

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH
THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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“Preaching the same truth since before Kentucky was a state.”

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HELP YOURSELF TO GOD

By: C. D. Cole

Acts 26:22, *“Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, ...”*

Hebrews 4:16, *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Introduction: Our text comes from Paul’s speech of defense before Agrippa. He tells of his difficulties as a minister of Christ. He says the Jews tried to kill him, but having obtained help of God, he still lives.

NEED OF DIVINE HELP

All of us need help from God. No man is self-sufficient. And all human helpers are helpless apart from God. We need God’s help in everything. John 15:5, *“...without me ye can do nothing.”* No man can take care of himself. Difficulties are too great for any man. Every man will ultimately realize his helplessness.

1. Help in salvation. How helpless man is to save himself; to make himself right with God; to escape by his own efforts the just punishment for his sins. But the sinner’s helplessness is not in the way of his salvation, for God has laid help on one who is mighty.

His Son, Jesus Christ, is a mighty Saviour. Mighty to save because He is able to meet all the demands of the law on our behalf and turn away wrath of divine justice.

The spirit of helplessness leads us to Divine help. The self-righteous person will not look to Christ for salvation. Luke 18:9-14, Jesus *“...spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”*

2. Help in suffering. Human suffering is a somber fact. What a

noise the cries and groans of all human sufferers must be to the One who hears every cry! What mercy it is that our ears cannot pick up sound so far away. Our eyes reach

farther than our ears. Suppose our ears could pick up sound for a distance of 25,000 miles, so that we could hear the groans of the dying in China and Spain; the cursing of the wicked in all lands; the plots and schemes of the godless

everywhere! Well, God has an ear that gets it all.

Humanity suffers from manifold ills. The human race is sick and dying. No man can tabulate all its ills. New diseases of the body make their appearance and baffle the most skilled men of medicine. And none of us know how to meet our ills of body and of mind. But there is One who can help in all things.

Grace sufficient; be great believers. A little faith will bring our souls to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven into our souls.

3. Help in temptation. There are forces constantly enticing us to evil. We have the devil and the world and the flesh to contend with. But in our helplessness we have a

A little faith will bring our souls to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven

mighty helper. Hebrews 2:18, *“For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”*

Dr. Inglis tells of the conversion and changed life of a man who had been a drunkard. He had been taken out of the gutter so low and had fallen into the sin of drunkenness. When Dr. Inglis called upon him he noticed his name on a brass door-plate and beneath a date. He asked the meaning of the date. The man replied: “That is my birthday.” He was an old man and the date was comparatively recent. He went on to explain that it was the date of his second birth. He put it there as he said because he did not want anyone to remember anything about him before that date. I do not want God to remember and He has promised that He will not; that He will remember my iniquities no more against me forever. And pointing to his wife he said, “I do not want her to remember me back of that day. Before that day she never had a happy day with me; since that day she has never had an unhappy one. Have you, mother?” And Dr. Inglis says if you could have seen the happy smile upon her face as she replied, “No, William,” you would have believed in the genuineness of his conversion.

God’s help in temptation comes in a mysterious way oftentimes. A young man fell into bad company and went from bad to worse. He got into debt and his creditors began to press him. He had an opportunity to steal a large sum of money with little chance of detection. On the day he had set to take the money, he found a little card on his desk, which said, *“Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”* That

card troubled him all day and he did not take the money. He believed that Christ sent the card to save him from that sin.

WITNESSES TO DIVINE HELP

As we think upon this theme we are immediately surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who are eager to testify to God’s help in their own lives. Let us call some of them to the stand:

Paul, what can you say about the help of God? He answers: I Corinthians 15:10, *“But by the grace of God I am what I am: ...”* The Jews sought to kill me, but having obtained help of God, Acts 26:22, *“...I continue unto this day, ...”* I am having a hard time and in constant peril everywhere I go, II Corinthians 11:23-27, *“...in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”* Philippians 4:13, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*

Daniel: Daniel 6:16-22, *“Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone*

was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me: ...” Daniel was cast into the lion’s den and was surely helped of God.

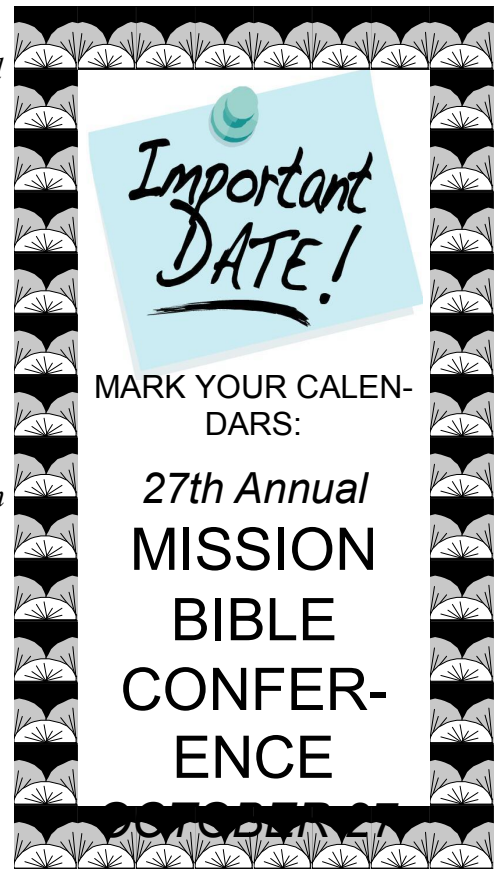
The three Hebrew children would not fall down and worship Nebuchadnezzar’s image of gold. Daniel 3:19-25, *“Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king’s commandment was urgent, and the furnace*

exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three, men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." They were cast into the fiery furnace. but they obtained help of God, so that their clothing did not even smell of fire.

The Philistines had punished Israel for years, having won many battles; I Samuel 7:7-12, "And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines. And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines. And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him. And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpeh, and pursued the Philistines, and smote

them, until they came under Bethcar. Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Edenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us."

Conclusion: Every person reading this message must depend upon God for help. The law was given by God to shew us we are all guilty of sin against God. Romans 3:19-20, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." The purpose of God's law is to teach us that we have all sinned and come short of God's glory. Having seen our guilty condition before God and no way to escape God's punishment for sin, the law leads us to Jesus Christ who came into the world to save sinners. I Timothy 1:15, "...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;..." You must feel your need of help. God offers you his Son to save you from wrath. You need help from God to be saved. Every thing you need has been provided by God in the person of Jesus Christ. You need a perfect life; God provided it in Jesus Christ. Your sins must be punished; God punished Jesus Christ for the sins of those who would receive Jesus. Jesus died for sinners. You must repent, turn from sin and receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Acts 16:30-31, "...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."



A PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand has made and preserved our nation, grant that our people may understand what it is they celebrate on Independence Day.



May they remember how bitterly our freedom was won, the down payment that was made for it, the installments that have been made since the Republic was born, and the price that must yet be paid for our liberty.

May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to please to do what is right.

May it ever be understood that our liberty is under God and can be found nowhere else.

May our faith be something that is not merely stamped upon our coins, but expressed in our lives.

To the extent that America honors thee, wilt thou bless America. Keep her true as thou hast kept her free, and make her good as thou hast made her rich. Through Jesus Christ our

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