



# THE CHALLENGER

Our WEB address: [thehourofgraceandpower.org](http://thehourofgraceandpower.org)

Vol. 38 No. 1

PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

January 2009

## Doctrine of Salvation

BY THE EDITOR

**S**ALVATION is defined as the program of God to deliver and restore His creation from the effects of sin. It was initiated by God before the world began and is to be consummated in His glorification of the creature in the new heaven and new earth. This great salvation is properly named, for there is nothing greater in all the universe than this inclusive word of all the doctrines declared in the Bible. Not too many people comprehend this. Too often it is confined to what takes place in the initial

experience of conversion. God's perfect salvation covers the past, includes the present, and embraces the future. This inclusive word covers eternity, before the measurement of time and continues after time is no more.

**“How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?”** Hebrews 2:3

This basic doctrine represents the supreme mission of God sending His Son to a cursed world.

Christ did not leave the battlement of heaven (where He is the Prince of Glory) to become a teacher or a model for our obedience, nor as a martyr willing to die for truths and principles He believed. According to His own declaration, He *came to seek and save those who were lost*. (Luke 19:10) He was willing to discard His garment of glory for the robe of our humility. Out of the ivory palaces into a world of woe came the Savior to rescue sinners. (I Timothy 1:15) “You shall call His Name Jesus; for he shall save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). God's grace provided heaven's best for the world's worst. Salvation contains the only divinely provided remedy for sin. Without such a provision, the sinner is helpless, hopeless, doomed, and damned. There is only one escape from sin's full reward in hell. We must depend upon Christ's sacrifice on the cross in our deserved place. “There is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

### Its Authorship

Salvation antedates creation, being conceived by God in the dateless past. It came to us according to His purpose. (Ephesians 3:11, II Timothy 1:9, Titus 1:1,2) It is eternal, realizing that God is the source or origin. “But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “According as he hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Ephesians 1:4). “Who verily foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you” (I Peter 1:20).

God's breath was used in creation. He spoke and it was done. But when it came to our great salvation, He came down to us to give the precious blood of His Son. We were purchased by His blood when He died on that cross to pay the penalty for our sin.

(Acts 20:28) He arose from the grave with power and glory for our justification. The channel of salvation comes our way through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus. (Acts 20:21) “What must I do to be saved? . . . Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved” (Acts 16:30,31).

### Universality and Duration

“God so loved the world” (John 3:16). Through the finished work of His Son, He wills all men to be saved. (I Timothy 2:4-6, 4:10; I John 2:2, 4:14) God still tells me today to preach and teach the gospel to every creature. Our clear message is that Christ died for sinners, was buried and rose again (I Corinthians 15:1-4). We dare not eliminate the total depravity of man which God calls sin. Friend, if Christ died for sinners, we must become an acknowledged one before He can do anything for us. This is the reason He demands repentance prior to our faith. (Luke 13:3,5) A good Bible demonstration of this action of turning from sin is found in Acts 26:18. Will the Spirit of God reveal personal sin to one who refuses to be honest about his declared position revealed in the Bible? Will the Holy Spirit reveal the resurrected Christ to an unrepentant sinner? Will God operate within a life who wants only a Christ for personal benefit instead of God's glory? Is it possible to claim salvation independent of recognizing and moving under His absolute authority? It was the LORD Jesus Christ whom Paul informed the jailer he must believe in. (Acts 16:30,31)

Christ is the provider of an unceasing, eternal salvation. (Hebrews 5:9, 9:12)

(continued on page 2)

## Doctrine of Salvation (continued from page 1)

Through God's wondrous grace, the Savior imparts eternal life to all He saves. (John 10:28) Friend, are you willing to admit your sins before a holy God? Will you accept the finished work of Christ in your behalf? Talk to the Lord in prayer about your sin. Talk to Jesus Christ, announcing your trust in His promise of forgiveness and meeting all your needs as you begin to serve Him. (Romans 10:13, Philippians 4:19, Hebrews 7:25) Everlasting life includes all of God's action until in His presence in the New Jerusalem (heaven). What can you do? Nothing but trust in God to do it all.

