

THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S SALVATION (Gal. 1:5)

Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) 2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: 5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

It is always good when someone comes and brings you good news. Their eyes are dancing with excitement and they just want to tell you all about it! Paul is writing to the church in Galatia and he begins his correspondence with the greatest news that has ever come into this world.

We have been looking at this good news as we studied together **the PRIVILEGE of God's salvation**. Then we examined **the POWER of God's salvation**, with particular reference to **the PEOPLE of God's salvation**. This morning we shall move on to consider why God has put into action this wonderful plan, ... what is **the PURPOSE of God's salvation**?

Immediately someone might say, **The purpose of God's salvation** is so I might be saved ... but there is much more to it than that. The Gospel is God's message to lost sinners about His wonderful grace that saves. At the very heart of the Gospel plan is the Lord Jesus Christ ... the Gospel is forever ...

CHRIST-CENTRED

* When God drew up the plans for our salvation there was never any other way in His mind for the lost to be found outside of the work of His Son and our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

* *It is impossible that He made any other means of entering into Heaven except through His Son!*

* Jesus often spoke in parables and often the people could not understand what He said, ... and often it was not His purpose for them to understand, Mt. 13:35 I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

* The writer to the Hebrews would have confused them further, 4:3 we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. Do you see that?! The work of salvation was finished even before the world began!

- * The Jewish leaders, - intent on killing Jesus, - did neither initiate Christ's sacrifice on Calvary nor ultimately bring it to its conclusion ... but as Paul wrote to Timothy, God hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (II Tim. 1:9).
- * Christ, then, is the very centre of the Gospel. Our salvation all hinges upon Him. A Christless Gospel is no good news at all.
- * When a man or a woman tells you they can reach Heaven in their own efforts what they are really telling you is that they have no understanding whatsoever of the terrible plight they are in.
- * It took God to come from Heaven in the Person of the Son, the Man of Galilee, to walk on this earth, to breathe its air, to feel its heartaches, to hear its people cry because of the misery of false religion and evil governments ... and it took God to come to the cross where the Son of God took upon Himself the sins of His people.
- * At Calvary, they were not looking at the two thieves on either side ... At Calvary they were looking at Jesus ... Jesus was in the centre.
- * God the Father was at Calvary too, and He saw His Son struggling along the stony path and up the rugged hill outside Jerusalem. He saw the physical agony His Son was in. He saw the hatred of the people towards Him and He heard the shouts of disgust at Jesus. ...
- * And He saw them laying Him down and stretching Him out along the wooden posts and hammering the nails into His beloved body.
- * He heard the banging of the hammer. He watched the blood flow just a few inches onto the ground as the nails penetrated His hands and His feet ... as His Son was made to lie there.
- * He listened with a broken heart, - for the Bible teaches us that God grieves, - as they lifted Him up from off the ground ... and *He heard His Son cry* with the pain.
- * As they lifted Him higher and higher, they then dropped His cross into the socket in the ground and the awful agony that surged through His body must even penetrated into Heaven itself.
- * And then, as Jesus hung on the cross, - the crown of thorns upon His head, the sweat and blood flowing down His face, - His Father in Heaven *looked away*. At that moment all our sin, - all the sin owing to us, - was taken and placed upon the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Mediator.
- * ... God the Father could look no longer, - He had to take His eyes from off His Son. In a previous generation, Habakkuk explains to us, 1:13 He is of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity.

- * He had to turn away from His Son for His Son had, - in accordance with the eternal plan of God's salvation – taken our sin upon Himself.
- * That *Man* hanging on the cross for sinners effectuated the only means whereby we can ever come to God, Rom. 5:8 God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us ... Gal. 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world.
- * You see, **the purpose of God's salvation** is **Christ-centred**. It is not man-centred. Man cannot do one single action to secure eternal salvation. ... It is either God's way, or no way at all!
- * There is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun but it can only be achieved through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved!
- * Jesus is the **centre-piece**, - and if you are unsaved, you must believe!
- * How can you believe? How can you understand? God's Word says it is all a work of grace from start to finish, Rom. 9:15 I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.
- * If God the Holy Spirit is showing you these things and you are not saved, come and believe in Him today, believe that Jesus Christ took upon His own body at Calvary *your* sin, - *all* of your sin, once and for all.
- * Believer, what a work Christ has completed for you and me! He *died* and gave up Heaven so that we would be saved.
- * And we praise God that our Saviour is in Glory again. He rose from the dead and is seated on the Father's right hand in Heaven.
- * *Never* will He die again. *Never* will He bear another single load of sin. The saving work of Christ has been completed, as He Himself said in Gethsemane, Jn. 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. ... And then, the ultimate came when He declared openly on the cross, 19:30 It is finished.
- * When Jesus returns He will not be coming in the capacity of the Saviour, He will be coming back to gloriously and wonderfully receive His people unto Himself, those Who have trusted Him to save them from their sins.
- * This grace with which God has saved us *is* so amazing, ... It is a thing most wonderful, Almost too wonderful to be, That God's own Son should come from Heav'n, And die to save a child like me. ... But even could I see Him die, I could but see a little part Of that great love, which, like a fire, Is always burning in His heart. ...

