

Say Unto My Soul, I Am Thy Salvation

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Let's go to our text this morning and the text will be found in Psalm 35:3. A Psalm of David.

3 Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.

Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, I thank thee, Lord, for thy faithfulness to bring us here this day. Lord, we pray according to thy will in asking and beseeching thee, Lord, that thou would prepare our hearts, that thou would give us a longing desire to know how we stand at this hour before thee. Lord, show us indeed they people who are in this room, reveal to them that you are life, that complete salvation is in thee and thee alone. Lord, may you come with power, may you search our souls, may your search our hearts, and may you bless this hour with illumination and thy power and thy Spirit to come mightily and testify to thy people that you are their salvation. O Lord, may you put all things in our life today, put them all in one bundle and may you compare them against how great thy salvation is and may you reveal to thy people the one thing needful. Bless this hour now and the hour to come as it pleases you and for thy glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

The last time I was up here, I spoke to you from the passage on the thief, the thief on the cross and his final hours and the words that the Lord spoke to him when he said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." I spoke then about the necessity that the Lord speak those words to us in our lives many times over; the need in this life as we struggle against the powers of sin, the powers of the wicked one, the powers of the world, the powers of the indwelling flesh, the powers that seem so stacked against us. In that message, I mentioned this text, Psalm 35:3. I used it then and the Lord just kind of kept plowing me on it and so, Lord willing, I have a little more depth to say today about this text, about the necessity for the Lord to answer that question for us, answer that age-old question, a point that we long to know: am I his or am I not?

I guess at the risk of sounding like a preacher that thinks he has power, I certainly don't believe that of myself, but I have at this hour to ask you: are you saved? And if you are, what are you saved from? And how deep and how great is salvation to you? As the Lord

led me in prayer to pray those things, if you took everything in your life, your family and your wealth and your prosperity and everything you have and you put it on one side of the weight in the scale and you had the Lord's finished salvation on the other side, which one is more dear to you? And we can all mouth it and say, "Oh, it's the salvation of the Lord," and how true that is for the people of God as the Holy Spirit brings it to them. He reveals how great salvation is.

But as I said, what are we saved from? Why is there a necessity for salvation in your life? And as I live in my home, as things come up in my home, as I have problems in my home, as I have problems in my job, as I have problems in my life and indwelling sin, the Lord at the end brings me to balance those things and say are they that important in life. Are these things really what life is all about. As you struggle with these things or you have so much thought, if you find yourself just so engulfed with thoughts about death or hell or sin or the world, the idols in the world, politics in the world, sports in the world, things of that nature, does the Lord ever set you in that place and compare his salvation to those things and show you the depth of that salvation?

Now, David as we turn to this Psalm and the introduction here to this Psalm, it's a Psalm of David. It's most likely written when he was on the run from Saul when he faced the persecution of Saul. Saul was trying to kill him over and over again but the thing about David that I find so comforting is that when David's life was threatened, he prayed for his soul. He prayed for the Lord to minister to his soul. You see, that's where the child of God is brought in our daily lives. Here is one running from physical pending death, the threat of it, the fear of it, but he's not praying for the safety of his body. He says in our text today, "say unto my soul. Lord, I need you to say to my soul that you are my salvation." Because when the Lord does that, when he speaks to his children that he is their salvation, all of the other things in life pale in importance, even to the very thought that he's being persecuted and being hunted down like an animal.

And David says that as this Psalm begins. He says, "Plead my cause, O LORD," and you see there is a desperation in the soul because that's what the Holy Spirit does. He convinces the child of God of a necessity of the salvation of Christ. He convinces the child of God of his sin. He convinces the child of God as judgment, as we'll see. David had to know, he had to know that his enemies would be dealt with. He had to know that Christ would reign over all the enemies in his life, physical and spiritual. But I don't know about you, I find it great comfort to me that when David is here pursued by a physical enemy, that he prays for his soul. You and I today living in the United States of America are not persecuted physically, as of yet, by an enemy from a foreign shore or even in our own borders. We don't have people threatening our lives, but we do have enemies every day threatening our lives. Satan is threatening our lives. This world we live in and the allurements of this world and the people in this world are threatening your life. Your life, the life, the only life we have and if it's the life we have that's hid in Christ, it's that which these enemies are after and they are relentless enemies and the old nature in ourselves wants to rise up and rise against the finished work of Christ and the rest that we have in Christ.

