

Prayer Requests and Announcements

11 December 2022

Sermon Title: Why The Church Matters, Part 2

Scripture: Ephesians 3:20, 21

PRAYER REQUESTS

Emma Wages: Traveling overseas and due to return next Sunday (18th)

Dot Catchot: Dot is 92 and her health is weakening.

Aaron Ashcraft: He is having some trouble with breathing and other issues.

Recent Baptisms: Don Godkin, Brennen and Brannan Perry were recently immersed into Christ.

Others:

Ongoing Prayers

Susan Flurry	Mike Kenney	Ingelise Myrick	Naomi Waitrous
Maxine Robinson	Pete Hankins	Sue Watley	Frieda Wilson
Darlene Hannah	Ashley McGriff	Darrell McCormick	Charlotte Rashun
Paul Myrick	Maxine Robinson	Gerardo Ranario	Jesse and Sharon Owens
Mike Inabinette	Heath Smith	Earl and Linda Kenney	

A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead

Of all that that we could ever give and know that we've done good doing so, never give "up"

"This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him." (2 Timothy 2:11, 12a)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / OTHER

"For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face"

Psalms 11:7, ESV

“Paul’s claim [was] that the message he preached was the authentic gospel of Christ. It is this: two things on which Paul pre-eminently insisted - that salvation was provided by God’s grace and that faith was the means by which men appropriated it.” – F.F. Bruce

Am I Saved or Lost?

(Adapted from an article written by Guy N. Woods)

That is surely life’s most momentous question. To be lost in the darkness of the night on unfamiliar streets in a strange city, in a storm adrift at sea, or in a small plane in deep fog and without instruments are terrifying experiences.

To be lost in sin and under eternal condemnation through endless ages is immeasurably worse. How may salvation be obtained? Unregenerate man cannot save himself. If he is saved at all, God must do it (John 3:16; Romans 5:8–11; 1 Timothy 1:15). On the other hand, there is a sense in which he must save himself (Matthew 7:21; Acts 2:40; 1 John 2:4). With so many Bible affirmations of human responsibility, it is strange that some teach that there is nothing one does, or can do, in achieving acceptance before God. To refuse conditions God made precedent to salvation is as fatal as attempting to do what only God can do in saving us. Consider carefully, therefore, the following.

The principle of salvation is grace— God’s unmerited favor. Man’s guilt has been irrefutably established (John 3:18). It is therefore impossible to ask for annulment on grounds the sentence is incompatible with evidence. It is impossible to argue for mitigation of sentence alleging that the sentence is too severe; the Judge can only do right (Genesis 18:26). A plea of merit based on moral worth is unavailing. Salvation can neither be earned nor purchased through good works.

The motive of salvation is immeasurable love: “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). The golden text of the Bible reveals that God “so loved the world” (John 3:16). God is immeasurable on any scale, it follows that His love is also immeasurable! While we might measure our love by the benefit we derive from such love, God’s love is calculated by how much others benefit (cf., 2 Corinthians 8:9)!

The agent of salvation is the blood shed at Calvary, without which there would be no forgiveness (Hebrews 10:1–4). Here alone is the cleansing fountain, the precious laver where the obedient are made clean from all sin. The Holy Spirit’s work through the Scriptures makes known our guilt and the means by which we are to be cleansed (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:8–13; 2 Timothy 3:16–17).

The power by which salvation comes is the gospel (Romans 1:16). No instance exists of any being saved in the Christian age (Acts 2:1–47) independent of the gospel (Mark 16:15; 1 Corinthians 1:21). It must be heard, believed, and obeyed. The place of salvation is in the church (Ephesians 3:21). God has always designated a place where His blessings are available. Salvation from the flood was in the ark (1 Peter 3:20); deliverance from the plague was only within sight of the brazen serpent (Numbers 21:4–9); deliverance from the death of the firstborn in Egypt was only behind blood-sprinkled doors (Exodus 12:21–28). Salvation is only in the body of Christ— the church (Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 1:19–23). Here alone is divine deliverance from the guilt, power, and presence of sin. To the church—the one about which we read in the Bible—the Lord adds all who submit to His will (Acts 2:47). Saved or lost? Consider carefully.

A Note from your Preacher

I made some slight changes in arrangement and some minor adjustments in content in the above article originally written long ago by brother Woods. Although I believe if he were alive today he would not have minded that I adapted it to fit our Newsletter and knowing the adjustments in no way affected the truth He taught, I feel that he deserves to be recognized as one of the best evangelists of the last century.