

“Salvation is from the Lord”
Jonah 2:9
(Preached at Trinity, November 22, 2015)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Chapter 1** we saw Jonah as the fleeing prophet running from obedience to God's charge to go to the Ninevites. He fled to Joppa and then caught a ship to Tarshish. But while Jonah was running God was pursuing.
2. God never lets us go. As **Chapter 1** ended it would appear that Jonah's life had ended. He died in rebellion against God.
Jonah 1:15 NAU - "So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea"
Down, down, down Jonah sank into the abyss.
3. In the Hebrew **Verse 17** of **Chapter 1** is the first verse of **Chapter 2**.
In other words, **Chapter 2** opens with God appointing a great fish to rescue Jonah.
Jonah 1:17 NAU - "And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights."
4. The content of **Chapter 2** is Jonah's prayer lifted up from within the belly of the fish. From the belly of the fish Jonah came to the realization of the folly of his sin. It was there that he realized the dreadful condition of being estranged from God. It was there that he cried out. And God heard:
Jonah 2:2 NAU - "I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice."
5. His sin was sheer folly, but God's grace is always rich and sufficient for His people. He had fled from God, but God did not forsake him.
Hebrews 13:5 NAS - "will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"
6. As he remembered God's covenant faithfulness Jonah was overwhelmed with praise and thanksgiving.
Jonah 2:9 NAU - "But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving."
7. Then he makes the wonderful proclamation of faith:
Jonah 2:9 NAU - "Salvation is from the LORD."
 - A. We don't have any indication of exactly what Jonah meant by this. The most likely is he came to the realization that it was God who sent him spiraling to the ocean floor and it was God who ordained the fish to rescue him. It was a proclamation of his helplessness and God's power. It was a proclamation of God's mercy and provision. As we can read over and over in the Psalms it speaks of God's mighty deliverance.
Psalms 3:6-8 NAU - "I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me round about. ⁷ Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God! For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked. ⁸ Salvation belongs to the LORD; Your blessing *be* upon Your people!" - יְשׁוּעָה = Deliverance
 - B. As we often see in the Old Testament there is a fuller sense as we view it from a fuller understanding of God's redemptive purpose. We refer to this as *sensus*

Plenior. As we view this statement through a Christological lens we understand it as the glorious truth of the Gospel. Salvation is of the Lord.

9. With this statement we see clearly:
 - I. The sovereignty of God in salvation
 - II. The supremacy of Christ in salvation
 - III. The sufficiency of Christ in salvation

- I. The Sovereignty of God in Salvation – Salvation is of the Lord
 - A. Jonah was sinking into oblivion

Jonah 2:5-6 NAU - "Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head. ⁶ "I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God."

 1. Jonah was helpless. All was hopeless. It was at this point that God intervened.
 2. His deliverance was all of God. Who could have imagined a great fish being sent to the salvation of Jonah? It was all of God. God planned it. He executed it. Jonah contributed nothing to it.
 3. This is also true of our salvation. We had no part in it.
 - B. This is a bitter pill for many to swallow. They insist on holding onto their personal sovereignty. They want to maintain control over their lives.
 1. Some insist that their actions must count for something before God. They insist that their good works are what will ultimately win their salvation.
 - a. We have nothing to offer!!

Romans 3:12 NAS - "All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one."
 - b. But wait!!! Doesn't my church attendance count for something before God? We are not saved by our church attendance. I pray sometimes. Doesn't that count? I try to be a good person. Doesn't that count?
 - c. Is this your boast? Listen to what God says,

Romans 3:27 NAU - "Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith."
 2. Others insist that human freedom must be maintained at all cost. The individual's power to choose is of the greatest importance.
 - C. The Bible teaches that salvation is God's work from start to finish – Salvation is of the Lord
 1. First, you have to understand the utter ruin of man.
 - a. Sin has affected man to his very core. We cannot escape our propensity to sin. We have a bad heart. We are naturally selfish, prideful, and rebellious. We are haters of God.
 - b. Sin has also left us unable to seek God properly. No man is willing to forsake his love for self and his hatred of God's law.
 - c. We are absolutely helpless to do anything about this condition before God. We are as far from God as the east is from the west.

2. This involves the age-old debate on the effect of original sin.
 - a. Pelagius and later the Arminians have limited the effects of sin. They hold that our will is left intact. They hold that salvation involves the free exercise of the human will.
 - b. Augustinians and later Calvinists hold we are unable to properly seek God to the salvation of our soul.
 - c. The Augustinian position is the most consistent with Scripture that declares us dead in sin.
Ephesians 2:1-3 NAU - "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."
John 6:44 NAU - "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."
2. Something supernatural has to take place. There has to be a heart changing, life-changing work. Only God can do this. It is all His work.
 - a. Sinful man has contributed absolutely nothing to this perfect work.
 - b. If God did not choose to save us from our wretched condition we would have surely perished in our sin.

