

COME UNTO ME

by

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CHAPTER FOUR

SAVED BY A LOOK

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else (Isaiah 45:22).

The ages have definitely taught all of us that it is the very height of folly for men to lose themselves in earthly trifles as the source of true happiness. Yet, there are too many, even in this enlightened age, who spend their days in fruitless chasing after the will-o'-the-wisps of this world's blandishments.

One expects it from the flesh, another from business and wealth, another from honor and fame, another from play-pretties and play-parties, another from drink, another from gambling, another from lust.

There are some, higher of mind, loftier of heart, who seek satisfaction in the arts, in music, in the theater, in literature, in paintings. But God proclaims the eternal folly of such a course, when He cries to all of us, **“How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? . . . Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.”**

First, there is *A Proclamation of Guilt*. **“Look unto me . . .”**

The subjects of this mighty invitation are the miserable, the wretched, those who need salvation. Need I go into detail? But let us review the facts. That all men are in a state to render salvation necessary is stated by the Scriptures. God has promulgated this law. It requires obedience. The transgressor of it is exposed to everlasting punishment.

The testimony of God's Word is that man has ruined himself by his sins. We read, **“How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water.”**

“The heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live.”

“The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy.”

This state of sinful wretchedness is borne out by observation. Look at the character and conduct of people about you, wherever you will, under whatever circumstances you choose. You will find only one general characteristic. There are all sorts of stations, all degrees of rank, of wealth, of education; but all are immersed in sinful guilt, all are universally exposed to danger. There are undoubtedly various shades of moral excellence, or of moral delinquency; but in every one there is a hatred toward God.

Even those actions which seem most excellent too often proceed from motives that must be hateful to a God of perfect purity. There is undoubtedly much deserving of commendation, much of general propriety, much of earthly uprightness of conduct, but to the chiefest of all duties, rendering to God the universal, the supreme homage of the heart, there is nothing but universal failure.

Such a condition of the race of men is infinitely deplorable and dangerous.

- There is danger in insolvency.
- There is danger in war.
- There is danger in devastating epidemics and mortal diseases.
- There is danger in civil imprisonment, in governmental condemnation, in executed death.
- There is danger in conflagrations, in explosions, in earthquakes, in droughts, in dire famines.

There is no peril, no curse, no condemnation, to be compared with the fatal state of the sinner, upon whom the wrath of God will abide forever, unless he is saved by sovereign grace.

The second thought in this superlative text is *A Provision of Grace*. “**Look unto Me.**”

God Himself, the offended Sovereign—how strange! Yet the God of mercy, the God of the Covenant, has provided a way of escape through the atoning sacrifice, through the bleeding oblation of His only begotten Son. Truly He is the God of compassion.

Though we have bitterly offended Him, yet He commiserates our state and seeks to have compassion upon us. How can one improve upon John 3:16? It seems to me that this one verse ought to induce an entire world to eschew evil and embrace good.

Salvation in all its parts, in all its effects, in all its everlasting duration, must be ascribed to the illimitable, the indescribable grace of God, to such infinite love that only the agony of Jesus Christ on Golgotha can even begin to tell the tale of it.

God has designed our salvation. Christ has secured it. The Holy Spirit tells us that by it we shall be delivered. In the councils of the Father it was determined that Jesus should redeem sinners.

- The types of the Old Testament prefigured it.
- The voices of the prophets proclaimed its approach.
- The earth anxiously waited for the great salvation.

In the fullness of time the types were realized, the predictions were fulfilled, the Sun of Righteousness arose. As He lived here upon this earth, carrying on the mission and the ministry of His coming, all the necessary proofs of His divine appointment were abundantly given by His person, His words, His mighty works.

He is called the Saviour. He exhibited Himself as the Saviour.

- He did it by the breaking of the bread and the outpouring of the wine on the last Passover.
- He did it in the blood sweat of Gethsemane's dark night.
- He did it in the mockery of the judgment hall, as He endured the despising, the spitting upon, the cursing.
- He did it on cruel Calvary, where atonement was consummated, and where the Cross was planted, where the body was nailed, where the awful darkness of God's wrath and man's sin overspread the earth at noonday.

The sacrifice of Christ was propitiatory,

“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. 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” (Isaiah 53:5, 6).

In this atonement we find refuge. It is our propitiation. Turn your back on it, and you are at once exposed to all the wrath of the divine Lawgiver. Cling to this Rock. Press yourself by faith to it. Reject it not, leave it not, lest you be plunged into the gulf of endless woe.

