

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

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SALVATION

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I Thessalonians 5:1-11: *"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."* There is going to come a time when the Lord takes over. He comes as a thief in the night--that simply means, a thief comes when you are not expecting him. This is how the Lord is going to come, this world is not expecting Him to come back. They are even denying that the Lord exists. *"For when they shall say, Peace and safety..."* I want you to notice the little words "they" and "them"--*"when they shall say, peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them."* *"As travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."* We have two different types of people being talked about here. *"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness,"* that means we are following the light of our Lord; *"that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."*

The word salvation means deliverance; saved, delivered. The usual order that we preach salvation is deliverance from the penalty of sin, deliverance from the power of sin, and deliverance from the presence of sin. I have preached that over and over. But that is not the correct order. Think with me. I am not trying to bring any new doctrine. I am going to prove what I say with the scriptures.

The right order in which they happen is: we are delivered first of all from the power of sin; then we are delivered from the penalty of

sin; then we are delivered from the presence of sin.

Why is this order so important? Sin has its death grip on every person in this world who is lost. Sin is a terrible thing. People today have made a little thing out of sin. Sin is mentioned even in our text. *"God hath delivered us from the wrath to come."*

Romans 3:9-12. *"What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."* How many people in this world are righteous, outside the person of Jesus Christ? None. *"There is none that understandeth..."* How many people can understand the things of God without the Holy Spirit giving them an understanding? None. *"...there is none that seeketh after God."* How many people are seeking after God, in the true sense of the word? None, except by the power of God. *"...They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."*

It seems to me, that puts all mankind in a bad condition. We call it being depraved. No one can do the things that are mentioned here until the power of God works in his life. His nature is depraved. He loves his sin. I don't know what is in your heart, but the reason that man doesn't serve God, the reason he doesn't love the Lord Jesus Christ is because of sin.

People are disobedient. They know what God has for them to do and they won't do it. The Bible says that is sin. The nature of man is his problem. You may say, "I have sinned." Yes, you have. But you have sinned because of your old depraved nature that you got from Adam. Romans 5:12: *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* That speaks not of physical death, that of eternal death. The spiritual death will cause men to be punished in the fires of hell for ever and ever. That is the death that is spoken about there. Man in his natural state will always go away from God.

There has to be the power of God first. Man in his natural state will always go away from God, i.e., when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:8: *"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden."* They hid themselves. This is why people do not like to talk about the things of God. They want to hide from God. Most people will say "don't talk to me about salvation, don't talk to me about Jesus Christ." Their nature is depraved.

Romans 8:7: *"...The carnal mind is enmity against God..."* This is why people don't want to go to hell. They do certain things and think maybe they can satisfy God and God will accept them. God will not accept that. He will only accept them in Jesus Christ. *"The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."* Seems to me then that the mind has to have a change. Nobody understands, nobody seeks after God. They love their sin, they love to sin, they are disobedient to God. When God speaks, they will not hear. The Bible says they are not subject to the laws of God; therefore the first thing that has to happen in salvation is that they have to be born again.

Do you understand why I am putting the order differently? You have to be first delivered from the power of sin. Christ began to live in you even before you trusted in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:1: *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins."* The Holy Spirit has to come and quicken you, there-fore Jesus Christ said unto Nicodemus in John 3:3: *"...except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* Man has belittled the new birth. The new birth is when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives and we are changed. The word "again" means from above. The Lord separates these two births in verse six. *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh;"*--not subject to the laws of God. They don't understand,

they don't seek after God. "...and that which is born of the spirit is spirit." When the Holy Spirit comes and takes his abode in the new birth and quickens us, we begin to understand, we begin to want to do the will of God from the heart. He changes us. II Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

So the first thing that happens, he does not change the old nature, he gives us a new nature. Paul said that "in my flesh dwelleth no good thing." But he comes to dwell in us.

Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." God is the one that begins this good work in us. That is the new birth, that is the quickening, that is the salvation that Christ is talking about. "Ye must be born again." We did not begin it, He began it. This is why we are delivered from the power of sin. When the Holy Spirit comes in, then we have someone greater in us than is of the world. When God begins a good work in us in salvation, he begins that good work and he will continue that good work until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:13: "For it is God which worketh in you..." those people who are saved by the grace of God have the power of God working in them. "...both to will..." If we are willing to come to the Lord it is because the power of God has worked it in us.

