

All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication
Copyright 1993 Holiness Data Ministry

Duplication of this CD by any means is forbidden, and
copies of individual files must be made in accordance with
the restrictions stated in the B4Ucopy.txt file on this CD.

* * * * *

THE SALVATION OF GOD
By Rev. Kenneth H. Fay

Printed Copyright 1977

* * * * *

Digital Edition 11/06/93
By Holiness Data Ministry
Published With The Author's Permission

* * * * *

IN LOVING DEDICATION TO:

Rachel, Rhoda, Benjamin, and Lydia, our dear children, who for eleven, twelve, fourteen, and seventeen wonderful years, their MOTHER and I have fervently prayed should come to experience, enjoy, and exemplify the mighty SALVATION OF GOD, the author humbly offers these articles.

* * * * *

APPRECIATION

We desire this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Rev. L. S. Boardman, Rev. I. Parker Maxey, and Mrs. Edith Maxey for taking the time to read the manuscript, write our Foreword and offer numerous and helpful suggestions toward the preparation of these articles.

Also we want to express our deep appreciation to Mrs. Sharon Close and Miss Eileen Kimbel, two very efficient typists, for cheerfully agreeing to type out the entire manuscript.

Certainly not least of all I wish to thank my wife Eleanor. Without her thoughtfulness and encouragement the following pages would never have been born.

With a prayer that eternal good may come to many from the reading and sharing of these articles we offer them now to the public in the Great Redeemer's Name, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

-- Kenneth H. Fay --

* * * * *

FOREWORD

In eleven short chapters the author of THE SALVATION OF GOD has presented a brief but clear picture of the entire scope of God's great plan of redemption through the suffering and death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For those Christian workers who are seeking an effective "tool" to put into the hands of the unsaved to help them understand and find the way of salvation, here is what you have been looking for.

For those who are seeking salvation and the secret of victorious and fruitful living, you will find it unfolded in the pages that follow.

In a unique and original way that is interesting, captivating, and convincing, Brother Fay has presented the old, old story of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Beginning with the fact of man's spiritual blindness in a sinful, fallen state, the author explains the meaning of salvation, showing God's part in its provision and the steps the unregenerate must take in order to reach the point of saving faith. He goes on from here to make clear that the redeemed are to live a victorious life above sin and that there is a definite second work of divine grace in the complete cleansing of the soul from the nature of inborn sin. The book closes with a glimpse of the glory world--the eternal home of those who persevere unto the end.

I commend this book. Chapters two through seven first appeared in a special issue of "The Missionary Revivalist" in July of 1970. Many readers of The Revivalist have requested that this "salvation" issue of the paper be made permanently available for distribution. Here within these covers the author has done this for us. He has taken these six chapters on salvation and has added five others: one, an introductory chapter, and four additional chapters dealing with victorious living, entire sanctification, and the future abode of the soul.

Only eternity will reveal the results that will be reaped as this booklet finds its way into the hands of eternity bound souls!

I. Parker Maxey,
Editor The Missionary Revivalist

* * * * *

PREFACE TO AFRICAN PRINTING

Black Africa is in the throes of a religious transformation which is making news around the world. According to the celebrated demographer David Barrett, in 1981 Christianity became once

again--after more than 1,000 years--a religion made up mostly of non-white participants. Those who falsely claim that Christianity is "white man's religion" now have to contend with the fact that most of the world's Christians are not white. Every day black Africa experiences a net gain of 16,000 practicing Christians--4,000 of them from other religions. The geographic center of Christianity is slowly shifting toward Africa.

The rapid growth of Christianity on this continent is creating a crushing demand for Gospel literature. Biblical and theological education is surely one of our greatest needs. We pray for the day when entire phalanxes of superbly trained African Christians will take up their pens and become guardians of the faith for the world Christian community. OUTREACH PUBLICATIONS is dedicated to stand on the cutting edge of such a phalanx.

At the same time, we gladly lock arms with our Christian brothers on other continents who--though not less fervent than we--may have had more years of experience in the Christian faith. One such brother is our beloved Rev. Kenneth H. Fay, who for more than twenty-five years has proven himself a revivalist par excellence among the holiness churches of the U.S.A.. He has also proven his academic excellence through the successful completion of the M.A. degree in Christian Education, and is now nearing completion of the Doctor of Ministry degree. It is on the eve of his first visit to Nigeria that we are delighted to publish this special printing of his excellent book THE SALVATION OF GOD.

This book will prove useful to Africans of all walks of life. The sincere enquirer after salvation will find clear truth to lead him to the salvation of God. The new believer will find enlightenment about what he has attained in Christ and how it may be maintained and cultivated. The mature Christian will find new insights to deepen his faith. And the pastor and Sunday school or Bible teacher will find useful materials for his teaching ministry.

Thank you, Rev. Fay, for sharing this truth with us. And WELCOME TO AFRICA!

Rev. Gary S. Maxey, Principal
CALVARY COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY
July, 1985

* * * * *

CONTENTS

Dedication

Appreciation

Foreword

Preface To African Printing

Chapter 1

The Mockery Of Salvation

Chapter 2

The Meaning Of Salvation

Chapter 3

The Maker Of Salvation

Chapter 4

The Method Of Salvation

Chapter 5

The Means Of Salvation

Chapter 6

The Moment Of Salvation

Chapter 7

The Mercy Of Salvation

Chapter 8

The Miracle Of Salvation

Chapter 9

The Maintenance Of Salvation

Chapter 10

The Magnitude Of Salvation

Chapter 11

The Magnificence Of Salvation

* * * * *

Chapter 1

THE MOCKERY OF SALVATION

Mat 22:2-5 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

In St. Matthew, Chapter 22 Jesus Christ foretold certain attitudes humanity would reveal toward the hearing of His Gospel. One group "made light of it and went their ways," verse 5.

Another "treated the servants spitefully and slew them," verse 6. A third stubbornly chose to ignore the necessary preparation and thus insulted His King, verse 12. These verses, like a mirror, reflect the heart attitudes of multitudes today--that of careless, mocking, indifference to spiritual values.

Karl Marx, the godfather of modern Russia, once sneeringly said, "Religion is the opiate of the people." Here is mockery. Fredrick Nietzsche, the German scholar whose teachings became thunder on the lips of Adolf Hitler said "I call Christianity the one great curse, the one great depravity, I call it the immortal blemish of mankind. That too, is mockery. John Dewey, whose ideas have largely molded American education, meant to be taken seriously when he declared, "there must be a surrender of fixed dogma with which Christianity has been historically associated."

Do you know that a so-called "sacred book" consigns our Lord to the deepest hell alongside pagan perverts? That a few years ago Communists in Spain depicted the Savior between a group of imbeciles and a group of insane calling Him, "King of the Morons?" That the atheists of Russia, attempting to shame their people for faith in Christ pictured Jesus seated between bloated, thieving men of wealth and influence? Blasphemy. Yet, this issuing out of sneers, jeers, and cruel mockery has like a deadly plague spread itself over society.

The movies of Hollywood and television are rife with it. In clever ways it appears in newspapers, books, magazines, and advertisements. It has become the theme of songs and radio programs. It seems that the enemies of Christ never miss a chance to poke fun or take a 'lick' at Christ and His Gospel, either openly, or subtly, but in diverse ways. Everywhere, and at every level of communication, mockery of the Sacred abounds. All this, of course is foretold. "There shall come in the last days...scoffers," 2 Peter 3:3.