- It is your sin. Extinguish it, and you are left in the midnight of the darkness of despair.
- It is your God-given portion. Deprive yourself, by unbelief, of it, and you are beggared forever.
- It is the haven of rest in which you cast the anchor of your hope.

Destroy it, by faithlessness, by neglect, and you are shipwrecked for eternity.

This, sinner, is *The Provision of God's Grace*.

Here is a suffering, dying, risen, ascended Saviour, who ever lives to make intercession for you. God bids you all look to Him and live. To look to Him means a believing application to and acceptance of Christ for your salvation. You are in fearful danger. You have been bitten by the serpent of sin.

The virus of satanic influence is running riot in your very veins. You are helpless. You may try to better your condition. You may try to improve your heart. I warn you it is all in vain. You need a knowledge of Christ as your Saviour. He is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. You need not doubt the efficacy of this Christ-cure. God has appointed it. It is the eternal symbol of God's mercy. See the adaptation of this means. See what it has done for the myriads of others. The rich, free mercy of God is flowing to you also.

Look unto Him with the prayer of faith, saying, "I rest my immortal but sinful soul upon Thy great propitiation. O God, for Christ's sake, forgive me."

The third message of this inestimable text is *The Promise of Glory*. "**Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else**" (Isaiah 45:22).

What a gracious result! This is bliss. Bliss to the soul! Bliss forever!

- To be saved is to be forever free from all the debasement, the defilement, the danger of our natural state.
- To be saved is to be freed from the guilt and power of sin, to be restored to the favor of God.
- To be saved is to be removed from peril forever; to be preserved from the fear of death, from the terrors of the judgment bar, from the weeping, the wailing, the gnashing of teeth, from the vengeance of everlasting fire.
- To be saved is to have everlasting life, to be conducted to and endowed with the honors of immortality, to be raised up to the enjoyment of celestial pleasures in the presence of God forever and forever.

The New Testament calls this "**the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**"

Oh, the bliss of that glorious thought, the believer shall be perfectly pure, perfectly intelligent, perfectly happy. We shall be exalted to the highest honors. We shall see God. We shall enjoy blessed companionship with saints and angels.

However bright and knowing the mind of man may be
It cannot paint those glories which I am soon to see!
It would require a seraph's tongue the splendors there to tell,
Laid up for me, a sinner saved, by Christ redeemed from hell.

"**Look unto Me,**" my Saviour says, "**look unto Me and live;**
Fight on, and keep the crown in view, which I will freely give."
O help me, Christ, to see the goal, to run the race, and fight
And let thy Heaven cheer my soul till faith is turned to sight.

This Proclamation of Guilt, this Provision of Grace, this Promise of Glory are very extensive. The ends of the earth are invited to look and be saved. God has commended us to preach the Gospel to every creature.

Before your eyes, by the authority of the King of Glory,

- I erect the cross,
- I lift up Immanuel's standard.
- I bid you look by faith to the bloody emblem of God's redeeming purpose.
- I bid you believe.
- I urge you to join this standard-led army.

If you look and love; if you look and trust; if you look and receive; if you look and enlist, I promise you by every word of the Bible, by every drop of blood shed on Calvary by the crucified Christ, you shall be eternally saved.

Hear me! Jesus Christ is the only Saviour. **“For I am God, and there is none else.”**

None else has ever been or shall ever be appointed or provided.

- He is the only Foundation.
- He is the only bridge over hell.
- He is the only gateway into heaven.
- He is the only advocate at the judgment bar.

Any other attempt at salvation, at self-salvation will fail. The church is not enough. The creed is not enough. The conduct is not enough. The conviction is not enough. Christ alone can or will suffice.

To Him has been given all power in heaven and in earth. He is the delegated judge of the quick and the dead.

Oh, let your eyes be fixed upon Jesus as your saviour. On him let your heart, your soul, your life, your faith repose. Behold Him! Acknowledge Him in His mighty offices as Prophet, as Priest, as King! Receive Him as your very own— His precious blood for your salvation—His blessed Spirit for your regeneration and sanctification!

You need not wait.

- God is pressing this salvation upon you.
- God is offering the blood of His Son in exchange for your sins,
- God is waiting to lift you out of the pit, and from the miry clay.
- God stands ready, eager, able, to forgive all your sins, to cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

See Jesus crucified on that cross for your sins—for your sins. Look to Him. For His sake, now, this very minute, ask God to be merciful to you a sinner.

~ end of chapter 4 ~

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