If we are willing to serve the Lord, it is because of the power of God in us. If we love the people of God, it is because of the power of God in us. If we love the law of God and desire to do the things God said, it is because of the power of God in us. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." He does not work in us for us to do our good pleasure. He works in us to will to do His good pleasure.

The Bible says He works in us both to will. Free Will Baptists will say that man has a free will and that he can come to the Lord any time he wants to. Jesus said in John 5:40: "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." If a man comes to the Lord Jesus Christ willingly it is because the power of God has worked in him to will. Psalm 110:3: "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power..." Who is it? Thy people, the people of the Lord.

Are you willing to come to Jesus Christ? Are you willing to take him as your personal Savior? Are you willing to accept him as your Lord and your Master? If you are, it is because of the power of God that has changed you. "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power..."

Revelation 22:17 is a verse that is used in invitations by Baptists. "And the Spirit and the bride"--the bride is the Lord's New Testament church, I believe. The Holy Spirit is working with the bride. The Holy Spirit is indwelling this church, "say, Come." And when I speak this, it is the Spirit and the churches message for you to come. And I am saying that to you

today, Come. "And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

"Whosoever will," you say, "do you believe that?" Absolutely, I believe that. But I also know that it has to be God that works in you both to will, "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power..." I say to you whosoever is willing to come, let him come. But I also know that salvation is entirely of the Lord. Those of us who are saved, we would not have come, had it not been for God, who has not appointed us to wrath, but has appointed us to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Philippians 2:12-13: "...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you..." We ought to be afraid. If we say the Lord is working in us, and we understand what I am talking about; we should fear God in such a manner that we should be afraid not to serve God. We ought to serve Him because you love Him, but we ought to be afraid to disobey Him. Hebrews 12:29: "For our God is a consuming fire."

II Corinthians 5:11: "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, and persuading men..." My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in me, that's God. I Corinthians 6:19: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God..." The same God that possessed Jesus Christ is the same God that possesses me. Jesus said in John 8:29: "...For I do always those things that please him." We ought to have the same mind.

I Thessalonians 1:4-10: "Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God." God has chosen His people...them, they, and ye...remember that. We are a different kind of people. "For our gospel came not unto you in word only..." If it had come in word only, we would have never been saved, because no man understands. "...But also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance..." The change came when it came in power. "And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord..." "Ye be-came ensamples of all them that believe," ye be-came missionary in verse eight; and on down in verse ten, ye begin to wait for His Son.

When the Holy Spirit comes to us in power and the gospel is revealed to us, it changes our lives. I John 3:10: "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God..." Can we judge that? I Corinthians 6:2-3: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?...how much more things that pertain to this life?"

We better start judging. We don't judge whether a person is saved or lost. If someone says they are saved and they don't want to live for the Lord, then God will take care of them. God will chasten them, and He will bring them back. Friend, we are to judge matters.

Jesus first of all delivers us from the power of sin. The Holy Spirit convicts us of

sin in the new birth. He reveals to us that sin is against God. Sin must be punished. The sinner sees himself lost. Didn't Jesus say, in Matthew 9:12: "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick"?' Doesn't a person have to get sick spiritually before he will ever trust the Lord as the great physician?

The wrath of God is abiding upon the lost sinner, and the Holy Spirit convicts him of that. He realizes that "if I die in this condition, the wrath of God is upon me. I am dying and going to hell." That is all the work of the Holy Spirit. We must be delivered from the power of sin first.

The Holy Spirit quickens us, makes us alive to these things; we begin to hate our sin. Is that right? Sin is killing me. Sin is that which is sending me to an everlasting punishment from the presence of the Lord. Sin is against God. God is the God of all judgment. When I begin to hate my sin, when I begin to see myself lost and headed for hell and the life that I am living is against God, it causes me to repent.

Repentance will never come until we have been made alive and the Holy Spirit begins to deliver us from the power of sin. The very sin that we first loved, now we hate. A person will never repent until the power of the Holy Spirit reveals to him that he is lost. That's why we have to be born again.

The same power that convicts us of sin, shows us that we are lost, shows us we are headed for hell without Jesus Christ; therefore, it causes us to repent and trust Jesus. That same power keeps the sinner looking to Jesus.