The Moral corruption of the human heart is the Bible's explanation of this mockery. Jesus said, "Out of the heart proceed (among other things)...blasphemy," i.e., railing, hurtful speech, St. Mark 7:22. Mockery, however, may be senseless as well as sinful. Jesus allowed this when upon the cross he prayed for His mockers, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Moral depravity therefore, may be coupled with mental denseness. Still, how truly senseless this is when one can view the Creation abounding with every sign of a Master Designer.

A father wished to have a conversation about God with his small son. He devised a clever lesson to make the boy think. He planted cress in his garden, arranging the seed carefully, so that when the green shoots appeared they would spell the three initials of the boy's name. The lesson was profound and the little lad had sense enough to see that someone had planted that 'planting' and was led to behold God as his Creator.

Surely our world affords unnumbered object lessons of that Divine skill, beauty, and power. Joyce Kilmer wrote "poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree." Yes, and not only a tree but a trillion other marvels of His love and intelligence. For instance, consider these words of Dr. Walter L. Wilson. "God takes a handful of black carbon, plants it deep in the bowels of the earth, treats it with heat below, presses it with rocks of the mountain above, and transforms it into a glorious diamond for a king's crown.

A handful of sand is deposited by the Lord in the heart of the earth. Great heat is applied from beneath and ponderous weight from above until when it is found by man, it has been miraculously changed into a beautiful, fiery opal.

Consider the remarkable transformation that takes place when a caterpillar (an upholstered worm) encases itself in its homemade casket and is changed into a beautiful butterfly. Its hair is changed to scales--a million to a square inch; the many legs of the caterpillar become the six legs of the butterfly; the yellow becomes a beautiful red; the crawling instinct becomes a flying instinct. God's wisdom is seen in the structure of the elephant. The four legs of this great beast bend forward in the same direction. No other quadruped is so made. God planned that this animal should have a huge body, too large to live on two legs. For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it could rise from the ground easily.

God's wisdom is revealed in His arrangement of sections and segments as well as in the number of grains.

Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind.

Each orange has an even number of segments.

Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains.

God causes the limb of a tree to grow straight out from the trunk for a distance of forty, fifty, or sixty feet, with no anchorage other than fifteen or eighteen inches of fibres which lose themselves in the trunk of the tree. No human being has discovered how to apply this principle in the construction of buildings or bridges.

God takes oxygen and hydrogen, both of them odorless, tasteless, and colorless and combines them with carbon, (which is insoluble, black, and tasteless.) The result of this combination is beautiful, white, sweet sugar. How does God do it? I do not understand. I only know God can take your life drab, useless, and fruitless--and transforms it into a beautiful garden of the sweetest graces for His glory. He will do this for you if you will trust your life to Him." But--will you?

Reader--if, as some assert, we are simply the product of blind and purposeless forces, we have no responsibility to any higher power for we have no higher court to answer to outside our own. On the other hand, if all these marvels we see about us are the products of Almighty God, we must concede that they, as well as we ourselves, were made for a Divine purpose--we stand then at the crossroads. What a moment! What a danger confronts us! Will we ignore this Great Creator, abuse those powers with which God has endowed us to know Him, shield the eyes of our soul from the light of His Word--His Revelations to man of our need and His supply and so offend this glorious Being?

Dear Reader--your heart's attitude is so vitally important. If you have reflected in any way the attitude of those in St. Matthew, Chapter 22--beware! "God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" Galatians 6:7.

Stop! Seriously think about God--your soul and about Salvation!

* * * * *

Chapter 2

THE MEANING OF SALVATION

Acts 8:29-35 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

"I don't want any of your salvation bit!" she screamed and slammed the door closed. Stunned by her words, the minister turned and walked slowly away. The indignation that filled his heart just then was not the kind one feels from personal abuse. A minister soon learns to "take it;" to sort of 'roll with the punch.' It was rather the remembrance of how successfully Satan "hath blinded the minds of them that believe not" that kindled the burning in his breast that day. To hold man in the grip of prejudice and then urge him to repudiate this "salvation bit" is what Satan most desires.

Humanity has been deceived, blinded and robbed by Sin and Satan. Paul tells us, (Ephesians 4:17-19; 2:1-10) that the "Gentiles (sinners) walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart." Sin has blinded the mind, alienated the heart, robbing man, making him a child of Satan, who was by creation a son of God.

Still, in this night of spiritual darkness there are many who would know the truth of Bible Salvation. Are you one who asks "What is Salvation?" Or "What must I do to be saved?" Then I would be eyes to the blind, a voice to the deaf, and a light in the dark to you.

To most adults the words salvation and religion are synonymous. But are they? Related yes, but synonymous no. Many reason that if they are relatively moral, embrace a creed, have been baptized, and are a church member they are saved. This is far afield from what the Bible really says. Notwithstanding the certain merits of religion many religious devotees are lost (see St. Matthew 7:21-23).

Just what is Salvation? The term "salvation" implies there is something to be saved from and something to be saved for. Notice first what man is to be saved from:

1. Man is to be saved from sin. "For all have sinned." Romans 3:23. You see all men have the same trouble. Sin is as much modern man's problem as it was Adam's and Eve's. Sin enslaves and salvation means deliverance from sin's enslavement.

2. Man is to be saved from sin's wages. The wages of sin is death." Roms 6:23. This means much more than physical death. It means spiritual and eternal death. Sin, you see, made hell necessary (see Revelation 21:8). Salvation means deliverance from this awful place God calls hell.

Now notice what man is to be saved for:

1. Man is to be saved for God. Not only have all sinned but "all have come short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23. Sin makes a man a disgrace to His Master. Salvation means that God will so "fix him up" that man will no longer disgrace but glorify his God by a righteous and pure life.

2. Man is to be saved for God's reward. "The gift of God is eternal life." Romans 6:23. Salvation means that God will reward the righteous for their faithfulness to Him on earth with eternal life hereafter. Sinners have their pay in hell. The righteous are to receive theirs in heaven--God's home.

Salvation means more than keeping a soul out of hell. It means the restoration of a lost inheritance--an inheritance lost through sin. Man's original state could not have been better than it was. Then sin got into the world. Man lifted up his puny arm of rebellion. There came the collision between the human will and the divine will. As a result of this rebellion man died spiritually. His intellect (capacity to know God) was darkened; his emotions (capacity to enjoy God) deadened; his will degraded, and the intimacy that had existed between God and man was gone. Sin cost man a fourfold loss: the approval of God; the nature of God; the knowledge of God; paradise--man's God-given home. Salvation means the restoration of all that was lost because of sin's entrance into the human family.

Man is unable to save himself. Nevertheless, because of blindness, the world is full of religions created by man in an attempt to find salvation, but the only salvation which is not devil-conceived and man-made is the salvation of Jesus Christ. Multitudes parade their pagan, humanistic religions under the banner of Jesus Christ. This is a gross falsification of the facts, for any religion which does not save from sin, restoring man to his lost estate, has no relation whatever to Christ or His kingdom.

Teen-agers have a perverted idea of salvation. They are blinded by sin and the hypocrisy of their seniors. The true path has been so corrupted that they have lost confidence in the real and have turned to the unreal. Seeking to get back to the simple life and away from counterfeits in religion and society they have degenerated in some cases to the level of the savage, corrupting their bodies, perverting their morals, destroying their minds, and hazarding their souls, all in a crusade to find something real in a world of unreality. Had they found the "real," they would not be destroying themselves with the unreal. Our youth, disillusioned by our false morality, have conceived a "new morality" and have wound up in immorality.

