

ABC's of SALVATION

by

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CHAPTER FIVE

EFFORTLESS SALVATION

“**Salvation is of the Lord**” (Jonah 2:9).

IT is said that “good goods come in small packages.” It is also true that great truths come in small sentences—with none truer than the truth found in the text above.

In Jonah 1, we find Jonah was commissioned of God to go eastward to the great city of Nineveh and preach God's message to its inhabitants. Instead of fulfilling his commission, Jonah, like many another backslidden saint, attempted to run away from his God-given task. The result of this attempt is too well known to repeat. While in his strange submarine seminary, Jonah began to quote Scripture, pray, and make vows unto God. This, too, is strictly up-to-date. Few backslidden saints ever think of such things until they get into a tight place. Yet all the while Jonah was doing this he still stayed in his strange prison house. All at once there flashed upon his soul this bit of divine revelation and he cried out, “**SALVATION IS OF THE LORD,**” and the great fish spewed him “**upon the dry land.**”

There is no truth the adversary must so dislike as this truth. He does not care how much we preach “Salvation is of the Lord plus”—plus something we do, some religious rite we perform, some ceremony we keep, etc., but dear reader remember “**Salvation is of the Lord!**” Now let us note some things about this truth which brought Jonah out of his strange incarceration and sent him forth to fulfill his God-given commission.

I. Salvation Is of the Lord as in Inception

Salvation is the great inclusive word of the Scripture. Your attention has been called to Dr. C. I. Scofield's words in the footnotes of *The Scofield Reference Bible*, “The Hebrews and Gr. words for salvation imply the ideas of deliverance, safety, preservation, healing, and soundness. Salvation is the great inclusive word of the Gospel, gathering into itself all the redemptive acts and processes as: *justification, redemption, grace, propitiation, imputation, forgiveness, sanctification, and glorification.*”

Before a single star ever shot its rays across the sky, before the morning stars sang together, before a single created being ever stood before the throne of God or walked upon the earth, God had salvation planned for lost sinners yet uncreated.

Angels were yet uncreated, but had they been, they would not have been consulted. It would have been beyond their comprehension, for even now they “**desire to look into**” these things (I Peter 1:12). Justice and mercy are not synonyms but antonyms. God alone can harmonize them.

II. Salvation Is of the Lord as to Execution

It was not only planned by God but executed by Him. The moment we open the Book of Divine Revelation we come upon great photographs of this truth.

In Genesis 3 God is seen providing coverings for the naked, sinning pair. The work of their own hands did not meet the requirements of God. In this God-provided clothing there is seen, in type, the truth that runs entirely through the Word of God, “**Without shedding of blood there is no remission**” (Hebrews 9:22).

In Genesis 22, a father and son are seen trudging up a mountain side. The son asks the question, “**Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**” The son is answered by the father with the words, “**My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.**” Abraham’s answer found its fulfillment in the statement of John the Baptist nineteen centuries later when he said, “**Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!**” (John 1:29).

All other sacrificial lambs were but signposts pointing to The Lamb.

This old earth has been saturated with human blood. Think of the times the city of Jerusalem has been blood-drenched! Think of the battlefields of Europe! Think of our own Antietam and Gettysburg! Think of Pearl Harbor and Bataan! But none of this blood ever entered the “River of Atonement” It is the blood of Christ alone that cleanses from sin.

Alone, alone, He bore it all alone,
He gave Himself to Save His own,
He suffered, bled and died alone, alone.

III. Salvation Is of the Lord as to Application

The Scriptures declare men to be dead in trespasses and sins. How foolish and futile to attempt to tell a dead man what to do, yet that is exactly what the reformists have tried to do down through the centuries.

Suppose Christ had stood at the grave of Lazarus and suggested that someone go into the tomb and put a new suit upon Lazarus, or another go in and redecorate the interior of the tomb and make it a more beautiful environment! How foolish!

Yet that is exactly what modernism, in its last analysis, teaches.

In salvation, the living God transmits life to those who are spiritually dead.

In Ephesians 2:1 it is written, “**And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.**”

Our beautiful highways are almost ruined by unsightly signs. Heaven will not be cluttered by unsightly signs, but if the saints ever erect a sign on the streets of glory, I am sure it will read, “**Salvation is of the Lord,**” for we read that they sing, “**Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood**” (Revelation 5:9).

IV. Salvation Is of the Lord as to Preservation

God has always preserved and protected this great doctrine.

- In Acts 9, He saved Saul of Tarsus in spite of his education;
- In chapter 16 He saved the Philippian jailer in spite of his ignorance.
- He took Peter, the curser, and made the great Pentecostal preacher;
- Moody, the shoe-clerk and made the world-famed evangelist;
- Jerry McCauley, the Sing-Sing inmate, and made him a soul-winner.

Such a soul-winner God made out of him that even the city offices of New York closed on the day of his funeral out of respect for the man whom God had so signally used to reach the underworld.

Never before in the history of the world has the professing church had so much equipment, organization, money, material, and machinery, yet where are the people being saved? Of course there are exceptions to all rules, but it seems as if people are being saved today in the pine-board tabernacles here and the grass roofed houses of the foreign fields. There must be a reason—God preserves this doctrine.

V. Salvation Is of the Lord as to Correction

This is the doctrine that delivers from false teachers and false teaching. It is the battering-ram against the ramparts of the evil one. It is said that nothing frightened the enemy so much in the First World War as the first caterpillar tanks when they went lumbering forth.

Out over no man’s land and across the trenches they rolled. Nothing could stop them. So it is with the doctrine “**Salvation is of the Lord.**”

- It batters down the fortifications of “good works”;
- It annihilates the false security of “forms and ceremonialism”;
- Before it “ritualism” must give way.

The religious leader of John 3 and the outcast of John 4 alike find that “**Salvation is of the Lord.**” It puts the “up-and-outer” on the same ground with the “down-and-outer” and makes the gospel of the grace of God for all people.

VI. Salvation Is of the Lord for Vivification

Not only have we never known a man to be heterodox, who honestly believed this precious doctrine, but every great soul-winner we have ever known has held tenaciously to it. It energizes the saints of God and obliterates all class distinction. The personal worker takes this truth to the millionaire and tells him that his millions are useless in the way of salvation because salvation is of the Lord. The same personal worker can go into the slums and tell the derelicts of society that there is hope, for **“Salvation is of the Lord.”**

VII. Salvation Is of the Lord as to Negation

If salvation be of the Lord, then there is the negative side. What is the negative? May we not say that damnation is of Satan. If man be lost it is not God’s fault. In II Corinthians 4:3, 4, it is written: **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”**

Thus we see that **“Salvation is of the Lord”** while damnation is of Satan. Someone has well said, “The Lord votes for your salvation, the devil votes for your damnation, while you cast the deciding vote.”

Dear reader, if you are unsaved, will you not accept this great salvation? Then you will be able to sing:

Oh, the love that drew salvation’s plan!
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span,
At Calvary.

Mercy there was great, and grace was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty,
At Calvary.

~ end of chapter 5 ~

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