- * And yet I want to love Thee, Lord; Oh, light the flame within my heart, And I will love Thee more and more, Until I see Thee as Thou art.
- * **The purpose of God's salvation is Christ-centred ... and being Christ-centred it is ...**

GOD-GLORIFYING

- * Yes, what a great salvation ... but from God's view, the work of Christ on the cross is all glorifying unto Him.
- * ... And then we begin to see it too. Through Christ shedding His blood for me and becoming my Substitute in taking away my sin ... I see it has all been of God! *It pleased God to save me.*
- * He brought me to hear the Gospel. He opened my ears to let the message into my mind so that the Holy Spirit would give me understanding. He opened up my heart so I would believe that what Jesus did on Calvary He did for me, - Wounded for me, wounded for me, There on the cross He was wounded for me; Gone my transgressions, and now I am free, All because Jesus was wounded for me.
- * ... And God through His eternal mercy and grace opened my eyes that I would see the wonderful glory of His beautiful Self.
- * For me to see the glory of God I *must* see what Jesus did to save me. I can see God on the Throne through what Christ achieved by His victory on the cross.
- * The cruel and terrible death He died was all *according to the will of God and our Father (Gal. 1:4)*. No outside powers determined the will of God. He won our salvation for His own satisfaction, - that was His reason in saving us.
- * And since we could do nothing to contribute to His glorious plan, it is God Who keeps us also, *Eccles. 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.*
- * **The purpose of God's salvation is to be God-glorifying ...** Believer, are you careful to give God all the glory? Is there a tiny part of you that would try and contribute some of the work of salvation to your own endeavours? ... The Bible tells you plainly it is all of grace, *Eph. 2:8 by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

- * Take any glory of your salvation to yourself and you are take it away from God. God is eternal. God's work is eternal ... and our salvation is eternal ... and all of it, - from start to finish, - is His work and it must be **God-glorifying**, To God be the glory great things He hath done!
- * Yes, **the purpose of God's salvation** is that it is **God-glorifying** through the **Christ-centred** work on the cross, - **We preach Christ crucified, I Cor. 1:23** – and as a consequence of it all, the predetermined plan of God from eternity guarantees ...

SINNERS SAVED

- * *Sinners are saved to the glory of God!* That is the ultimate purpose of God, - our salvation is for His glory.
- * How mistaken we are when we set a preacher up on a pedestal because he has notched up so many people he has seen conerted. Yes, I can tell you it is a tremendous privilege to lead the sinner to Christ ... but it is a privilege we would not have but for God's grace.
- * No man can boast in what he has achieved for God, for without God he would have achieved nothing.
- * I could not stand here this morning if it were not for the grace of God ... and I would have no interest in standing here either, if it was not for the grace of God.
- * It is the grace of God that saved me, and it is the purpose of God's salvation that I should keep Christ in the centre of my life so that I would glorify God ... and that is why He saved me.
- * Yes, He saved me and I shall never be lost, - and I say that in the confidence my Lord is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day (II Tim. 1:12).
- * When God saves you, He saves you for Himself, for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (I Cor. 6:20). You are not your own anymore, - you are a sinner saved *for God's glory!*
- * What is the opposite of God's glory? If something is not to His glory, what does He do with it? He casts it out, He throws it away. ... Jesus told a parable about a farmer who sowed wheat seeds on his field. Sure enough, the wheat started to grow but in between the wheat some weeds had sprouted too. The servant out in the field saw it and he told the farmer. The farmer said, when it becomes harvest we shall lift the wheat and put it into the barn, but the weeds we shall bind up in bundles and throw them on the fire. They are no good, *they are not to my glory.*

- * To the barn, or to burn, - that was how Jesus told the parable.
- * There is a place of eternal punishment for all who reject the message of the Gospel, it is called Hell. Many people, - even preachers and ministers do not believe in such a place anymore, but it is in God's Word and therefore nothing has changed, - it is still there.
- * What is not useful to God, He throws out ... Why would He allow something into His Heaven that would only end up corrupting it, as man did on earth? There is no-one in Heaven who has reached there through their own efforts or righteousness. Every person in Heaven has entered in through the same Door, and that Door is through believing in Jesus to take away their sins.
- * ... God's grace and plan of salvation does not work any other way. He is pure and perfect and only that which pleases Him and brings Him glory will enter into Heaven ... and how can you please Him, how can you bring Him glory? ... By taking Him into your life and living for Him. *When? ... II Cor. 6:2 behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

CONCLUSION

- * **The purpose of God's salvation** ... is that all we do must primarily and absolutely be **God-glorifying**. To achieve His purpose and happiness, contentment and fulfilment in life ... we must give God the glory in all things.
- * **God-glorifying ... Christ-centred** ... Salvation does not work any other way. When Christ saves you He becomes the Centre of your life. He is the Centre of the Gospel, - no Jesus, no Good News!
- * You don't add everything all up and give to Him what is left over. ... Your time, your money, your gifts, your talents, ... God gave you them in the first place, and they are His by right ... and in order to purchase your soul, believer, God gave you more than you could ever pay Him back!
- * Yes, He reached down so that *Ps. 40:2 He brought [you] up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set [your] feet upon a rock, 3 And he hath put a new song in [your] mouth, even praise unto our God.*
- * When God has done such a work in your life, - when your life is truly His, - you recognise **the purpose of God's salvation**, and you declare those powerful words, *Gal. 1:5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*