Where there are counterfeits, however, there is bound to be the genuine. It is so in regards to salvation! God's plan insures the restoration of man's lost estate. The initial step in this recovery is the new birth experience and involves three things:

1. Justification--the restoration of God's smile, His approval. This is known as the "legal aspect" of the New Birth, which changes the relationship of the condemned sinner, freeing him from guilt and condemnation in the sight of God. Being justified, he is pardoned and acquitted before the bar of justice. Mercy has done this for him. Christ takes the penitent sinner's place, his guilt and punishment (Romans 5:1). Justification is granted only to those who repent of their sins (Acts 2:28), and who quit the sin business (Galatians 2:17,18). An honest effort must be made to right all wrongs against one's fellow men (Luke 19:8). Also, a full reliance upon the blood of Christ is required (Romans 3:25,26). "Justification cannot be obtained while there is a background of unconfessed sin (1 John 1:9), and justification cannot be retained while there is a conscious present committing of sin," (Galatians 2:17, 18; 1 John 3:8) (Jessop).

2. Regeneration--life imparted, fellowship restored. This is known as the "parental aspect" of the New Birth. Justification has to do with our standing before God; regeneration, with our state. Justification is a legal change; regeneration, an actual change. Regeneration is the renewal of our fallen nature and the reversal of all our affections. St. John gives the characteristics of the regenerated life in his First Epistle: A righteous life (2:29); victory over sin (3:9); brotherly love (3:14); a compassionate spirit (3:17); recognition of the Lordship of Jesus (5:1); victory over the world (5:4); the Spirit's inward witness (5:10).

3. Adoption--the "family aspect" of the New Birth experience: He who was at one time an alien is now a son (Romans 8:15). One thus adopted is no longer a child of Satan and of sin; he is child of God and of righteousness. Originally, he belonged to God through creation; then Satan kidnapped him, but Christ paid the ransom price and will receive him back! (St. Matthew 20:28).

"Justification removes our guilt, which is a barrier in the way of our admission into God's family; regeneration changes our hearts, imparting a fitness for admission into the family; and adoption actually receives us therein, recognizing us as God's children..." (Ralston).

This Salvation was originated before the foundation of the world by God himself (Ephesians 1:4).

This Salvation became necessary because of man's sin and his lost condition (Romans 3:23).

This Salvation promises freedom from sin and requires holiness (Romans 6:22).

This Salvation is never earned by man but received by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).

This Salvation meets all the deep needs of fallen souls (Hebrews 7:25).

This Salvation may be received and experienced today (Luke 19:9).

This Salvation is the most vital issue of any life (Hebrews 2:3).

Salvation, then, is God's merciful deliverance which saves men personally from the power of sin and its consequences, enabling them to so glorify him in this life that they shall qualify for eternal joys in the world to come.

In 1958 Mr. James Kidd, a miner from Arizona, died, leaving \$200,000 in his will to anyone doing research on the existence of a "human soul which leaves the body at death." Guardians of the will have now received over 1,000 formal letters from various individuals and groups requesting the money for the search. People are interested in the soul, and for good reason. Are you one of them? Shouldn't you be anxious to be saved? After all you have an undying soul! Yes, you have a soul to save, a heaven to gain, and a hell to shun!

* * * * *

Chapter 3 THE MAKER OF SALVATION

Isa 53 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Savage and professor alike are trying to find God by fetish or philosophy. Religion and philosophy have been defined as "man's best attempts to find God." These have failed. Man can no more chart his way back to God than he can leap the Grand Canyon or reach the moon atop a 6 foot ladder.

Someone has said that "Man is a Cathedral in ruin." Who then can piece this fallen ruin together? "Man," declared Whitefield, "is half beast and half devil." Who then is to restore man to his true dignity and moral sanity? The chasm that separates a Holy God from sinful man is vast. Who then is to bridge this immense gulf? White winged angels cannot! Brilliant thinkers cannot! The world's ten great religions cannot! The "do-it-yourself" champions of self-reform cannot!

As certain as we are that only a brilliant architect could have designed Apollo XII, we may be assured that only God Himself could have designed a plan to redeem fallen men. The Bible clearly states that the Father lovingly prepared for us a means of escaping sin's power (St. John 3:16). The Holy Spirit faithfully pleads with us to accept this plan (St. John 16:9). But notice that Jesus alone actually provided for our salvation (St. John 19:30). The Father thought it, the Spirit taught it, but the Son wrought it. Thus Jesus Christ the Son of God becomes the central personality in the Plan of Salvation.

And Jesus would have us understand that He alone can save men. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (St. John 14:6). "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: (Savior) for he shall save his people from their sins" (St. Matthew 1:21). The faith of all who would be saved, therefore, must ultimately come to rest in Jesus. The object of our faith is not a system of doctrine, or creeds, though these properly understood aid faith, but Jesus Himself. In the light of this all men must answer the haunting question Pilate raised, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" Yes--Christ is the Inescapable One--He is on our hands!

And what a mighty Savior He is! St. Luke, Chapter 8 is a fair example of His great redemptive power. Here He is seen to calm the DEEP (22-25), command the DEMONS (26-39), cure the DISEASED (43-48), and raise the DEAD (49-56)! Honestly now, is not this the Savior you need?

Rapidly the plan unfolds. From Bethlehem to Jordan we watch with keen anticipation while Jesus prepares for His divine mission. From the choosing of the Twelve until the Last Supper in the Upper Room at Jerusalem, we thrill to His glorious gospel and matchless miracles of love. Oh, that the story might end here! But no the plan is not yet complete. The grizzly chapter called CALVARY must yet be written.

Joseph Conrad, the great literary genius, one time said, "If I could find the right word I could move the world." But we have found Him--the Word that moves the world! As the ETERNAL WORD (St. John 1:1-2) He moved the world in the genius of creation; as the INCARNATE WORD (St. John 1:14) He moved the world in the drama of human activity; as the LIVING WORD, He said, "I am He that liveth and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore" (Revelation 1:18); as the ABIDING WORD (St. Matthew 28:20) He assures us, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world; and as the FINAL WORD Paul declares (Philippians 2:10) that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.

Archimedes the Greek once said, "give me a place to stand and I will move the world." But Jesus would move it, suspended between earth and sky, from the cross. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (St. John 12:32). So at Calvary a cross is seen to span

that deep and wide chasm that separates men from God. We can only cross that gulf at the cross!
But we can cross it here! Therefore, the cross of Jesus is not tragedy but triumph!

God was now pleased with the sacrifice of His Son. Therefore, in honor to the Son, He raised Him from the grave and death. Christ now lives in glory with His Father--and God's plan to save man is complete!

"Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!
Oh, the grace that bro't it down to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at CALVARY!"

He is the Provider of the only true plan of salvation the world shall ever know.

* * * * *

Chapter 4 THE METHOD OF SALVATION

Give no place to a heated imagination. Do not hastily ascribe things to God. Do not easily suppose dreams, voices, impressions, visions, or revelations, to be from God. They may be from Him. They may be from nature. They may be from the devil. Therefore, "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God." Try all things by the written word, and let all bow down before it. You are in danger of enthusiasm every hour if you depart ever so little from Scripture; yea, or from the plain, literal meaning of any text, taken in connection with the context. And so you are, if you despise or lightly esteem reason, knowledge, or human learning: every one of which is an excellent gift of God, and may serve the noblest purpose.

-- John Wesley

There is but one method of salvation and that is the Bible method. Let us examine its nature:

1. SALVATION, NOT MAN'S WORK FOR GOD, BUT GOD'S WORK IN MAN:

It is not possible for one to save himself by what he does for God. God will accept nothing we have or do as merit for our salvation. Salvation is solely a gift from God. Paul declared, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5).