So when David says, "Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me," I hope as you sit in that chair this morning, there are enemies that strive with you. I'm not talking physically. Are there enemies to your soul because David writes somewhere else in the Psalms that there are those that have no changes; they have no afflictions in their soul; they have no worries in their soul; they have no inner turmoil in their souls. They are not being pursued by the enemy because the enemy has already captured them.

So that's our question this morning as we begin this Psalm and, listen, this text this morning is a Psalm of assurance. David can't say to the Lord, "say unto my soul, you are my salvation," without knowing that he's in Christ. You don't call out for something that you don't believe is yours. It was personal to David, "say unto my soul, I am thy salvation." David is brought to cry out to the Lord because he has a relationship with the Lord. This isn't some external thing that people in religion say today that we take God off the shelf when we need him. David has a relationship with him and that's where his shield is and his buckler, which we're going to hit here too.

He says, "fight against them that fight against me." Lord, I need you to fight for me. "Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help." Lord, you are my strength. You are the one that must perform all things for me, as he says in another place. You are my fortress that I run to. You are my life.

Then he says, "Draw out also the spear." That's a call for the Lord's instrumentality to put down his enemies. He wants to see it. The Lord doesn't need a spear. He's not talking about a physical spear. He's talking about the Lord coming and revealing to David that, "I am triumphant over your enemy." I've always said this about David's life. I know, it testifies to me the mighty presence of the Lord the time that David was in that cave, in the back of that cave, and Saul was in the front of that cave. I'm somewhat claustrophobic, I have a problem with small areas, I have even problems...I mean, I get nervous when those things happen. I cannot imagine that David would write a Psalm, and he did, about the Lord coming to his soul then. "Lord, show me that you're my salvation." I mean, that is pending doom. That is certain death. There is no way out here. And that's the desperation of the soul when the Lord brings us to say, "There is no other place for me to go. Where can I go, Lord? You have the words of eternal life. You are the way, the truth and the life."

"Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation." But what is salvation? That's the whole point this morning: what is salvation to you? Of course, I looked up the definition. I do that periodically. The definition of salvation is: the act of saving; preserving from destruction, danger or great calamity; redemption from the bondage of sin; and liability to eternal death. Do you understand that the wages of sin is death? That's the wages that sin pays, death. Has that ever been impressed upon you that every day that you get up and you're polluted by this world and you walk in sin, whatever it is, a quick temper, a mouthing to somebody in anger, no patience, unbelief, whatever it is, the wages of that sin is death. Salvation is being saved from that purchase, so to speak, that sin has done. You deserve death. You deserve hell. You deserve damnation. You deserve condemnation.

Now, in a real sense, we experience those things in this life: condemnation, the fear of death, fear of hell, hell itself. In our Bible study Wednesday night, the pastor mentioned that about Jesus and what was hell to him was being separated from the Father. When he said that I thought the Lord just came to me and he said, "And, Shawn, that's hell for you when you are separated from me because you're in me. So if you're separated from me by sin or these attacks of Satan or unbelief, which is sin, and all these things, if you're separated from me, that's hell to you." And it's true, it is. That's hell to me because I have to feel his presence. I have to know that he said to me, "I am your salvation. Yours, Shawn." That's my question because when we get to the end of this sermon, I'm going to take you to a couple of passages that I hope the Holy Spirit uses to ask you: have you ever been brought here? This is a testimony of his salvation in your soul.

And we don't want to get ahead of ourselves so I want to speak now and read to you a couple of the people in the word of God that had this salvation and how personal it was to them. The first one I want to read to you is Job. Job in Job 13:15 and 16 says, "Though he slay me," do you see that? Though he slay me, thou his providence in all that comes into my life slays me, takes my life, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him." You see, there is no hypocrisy in the life of Christ in your soul. Hypocrisy is saying one thing and not doing it and not performing it. The child of God knows that his life is in what Christ has done for him.

