

"Salvation"

Bartley 3/16/52
#A155 M. Lindvorn
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Scripture:- I Thess. 5:1-13.

Text:- I Thess 5: 9. "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us!"

Introduction:- I want to speak to you tonight upon the most important of all subjects, namely, that of being saved. That you may more easily understand I have summed up my thoughts under three heads: 1st Salvation obtainable; 2nd, Salvation desirable; 3d Salvation valuable.

The text that introduces my first thought is the words of the text. "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us!" You can be saved. Salvation is obtainable; it has been brought within your reach, easy reach.

I.

It is attainable. Peter tells us that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Now, surely this includes you. "Not willing that any should perish". This means you, means me, Not willing that I should perish, not willing that you should perish. If this be true, then we can be saved. Eternity bound soul, take courage; you can be saved. Fellow-traveler to the bar of eternal justice, you can be saved. Will you believe it? Let not the wickedness of your past life, nor the holiness of your present surroundings nor the dark shadow of future cast you down. You can be saved; our text declares it. There is hope for you.

Listen while I read: "For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost." From the time you committed your first sin up until tonight, a Savior has been seeking for you. You are a sought for sinner, for whom all Heaven has been looking, a sinner who can be saved if you will be. Up to this moment God has done all he could do to get you out of sin and into his kingdom. He has employed every method; he has resorted to every means possible, he is calling still. "Behold, I, stand at

the door and knock; if any man will hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and sup with him, and he with me."Z

II.

Salvation is desirable. You will all agree with me that the Christian life is the best life to live. If there were no heaven to gain and no hell to escape, the life of the saint is desirable above that of the sinner.

First, it is a life of satisfaction. The things of the world do not satisfy, but salvation does. Listen, "For the Lord satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Outside of Christ your search for satisfaction is vain. Only God can satisfy the cravings of your soul.

Second. Salvation offers you a better way to die. Do you ever think of dying? I was thinking of some ways of dying. Stephen died as a bloodthirsty mob surrounded him. He saw heaven opened and Jesus sitting at the right hand of God. Paul was ready. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the righteous judge shall give to me at that day." He was assured of a crown of righteousness.

Look at Heerd, dying. Eaten of worms. Look at Judas hanging himself, that he might go to his own place.

All this is due to the fact that some were saved, and others were not.

Third. Salvation offers you a better place at the judgment, when the dead, the small, the great shall stand before God. When sinners begin to cry for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth upon the throne. Salvation offers you a better place at this time than sin does. If you are saved you will have your name in the book, and you will hear him say, "Come, you blessed of my Father". If you hear him say that, you will know he means you.

If you neglect salvation, if you die in your sins, you will sink into eternal night, lost to hope, to heaven, and to God. Lost forever.

Fourth. Salvation is desirable because of what it offers to you beyond the judgment. "I, go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also"

This is heaven itself, and is offered unto you if you are saved. Salvation is obtainable; you can live right; you can die right; you can gain heaven and immortal glory in the end.

III.

Salvation valuable. Generally speaking, the value of a thing is rated by its cost. You may be a beggar, a pauper; you may be shunned and despised on every hand, but thank God, you can be saved. You can have in your actual possession the priceless gift of "salvation". You can possess the riches of his glory, you may own the pearl of great price. For though he were rich, yet he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich.

There are some very good and valuable things in this world. Good homes, good farms, good business, and all that; but none of them are good enough to take along when we die. We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out. Surely, you will agree with me, that it is a wonderful thing to be saved.

"I'm richer than any millionaire,
A thousand times more and more;
A priceless treasure I have found;
An everlasting store."

You can know that you are saved. God will let you know it. He that believeth hath the witness in him "His Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." Will you be saved? It remains with you to say. God wills it. Do you? It is desirable. It offers the best in time and in eternity. Will you have it? Will you decide

tonight? May God give you the courage to say "yes".