2. SALVATION IS NOT A NEW LEAF--BUT A NEW LIFE!

You may in times of trouble sincerely determine to quit sin by turning over a "new leaf." But this does not save you. Even if your "new leaf" attempt seems to work out, what about the dirty days of all your past years? "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

3. SALVATION IS MEMBERSHIP, NOT IN THE VISIBLE CHURCH NECESSARILY, BUT IN THE INVISIBLE:

The visible church organization is God's appointed institution in the world, but in itself it has no saving virtue. The true church is composed of the body of believers who are "born of the Spirit." Salvation is not something one may "join," but by faith one may be adopted into the "body of Christ" through the merits of the shed blood. Christ, in addressing Nicodemus addresses us all: "Ye MUST be born again" (St. John 3:7). There is no other means by which one may "pass from death unto life" (1 John 3:14).

4. SALVATION; NOT HEAD KNOWLEDGE, BUT HEART KNOWLEDGE:

One may always have believed in Christ intellectually as he believes in Washington or Lincoln, but so do the devils believe and tremble! (James 2:10) Intellectual Faith is a thing of the head; saving faith, a thing of the heart. Simon the sorcerer, who had intellectual faith, was rebuked by Peter, who said to him, "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God" (Acts 8:21).

5. SALVATION IS NOT BY WATER--BUT BY BLOOD!

Baptism by water is one of the two great sacraments of the Church. It is an outward sign of an inward work, which tells of a Christian's union to Christ. Never, however, is it a means of salvation. Sin is canceled only by blood. "Without shedding of blood (there) is no remission (forgiveness)" (Hebrews 9:22).

A man who was badly injured was wheeled into the emergency room of the hospital. As a nurse assisted in removing his shirt, she saw the name "JESUS" tattooed in large letters on his chest. Her observation was, "I wonder if it goes deeper than the skin?" Much modern religion, we fear, never goes "deeper than the skin"--it never reaches the soul at all!

Socrates once tried, in good faith, to call a corpse back to life. After failing three times to get a response of any kind he acknowledged, "it needs something in it." The Bible says all are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). In short the sinner is a moral corpse and needs "something within" to bring him to LIFE! This is exactly what Jesus Christ has come to do. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (St. John 10:10).

Christ does more than reform men--He regenerates them. He not only makes bad men good, He makes men live. Salvation is not simply a resolution of the head, it is a resurrection from the dead. The saved man is more than reformed, he is reborn. Christ imparts life to men. The saying, "man white washes but Christ washes white; men cover up but Christ cleans up" is true. Salvation, then, is more than the old life improved, it is a new life infused. With a new start the saved man has a new heart. This is God's method--this is salvation through Christ!

CALVARY'S HILL

O come ye, O come ye to Calvary's hill,

Where Jesus so freely His life blood did spill;
Fulfilling not His, but the dear Father's will,
To save us from sin and hell's power to kill.

O come ye, O come ye, the tomb is now bare,
Jesus, my Saviour, no longer is there;
He's pleading the Father to answer our prayer,
And take us to heaven His glory to share.

* * * * *

Chapter 5 THE MEANS OF SALVATION

2 Sam 14:14 For we must needs die, and are as water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.

"What must I do to be saved?" inquired the trembling jailor. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," answered the apostles (Acts 16:30-31). That same night the jailor did believe and was converted. Faith and obedience comprise man's responsibility in seeking God. Faith and obedience are both included in the word "believe," for faith without works is dead (James 2:17).

A serious problem confronts us today because of the prevailing misunderstanding of the word "believe." Many have come to confuse saving faith with mere intellectual "believism" bolstered by the good works of merely raising the hand for prayer, praying at the church altar, signing a decision card, shaking the minister's hand, water baptism, and such like. These practices alone have no power to convert the soul or make one "a new creature in Christ Jesus." The seeker may have made an effort to reform, may have shed a few tears, felt relief, and imagined these things would save him. Hence, a false hope is born. But only genuine faith in the Blood of Christ, which is anchored in obedience and established on the firm foundation of repentance and confession, has saving power. The three conditions necessary to saving faith are as follows:

First, **REPENT!** That is, let your heart melt before Jesus. Be ashamed of your sins which nailed Him to the cross and broke His heart--those sins which have caused so much condemnation and which would consign the finally impenitent to a lost world forever. There is no forgiveness until one is sorry for his sins, confesses them fully to God, vows to make all wrongs right with his fellow men in so far as he is able, confesses old grudges and asks forgiveness of injured persons, performing whatever God requires, humbly begging Christ for mercy. "Repent and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

Second, **RENOUNCE!** This means that one must turn away from every sinful thing in his life. In Isaiah 55:7 the prophet said, "Let the wicked **FORSAKE** his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts..." The seeker must forsake all that he has been viewing, listening to, reading or practicing that has brought condemnation to his heart. One who hopes to break through must never

turn back. Reader, if you want Christ to receive you, then you must rise up from the devil's table and walk out forever. "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:17).

Third, RELY! That is, commit your soul to Jesus now and count on Him to accept you just as you are. You must rely on His atoning blood. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Your tears, confessions, restitutions, promises, separation and determination, as necessary as they are, are but prerequisites to the NEW BIRTH experience. Once they are accomplished, the seeker must rely on Christ as His atonement. He must look up and say, "Jesus, I have done my part, I have confessed and forsaken my sins, I now gladly surrender to Thy complete control. Save me, Lord, and save me now." Then comes the witness of the Spirit and the work is done. Venture all on Christ --it is a safe venture! (St. John 6:37)

In 1957 Air Force Major Simmons set a world record for manned balloons reaching some 102,000 feet of altitude. Shortly before the flight his polyethylene balloon lay flat. Then, charges of helium were forced into it. Soon it was "swelled" and tugging at its ground cable. Simmons now entered the 8 foot metal capsule beneath. One duty yet remained. The Major must release the ground cable. He did so and was instantly airborne. It worked!

Is your faith flat? Then force the "helium" of repentance and separation into it and soon your faith will be "swelling" within you! Now--rely on Christ--"let go and let God!" These three conditions when met will guarantee a SAVING FAITH--THE ONE MEANS OF SALVATION!

* * * * *

Chapter 6 THE MOMENT OF SALVATION

Luke 18:10-14 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

At a definite moment you were born into the world. Your parents taught you annually to celebrate the event. And who could forget that day when his wedding bells chimed? It is yet fondly cherished in your memory. One couple was married aboard an airliner by a clergyman at the moment in which the great ship was passing over their city. Another couple and their minister donned deep-sea diver's suits and were lowered off-shore to some thirty feet below the surface. There, speaking through built-in intercoms and surrounded by fish and coral, they exchanged vows. People have been married in strange places, but whether you were married in city cathedral or country chapel, indoors or out of doors, on land or sea, your wedding day is memorable to you. Yours may not have been as dramatic as another's, but the ties are just as strong and the event itself

as well remembered. Should it then be thought incredible that one should remember the GREATEST EVENT of his entire lifetime--the day he was born again and passed from death unto life? Do you not remember that great event?

The evangelists of early Methodism were known as the "now preachers" because they offered salvation "on the spot." So did Christ and the apostles. Immediately after Zacchaeus pledged to make full restitution for all his wrongs, Jesus said to him, "THIS DAY is salvation come to this house." (St. Luke 19:9). Blind Bartimaeus begged of Jesus that he might receive his sight. Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus (Mark 10:52). Having been instructed as to how to be saved, the Ethiopian eunuch believed and was saved then and there. This all occurred as a single dramatic episode (Acts 8:26-39). When one of the malefactors, dying with Jesus on Calvary, acknowledged his need and asked the Savior for mercy, Jesus answered, "TODAY shalt thou be with me in paradise" (St. Luke 23:43). Repeatedly St. Paul told of that day on the Damascus road when he "saw a light," "heard a voice" and had a personal rendezvous with Christ which changed his life. Nor can anyone who has thus met Jesus forget that glorious moment of encounter when "old things are passed away" and "all things become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). When is that moment realized? H. L. Cox, the hymn writer expressed it this way:

"So I prayed to God in earnest,
And not caring what folk said,
I was hungry for the blessing;
My poor soul it must be fed.