That's what Job said, "Though he slay me, I will maintain this," Job says, "that my ways, if my ways are before the Lord, if the Lord is performing all things for me, salvation will be imparted to me and I will be saved from hypocrisy." Hypocrisy in religious works and duties is probably the highest and the worst hypocrisy there is. Jesus upbraided the Pharisees for that all the time, for their will worship, for their desire to reach Christ in a way that centered upon man. We all have that hypocrisy in our fallen nature, we have that duty or that will that we think that as soon as we do something for God he's going to reward us; that we have to work for him. And the Lord told us, he tells us in his word, "I came not to be ministered unto, I came to minister." That says a lot to me. That says to me that my Lord didn't come for me to do something for him because he's performed all things for me. And because of him, because of his life in my soul, that life that is lived out in me is what is glorious to him because that's his work.

We are his workmanship and I believe that's what Job is saying. "Lord, save me from the hypocrisy." He heard a lot of hypocrisy from those friends of his. He heard a lot of it. "If you do this. Oh, you've done this wrong. Oh, if you do this." Job at this time and throughout that book was kept and right here you see, "he shall be my salvation." Personal. "Lord, reveal to me that your salvation is void of hypocrisy in me." That's what he's talking about.

Isaiah says it this way in Isaiah 12:2, he said, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." Now, notice what salvation there was for Isaiah: it was salvation

from fear; it was salvation from the things that make us afraid in this life. Hebrews tells us all our life we are subject to the fear of death. It's true and when we get sick, we have those thoughts; when we're not doing what is prescribed for us, when we go to the doctor and he says, "Well, you need to lose this much weight. You need to get this much exercise. You need to do these things." Those thoughts Satan uses and comes in and goes, "You're gonna die if you don't do those things."

Fair enough. I go through those things. We have a lot of fears in this life but the Lord says, "I am thy salvation," and those fears dissipate because salvation is life, eternal life in Christ. I didn't read the end of that definition was conferring on him everlasting happiness. Everlasting happiness. That's what we have in Christ. Eternal happiness. Eternal joy. And you say, "That's hard to imagine down here." You're right, it is. We can't imagine it. Faith brings us there. That's why the necessity of faith and we'll talk about it here in a few minutes.

But Jonah said it this way in 2:9, he said, "I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD." Now, we know the story of Jonah. Jonah had to be brought out of the belly of that fish, spit up on the land, or before this time, he said, "Listen, salvation is of the Lord. I know the only way I'm going to get out of this is the Lord must save me. But if I don't get out of this, salvation is still of the Lord." Do you see? It's the same way with David, he's being pursued by Saul and he's being pursued by all of the people spying for Saul, and he's very troubled by it but he cries out for his soul.

I don't know in your walk with the Lord if that's been differentiated for you. Do you have a fear of your body or do you have a fear for your soul? The fear of the Lord in your soul is a fearfulness for your soul, "Lord, save my soul!" We do a lot to preserve these bodies. We do, but what about your soul. That's what I'm saying, David was brought there. I think every child of God will be brought there.

Micah in Micah 7:7 says, "Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me." I will wait. Salvation is the cure for our impatience. We brought to wait upon the Lord to reveal that, to say those words to us, "I am thy salvation. Say it to my soul, Lord." It's not going to do me any good if it's said to my head, just to my mind, because that's what all this world of religion is. "Oh, I'm saved." I hear it all the time. I hear it a lot from family members. "Oh, I'm saved. I don't anything to worry about. I'm saved." And I think about that often and I say, "What has he said to your soul? Do you have any soul work going on?" And it goes back to what I said earlier: are there any changes? Are there any things you go through in this life that there are the ups, there are the downs, and the Lord has to reveal to you that he's the sovereign in all of it.