Salvation is not some *thing* but SOMEONE. There is no other way God can deliver sinners from their sin, save through the sacrifice and mediation of His Son. He declared this fact many times in His earthly sojourn, "No man comes to the Father except by me" (John 14:6). The sinner can do nothing to please a holy God. (Ephesians 2:8-10) The work has already been done. Everything the Father demanded of us sinful mortals has been provided in His Son.

About 2:00 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon, I received an urgent phone call from a deacon's wife in my Michigan pastorate. She told me that her next door neighbor was asking her to take and care for her children. (This indicated the neighbor lady's sad mental state.) Could I come to her house and talk to both of them? I immediately headed in that direction; and upon my arrival, the mother told me a sad story. She had gone to a Baptist church that morning, which, by the way, was a New Testament church, the finest in my community. She went forward at the invitation and was counseled by the pastor. In the midst of their conversation the pastor's wife called him to hurry for they would be late for dinner. The pastor departed immediately, leaving this troubled woman in frustration. I did not respond to her disappointment but, with my Bible open, I did go over God's plan of salvation. I concluded by telling her that on the cross Christ uttered the words, IT IS FINISHED. All the work of salvation had already been accomplished and all she was left to do was accept the finished work of Christ in her personal behalf. Never shall I forget her next course of action. She got up from her chair and going to her neighbor across the room, began shaking her, saying, "Why didn't you tell me this sooner? I did not know that all the work has already been done. Why didn't you tell me?" Then and there, the Spirit of God revealed this Truth to her heart and mind. What a difference it made in that woman's life.

*Preacher Porter, do you declare that God in grace has already provided for my eternal salvation?* It's more than what a preacher says. God had plainly declared this Truth in His Word. Do you believe it, or refuse His gift of eternal life? Heaven or hell is involved.

## The Medes . . . Are Coming (continued from page 4)

prospered, because of the exercise of the spread of the gospel message, so did our government. Sometime, however, along our short history as a nation, certain men began to creep into our government — unawares. These were men who no longer wanted to coexist with religious freedom; these were men who despised capitalism, free enterprise, or freedom for all people. These were men who held to political belief systems in opposition to ours. One of the most profound and diabolical philosophical systems of rule came from a man named Karl Marx. One need not dig too deeply to know what he did to his own nation, as well as many other nations around the world. That includes today. Marxism essentially believes in the redistribution of all wealth (take from those who have worked hard and benefited from their work, and give it to those who won't work

(continued next column)

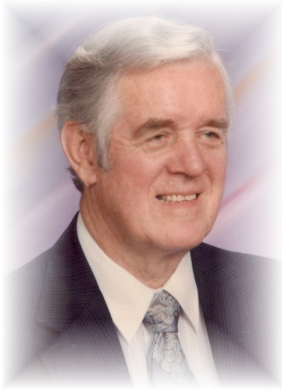
or whom the government determines is at an unfair disadvantage); that the states ultimately will own everything — properties, businesses, etc., with the people owning nothing; and dictates that the people are basically slaves of the State. It is Socialism. It destroys freedom and capitalism. It destroys incentive. Its universal health care does not look out for the people of the nation, especially if you should become very sick or disabled to the point where you cannot be a productive part of the work force or society. Abortion and euthanasia are essential facts of Socialism's progressiveness. The State is all important: the people just produce for the State. Let's be clear here and now: there are people in high places of our government, or trying to get to these high places, who are Marxists. Socialists. They want to expand government into every aspect of your life and the lives of businesses and medicine and education — and even religion. One by one they have snuck into various offices of our government. They occupy places of great power and influence. They will lie at the drop of a hat about anything in order to complete their destruction of what this country was founded upon. They are more than dangerous and are not out for our good. And what is most sad is that we believe their lies and vote them into office. For your benefit and mine, and our children, be aware, "The Socialists are coming! The Socialists are Coming!" A few of us are shouting it. We can but pray that more than a few are listening. It may already be too late. More importantly, realize that this handwriting on the wall is the same as in Babylon's day: Judgment on this nation is not a warning; it could be imminent. Earnestly pray, but be prepared.

### From Box 400

The inmates and brothers through Christ Jesus want to thank you for blessing us with whatever literature you may provide for us to help us through the trials and tribulations we are going through.