Then at last by faith I touched Him,
And like sparks from smitten steel,
Just so quick salvation reached me.
Oh, Bless God, I know it's real!"

The moment you touch Jesus by contrition and godly sorrow for sin, the moment you approach Jesus with open confession of guilt, the moment you implore forgiveness in faith and obedience--at THAT VERY MOMENT you will know the joy of saving grace and the reality of His acceptance. Salvation will not necessarily make you a theologian over night, if at all, but from that moment you will know you are born again. You may not be able to satisfy every skeptic or doubter, but with the millions who have found Christ in His saving power you can sing:

"I remember the time, I can tell you the place,
When the Lord came in and saved me by His grace.
I cannot tell you HOW, but I can tell you now.
That Jesus saves me, I know He saves me!"

* * * * *

Chapter 7
THE MERCY OF SALVATION

Isa 55:6-8 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Saint Paul declared, "God is rich in mercy" (Ephesians 2:4). Some Christians now believe that Nikita S. Khrushchev, one time Dictator of the U.S.S.R., has been saved. It is not incredible that the "Bloody Butcher," as he was called, has found mercy. Even Hitler or Mussolini might have found forgiveness had they repented, for "God is rich in mercy." God has demonstrated great forgiveness to great sinners and granted great favors times without number. "It must be great mercy, or no mercy," said John Bunyan, "for little mercy will never serve my turn!"

What hope this brings to men today! There are reportedly nineteen thousand suicides in the United States annually, besides other thousands which are successfully disguised as accidental. At present there are said to be over five million alcoholics in the United States. Everywhere we turn, the demons of drink and dope, lust and lunacy, murder and madness are driving millions to despair and suicide and at last to the unending torments of hell. It is a grim picture, but there is good news. Listen! "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17). Commenting on this verse, the sainted Richard Baxter once said, "I am thankful it says 'whosoever' rather than 'Richard Baxter,' as sweet as that might sound, for then at the last I might have discovered God meant some other Richard Baxter. Now I know He means me!" Yes, God's mercy is available to all!

Rejected mercy, however, remains the tragedy of our age. A noted surgeon received a phone call at two o'clock in the morning. A hospital authority, twenty miles away, explained that a young man, following a car accident, lay near death. He was the only surgeon within calling distance that could possibly get there in time. Would he come? Hurriedly he dressed and drove to the city, where he stopped for a traffic light. Suddenly his car door jerked open and a gun was jammed into his ribs.

"Drive!" a man ordered, closing the door behind him. All attempts to explain the urgency of his mission were futile.

"Drive!" he snapped. Somewhere on a quiet street in that city his captor ordered the car stopped and the surgeon to "get out!" Again, all attempts to explain were silenced at gunpoint. Helplessly he watched as the gunman, who was dressed in a brown coat and gray trousers with a cap pulled down over his eyes, drove away in his car. A taxi was hailed after a lapse of time and finally the surgeon reached the hospital. Outside "Emergency" a nurse appeared and said, "I'm sorry Doctor..., you are too late...the boy is dead." Saddened, he turned to leave. "Doctor," the nurse whispered, "his father is brokenhearted Would you speak to him...please?"

There in the waiting room, face in hands and sobbing, sat the grieving father. Suddenly a look of amazement spread across the surgeon's face. Could he believe his eyes? The man was wearing a brown coat, gray trousers, and a cap was at his side. This was the man who had taken the surgeon's car! This was the man who had forced into the night the only man that could save his son!

The lesson this true story illustrates is important. You, unsaved friend, have the "death-rattle" in your soul and are now facing the fearful prospects of eternity. God has sent His Son to save you. Christ pleads with you not to turn Him away. DO NOT, then, make the fatal mistake of forcing from your life the only ONE who can save you! How fearful it will be to face Him on the judgment morning, knowing you have spurned His mercy! How dreadful to be thrust into eternity's night to weep with the damned and live with your memory and remorse ---forever!

Why make this mistake? Is there anything in life worth bartering your soul for? Of course not! Then bow before this waiting, insulted, yet pleading Christ and ask Him to save you. But do it NOW! Remember delay can be as fatal as denial! "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3).

* * * * *

Chapter 8 THE MIRACLE OF SALVATION

The God that stopped the sun on high,
And sent the manna from the sky,
Laid flat the walls of Jericho,
And put to flight old Israel's foe,
Why can't He answer prayer today,
And drive each stormy cloud away?
Who turned the water into wine,
And healed a helpless cripple's spine,
Commanded tempests, "Peace be still,"
And hungry multitudes did fill,
His power is just the same today,
So why not labor, watch and pray?
He conquered in the lion's den,
Brought Lazarus back to life again,
He heard Elijah's cry for rain,
And freed the sufferers from pain,
If he could do those wonders then,
Let's prove our mighty God again!
Why can't the God Who raised the dead
Gave little David, Goliath's head,
Cast out the demons with a word,
Yet sees the fall of one wee bird,
Do signs and miracles today
In the same, old-fashioned way?

-- Martin Luther

St. John gives six identifying marks of the miracle of salvation.

They are as follows:

1. THE NEW CREATURE LIVES ABOVE SIN.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin" (1 John 3:9). "Whosoever is born of God sinneth not" (5:18), for he has gone out of the "sin business." By reason of his new nature he no longer follows the habits of sin, that is, "A wilful transgression of a known law" (Wesley). He no longer swears, cheats, steals, lies or knowingly breaks God's moral law. But if he should sin and is pained thereby he hastily repents and puts that sin away. His life is transformed, his ambitions have changed, his ways are different. A miracle has taken place.

2. THE NEW CREATURE LABORS FOR SANCTIFICATION.

"Everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him" (1 John 2:29). One born of God, but not yet wholly sanctified soon realizes that he has an enemy within--the old, depraved Adamic nature. It stirs when provoked and brings darkness to the soul as the carnal tendencies display themselves in wrong feelings of many sorts. The child of God is grieved by these inner conflicts and longs for deliverance. The newborn child of God attempts to suppress and control the carnal nature within until such time as he reaches the point of death to old self and full and final consecration to Christ when the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire purges his heart of all that is carnal and fills him with holy power. Until the second great crisis occurs, the child of God cries to God for deliverance from his indwelling corruption. When a professed Christian is indifferent to his need of a clean heart, one has every reason to question the genuineness of his conversion for truly such will long and labor for a sanctified heart.

3. THE NEW CREATURE LEAVES CORRUPT SOCIETY.

"Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world" (1 John 5:4). As light comes to him he casts away all that is not of the Father as if it were a deadly serpent. Along with his new birth has come new desires. He has lost his relish for the pleasure of sin. He no longer conforms to the world with its fashions and follies, with its sinful pleasures and its corrupted ideals. Old associates no longer desire his company. They may ridicule him and declare he has gone off the "deep end," but this does not move him. He turns a deaf ear to their chatter and joyfully shoulders his cross. One is convinced of the miracle of salvation when he views his radiant face and hears him singing "Take the world but give me Jesus."

4. THE NEW CREATURE LOATHES THE SUGGESTIVE.

"He that is begotten of God keepeth himself" (1 John 5:18), and "purifieth himself, even as He is pure" (1 John 3:3). He guards carefully his new found treasure. He does not want to grieve God in any way. Therefore, he "abstains from the very appearance of evil," dressing in modest clothes, keeping his conversation clean and his business dealings honest. He strives for deep spirituality and to this end watches and prays. He is indeed a miracle of saving grace!