Turn with me over to Habakkuk 3. I was going to read this one out just like I did the other ones but I couldn't rest just on 18 so I want to read 17, 18, 19. I've read this a lot of times up here from the pulpit because this is a very experiential passage to me. When I read these things and the Holy Spirit applies them to me, I just put myself right here. The

Holy Spirit takes me and says, "Right here." Is this not a story of life right here? Verse 17 says, "Although the fig tree shall not blossom." I want you to look at all the negatives in 17. This is what life and everything that's stacked against us. Yes, our bodies are decaying. Yes, we're going to have trials. Yes, we're going to have temptations. Yes, we are dying every moment that we're living down here. Yes, we have all these afflictions.

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail." Listen to these words: not, neither, fail.

"And the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls." When I read that, I hear nothing but sadness. I hear nothing but desolation. I hear nothing but emptiness. I hear nothing. But where is your salvation at? That's the whole point. Habakkuk at the end of his prophecy, he looks out at the destruction, he looks out at all of God's judgment that he brought to Israel, he looks out at everything and he says, "Everything looks bleak to my eyes. Everything looks bleak to life." Isn't that what we're told every day? You listen to the media and it's going to be bleak every day of your life. You listen to your, as I said, those voices that tell us all the time that things are going wrong in our life and this and that. A lot of turmoil there. A lot of hardship. A lot of unbelief fostered out of those things.

And that's what Habakkuk said, "Look around. All of this." That's what I told you at the beginning, as you put everything in this weight over here, if you've lost it all, if all of it came to naught, would it matter to you? Would it matter to you because for him it all came to naught. He looked around and there is nothing but despair here. But what's the difference? He's in Christ.

"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD." My joy is in the Lord. Well, that was a pretty bleak picture you just painted. That's right because the Lord has said to his soul, "I am thy salvation. I have saved you. Salvation is in me. You have eternal life."

"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation." His salvation was not in vines or olives or flocks or herds. If all of that came back, that isn't what salvation is to him. How do we know that? Because he lost it all. Job lost it all too. Job was brought to say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord," because there was a presence in him. He was preserved by grace. He had a relationship with the Lord. This is what the Lord's people have.

"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet." He'll do it. He'll make me run. He'll lift me above all of this. He'll be my strength.

"And he will make me to walk upon mine high places." He will pull me out of here. He will. I will go in the steps that he orders for me. He will do it because faithful is he that calleth you who also will do it.

I read this verse last week, Peter said, "Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." We must be saved by the salvation that we hear today in this text, "say unto my soul, I am thy salvation." Has the Lord said that to you? Does he continuously say that to you because that's the end of our trials. That's what I mean. That's the strength in our trials. That's the end of our temptation. That's the strength in the middle of those temptations. "I am thy salvation."

The Lord says here, "Your salvation is going to be in riches, it's going to be in healthy prosperity, it's going to be in..." No. The Scriptures who testify of Christ and his finished work and his finished salvation, he is the remedy. He is the prize. He is life. "Say unto my soul, Lord, I am thy salvation."

Now, let's look from verse 4 back in our text. Now that he just called out for the Lord to make his assurance known, "Lord, say unto my soul, I am thy salvation," listen to how he is brought to ask for the destruction of his enemies. That's why I told you the Holy Spirit must convince us that the Lord is the Lord over our enemies; that he is the righteous Judge; that "vengeance is mine, saith the Lord. I will repay."

"Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt. Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them. Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them. For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit." Does that sound familiar to you? Does that sound familiar? I'll tell you what: it's the words of the Lord. The Lord said that, he said, "They hated me without cause." He said that in John 15. The Lord said they hated and if we be in Christ, these enemies, it's not a cause. It's a cause because the Lord is in us. That's why the enemies hate us, it's because of the Lord's presence in us but his salvation is greater than all of our enemies. That's the whole point.

"For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul. Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall." Then look at verse 9 where we stop, "And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD." Yes, when we see the Lord triumphant, when we see salvation in the Lord where he has put down our enemies, where he has defeated, where he has separated us from the enemies. There is no salvation when we're co-mingling and co-existing and co-walking with the enemy. I don't care how well you justify it, you will never have peace if you are a child of God co-walking in the world's counsels. You can't. The Lord's design is for him to be life of your soul.