The Apostle Paul in Romans 7:18 says over and over; "the things I know I should do, I don't do." "For I know that in me [that is, in my flesh] dwelleth no good thing..." I wonder who gave Paul that knowledge, if it wasn't the Holy Spirit.

God's children who are saved, realize what they are. They are sinners. But they are sinners that are looking to Jesus Christ for salvation--the hope of salvation. So the Holy Spirit dwells in us and just keeps on convicting us of our sins. I John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This is to restore the fellowship, not the relationship. I wonder who causes us to realize us that we have sinned so that we can confess it to God. It's the Holy Spirit. The same power that started our salvation will keep on performing it until the day of Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1:4-5: "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." It would be a sad thing for God to reserve an inheritance for me and I would never make it. Wouldn't that be terrible? That would be dishonoring to the Lord, wouldn't it? But he makes sure we are going to get it. How does he do that? "Who are kept by the power of God..." The same power that came to us, quickened us, made us alive, revealed unto us Jesus as our Savior is the same power that keeps us.

A person who says they are saved and just lives on in their sin, the power of God has not worked in their life. Is he convicting you of your sin? After you say you are saved, and you just keep on sinning the way you always did, you don't have the power of God in you. We *"are kept by the power of God through faith."* In other words the power of God works in us to reveal what we are, causes us to repent and put our trust in Jesus Christ and he keeps us by the power of God. He keeps us *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..."*

"The just shall live by his faith..." Habakkuk 2:4. *"...The just shall live by faith,"* Romans 1:17. *"...The just shall live by faith,"* Galatians 3:11. Hebrews 10:38. *"...To day if ye will hear his voice,"* is repeated three times in Hebrews 3:7, 3:15, and 4:7.

He that hath begun a good work in us will continue it until the day of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the one that gives us an understanding that we are a sinner; we have no hope whatsoever, except by faith, trusting in Jesus Christ who not only hath delivered us from the wrath to come, but He will deliver us out of our old natural state.

Hebrews 12:1: *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us..."* I don't know your lives, but I can tell you that I have the same problem. There is one sin in our lives that dominates us. Continually, over and over, just keeps on bugging us, isn't there? There is one thing we have to fight every day of our lives. Right? We wouldn't dare tell others what it is, we would be ashamed. But God knows. *"...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."*

As a pastor I want to cross the finish line. I don't want to drop out. I see some of these races start with 10,000 people, but before they get through, they have 500 or so left. The rest of them drop out. Friend, when I started the race, I wanted to keep running. I want to get across the finish line. There is still responsibility.

Here is how we do it. Hebrews 12:2, *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..."* The only reason we have faith at all is because He is the originator of it. Ephesians 2:8: *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."* He is the author and finisher of our faith. The reason I keep on living by faith is because I realize that without Jesus Christ, I am lost. He is at the right hand of God right now appearing in the presence of God for me. If He wasn't there, I would be lost. He not only died for my sins, He lives. My salvation is entirely in the hands of Jesus Christ. What is faith? In what? In Who? Jesus Christ, (where is he?) in heaven. *"Looking unto Jesus [to save me] the author and finisher of our faith."* So the same power that brings sinners to Jesus Christ is the same power that keeps them

trusting in Jesus Christ.

I John 4:4: *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them..."*-- that's the false prophets who will not walk according to God's word. This is the reason we have overcome them, *"...because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."* That is the only reason you can overcome.

Romans 8:9: *"...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."* Colossians 1:27: *"...Christ in you, the hope of glory."* A man has no hope at all except Christ be in him, the hope of glory. Christ is our only hope. He is not only in me but He is for me as my Savior.

II Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* The Lord does not leave His children in the same condition that He found them. He lifted me up, set my feet on the solid rock and established my goings. He that is led by the Spirit of God, they are the children of God.

Salvation is a deliverance from the penalty of sin. I Corinthians 15:1-4: *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."* That's a continual thing, isn't it? *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures."* You know the reason that Paul received the gospel, is because of the power of God. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. The Apostle Paul said I received it, but he received it by the power of God; the Holy Spirit quickened him and made him alive. *"...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."* Paul talking to the Thessalonians in II Thessalonians 2:13-14: *"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, [God loved them] because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation [notice the power of God here] through sanctification of the Spirit [isn't that the power of God] and belief of the truth"* What came first, sanctification; set apart to God. When the Holy Spirit came to dwell within us, we were set apart to God. *"Whereunto he called you by our gospel to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

I Thessalonians 5:9: *"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."* Notice the word "appoint." The only possible way that we can obtain this salvation is by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faith is the way deliverance is obtained. God gives us a promise and he says whosoever will let him come. God promises to save you if you will trust His Son Jesus Christ, that He died for your sins, was buried, and rose again.

