

SALVATION

1/13/52
NW

Scripture Lesson: - 1 Peter 1: 1-9

Text: - 1 Peter 1: 5-9

Introduction: - Salvation is a theme that angels desire to look into. It is the theme that Moses and Elijah discussed on the mount of Transfiguration, a theme that reaches back in antiquity before the foundation of the world, that is old and yet ever new. It has enchantment that transcends all other themes to which men have turned their attention.

I.

Peter speaks of the joy of this salvation, saying, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice! This is a theme that brings joy and gladness to the hearts of men. It is marvellous. It is wonderful. No tongue or pen can begin to describe it. Yet it is a salvation that is forever expanding, growing, and unveiling, for there are depths that we have not yet touched and heights to which we have not yet attained. There are far flung horizons upon which our eyes have not fallen, things that we are yet to see, as we ascend the heights of grace. There are lands farther out, where we have not planted our feet in the realms of God's amazing grace. Peter speaks of the unfolding glory of this salvation in these words: "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." This salvation has its comfort, its joy, its peace, its forgiveness, its rest of faith and its abounding love. But likewise it has its trials and testings. "Though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations". Trials and testings are certain to come to all of us if we walk in the center of God's will.

There has never been a Christian who lived in the center of God's will who has not been sorely tried and tested. "That trial of your faith being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and glory and honor at the appearing of Jesus Christ".

II.

This salvation is revealed in a revelation. We know about it through a revelation. There is a repository for this salvation, a repository of divine truth, and this repository is in a divine revelation, coming direct from God by the Holy Ghost, "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of grace that should come unto you, searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when he testified beforehand of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow."

The divine revelation coming through the Holy Ghost is recorded in the word of God. The men of all ages have not been able to find this salvation save in the responsibility of divine truth. It has never been found outside of this truth. The Greeks placed the highest good in intellectual achievement and attainment. But they never found this salvation. They did not have this divine revelation. The Greeks eventually came to a dead-end road, and the great Greeg empire of ancient times came to an end. They had a philposphy among the Greeks with all of their intellectualism that placed no blame on dishonesty, the blame being only in getting caught. We have come to almost that state of things in society today, throughout our nation and through civilization. Anything is all right so long as you don't get caught.

Mr. David Lawrence recently had an editorial in the U. S. News and World Reporter, on the moral apostacy of the nation. In that editorial he points out that in many high places of government, moral standards have broken down. When men reject the divine revelation they come to moral chaos and confusion. The oresent state of the world with its heartaches, its tensions, its wars and threatening of wars, and its international complications, may be traced directly to the fact that men have lost their way because they have lost the book, the divine revelation and have failed to follow the truth as given and revealed by the Holy Spirit in this rev.

lation.

III.

The central person in our salvation is Jesus Christ. "The Spirit... testified beforehand of the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." Jesus Christ is the door, the way, the rock, the light, the hope, the peace of our salvation. He alone can lead the world out of the present confusion to which we have come. He is above all, he is over all, the head of the body of the church. By his were all things created that are created. He is sovereign, Lord of all, that in all things God might be glorified by Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Jesus Christ is the theme of our salvation and this is the message that we are to preach to a lost and dying world, a Redeemer, a Savior, that was crucified on the cross, that rose again the third day. He is the theme, the song and hope of our salvation, Jesus Christ, who died for us all.

The perpetuity of our salvation is to be maintained by a Holy Ghost ministry. Without a ministry in the Holy Spirit the church will be found substituting ritualism, formalism and social reform for salvation through the Lord Jesus CHRIST. A ministry in the Holy Ghost will attract the attention of three worlds, heaven, earth and hell. Heaven will resound with the songs of triumph that sinners are born into the kingdom of God. We read in the scriptures that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repenteth.

Earth will be attracted by such a ministry. You cannot go into any community across the land and establish a warm hearted, Holy Ghost ministry that proclaims the message of salvation in the power and demonstration of the Spirit of the living God, but that the earth will be attracted. Sinners will come. Men will be saved. The church will march forward in a trail of glory and triumph under such a ministry. Such a minister will likewise attract the at-

tract the attention of hell. The devil will seek to intercept it. The devil will try to compromise it, tone it down, and take the keen edge of soul saving power out of it. Glorious indeed is our salvation which brings joy to ~~xxx~~ heaven and ~~earth~~ and defeat to hell.

But the important question this morning is, have I this salvation? Am I enjoying this great salvation? Have I the comfort, joy, peace, its abounding love? If I have not, the invitation, "Come unto me, ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest".