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Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

ESTABLISHED 1786

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

"WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED?"

November 1968

"When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?" (Matt. 19:25).

Who can give proper emphasis to the importance and need of salvation? What is salvation? It is the deliverance from the curse of God's holy law. Salvation is deliverance from the eternal consequences of rebellion against the government of Almighty God. Salvation is deliverance from sin--from the transgression of the law. Salvation is deliverance from hell--from everlasting punishment--from everlasting fire, if you please.



Location: 3.3 miles out Bryan Station Road. Right on Briar Hill Road.

- Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
- Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Air-Conditioned Nursery Provided

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From the standpoint of human interest, what else is of importance in comparison? In the light of eternity, salvation covers every need. It covers the housing problem, for in my Father's house are many mansions. It covers the food problem, for the Saviour is the bread of life of which a man may eat and never hunger. It covers the employment problem, for in eternity the saved will serve God day and night in His temple. It covers the social problem, for the saved will sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God; moreover, God

Himself will be with His people and will be their God and shall wipe all tears away from their eyes. It covers the health problem for in the new heavens and the new earth there will be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

We have here the story of the rich young man who came to Jesus Christ inquiring about eternal life. Marks says he came running. So far so good. People ought to run--they ought to be eager--to find out how to get eternal life. But this young man had his own ideas about how to get it. And who doesn't have? This is a sick and sad and sinful world, and there are as many doctors as there are individuals. This young man thought eternal life was to be had by doing. "What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" And the Lord answered his question--He met him on his own ground--He followed the young man's theology to its conclusion. If you expect eternal life on the ground of doing, then the law tells you what to do. "But if thou wilt enter into life keep the commandments." And the man said, "Which?" But it is not a question of which. If thou keep the whole law and yet offend in one point says James, "thou art a lawbreaker." People who are expecting to be saved by doing are just like this young man: they are never quite sure they have done enough. The young man claimed he had kept all of them from his youth--but he still had a sense of lack in his soul. The inner does not get rest by doing; he gets rest by trusting. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28).

The Lord then convicts him that he had not kept the commandments. "Go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me." But that sent him away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Here is the way to have treasure in heaven--it is to give your money or its equivalent to the poor. To the poor both physically and spiritually. But the way to be saved is to follow Jesus. He says my sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish.

There is life based upon keeping the commandments. Moses in the law says, "The man that doeth them shall live." And Moses did not lie. The man who keeps the commandments will live; God will not punish the man who lives right. But the life based on keeping the commandments could not be eternal life. It would be life only so long as the commandments were kept. Adam and Eve in Eden had life, but it was not eternal life--it was life under law and when they broke that law, they died. But the life we have in Christ is eternal. To lose life I might have under law would require a change in me; to lose life I have in Christ would require a change in Him.

WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED? This was the question of Christ's disciples after he had made comment on the rich man, who was trusting in his riches. When Jesus said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven his disciples were astonished out of measure. They were knocked cold, as we would say. Then He said, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

WHO THEN CAN BE SAVED? Let's get the answer:

1. A rich man can be saved. But his riches cannot save him. There is a tendency to trust in riches. Most rich men are proud and self-sufficient. But a rich man has to be saved as a pauper would be saved. "Nothing good have I, Whereby Thy grace to claim, I'll wash my garments white, In the blood of Calvary's Lamb." "Jesus paid it all, All the debt I owe, Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow."
2. A thief can be saved. We have that proved by a demonstration, in the case of the thief on the cross.
3. A drunkard can be saved. Many of the Corinthians had been drunkards.
4. A murderer can be saved. The mighty apostle had been a murderer.

WHO CANNOT BE SAVED?

1. The good man cannot be saved. The good man actually would not need salvation. Salvation is for sinners. The man good in his own eyes cannot be saved.

2. The man cannot be saved who does not trust Christ. "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).

WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE?

1. It is not something we wait for until eternity. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

2. It is something opposite to condemnation. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

3. It is the opposite to a state of perishing. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

4. It is opposite to a condition of being under the wrath of God. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).