

Sulphur Grove

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Salvation. What is it?

Scripture Lesson-Luke 19:1-10.

Text-

Eph 2: 8.

*By grace are ye saved,
through faith, and
that not of yourselves,
it is the gift of God.*

Introduction:-Salvation the peculiar possession of Christianity. Differentiates it from all other religions. Other religions concerned with work-righteousness and merit making. Christianity not only proclaims but actually effects a salvation. The idea of salvation is a daring conception. Man is given what he does not deserve, what he cannot purchase and what he cannot work out for himself.

But what is salvation. Webster's New International Dict. defines it as, "liberation from the bondage and results of sin; deliverance from sin and eternal death." This suggests that there are two who are concerned in salvation, God and man.

I. The God Side.

- 1. Forgiveness
- 2. Justification

These are the same, however from a different standpoint. God forgives a man and through Christ makes him just. This declaration is on man's own confession of guilt.

The ground of this act is the Atonement- the death of Christ; the condition is faith, though it is on the man side.

II. The Man Side.

1. Faith. This is first in order. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, etc"

2. Repentance. Sorrow toward God for sin. Not a selfish sorrow or grief awakened by the prospect of penalties to be inflicted. (Enlarge) It is inspired by revelation of the love of God. Law makes men harder, but when they find that they are trampling on the love of God their hearts relent. It is like a child giving up its hard attitude and sobbing out its confession on the breast of its mother. This kind of repentance implies a complete turning away from sin.

Salvation is recovery of man from guilt and power and concept of sin.

Soul is lost when it is separated from God by sin. Saved when separated from sin by Christ.

3. Regeneration. A work wrought in the spirit and moral nature of man, when the principle of spiritual life is imparted by the Holy Spirit. The silent unseen part which belongs to God. "The wind bloweth where it listeth etc." It is a new birth, John 3:3. A new creation, Eph. 4:22-24. A cleansing, Ezek. 36:25-26.

The agent in regeneration is the Holy Spirit and the instrument is the word.

4. Assurance. See Romans:8:15-16.

All this is implied in conversion.

III. Why Should God Desire to Save Men?

Salvation is not simply to prepare us for heaven, and the future life, but for the life here on earth. The saved man enjoys life more than the unsaved man.

Salvation has reference not only to man's soul but to the whole of man. We are concerned with getting man's soul to a place of safety after death, but with saving his powers for usefulness and blessing to his fellows and to God. The salvation of God is designed to save men, "from frittering away their life in frivolity; from being consumed by the canker of avarice; from being blasted by the mildew of idleness; from being wrecked on the breakers of passion; from being enervated by luxury; and from being crippled by the creeping paralysis of doubt!"

Any assurance of salvation in the next world that makes no change upon life in this world is false. Salvation is to save men from sin, sorrow and shame here in this world; to save them from losses in this life that can never be regained.

Conclusion. It is the task of the church to save men. If they are ever to be saved it must be through the truth which shall make men free indeed. Then let us herald abroad the message of salvation, let us shout from every holy place, "Turn ye, turn ye, for why will ye die?"