II. The Supremacy of Christ in Salvation

- A. Salvation is the great display of God's eternal purpose of redemption
 1. God looked upon the fallen race of humanity and chose a multitude
 2. This was not due to any good thing foreseen in us – He chose us as wretched sinners. It was all of grace. Salvation is of the Lord.
 3. But what could be done about our wretched sin?
The Law demands perfect obedience which we have not done. Our sin demands God's justice, the sentence of death—eternal damnation
 4. How could God justify the ungodly without violating His perfect justice? Forgiveness could not take place without God's perfect justice being satisfied. No amount of good works could satisfy God's justice.
- B. God's perfect plan involved a substitute.
 1. Only Jesus Christ could be this substitute
 - a. A substitute had to be perfect in every way. He had to fulfill all righteousness. He had to meet the Law's demands. Jesus perfectly met this requirement.
 - b. In addition, God's condemnation of sin had to be removed. We were guilty and under the fury of God's wrath. Jesus came to suffer in our place. He came to endure God's infinite wrath. Only the Divine infinite Christ could bear God's infinite judgment.
 2. Jesus alone is our perfect Savior – the only Redeemer
- C. Christianity is a narrow way. It is the only way of eternal life

1. All of humanity is standing on the brink of hell. The only thing holding them out of the fire is the thin thread of life.
2. There are multitudes of religions upon the earth, each claiming to be the way of life. They are testimony to man trying to forge his own way. But there is only one way.
John 14:6 NAU - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
Acts 4:11-12 NAS - "He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, *but* which became the very corner *stone*. ¹² "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."
3. It sounds intolerant. Christianity is intolerant.
 Actually, tolerance is allowing others to hold to their beliefs. This doesn't mean that every belief has equal value or that all are equally true. Jesus is the only way. He is the only truth.
4. God has but one way to be made right before Him – only one way to escape eternity in hell

III. The sufficiency of Christ in salvation

A. What must we do?

1. This is the most important question in this life? What must we do to be saved? Where you spend eternity depends on how you answer this question.
2. It was asked by many in the New Testament
 - a. The Rich Young Ruler
Mark 10:17 NAU - "As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
 - b. The Jews asked it after listening to a sermon preached by Peter
Acts 2:36-37 KJV - "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. ³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"
 - c. The Philippian Jailor asked it of Paul and Silas
Mark 10:17 NAU - "As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
3. The answer was always consistent
 - a. Jesus to the Rich Young Ruler
Mark 10:21 NAU - "go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
 - b. Peter to the Jews

Acts 2:38 NAU - "Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"

c. Paul to the Philippian jailor

Acts 16:31 NAU - "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved"

4. The answer is always the same. Salvation is of the Lord. Christ alone! Repent of your sins and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Turn from your sin and follow Him. It demands resting upon the sufficiency of Christ. Jonathan Edwards: "That you are not sincerely willing to accept of Christ as your Saviour, appears by this, That you never have been convinced that he is sufficient for the work of your salvation. You never had a sight or sense of any such excellency or worthiness in Christ, as should give such great value to his blood and his mediation with God, as that it was sufficient to be accepted for such exceeding guilty creatures, who have so provoked God, and exposed themselves to such amazing wrath. Saying it is so and allowing it be as others say, is a very different thing from being really convinced of it, and a being made sensible of it in your own heart."

B. For those who trust Christ they will never be disappointed

Romans 9:33 NAS - "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed."

Romans 10:9-11 NAS - "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."

1. Jesus is more than sufficient unto salvation. He has accomplished our salvation. Though we go through many trials and tribulations He will keep us until the end. Jonah discovered this.
2. As our powerful Mediator He protects and preserves us. It rests upon His power - salvation is of the Lord. How could He lose one for whom He died? What would that say about the sufficiency of the cross?
3. Our assurance rests upon His perfect work. Doubts often come from a failure to trust fully in the sufficiency of His sacrifice upon the cross
4. His sufficiency fills us with great joy and wonderful peace. We are satisfied in Him. When we appreciate the sufficiency of Christ the things of this world have less and less significance.

Conclusion:

Salvation is of the Lord.

- I. God alone has the power to save. God alone has ordained the way.
- II. Christ alone is the way. There is no other way.
- III. We must rest upon Him alone.