5. THE NEW CREATURE LOVES THE SAINTS.

"We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14). The saints he used to shun he now embraces. They come to mean more to him than even his own worldly flesh and blood. There is no poverty, illiteracy, eccentricity or unpopularity that dampens his love for the saints. That mutual bond which binds them to the Father ties them together. All the born again ones are brothers and sisters in the Lord. They value each other's company, prayers, and council. Their voices blend in song--"Blest be the be that binds our hearts in Christian love." Their love for each other is a strong proof of the miraculous element in salvation.

6. THE NEW CREATURE LOVES THE SAVIOR.

"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God " (1 John 5:1). He knows that Jesus alone wrought this wonderful change. He testifies to the fact that Jesus did it. Christ becomes the object and center of his affections because his affections have been drastically altered. His deepest affections, which once reached out for worldliness and sin, now are obsessed with their heavenly attachment. He sings:

"My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou,
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now."

"Oh! the love which drew salvation's plan! Oh! the grace which brought it down to man!
Oh! the mighty that God did span, at Calvary!" Oh, yes, but these are the mere beginnings of the marvelous grace of God. His children will forever be delighting themselves with new and further discoveries of this mercy they received when first they did believe.

It has been suggested that:--

Longfellow could take a worthless sheet of paper, write a poem on it, and make it worth \$6,000--that's genius.

Rockefeller could sign his name to a piece of paper and make it worth a million dollars--that's capital.

Uncle Sam can take gold, stamp an eagle on it, and make it worth \$20.00--that's money.

A mechanic can take material that is worth only \$5.00 and make it worth \$50.00--that's skill.

An artist can take a forty-cent piece of canvas, paint a picture on it, and make it worth \$1,000--that's art.

God can take a worthless, sinful life, wash it in the blood of Christ, put His Spirit in it, and make it a blessing to humanity --that's SALVATION!

Heaven above is softer blue,
Earth around is sweeter green!
Something lives in every hue.
Christless eyes have never seen:
Birds with gladder songs o'er flow,
Flowers with deeper beauties shine,
Since I know; as now I know,
I am His, and He is mine.

-- Wade Robinson

* * * * *

Chapter 9 THE MAINTAINANCE OF SALVATION

An Old Question--"Can I be a Christian without joining the Church or attending worship?"

Answer--"Yes, it is possible. It is something like being: A student who will not go to school--A soldier who will not join the army--A citizen who does not pay taxes or vote--A salesman without customers --An explorer with no base camp--A businessman on a deserted island --An author without readers--A scientist who does not share his findings --A bee without a hive." --Author unknown

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

A poet once wrote:

"There is a spot to me more dear
Than native vale and mountain;
A spot for which affection's tear
Springs grateful from its fountain.

'Tis not where kindred souls abound,
Tho' that is almost heaven:
But where I first my Savior found,
And felt my sins forgiven."

That is indeed a cherished memory. But however precious, a question now arises. How is this new life to be maintained? We wish to state the spiritual disciplines which were especially ordained of God to develop and maintain that divine life. They are those exercises which set the soul to "seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness" and pursue that "holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." These are known as the means of grace.

1. The Word of God

"Now they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine." This doctrine is nothing other than the Word of God which we have in the holy scriptures. These early Christians searched the scriptures diligently. So must we. You and I will never grow in holiness unless we are prepared to devote time, indeed much time, in reading, hearing, and meditating upon the Word of God. If our new life is to be properly nurtured, we will need the right kind of food--and it is this that above and before all else that we find in the Holy Bible. God's Word is our "daily bread." It was our Lord's delight and meditation. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God," he said (St. Matthew 4:4). "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:1-3). D. L. Moody once said to a young Christian as he gave him a copy of the Bible, "Young man, this book will keep you from sin; but sin will keep you from this book." "Continue steadfast in...the doctrine." Read the Bible regularly, systematically, thoughtfully, reverently, prayerfully, expectantly, and humbly (St. John 5:39).

2. Church Fellowship

"They continued steadfastly in the apostles' fellowship" (Acts 2:42). "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). The church is a family. "The household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). The head of this family is God and as children we are taught to call Him "our Father." Jesus is our Elder Brother, for "he is not ashamed to call them brethren" (Hebrews 2:11). That Christian who refuses to belong to the family of God on earth is not acting like a family member, but like an orphan without relatives.

Again, the church is an army. Each Christian is a soldier serving under the banner of the cross. Jesus, our mighty General, leads this army in a war against evil. What if every soldier in the nation's army should decide he did not want to belong to a regiment, a battalion, or a company; that each would fight the enemy all by himself? It would mean certain defeat--would it not? We need the church.

The church is a hospital. Here Christ the great Physician works to heal and restore, bind and build, comfort the sorrowing while administering medicine through its services to all who are torn or weakened by Sin or Satan.

The church is a school where Christ as the Master Teacher instructs His disciples in the moral principles of life. Here we "learn of Him" and "grow wise unto salvation." Thank God for the church. Make friends of God's children. Especially cultivate the fellowship of older saints. Moody advised, "Seek the presence of mature Christians; they have been along the road before you: they know its pitfalls and its dangers; they know its blessings and its ministries; keep close beside them and learn from them."

3. The Breaking of Bread

"They continued steadfastly in the breaking of bread" (Acts 2:42). St. Paul explains this precious means more fully by stating, "the cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion

of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 10:16).

And again--"as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show forth the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26). This sacred memorial has proven a vital source of grace to generations of Christians, and many of the writer's deepest spiritual impressions have come by this beautiful means.

When Bunyan's Pilgrim partakes of the Lord's Supper in the House Beautiful, he says, "now the table was furnished with fat things, and with wine that was well refined; and all their talk at the table was about the Lord of the Hill: as, namely, about what He had done, and wherefore He did what He did, and why He had builded that House. It made me love Him the more." Let us avail ourselves of this essential means of maintaining our spiritual life.

4. Prayers

"They continued steadfastly in prayers" (Acts 2:42). We need scarcely mention that prayer is the Christian's vital breath, his native air, and that no one can survive spiritually without praying. What a great blessing the prayer meetings have been. Many a fainting soul has taken courage to press on as a result of the prayer service. Prayer together is always sure to lift and aid the Christian. Jesus prayed continuously and He taught His disciples to pray.

Divine wisdom comes in answer to prayer (James 1:5). The peace of God is granted by prayer (Philippians 4:7). The heavenly Father's blessing came by prayer (St. Matthew 6:6). Divine healing comes through prayer (James 5:14-16). Divine justice comes through prayer (St. Luke 18:1-8). Supernatural strength comes through prayer (Isaiah 40:31). Deliverance comes by prayer (Psalms 34:6) . And on and on the Bible numbers the heavenly blessings our Lord delights to shower upon those who pray. Be sure, therefore, to take prayer seriously. Make it your business to pray. Go apart with God and seek His face. Wait much upon the Lord. Pray at church, with your family, with your special friends, but keep always at prayer. Prayer is where the victory is. How well Andrew Murray expressed this when he wrote the following: "When a general chooses the place from which he intends to strike the enemy, he pays most attention to those points which he thinks most important in the fight. Thus it was on the battlefield of Waterloo, a farm house, which Wellington immediately saw was the key to the situation. He did not spare his troops in his endeavor to hold that point; the victory depended upon it. And it is the same in the conflict between the believer and the powers of darkness. The inner chamber is the place where the decisive victory is obtained." Surely prayer is a must to our victory.