That's what he said, "My soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation." Notice he didn't say, "My soul won't rejoice in my salvation," although he could have because it's hid in Christ. He said, "My soul is going to rejoice in his salvation," because it's a gift. It's the Lord's to give. That's the question now of the hour: has the Lord given you that salvation?

Now, I told you there were going to be a couple of places we went. Experientially I've got a couple of questions for you. I want to take you to a couple of passages as we end and I want to ask you that question: has the Lord ever said this to you? You want to know. I sit there and I say sometimes maybe you younger ones, maybe older ones, sometimes I struggle. Has the Lord spoken to me strongly? Has it been the Lord? Is it the Lord?

Well, let's go to John 4 a minute. You say, "That's kind of an odd place." Well, we'll see. I want to know if you've ever been brought here, okay? We're in John 4. The Lord has met the woman at the well. He has spoken to her. He has revealed to her where eternal life is. She has left. She has gone back to tell everybody back where she came from.

We pick up in 31, "In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat." Here is my questions for you: have you ever been brought to say these words of Christ? "But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of." Have you ever been brought in your soul as the world around you has said, "Why don't you do this? Why don't you eat this way? Why don't you follow this way?" Has the Lord ever revealed to you that you have meat to eat that the world or those around you know not of? Now, this is just between you and the Lord. May the Holy Spirit witness to you at this hour, is this a true statement? Do you have meat to eat that others know not of? Remember, we talked about a personal, "Lord, reveal to me, say to me, I am thy salvation. Say to me. Lord, is it personal? Have you revealed to me that you are my salvation?"

Now look, we're not done. "But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another," which we would do the same thing because we understand things on the physical realm but we don't understand things on the spiritual realm unless the Holy Spirit reveals them to us. "Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?" I mean, we've been gone. Did someone else bring him food? Is that what he's talking about?

Listen to what Jesus says, "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." The Lord said, "What I am sustained with, you asked me if I have physical sustenance to keep me alive here on this earth. I tell you that life is more than that. Life to me is to do the will of my Father; that that is my sustenance. That is what makes me alive."

Now here's the question: if we be in Christ, this testimony is our testimony. This is what the Holy Spirit reveals to his children that our meat, the purpose, what is life to a child of God, is to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work. It's all of him. We are his workmanship. As the Lord in this salvation that he has said to you, "I am your salvation," has he shown you, like in this passage, that he is everything? That he is? I have meat. As I told you, these two passage at the end are searching to us. They are searching because sometimes this inner presence that the Lord has, we judge things by what we hear outwardly, what we see in others, "Oh, this one doesn't act this way. This one didn't say this."

Listen, this is between you and the Lord. Do you have meat to eat that you know not of? There is something in your soul that the Lord has spoken to you that he is enough, that he is life, that he is the sustenance of your life, and that all this stuff on the outside that people believe make up who you are is not who you are; that your life is what Jesus said here, "I have meat to eat that you know not of."

How do you know that his presence is in you? His presence is more than enough? His abundant grace is more than enough? There is an inner presence. There is a witness of the Spirit with your spirit that says to you that you are the Lord's child and that you and the purpose of you is for the glory of God to do the will of him that sent you. And did he sent you? Is that your purpose in life? Is it a life living unto Christ? Is he the way, the truth and the life? To finish his work, that's the purpose. That's why I'm here, to live unto the Lord.

Now, as you get older, you understand those things a little more, and I'm not talking spiritually. I just mean understanding because you start to live in life but as you're young, you know, you look at a lot of things in this life and you say, "Well, I've got my whole life ahead of me." Well, if the Lord has spoken to you at a young age, I ask you the same question: has he revealed to you that you have meat to eat that those that you're around, they know not of? That there is a testimony that you are different than the world?

