

~SALVATION~

4 Things We Often Forget

Acts 4:12

"Salvation" is a lovely word in the Bible which contains the wondrous story of God's great work in behalf of man. The New Testament word *salvation* combines in it many separate works of God for believing sinners, such as propitiation, justification, imputation, regeneration, sanctification, redemption, and glorification. It is a broad term including every divine undertaking for the believer from his deliverance from the penalty of sin unto his final presentation in glory—conformed to the image of Christ.

I. SALVATION IS A BIBLICAL TERM

The term *salvation* is found about forty-five times in the New Testament and denotes deliverance. When our Lord was born, the angel said, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a SAVIOUR, which is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11).

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to SAVE that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10). After Pentecost Peter said, "Neither is there SALVATION in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be SAVED" (Acts 4:12). Man's greatest need is salvation and the Lord Jesus Christ is the one and only Saviour.

II. SALVATION IS A BIG THING

Salvation is the biggest thing in the world because of what it cost. ". . . The Son of man came . . . to give His life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). "In whom we have redemption through His blood . . ." (Eph. 1:7).

Salvation is the biggest thing in the world because of what it removes. ". . . Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Salvation is the biggest thing in the world because of what it brings: PARDON, PEACE, PURITY, PRIVILEGE, PROVISION, PROTECTION, and PRESERVATION.

III. SALVATION IS THE BEST THING

Salvation is the best thing because it delivers us from death (Eph. 2:1), darkness (1 Pet. 2:9), defeat (2 Cor. 2:14), the devil (1 John 5:18), and damnation (1 Thess. 5:9).

What could be better than being redeemed by God (Eph. 1:7), being a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17), with no condemnation (Rom. 8:1), made

accepted in the Beloved (Eph. 1:6), with an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4), possessing every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3).

"beneficiary"

IV. SALVATION IS A BENEFICIAL THING

What a tremendous blessing it is to get alone in a quiet place with the Lord and review the gracious ways in which God has blessed us. The

benefits of salvation are boundless. His past is cancelled, his heart is changed, his joy is complete, his life is controlled, his spirit is constrained, his Saviour is coming, his destiny is certain, etc.

Ps. 103

Contemplation of our benefits in Christ will cause us to respond in a burst of praise like David in the 103rd Psalm: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." David blessed the Lord for the benefits of:

✓ REMISSION—"Who FORGIVETH all thine iniquities" (vs. 3).

Forgiveness is the first benefit needed and bestowed.

✓ RESTORATION—"Who HEALETH all thy diseases" (vs. 3). The Lord is not only our Pardoner, He is our Physician. He is the healer of our bodies (James 5:13-15) and our souls (Psalm 23:3).

✓ PRESERVATION—"Who REDEEMETH thy life from destruction" (vs. 3). As a shepherd, he had been delivered from wild beasts, as a soldier from the wretched sword of Goliath, and as a singer from the wrathful javelin of King Saul. David could bless the Lord Who lifted him "up from the gates of death" (Ps. 9:13).

✓ ELEVATION—"Who CROWNETH thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies" (vs. 4). God's lovingkindness and tender mercies have made us "kings and priests unto our God and his Father" (Rev. 1:6). What elevation! David said, "Bless the Lord, O my soul" and John cried "to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever."

✓ SATISFACTION—"Who SATISFIETH thy mouth with good things" (vs. 5). The Psalmist had been "abundantly satisfied" with the fatness of God's house (Ps. 36:8) and could say "He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness" (Ps. 107:9). U¹