*—a prisoner (NC)*

## Personal Word



In Sebastian, Florida, I live in a nice home at a curve in the road. I awakened to discover my mailbox once again strewn across my lawn. Within an hour or so a van pulled up to my front door. The man was a retired policeman from the North. He was driving behind the car that took off my mailbox. He followed that driver home, took his license number and location, and called the police who came straight to see me. With my permission he was going to see the hit and run driver. I assured him of my desire to have him faced with the law. Later a woman called me on the phone greatly disturbed about the matter. She was the mother and insisted

upon repairing my mailbox and the lawn. Evidently her son was already in trouble with the law. While her husband was working on my mailbox she again asked my name and reported my voice sounded familiar. She asked me if I had ever been on the radio; I assured her I was. Then she asked if I had produced cassettes. Upon my confirmation, she told of hearing me many times on cassettes while driving a truck cross-country in Texas. She picked up our cassettes from a box of free cassettes at a truck stop. She rejoiced to tell how much she had learned from the Bible in our messages. One never knows how far the Word will go when we send it forth in dependence of the Holy Spirit. Let's keep heralding it forth!

### Our Audio Ministry

I still greatly miss our radio ministry, but I am convinced that we stopped at the right time. I did so because of the great physical pressure from such a pressing schedule. Of course, I am enjoying visiting with my friends by means of our CDs and cassettes, which are mailed periodically. (You can join with us.) Most of these chats can be heard via our web-site on the Internet. Our subject remains the same through these mediums. Pray as many precious hearts learn many new biblical Truths.

### A New Year

*Ho hum! It's just another one. I wonder what it holds for me?* The most thrilling truth is the assurance that God holds everything for me. Age has no bearing upon His person or performance. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) "For I am the Lord, I change not . . ." (Malachi 3:6). Here is glorious news for 2009. We read His Word without any possibility of His failure to keep His promises.

Our personal responsibility is to recognize the conditions for fulfillment of them. "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you" (Isaiah 26:3). No hope of peace is available for those who continue in sin. "There is no peace, says my God, to the wicked" (Isaiah 57:21). Friend, I already know your happenings *if* in the new year you meet God's conditions. He will pour out immeasurable blessings your way. Obedience is no problem when in submission to the will of God. Paul has already informed us of ability to do God's bidding through the strength of Christ Who reigns within. (Philippians 4:13) Remember the song we used to sing — "trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey"?

The task entrusted to us as God's children remains the same. We are to declare the gospel to the ends of the earth. Our responsibility includes every creature. We are to teach the Word to the saints. This is the ministry those of us with The Hour of Grace and Power will continue to perform in the new year. WHY NOT JOIN WITH US? Here is God's promise: "So shall My word be that goes forth out of my mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please . . ." (Isaiah 55:11).

### A New Series in *The Challenger*

You have heard or read my convictions about understanding biblical terms if we are to comprehend what God has provided for us in grace. He has used choice words

in revealing His glorious salvation through the Scriptures. (This is one of the most helpful benefits in our Bible Study Course — terms are defined. This course was written entirely independent of me. Upon completion you will understand the meaning of *repentance, faith, regeneration, sanctification, adoption, prayer, and glorification.*)

On page one in this issue, with the introduction of the "Doctrine of Salvation," I will share with you definitions of biblical terminology. At times, other themes or subject matter will be inserted.

### Gay Marriages

If you remove the authority of God as revealed in His Word, any conclusion or action is legitimate to those desiring such liberty. "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

No such action as gay marriage is in the Bible. Not once is it mentioned. The Bible defines homosexual behavior as "dishonorable, shameless, and contrary to nature" (Romans 1:26,27). This same book declares marriage to "be held in honor" (Hebrews 13:4). Marriage does not produce shame and is not contrary to nature. There is no homosexual marriage in the eyes of God, and it should not be in the eyes of His people no matter what any of the states of our nation may say! We have no right or privilege to change the Law of God. In both the Old and New Testament, God clearly denounces such abominable relationship. Under the Mosaic law it meant death. In the New Testament it is the cause for God abandoning people, turning them over to vile affections. (Romans 1:24,26,28) God tells us why He takes such action. It was their ungodliness, rejecting God's eternal power and His authority. They became vain in their imaginations, changing the glory of God and worshipping themselves, His creatures. They forfeit God's love and are under His wrath. But, of course, they can have the same hope as all of us. Upon repentance and faith in the finished work of Christ in their behalf, they can be washed clean by the blood of Christ and declared righteous in the sight of God (justification). No longer, however, will they continue in their sins. I John 3:5-10)

