
Are You Saved

Radio Message by Dwight Porter

What do you mean, am I saved? Saved from what? Am I lost or in need of rescue? I lived upon this earth and attended church for years and have never heard that term. Why should I listen to what you have to say about such a strange and foreign expression?

The word, "SAVED" did not originate with me. Out of the pages of the Sacred Book it sounds fourth: for men everywhere are in desperate need of hearing it. If you have been uninformed about this Scriptural word, you have been in the wrong church. If you listen to your usual Sunday TV religious program, and have missed hearing this word, you are listening to the wrong program. Why is it that so many completely ignore this Biblical term? The answer is easy to comprehend. Only lost people can be saved. Only helpless people can be rescued. To need Salvation is to admit our total inability to rescue ourselves from certain destruction. Ah, there is the real issue. Just where we are? If under God's wrath and anger, judgment will be certain and sure.

Sinner's Condition

Under God's judgment we are all guilty and condemned. Why refuse to acknowledge it? So few will, and this is the reason we have little teaching of the doctrine of total depravity, that leaves humans damned for all eternity without one ray of hope left in personal ability to help ourselves. Our condition is plainly stated in the Bible. Will you hear it or read it?

"Because that, when they knew God they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful: but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things" Romans 1:21-23. This is what Adam brought into the human race through his deliberate refusal to be under God's authority. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" Romans 5:12. In this same chapter (1) you read about the perversion of homosexuality of both men and women.

Note our continuing action. "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness; maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whispers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" Romans 1:25, 28-32.

God's Wrath

Is there any reason to doubt the wrath of God upon sinners? God's love for the sinner is only in His Son. No sinner has any benefit of the same until he repents and trusts in the work of Jesus Christ in his eternal behalf. The wrath of God is upon the sinner here and now, today. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" John 3:36. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and

unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" Romans 1:18.

Having been consumed with the love of God, we have forgotten His anger and wrath against sin. The Bible is filled with it. Have you noted God's wrath against the disobedient Children of Israel? "And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless" Ex. 22:24. "And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord: and the Lord heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the Lord burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp" Num. 11:1.

"And the Lord's anger was kindled the same time, and he swore, saying, "Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I swore unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me: And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generations, that had done evil in their sight of the Lord was consumed" Num. 32:10,11,13. If we forsake God, we know the consequences. "And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and provoked the Lord to anger" Judges 2:12. In anger God slays people. "And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God." II Sam. 6:7.

Appeal to Many

Are you still reading? Are you the type of person who wants to hear only God's Love? Then you will never know God as He really is. The placid, complacent average Christian does not want to hear of a God of wrath and vengeance. Someway if they fail to realize Him as such, it makes their disregard for His Word not to important. We all are headed for hell because our earthly parents refused to hear and heed God's warnings about the consequence of our actions. This habitual exercise continues today within and without the organized church. We have a generation of young people coming along independent of the fear of the Lord. They are patterning their life-style after the filth of TV and Hollywood, despite the separation that God clearly demands from the world. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" I John 2:15,16. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God" Romans 12:2.

The plain directives of the Bible mean little to most people. The pulpits of our land will answer to God for such deplorable preaching and teaching. No cry today for Repentance and separation. We are governed by the atheistic world around us. How can we be this way when God's Word is so plain about this matter of living Godly in Christ Jesus? It is easy when we have no God of Wrath, no fire in Hell and a God of love, and never gets angry and responds to evil deeds.

Friend, you need to be saved because you are in a helpless and damnable state. You need to be SAVED. (There is that word again!) "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" Romans 10:13. The Philippian Jailer used this term in his repentance before God. As a lost man, he was crying out for direction and received it Note the terminology. "Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be SAVED? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be SAVED, and thy house" Acts 16:29-31. "Much more then being now justified by his blood, we shall be SAVED from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" Romans 5:9, 10.

Saved from What?

Take a good look at the consequence of sin prior to its entering Adam and Eve. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eateth thereof thou shalt surely die" Gen. 2:17. We know it meant Spiritual death because of their abandonment from God. "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life" Gen. 3:19.

We die and go to Hell for our sins. "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die" Ezek. 18:4. We answer to God for our own works. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS" Rev. 20:12, 13.

Deal with Sin

We will face our sin prior to meeting the Savior. In fact we need no Divine assistance until the Holy Spirit reveals our actual condition before a Holy God. We must be as sinful as God says we are, not according to our personal measurement of mistakes and weaknesses. The first realization of our sin is being warned about its consequences. "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul" Ezek. 33:8, 9. We are admonished to speak out clearly and specifically against sin, and reveal God's terrible wrath against it. Is it possible for the Holy Son of God to give ungodly, unrepentant sinners to His Holy Father? "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" John 6:37.

With the superficial "easy believism" of our day, few people have gotten beyond the exercise of just accepting Christ; for that is about all that is being taught. Despite Christ's demand of Repentance (Luke 13:3, 5) and the same by the Apostles and especially Paul, under Divine Inspiration, it is neglected by the majority of Christendom. Why? Repentance demands the scathing denunciation of sin with our sin before dealing with the Savior, then we become hopeless and helpless in our ability to do anything. (Eph. 2:8, 9)

"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understanding the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus is behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" Luke 24:45-48.

"And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptation, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, REPENTANCE toward God, and FAITH toward our Lord Jesus Christ" Acts 20:18-21.

Many years ago, I learned by observation that people, who know nothing of genuine Repentance, have a tolerance of sin in their lives. The reason, being that sin had not been made offensive to them by the Holy Spirit. They have not faced the seriousness of their condition before a Holy God. "And when He (The Holy Spirit who has arrived) is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" John 16:6.

Why so Difficult?

Why do we have so many people professing to be saved when they are not under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ? What is our explanation for so much hypocrisy among so-called Christians? We have a present day generation that fits the picture of ancient Israel. "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men" Isaiah 29:13. I believe the main answer to these questions lie in the motivation of most people to get something for themselves rather than to fulfill the plan and purpose of the God of the Universe. They are not willing to be controlled by an outside person. It is difficult for them to believe facts on the outside of them. Facts that they had nothing to do with in their provision. They will not depend upon an outside force (The Holy Spirit) to enter their lives and crown the Lord Jesus and God the Father as king of their lives. They still cry out as Israel of old "We have no king but Caesar" John 19:15. They are not willing to be separated from their sins. They desire a prolonged season of pleasure produced by sin. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" Heb. 11:25.

To believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour demands a total inability to do that which God demands of us. We depend upon His meeting all the demands of the Righteous Ruler of all creation. We rest upon His faithful work in our eternal behalf. "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe; for there is no difference" Romans 3:22. "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" Gal. 2:16.

Are you the sinner God says you are in the Bible? Or are you what you want to think you are? Honesty is a prerequisite in repentance and faith. You can do neither without Divine intervention; for both actions are by the enabling work for the Holy Spirit and are gifts from God. A willingness to be operated upon brings that declarations and standards of God within reach of your heart and life. Are you clean in the sight of a Holy God? Your conscience is to be void of offense. Only rebellion and resistance will produce guilt. "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men" Acts 24:16.

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