Reader, these are the four divinely ordained means by which the inner spiritual life is nourished and maintained. The world, the flesh, and the devil will your heavenward march oppose. Of this you may be certain. But look to "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ," and by the application of these means "follow after holiness, looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God" (Hebrews 12:15).

If you faithfully do your part, the Lord, to be sure, will do His, and one day together you shall stand triumphant on the summit of victory. Praise His name!

* * * * *

Chapter 10

THE MAGNITUDE OF SALVATION

I have learned the wondrous secret
Of abiding in the Lord:
I have found the strength and sweetness
Of confiding in His Word.
I have tasted life's pure fountain,
I am trusting in His blood;
I have lost myself in Jesus,
I am sinking into God.

I am crucified with Jesus,
And He lives and dwells with me;
I have ceased from all my struggling,
'Tis no longer I but He.
All my will is yielded to Him,
And His Spirit reigns within;
And His precious blood each moment,
Keeps me cleansed and free from sin.

For my words, I take His wisdom
For my works, His Spirit's power,
For my ways, His ceaseless Presence
Guides and guards me every hour.
Of my heart, He is the Portion,
Of my joy, the boundless Spring;
Savior, Sanctifier, Healer,
Glorious Lord, and coming King!

-- A. B. Simpson

"Though you have much peace and comfort,
Greater things you yet may find,
Freedom from unholy tempers,
Freedom from the carnal-mind."

These bold words of an old Methodist hymn writer indicate the saints of the past enjoyed and encouraged more than a partial transformation of character. They urge upon us the possibility of a complete spiritual cure for all our moral maladies, whether outward or inward. Was the writer justified by scripture in so doing? Let us see.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (St. Matthew 5:6). "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (St. Matthew 5:8). "That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him, without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life" (St. Luke 1:74-75). "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (St. John 17:17). "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12). "Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25-27). "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

These scriptures and many more, properly understood, amply prove the hymnist was not scripturally askew in his verse. The Bible does indeed offer a full, free, and uttermost salvation to every believer.

Beloved Reader, do not despair if you feel, as Brengle says, "Yet roots of bitterness within: quickness of temper, stirrings of pride, too great sensitiveness to praise or blame, shame of the cross, love of ease, worldly mindedness, and the like. These must be taken away before your heart can be made clean, love to God and man made perfect, and the Holy Spirit have His way in you." Carnal-self, that wicked intruder in the flesh, the grief of every unsanctified believer; the perpetuator of all the soul's dark spirits, is "not to have dominion over you" (Romans 6:14). True; Carnal-self is Satan's strongman well fortified in man's soul-stuff but the magnitude of our salvation is not clearly realized until the eye of faith perceives that Christ is not only capable to deal with our open sins but to effectively cleanse away old corruption as well (Romans 6:6-14 and Galatians 2:20).

Reader, at this point we share with you how the faithful Spirit brought your writer into the blessed experience of full salvation. "Faithful is he that calleth YOU, who also will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

In the winter of 1960 we were in a revival meeting doing all we knew to assist the evangelist and help souls find God. I scarcely ever enjoyed a greater burden of prayer than I did for the success of that meeting. Things were continuing, however, in much the normal way.

The writer remembers so well the evening while washing dishes at the kitchen sink, that a peculiar Presence brooded about him, shutting other voices out, and causing him not a little discomfort. A strange, sickening, sensation immediately settled upon my heart, and in those moments an indelible impression fastened itself upon my mind that God the Holy Ghost was bringing me to a crisis in my religious career. To my consciousness the words were very plain--"Ye are called unto holiness." I became so weak I thought I would fall, so dumb I could not speak, and in those moments of death-like stillness all my former professions to entire sanctification were broken and thrown to the ground never to raise their voices again.

That night as the call for seekers was given, I fell in at the altar like a ringed bull being led to the slaughter house, my coat coming off with a twist and a heave, and seekers on the right and left giving a wide berth on the rail for the death charge. In a minute the die was cast, carnality was cornered, my pride humbled, and both opportunity and hope for recovery fully gone. I was a seeker for holiness!

I was an earnest seeker, aware of what I lacked and fully persuaded of what I could and must have. I would have it as soon as possible. Yea, that very night! But, to my great surprise, instead of finding my soul at that time walking the grand highway of holiness, it was found crawling down that dark and lonesome trail we have since learned to know as the death-route--a term well-fitting and so correct for the seeker of heart purity.

We held a protracted effort to rout the Old Man some call "taking it by the job," and to aid our seeking we commenced to number on paper the various traits and manifestations of carnality. And how this monster of self did writhe, and squirm, twist, shuffle, and turn. Darting here and there for a hiding place and now and then rearing back its ugly head to strike, and now feigning death. But, the Spirit would have none of it, and as I began to tell on it, calling it what it was, the tide began to turn in our favor, and self began to give ground under the encounter. Things never dreamed of, and others only faintly suspected were turned up under the all piercing eye of the Holy Spirit. It was a sight well adapted to frighten any man, and it frightened me.

With some of the traits the Holy Spirit would cause our minds to travel back memory's pathway until we could once more see those horrible creatures flouting their horrid deeds. Instances were refreshed even back into early childhood as the Spirit gave an amazing brightness to our memory. It would break us up and the tears would freely flow as we lingered at the scenes again and watched self display its ancient wares.

A deep and well-founded revenge sprung up within us to be rid forever of this 'life of self' and though it would cost much humiliation, yet the fact that we could be free and clean was thrilling and encouraged us on! Life will spring up out of death, and for the joy of the resurrection we would endure the cross!

Down, down, down, ever deeper. Deeper than I deemed necessary, but the Holy Spirit knew well His work and we were determined to have it done. At times our soul would fall into much despair, but holding steady the Lord would bring it out. At times we seemed to be seeking in the dark, but again the Lord would come and reveal just where to seek. He knows the way and is a competent Guide. At times we were weeping over our condition and at other times shouting over our promise of the coming Comforter! The confessions continued to mount up until some fifty-one were arraigned on paper, the work of three and a half days.

Somehow now we knew that we were on the bottom and very near the long sought for blessing. Coming up out of the dark Death-route, though still not sanctified wholly, we were made to feel like David, "He hath brought me into a large place." It seemed as though we were standing on even ground never known before, and over yonder we recognized the fair table land of Canaan. Unbelief gave way to faith and we cried, "Lord, I believe, I believe--NOW!"

The Holy Spirit Himself gives witness to the operation of sanctification. He chooses, therefore, for reasons best known to Himself, to manifest His presence within believers in different ways. No two cases may be exactly alike. To one He may come as a burning-fire; to another with melting mellowing love. To another with a deep hallowed brooding of wonderful peace and calm; to still another with a sunburst of rapturous joy, etc., Reader, He is Sovereign! Let God be God!

As I recall, I was kneeling at the altar in a motionless position, alone, when the unmistakable "witness" came upon me. I experienced the Spirit, Word and Blood wash out of my mind, purge my lips, and pass as a refining fire throughout my heart. It filled me with purity, peace, and power. I knew now why Jesus referred to this experience as the "Baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire."

I became so quiet and peaceful. After a while I started running and jumping about the church, shouting and laughing, and Oh! such joy welling up within me like a river. The witness was clear--the Comforter had come to abide. I have lived to see to my own amazement and satisfaction that the work was genuine. Glory to Jesus and the precious blood for the great work of entire sanctification.

As the happy days roll on, we are want to re-echo the words the poverty-pinched Appalachian uttered when he, for the first time, gazed upon the mighty Atlantic. "Thank God," said he, "for something there is enough of!"

