

SO GREAT SALVATION

The writer of Hebrews refers to a particular salvation as being so great when he wrote, “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” (Heb. 2:1-4).

There are a number of salvations recorded in the Bible. Noah and his family were physically saved from the flood. Peter wrote, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” (1 Peter 3:18-20). God providentially preserved and protected the young man Joseph when he was sold by his brothers to the Ishmaelites (Acts 7:9-10). God by his mighty hand and stretched out arm delivered the Israelites from the iron furnace of Egypt, having divided the Red Sea that they might cross over to freedom. With the exception of those who died in unbelief, God provided, protected and preserved Israel in the wilderness. When they crossed over Jordan’s banks into that land flowing with milk and honey, he saved them from their enemies. For 450 years he raised up saviors to rescue Israel from their heathen foes (Acts 13:19-20). Even after Israel’s apostasy and Judah’s departure, God saved a remnant to return to Jerusalem (Ezra and Nehemiah).

The pen of inspiration in the text quoted above did not have reference to any physical salvation, but to spiritual salvation, our salvation from sin and its horrible penalty. It describes this salvation as “so great.” Consider just briefly why our salvation is so great.

It is great because of the price paid for it. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin. We are told: “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away

sins.” (Heb. 10:4). Imagine how many animals were slain to make atonement for the sins of the people under that inferior system? I do not mean to be irreverent or crude as to that system, but it was a slaughter house religion, if you please. Myriads of animals were slain, but the blood of none could take away sin. Blood was necessary (Heb. 9:22), but it took the precious blood of Jesus Christ to wash away sin (Heb. 9:11-14; Rev. 1:5; I Peter 1:18-19). He shed his blood one time for all times (Heb. 10:9-13). The spotless, sinless Savior shed his blood for you, me and the whole world (I John 2:2; John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-9; Heb. 2:9).

The salvation that we are noticing is great in comparison to those physical salvations previously mentioned. To be saved physically from a terrible disaster is wonderful. Maybe one has been spared from a horrible car crash. Or maybe one has been saved from some terrible disease that racked his body. After Jesus healed a man who had had an infirmity for thirty-eight years, he found him in the temple and told him, “Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.” (John 5:14). But what could be worse than to be infirm for thirty-eight years? Would it be worse for one to be infirm for fifty years? No, a worse condition would be for one to die in sin and to suffer in hell eternally. To be spiritually infirm is worse than to be physically infirm.

Salvation is so great because of that which is saved, the soul of man. Jesus said, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26). The rich man in hades would have given the world, if he could have given the world, to save his own soul from torment; but it was too late. He even wanted Lazarus to return to the earth and warn his brothers lest they would end up where he was, but such could not be done (Luke 16:19-31). We place value on material things. Insurance companies estimate the values of our houses, furniture, cars, etc. County assessors place a value on our properties. However, no price tag can be placed on one’s soul.

Salvation is so great because it is eternal. In this life, the faithful child of God has the promise of eternal salvation. John wrote, “And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.” (1 John 2:25). If someone promises you one hundred dollars that does not mean you have it to spend. If you have it, then it is no longer a promise, but a fulfillment of the promise.

In the same epistle John wrote of children of God having eternal life as if it were a present possession when he said, “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:13). How can eternal life be a promise, but at the same tune be a present possession? The promise is so sure to those who remain faithful that it spoken of as a present possession. If truly eternal life were a present possession, then children of God would not die, but would live eternally. Often prophecies written centuries before their fulfillments were written in the present tense (sometimes even the past tense) as if the fulfillment were taking place or had been fulfilled. The prophecies were so certain to be fulfilled that the present or past tense was used (Isa. 9:6; and 53). In similar fashion God told Joshua that Jericho was given to him and Israel, but they still had to meet God’s conditions to take the city. “And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.” (Joshua 6:2) The city was theirs, but they had to take it, according to God’s conditions. Likewise, eternal life is promised to us, but we have to lay hold on it (1 Tun. 6:12, 19).

The writer speaks of the possibility of our neglecting our salvation. Neglect means “1: to give little attention or respect to: DISREGARD 2: to leave undone or unattended to especially through carelessness.” One does not have to work at losing his salvation. All one has to do is to neglect it, or just leave it unattended by carelessness. Perhaps we have seen this in others. Their love for the Lord grows cold. Their attendance to the services of the church becomes sporadic. They start missing Wednesday night Bible study. Then they begin hitting and missing Sunday night. Then they miss some of the services on Sunday morning. Eventually, they just drop out completely. Those who miss the services of the church are the real losers. Let us not fall into that category. If we have done so, let us repent and resolve to do better. Let each of us “give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.” (Heb. 2:1).

Ben Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

ANNIVERSARIES

Allen & Clara Scott, 05-29; John & Janice Carter, 05-31.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards (AM). **Wednesday:** Allen Scott. Allen Scott was admitted to Olathe Medical Center late Tuesday afternoon, treated for a collapsed lung and released on Friday afternoon.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Melissa Cole was in Osage, KS last week. The James' were away last Sunday. Wilba Hopkins departed for Springfield, MO on Thursday and is scheduled to return on Wednesday. Trent Thrasher is in Owensville, MO.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Steve Brown will be producing a directory with pictures of each family. If you have not had your picture taken yet, plan to do so this Sunday.

FIFTH WEDNESDAY SINGING

Our 5th Wednesday Singing will be held this Wednesday night. All men are encouraged to lead some songs.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, June 3 following our AM worship. Plan to come and enjoy the good food and good company!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 49; Sunday PM, 36; Wednesday PM, 38.

Those To Serve

May 27, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER John Carter
PRESIDE..... Gary Cole
ASSIST.....Allen Scott
ASSIST.....John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
CLOSING PRAYER.....Jeremy Keifer
LORD'S SUPPER..... Gary Cole

WEDNESDAY 30th

SONG LEADER..... 5th Wednesday Singing
INVITATION Joel Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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