We're not going to stop there, we're going to turn over to Romans 14. Romans 14 is that chapter that speaks about eating the meat or don't eat the meat and if one eats the meat and doesn't want to eat the meat, there is no condemnation for either one of them as they long as they do it unto the Lord and that's what we have here. Except we get down here to the end of the chapter and Paul asks this question, he says, "Hast thou faith?" Has the Lord ever asked you that? Do you have faith because if you have faith, he's not talking about your faith, he's talking about the faith of the Son of God. We all have a faith to believe in things, however, "Hast thou faith?" This is that inner working. How do we know that he has said to our soul, "I am thy salvation"?

"Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth." That's the freedom that we have in Christ. Are you listening to the outside noise? Does the world dictate who you are? Does the popularity in this world dictate who you are? Does the peer-pressure in this world dictate to who you are? Do the mandates that are set forth in this world dictate to who you are? Do you have a faith, do you live by the faith of the Son of God that Paul mentions in Galatians 2:20? And is that faith something that is precious to you between you and the Lord?

You see, that's something about the child of God, he's not out there pushing his faith on everybody else. He's not out there telling everybody else how to live according to his faith because he has an inner presence of the salvation of Christ telling him, "I am your salvation," and that therefore makes the child of God cry out, "I live by the faith of the Son of God and he's enough." And there is contentment in the soul.

"Hast thou faith?" Paul said. Do you have faith? Because if you do, there is no condemnation. It doesn't matter who around you condemns you. It doesn't matter what the law says to you. Do you have the faith of the Son of God? Because if you do,

"Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth." Because that's what Paul just got done talking about. He said, "Do you know what? At the end of all of this, whether you eat, whether you don't eat, there is no question, has the Lord led you to where you're at? Is it the faith of the Son of God?" That's the caveat here. That's the question. Is it? Because there is a false faith. Have it to thyself before God.

That's what the child of God has in this life. We're going to face condemnation and persecution from the world, we're going to face condemnation from the law, we're going to face condemnation from family, from friends, from those around us, because that's what the fallen nature does. If you don't understand that, look at the Pharisees. That's what they did, they pointed out everybody's sin. Everybody in this life is going to point out your sin.

Do you have faith? Do you have Christ's presence in your soul? And if you do, it's a presence of the Lord and it's contentment in the Lord and it's rest in the Lord and you're not out there worried about everybody else's life and you're not out there worried about what others think of you because the Lord has testified to you that he is your salvation and he has testified to you that there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walked not after the flesh but after the Spirit. No condemnation. That's the power of the Lord saying to us he is our salvation.

Verse 23 says, "he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith." Do you see the importance of the faith of the Son of God? Because we do have doubts. There is damnation, there is condemnation in doubting and unbelief. That's what the world has. And we have much condemnation we bring to ourselves when we listen to the world, when we listen to Satan, when we listen to ourselves, when we listen to religious men. "Oh, this is the way." I mean, I think of Job a lot when I hear these things and I think, "Wow, this child of God went through quite an ordeal, losing things physically and then getting these mighty attacks spiritually but the Lord sustained him." The Lord said to Job, "I am your salvation."

"He that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Do you know that? Whatever you do in this life, if it's not by the faith of the Son of God, it's sin.

May the Lord reveal to us what he revealed to David in our text one more time, Psalm 35:3, "Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me," O Lord, "say unto my soul, I am thy salvation." Lord, make it personal. Say to each soul in this room as it pleases you, Lord, these are your people. If we be the children of God, we have a need to hear, Lord, that you are our salvation, that you are our faith, that you are the meat that the world and even the ones we love at times don't know, don't realize what

we have. Impress that upon us, Lord, that we know that you are our salvation to the glory and praise of the Lord.

Dear heavenly Father, may you add thy power and thy clarity and may you lift all of thy people up. Bear us up upon thy wings, O Lord. Keep us from the enemies that we have so many of in this life that are so contrary to thy faith, that are so contrary to thee. Lord, give us the faith to believe. Give us of thy Spirit to know and to understand who thou art and may you preserve us all of our days in thee as it pleases you for your glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.