

A PERFECT SALVATION

Hebrews 7:25

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them".

This text is one of the truly great verses of Scripture. It is in the heart of the central chapter of the great Epistle to the Hebrews. The theme of the entire Epistle is the living Christ, and this verse teaches truths that are really the heart and crown of the whole letter.

Thank God for this tremendous verse of Scripture. It is as the shadow of a rock in a weary land, as the lifegiving waters of the desert oasis, as the lights of home to the weary traveler. It is simple, sublime, and satisfactory; so simple that a child may understand it; so sublime that it embraces the very majesty, glory, dominion, and power of God; so satisfactory that it is the Great Physician's balm to the wounded soul and feverish spirit.

Jesus Christ is a great and wonderful Saviour. As the stars disappear when the sun rises, so all other subjects fade away when we think of Christ. For more than nineteen centuries He has amply demonstrated His wonderful ability and supernatural power as a Saviour. He has never failed in any way. He has never lost a client. Grace for sin, fullness for poverty, peace for turmoil, power for weakness, health for disease, good measure, pressed down, running over, have been bestowed upon those who by faith have claimed Him as their Saviour.

God has never told anyone that He is partly able to save you and that you need to work out part of your salvation yourself. He is not telling you that He will save you if by your own efforts you become morally clean and fine, for God, knowing the nature of man, knows that he needs An Uttermost Saviour; one who is able to save you to the uttermost; one who is able to save you from your past; one who is able to save you from your present; and one who is able to save you for the future.

God's Word tells us that in so far as God is concerned "He hath concluded all under sin." "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." God declares that all inhabitants of all nations are in need of salvation.

There is a great difference between God's and man's appraisal of sin. Man judges his condition and that of his neighbor by what he sees on the exterior. God searches the innermost being of man and judges by what He knows. Men measure man's goodness by social standards. God measures man's depravity by spiritual standards; therefore, we see that our appraisal of man's condition and God's appraisal are two entirely different viewpoints.

Man needs a Saviour because he is spiritually dead. When Adam fell and plunged the whole human race into sin, man died spiritually. God said, "The day that ye eat thereof ye shall surely die." This did not mean physical death but spiritual separation from God, and today all men everywhere outside of Christ are spiritually dead. Only the supernatural power of the Lord Jesus Christ can bring you forth from your spiritual grave, if you are among the number without Him.

I. What Christ Is Able To Do.

"He is able to save." That is the meaning of His name. "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." He is able. Ability always commands respect. One likes to see ability exercised in any department of human life.

His words "able to save" mean "able to keep on saving." The word salvation has reference to the past, the present, and the future. It includes deliverance from the penalty of sin (past), from the power of sin (present), and from the presence of sin (future). He is able to save any man from sin's power, no matter how completely he is fettered or how hopelessly he is straining in his own strength to throw off the shackles of sin.

That Christ is able to save may be argued from:

1. His appointment to that work by the Father.
2. The dignity of His person.
3. His possession of every qualification necessary for it.
4. The tokens of His Father's approbation by bringing Him forth from the grave.
5. The testimony to that ability borne by all the subjects of His grace.
6. The extent of His saving ability.

- (1) He has the ability of merit.

This arises from what He is, from what He became, and from what He has done.

- (2) He has the ability of right.
- (3) He has the ability of sympathy.
- (4) He has the ability of influence.

The extent of His ability can be seen by recalling that He is able:

- a. To forgive sins.

"The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins"
(Mark 2:10).

He can forgive any sin except one--blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. We know He has power to do it because He has forgiven our sins.

- b. To save from sin's power.

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). No one ever came to Him for deliverance from the power of sin without getting it.

- c. To keep you from falling.

"He is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24). We can read the same thing in the experience of many. Christ is proving daily that He can keep people from falling.

- d. To transform the lives of men and women who put their trust in Him.

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new". For example, Saul of Tarsus -- blasphemer, persecutor, etc. Chief of sinners, yet he obtained mercy, became a devoted disciple and heroic apostle. Degraded drunkards, profane swearers, grovelling misers, willful unbelievers, cruel oppressors, etc.

- e. To fill the saddest hearts with the most radiant joy.

"They looked unto Him and were radiant" (Psalm 34:5). "Though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8). He lifts men out of the depths of despair to the heights of rapturous joy.

- f. To use in glorious service those whom He saves.

He is able to use the unlikeliest instruments; people of the least promise.

- g. To give eternal life to all who put their trust in Him.

"Everyone that beholdeth the Son, and believeth on Him shall have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40).

7. He is able to save to the uttermost.

(1) The uttermost depths of guilt.

Even the greatest sinners may be pardoned, sanctified, and glorified.

(2) The uttermost of need.

I am conscious of my guilt, and it oppresses me. Can I get rid of it? Yes, Christ is able to save from it. I am conscious of my defilement. Sin has a defiling effect, and I know that I am unclean. Can I get rid of my defilement? Yes, for His perfect salvation provides a perfect cleansing. "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth from all sin." Can one get freedom from the power of sin. "Sin shall not have dominion over you" is the charter of our freedom. "He breaks the power of cancelled sin, and sets the prisoner free."

(3) The uttermost of time.

With His perfect salvation He saves from "first to last." It is salvation from the past, in the present, and for the future. "I am saved," "I am being saved," and "I shall be saved". "Uttermost" seems to have everything in it that a poor sinner can want or need.

II. Whom Does Christ Save?

1. "Them that come unto God by Him."

His salvation is conditioned on our coming unto God by Him. There is no other way for the sinner to approach God except by Jesus Christ. And the glorious thing about it is that He is always approachable. Since they must come unto Him for salvation, with what spirit must they come? It must not be with pompous pride, as if they thought they deserved salvation, but it must be with the sincere cry of a penitent, with the earnest desire of a thirsty soul after living water. They must trust Christ to bring them into a saving relation with the Father.

2. All who come.

What an encouragement this is to all of us! The worst or the best among us may come to Him. "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."

Christ's salvation is full, complete, perfect and everlasting. It is far better to lose your friends, your money and your health than it is to fail to receive eternal life from Him. Sir Thomas Lipton, the multimillionaire, shortly before dying, said: "I'd give up every trophy in my collection for the one I have not got." And that was eternal life. He was a great winner in boat races in England and in America, but he went out unprepared to meet God because he failed to trust Christ, Who "is able to save to the uttermost them that come unto God by Him." Let Him save you now while you have the time and opportunity.