Receive Him as your Savior. The power of God works in your life to where you realize that you need a physician. You need someone who can save you from an eternal hell, from your sins. If God has worked that in you and convicted you of sin, I lift up the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. If you are willing to trust him, He will save you. I Thessalonians 5:9: *"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."*

God gave Abraham a promise: Romans 4:20-22, *"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief..."* What does that mean? That means when God gives you a promise, He will do it, if you will receive it, if you will believe it. The Bible teaches that if you won't believe it, it's not yours. If you believe it, it becomes yours. You embrace the promise and accept it as God's promise to you. He will do for you what he promised, if you believe it. Abraham *"staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God."* Abraham exalted God in his mind so much that he knew that God was obligated to fulfill his promise. He gave glory to God and was strong in faith, believing that God would do what he promised. Isn't that what we do? *"And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."* That's faith, isn't it? Doesn't that give glory to God? *"And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness."*

When you are fully persuaded that God will give you what He promised (and He promised you Jesus Christ if you will trust Him), He will give you Jesus Christ. He imputes it. Therefore it was imputed to Him, charged to His account for righteousness. Romans 4:23-25: *"Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."*

You add one work to the finished work of Jesus Christ and it profits you nothing.

Romans 5:1-2: *"Therefore being justified by faith..."* declared not guilty, never sinned, Jesus Christ died for those sins. We believe He died for our sins, we by faith trust Him that He died for our sins. It is God that justifies us by faith, *"...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* We are no longer enemies; we have peace with Him, peace with God. Who made that peace? Jesus Christ through the blood of His cross. *"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."*

Yes, we have a hope. I don't hope I'm saved, I know I'm saved. But it is because of the hope I have in Christ Jesus. Acts 13:38-39: *"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."*

The Old Testament saints believed that God would send His Son into the world. God promised them that He would send a Savior. They by faith believed that promise. And everyone who looked forward to the coming of Jesus Christ, they were saved. New Testament saints believe that He has already come. He has already died for our sins, was buried and was raised; that's the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is at the right hand of God. Both Old Testament and New Testament look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ the second time. Therefore He will deliver us from the presence of sin.

I Thessalonians 4:16-18: *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first,"* for those who have died trusting in Jesus Christ. *"Then we which are alive and remain..."* that's us who are alive right now, *"shall be caught up together with them in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

Job 19:25-26: *"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."*

Galatians 1:4: *"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world."* Notice: *"deliver us from this present evil world."* He did not die for us that we might be like this world. This is an evil world, He does not want us to be like this world. He died that He might deliver us from this present evil world. Don't be like the world, don't dress like the world, don't live like the world, don't talk like the world, don't be identified with the world.

I Thessalonians 1:9-10: *"...How ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."* God hath delivered me from the wrath to come and I am waiting for his Son. While I am doing it, I want to be faithful to God.

Galatians 3:13: *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us."* Aren't we glad of that? Delivered us from the curse of the law. While we were under the law, trying to keep the law, we were lost; but He delivered us, and redeemed us from the curse of the law. We are no longer under law, we are under grace, we are one of His children.

Have you been delivered from the power of sin? Are you living for him? Or are you living for the devil? Have you been delivered from the penalty of sin--past, present, and future --been justified from all things? Are you living by faith looking forward to the time when Jesus Christ will come and deliver you from the very presence of sin? Are you saved? Then you need to keep on looking to Jesus, and following Jesus. One of these days-- Hebrews 9:28: *"...and unto them that look for*

him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

The Holy Spirit comes, delivers us from the power of sin, takes his abode in us, works in us, he delivers us from the penalty of sin through what Jesus Christ did on the cross. And that same Jesus is going to come back one day and get us out of the presence of sin. All of God's people will live in a new heaven and a new earth where there is no sin. No sin. Never another sin and there is no end.

What a salvation! And it is all in the person of Jesus Christ! Revelation 22:17: *"And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."* Are you willing today, to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, to trust him, to follow him, to confess him and let people know which side you are on? Yield your life unto the Lord and let him direct your steps.

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