And let each reader thank God for "something there is enough of" --that "grace that reaches deeper than the stain has gone"--our plenteous redemption--both free and full--that saves, sanctifies, and keeps.

"Living here with my Lord
In a holy Union,
Day by day all the way,
Holding sweet communion.

Oh, what change grace hath wrought,
In my lowly station,
Since my soul has received,
Full and free salvation."

* * * * *

Chapter 11 THE MAGNIFICENCE OF SALVATION

1 Cor 2:7-9 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath

not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Cor 13:9-12 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 John 3:1-2 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Take an ordinary lump of clay. Now place it in the hands of a master artist and see what happens. As the clay yields to the sensitive hands of the artist a miracle is born. What appeared as very common clay is now becoming something beautiful and useful while it continues to respond to the experienced fingers of the master. Have you ever thought of your life and future in this way? God wants to do something beautiful with your life. He wants to give it the touch of magnificence. God has a special purpose for your future. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Let us notice the magnificence of salvation in three aspects:

1. The Magnificence of the Cross:

With all the shame attached to the hated cross, which St. Paul experienced, (a shame greater than that of the electric chair) we yet hear him actually "glorying in the cross" (Galatians 6:14). Now why? Is it not because the cross experience transforms the ordinary man into a character of moral radiance and spiritual beauty? By "death of the old man" the Christian may now "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24).

In nature the pearl illustrates this. It is difficult to think of anything more ordinary than an oyster. Outwardly, it is not attractive and appears destined to a calm and uneventful history. If, however, while the shell is opened for food, a tiny speck of foreign matter or perhaps a small sea creature should enter the opened shell, a strange and thrilling drama begins.

The oyster seeks to remedy the irritating intruder by covering it with layer upon layer of lime and nacre, like coats of varnish, which continue to cover and harden, cover and harden, until at last, it develops into an elegant pearl, a gem of magnificent beauty and charm!

Likewise, God, through the pain of spiritual crucifixion transforms a dark cheerless spirit into one of magnificent loveliness. Oh, the magnificent power of the cross!

"O cross that liftest up my head
I dare not ask to fly from thee,
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red!
Life that shall endless be!"

2. The Magnificence of Divine Care:

Facing death a dear Christian man once asked his loved ones this question. "After I see Jesus, do you know who next I want to see?" They could not say. "Why my guardian angel," he exclaimed!

And why not, dear reader, seeing that God in His magnificent care not only numbers the very hairs of our head, but has stationed these heavenly guards to protect and guide us across life's way.

These angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Hebrews 1:14). They are mentioned almost three hundred times in the sixty-six books of the Bible. The good angels are holy and sinless, mighty and powerful, having supernatural strength. In fact, they "excel in strength" (Psalm 103:20). One angel by himself smote 185,000 Assyrians in one night (2 Kings 19:35). One rolled away the stone from the sepulcher of Jesus to let the women see the empty tomb (St. Matthew 28:2).

When Peter was in prison, it was an angel who came to escort him to freedom (Acts 12). While Daniel was in the lion's den he declared, "My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths" (Daniel 6:22). Scriptures indicate they not only surround the Throne of God, eagerly awaiting His commands, but are rather constantly traveling back and forth from heaven to earth. They are faster than the speed of light. True, they are invisible to the physical eye, but they are really there!

How thrilling to know that these heavenly couriers, though unseen, are ever ready to aid the struggling distraught pilgrim in his journey homeward. This seems to be their chief function and glory on earth. We shall learn more about the angels as we delightfully mingle among them in God's exciting tomorrows.

3. The Magnificence of the City:

When the apostle John was given the privilege of a few glimpses inside the Heavenly City, he was overcome by its magnificence and splendor. His words failed him as he attempted to describe its glories and beauty.

Heaven's size is magnificent. The following from Dr. A. W. Criswell gives us some idea of its proportions. "It is a city as though it began in Maine and went all the way down to Florida. It is so vast in its length, its breadth and its height that the City would cover all of Ireland, all of Great Britain, all of France, all of Spain, all of Germany, all of Austria, all of Italy, all of European

Turkey and half of European Russia. 1,500 miles one way, 1,500 miles the other way, and 1,500 miles upward. Street upon street and story upon story, the beautiful, golden municipality of God."

Heaven's beauty is magnificent. One evening a little girl, walking hand in hand with her father, looked up at the brilliant shining stars in the night sky. With an enraptured sigh she said, "Heaven must be beautiful!" When her father asked her why she thought so, she said, "Cause the light coming through the cracks in the floor is so pretty."

After seeing those same stars or viewing a gorgeous sunset we all know how the little girl felt. Heaven must be beautiful beyond our fondest dreams! "The glory of God's brightness enveloped it like an unclouded halo, permeates it, and radiates through it and from it so that there is not a dark or obscure place about it" (J. A. Seiss). "As all the hues of the rainbow are in the sun's rays, so all the hues of the twelve foundation stones are combined in the jasper wall" (J. E. Greenhough). God loves color and things beautiful. Imagine all the rays of the spectrum blended together in dazzling beauty! This is heaven!

Heaven's occupations are magnificent. The redeemed "will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalms 23:6). It will not, of course, be a place of eternal idleness. As Adam was given responsibility over the earth so the redeemed will actively serve God in the glory world. Service, there, however, will be unhampered by the restrictions of mortal flesh. In the glorified state each saint will have every power developed, every capability increased. With exhaustless energies and abounding life these perfected immortals will "Know as they are known" (1 Corinthians 13:12). They will rule and reign with Christ (see St. Luke 19:12-27). Now they will explore the mysteries of the universe. Is there life on other planets? We do not know. Scientists know our earth is but a tiny spot in God's great universe. The moon, our nearest neighbor, is 240,000 miles away. Mars, the next closest is about 3 million miles away. Saturn, 50 million miles; Neptune, is calculated over 2.5 billion miles beyond the sun. Beyond this--infinity! The nearest known star is 276,000 times as far away as the sun (25 trillion miles). What is out there? Can we imagine God making millions upon millions of starry worlds for no purpose? This will all be investigated and understood by the saints some glorious day as they delight themselves in the treasures of God's grand University.

Praise God for His amazing salvation. Praise God for His magnificent cross; His magnificent care, and His magnificent city. Praise God too that we can get in on it all!

O' Beloved Reader, do not run from God's wonderful Savior. Come to Him, if you are not spiritually reborn. Come, now! Jesus really loves you.

In the story of the Holy War, John Bunyan wrote, I think, the most beautiful words ever written, aside from the Bible itself:

"The Prince (Jesus) spoke kindly to Mansoul (anyone), saying: (suppose, dear reader, you imagine yourself as Mansoul)

I have loved thee, Mansoul: I bought thee with my blood, and stood by thee when thou wert unfaithful. Yes--I did, though thou didst not understand. It was I who made your way dark and

bitter after thou didst sin...it was I who put Mr. Godly-Fear to work--it was I who stirred up your will and your conscience--it was I who made you seek me, and in finding Me, you found your own happiness. Nothing can hurt thee but sin... Nothing can grieve Me but sin... Nothing can make thee fall before thy foes but sin...

Beware of sin, my Mansoul.

I will pray for thee...I will fight for thee. I have taught thee to watch, to fight, to pray; now I command thee to believe that my love is constant toward thee.

Oh my Mansoul, how I have set my heart, my love upon thee. Show me thy love--and hold fast--until I take thee to my Father's kingdom where there is no sorrow--no grief--no pain--Where thou shalt never be afraid again."

Jesus Christ is able and ready to save. Yes, right now. He is never "pushy." He only enters the heart door that is opened to Him.

He wants to do something beautiful with your life now and forever.

Will you let Him?

Well?

* * * * *

THE END