FROM THE DESK OF . . . DR. MICHAEL ECCLESTON

www.heritagebaptistchurchtitusville.org

HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH  
TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

PART I

## ***THE MEDES AND PERSIANS ARE COMING! THE MEDES AND PERSIANS ARE COMING!***

It is early into the evening. Neighbors are increasingly leaving their rooftops to retire for the night. Inside Jude's simple and modest eastern home the light is dim and decreasing rapidly. Jude has earnestly been contemplating writing to the brethren concerning the important doctrines surrounding salvation. The attacks on the truths of the gospel were many and varied. But it is during this time that the Holy Spirit compels him to write otherwise. So, under divine inspiration and with his lamp full with fresh oil, Jude dips his pen into the ink well, and in the quiet solitude of fellowship and guidance of the Holy Spirit, writes . . .

***"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."***

***"For there are certain men crept in unawares . . ."*** (Jude 3,4a).

The title is appropriate despite the fact 2500 plus years have transpired since they were recorded. Babylon is the head of gold in the prophetic revelation given to Daniel in the second chapter of the book given to his name. The Babylonians were the first world ruling power as well. Between the time of the prophecy and the fifth chapter of Daniel, approximately 55 years have passed. It was clear in the prophecy that Babylon would be replaced by another world power, whose holdings would be greater than Babylon's ever were. Strangely but predictably, in the passage of time, if the prophecy or promise did not happen quickly, men tend to ignore, forget, or reject it. Ecclesiastes 8:11, accurately states:

***"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."***

Belshazzar is in charge as his father, Nabonidus, is off somewhere with his building projects. Belshazzar throws a party, a big party, and as he does so, he desecrates the holy vessels stolen from the temple in Jerusalem. Not known as a respecter of any religion or artifact taken from those nations that the Babylonians conquered, the king was just doing what Babylon had always done. Their partying went into excesses. They were having their usual good time. It was great to be the leader of the world and to be feared by others. That they were a hated power did not matter. They were at the top. The true and living God was legislated, ruled, and ridiculed out of their lives. Only the false gods were permitted, and there were thousands of them.

It is at this point in Daniel 5 that God directly intervenes with the handwriting on the wall. It was not a warning to Belshazzar and Babylon; it was a notification of judgment on Babylon. Their days were numbered as a ruling power. The scales of justice are leaning to bring swift and complete judgment upon them. Suddenly, they feel terror unlike anything that they have ever experienced before. The results would be catastrophic. Someone that night surely cried out, probably more than once, "The Medes and Persians are coming! The Medes and Persians are coming!" But if they did, few to any were listening.

By way of application, the United States of America was founded by God-fearing people. They were not all born-again believers. Our laws were written with God in mind and were biblical in purpose. Freedom of religion was guaranteed. There was no such thing as freedom *from* religion. As freedom

(continued on page 2)

## **THE CHALLENGER** **Dwight Porter, D.D., Editor**

Published monthly by  
***The Hour of Grace  
and Power, Inc.***

Editorial & General offices  
located at 862 Barber Street  
Sebastian, FL 32958-4825

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to  
***THE CHALLENGER***  
PO Box 400  
Roseland, FL 32957-0400

Without cost or obligation, this  
publication will be sent to you monthly.  
Extra copies are available.

**Address *The Challenger* mail to:**  
PO Box 400  
Roseland, FL 32957-0400

**WE DEPEND 100 PERCENT UPON  
the gifts received from those  
who receive spiritual benefit  
from our ministry. Make check  
or money orders payable to  
THE HOUR OF GRACE AND POWER.**

### **OUR OPERATION**

We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

**~ WEB SITE ~**  
**thehourofgraceandpower.org**

☆ ☆ ☆

***"Be you steadfast, unmovable, always  
abounding in the work of the Lord . . .  
You know your labor is not in vain  
in the Lord" | Corinthians 15:58***

☆ ☆ ☆

**~ AVAILABLE ~**  
Bible Study Course  
Nine Lessons • Certificate  
Literature Sheet – Features  
75 Printed Messages  
CDs and Cassettes Mailed Regularly  
(NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATION)