should not receive it; so, we can go home with the goods.

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience....”

This means we are to be dead sure we are going to get what we go after; anybody who believes the Bible, cannot help but being dead sure. People ride downtown on the train, and there is no question in their mind but that they are going to reach their destination. If you would ask them how they knew they were going to get there, they would say---“Because the trains are running downtown, and I have the train fare in my pocket, and I have two limbs to walk to the train; so I am dead sure to get there.”

The Blood of Jesus Christ has purchased your deliverance; God is able and willing to give it to you, so you can be as dead sure of the deliverance as we are of getting downtown.

Isaiah 1:18 reads, ---*“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”*

Is that for some wonderful saint or angel? No; this is for anyone who desires to have a talk with Him --just two people--God and you, no matter in what condition you may be, He will come down to your level and have a heart-talk with you, no matter how bad a scoundrel you are, you will be fully delivered.

