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Saved To The Uttermost

By The Late: C. D. Cole

"...For the Lord swears and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:

By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

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.

For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself" (Heb. 7:21-27).

In this message we shall focus our attention upon the 25th Verse: "Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Whenever you find Paul using the word "wherefore," you may know that he has a legitimate conclusion. Paul had a logical mind; he never drew a great conclusion from a small premise. The "wherefore" of our text brings before us the resurrection of Christ. The CBW translation reads, "Therefore, because He Himself lives always to intercede for them always, He is able to save completely any and all who come to God through Him."

In the preceding context, we are told that the priests of the Aaronic order--the Old Testament priests-- filled their offices for a while, then died and passed their work to a successor. But Jesus Christ arose from the dead and has an unchangeable priesthood, that is, He has no successors. And because of this, He is able to save them completely who come to God through Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. Observe this at the outset: A real Saviour must be a living Saviour. And this makes Jesus Christ the one and only Saviour. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the keystone to the arch of salvation; it is a cardinal fact of the gospel.

At Waterloo, there was a stone house which was the key to the situation. Napoleon threw the weight of his forces against this house again and again, only to be repulsed with heavy loss of life. If that stone house could have been taken, Waterloo might have been victory for the French rather than the English. If Satan and his forces could disprove the resurrection of Christ, it would mean victory for the powers of darkness, and doom and disappointment for every believer in Christ. But we need not be afraid of the issue. There is no fact of history better attested than the fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. He proved Himself alive by many infallible proofs. He was seen in His resurrected body at least ten times within 40 days after His death and burial. And, at one time, He was seen by more than 500 believers, many of whom were still living when Paul wrote the Corinthians. But apart from this, there is the fact of the empty tomb which nobody has ever denied. What be-

came of the body of Christ, is a question infidelity has tried to answer. And the best answer the enemy has ever given is the story the guard was hired to tell. They said, "While we slept His disciples came and stole the body of Jesus." It is the testimony of what men saw while asleep. And so, we are asked to believe that the disciples stole the body of Jesus and reported that He had risen from the grave. But the fact is that the disciples were slow to believe He had risen. They had to see Him again and again before they could believe that He was alive. And Thomas said he would have to put his hand in the hole in His side before he would believe. If they had stolen His body, they would never have believed in His resurrection, nor would they have ever recovered from the shock of His death. Without indubitable proof of the resurrection of Jesus, the missionary program of the church would have bogged down in the very beginning.

Every word in our text is weighty. "Wherefore He is able to save completely all who come to God by Him." Look at the personal pronoun—HE is able. Salvation is in a person. Salvation is not in human deeds—it is not in going here and there, or doing this and that. Salvation is through faith in a certain person. Look at the masculine gender—HE is able. No woman, whoever she may be, can save a sinner. Mary, the mother of Jesus—the mother of His human nature—was a virtuous woman and blessed among women, but she did not die and rise again for the salvation of sinners. She has her place as the earthly mother of a heavenly Son, but it is her son and not she who is the object of saving trust. We neither trust nor worship Mary as Lord and Saviour. The church has its place, but its place is not that of Saviour. The true church preaches Christ "Who was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

Jesus Christ is able to save; He needs no help from anybody else. "There is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "When he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:3). Let weakness lie limp upon His shoulder and He will carry it to glory. Let sin be like scarlet and red like crimson; His blood will wash it white as snow.

Everybody believes in salvation by faith—everybody believes you have to trust something or somebody in order to be saved. Some, like the Pharisees, trust in themselves that they are righteous. And some trust in a church or preacher or priest or an ordinance. But the only object of saving faith is the Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever saves us must die for our sins and rise again to intercede. And nobody has or can do this but the Lord Jesus Christ. I am not now

dealing with the evidences of salvation but with saving faith, which must be in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

The man who has saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ takes Him as Lord as well as Saviour. He will say with Saul of Tarsus, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Saving faith is a faith that works by love, and the man who loves Jesus Christ will keep His commandments—not sinlessly nor without failure, but he will have good works as evidence of salvation. Paul says that "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). And John says, "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is (Gk. has been) born of God" (I John 2:29). I have never hesitated to say that the man who claims to be saved and refuses to be baptized has a mark against him in my book, so far as the evidence of salvation is concerned. I can't quite see how one can take Jesus Christ as Lord and refuse to do the very first thing the believer is told to do. I cannot understand how one can be saved and ignore the church—refuse to have fellowship with the people of God. But all this is not within a thousand miles of saying that baptism and the church are essential to salvation. Baptism is a work of righteousness (Matt. 3:15), but in Titus 3:5 we read, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Writing of some who had joined the church or group of believers John says, "They went out from us, but they were not of us, for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (I John 2:19).

"Wherefore He is able," Jesus is Emmanuel—God with us. We have a divine Saviour—One Who is mighty to save. Who can measure His ability? While on earth, Jesus Christ touched the leper, and the leprosy departed. He spake and the deaf heard. He spake again, and the dead sat up in the casket. At the marriage feast, unconscious water saw its Lord and blushed. On the lake, He said, "Peace be still," and the storm subsided. At the mention of His Name, demons surrendered and cried out. He spoke and soldiers hit the ground; nothing too hard for the Lord Jesus Christ. No sinner too much for Him to conquer and save. He has all power in heaven and earth. There is no life so wrecked that He cannot reconstruct it. John B. Gough, the drunken sot, was saved and became the greatest temperance lecturer of all times. Jerry McCauly, the river pirate, was saved and pointed many sinners to the Saviour. Saul of Tarsus, cruel in spirit and thinking that he was doing

right in putting Christians to death, was saved and became the greatest preacher of all the ages. John Newton, the wicked slave trader, was saved and became a great preacher of the gospel. John Bunyan, the swearing tinker, was saved and blessed multitudes by his immortal writings.

Every man has to come to God sooner or later in some way or other. Every man will either come to God through Christ in this day of salvation or be dragged before God in the day of judgment. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, we have a safe approach to God. In Christ, God is our Father, but out of Christ, God is a consuming fire. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6). We come to Christ just as we are, and He presents us to the Father as we ought to be. He cleanses us by His blood. God sees us in Christ, Who is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. I Cor. 1:30.

We come directly to Christ Who loveth us and loosed us from our sins in His own blood. He says, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). There are those who say that we can only reach Christ through His mother who is loving and tender and get her to intercede with Him for us. What a slander upon the loving and sympathizing Saviour, Who loved us and gave Himself for us in death! The Prince of Wales once met a little girl in front of the queen's palace. The child was crying and when asked what she wanted, she said she wanted to see the queen. The prince took her by the hand and led her past the guards into the presence of Royalty. She was accepted because the queen's son brought her to the queen. And so the sinner is accepted by the Father because His Son, Jesus Christ, brings the sinner to Him.

The Bible says there is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus Christ put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. In Hebrews 10:14, we read that "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." The Bible says there is eternal life in Jesus Christ; then why look to any other person? And let every believer be a bearer of these precious truths.

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Be In Christ, He Is A
New Creature" II Cor. 5:17**

