

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • TV120B

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND, 1980

By

HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published
MARCH 17TH, 2015

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY

Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501

1 Peter 1:8-12

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”

I'm going to be reading for a text today from the book of **1 Peter**. We are going to look at **Chapter 1: 8 and 9 of 1 Peter**.

I would like very much if you would open your Bible to this particular passage of Scripture. I'm not only going to read the text and speak from it but I am going to quote from different verses around the text.

In **1 Peter chapter 1: verses 8, 9, 10, 11, 12**; we will be using all of these verses and I will be speaking on this subject: **“THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL.”**

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Now, that's important isn't it? I don't anything that is more important than the salvation of your soul. That's just exactly the way the apostle Peter writes it; he says: "*the salvation of your souls.*"

Now, listen to **verses 8 and 9**. He's talking about our Lord Jesus Christ and he says: "*Whom having not seen, (that is in the flesh with the natural eye; we've seen Him with the eye of faith, we've seen Him in the Word of God, we've seen Him in the Gospel, we've seen Him as the Holy Spirit reveals, His sufficiency, His beauty, and His glory and His grace) but, "whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, receiving the end (or the outcome or result of your faith), even the salvation of your souls.*"

A fellow asked me one time: "Are you still saving souls?" Now, he wasn't trying to be smart. I think it was a question born out of ignorance more than anything else, not knowing what to say or not knowing anything about the Gospel or the Word of God.

But, that's the way he asked it, he said: "Are you still saving souls?" I replied: "No; I can't save a soul. I can't save my soul or your soul or anybody else's soul but I know this; I am totally committed to a person who can save your soul. I'm totally committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that is able to save your soul effectually and eternally, for the Scripture says: "*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*"

I know that Jesus Christ our Lord is able, not only able but willing to save all who come to the Father by Him. He has both the merit and the power. He has both the will and the ability to save every soul.

So, I can't save a soul. Our church can't save a soul. Our preaching can't save a soul but Christ can. He said, "*Look unto me and be ye saved. Come unto me and I will give you rest.*" Do you see that?

Now, I'm fully persuaded by the Word of God that there is but one way of salvation. There is but one Gospel. I hear people talking frequently about "there are many roads to heaven." Well, my friend, there's only one road to heaven. There's only one way of salvation.

You can take the Word of Christ for it, He said: "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me.*" There's but one Gospel, there's but one way of salvation. If you are ever saved it will be by this Gospel and by this Redeemer.

Listen to **1 Timothy 2:5**: "*There is one God.*" You will say: "Well, I believe that preacher." "*There is one mediator between God and men and that's the man Christ Jesus.*" Do you believe that? "*There's one God and there's one mediator between God and men and that's the man Christ Jesus.*"

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Paul severely rebuked the Galatians for departing from the Gospel. He says: *“They are preaching another gospel (which is not another gospel at all but it’s a perversion of the Gospel of Christ).”*

Paul says: *“Though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel; let him be accursed, (let him be under the judgment and wrath of God), any man or creature or even an angel from heaven who preaches any other gospel, (any other way of salvation) let him be accursed.”*

Now, there are many areas where we can be lenient. There are many areas where we can be tolerant but this is one area where the apostle Paul will not allow us to be either lenient or tolerant, that is, on the Gospel.

Our Lord said: *“I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved. I’m the water of life. If any man drink, he will never thirst again. I am the bread of life. Eat and your soul shall be filled.”* There’s only one way.

And the apostle said: *“Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ the Lord. There’s none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”* There’s but one Gospel.

Now, do you see those two things? I can’t save sinners and no other preacher can. No priest can save sinners and no religious representative can save sinners, no religious ceremony, law, or duty, and no religious zeal; only Christ can save; only Christ can put away sins. Only Christ can redeem.

And, there’s but one Gospel of Christ and that’s the Gospel of faith, the Gospel of grace; the Gospel of looking to Him, not doing, but done.

You know, religionists are always giving people something to do, something to do, something to do. God gives us something that is done:

**“Jesus paid it all
All the debt I owe,
Sin left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.”**

There’s nothing else to do, it is done, tis finished, it’s complete.

Now, there are two things Paul emphasizes in **1 Timothy 1:15** about this Gospel. There are two things that are very important, (the truth of it and the Worth of it). Watch this now, he said:

“This is a faithful saying; (it’s true, it’s a true saying) and it’s worthy of all acceptance.” He presents the truth of it, the truth of this Gospel, and the worth of it. *“It’s a true saying and it’s worthy of acceptance by all men (and true peace of mind is to discover the truth of it and true peace of heart is to discover the worth of it).”*

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

What am I saying? I'm saying this, that true peace of mind is to discover the truth of the Gospel, that there is a ransom. I think that when the prophet wrote: "*I found a ransom;*" think of the peace of mind, in searching, in requiring, "*I have found a ransom, (a full ransom, and a full redemption) I have found him in whom my soul delights.*"

That's what the lover said in the Song of Solomon: "*I have found him.*" There is nowhere else to look. There is no one else to whom I can look. He said to His disciples one day: "*Will you go away?*" They said, "*To whom shall we go; thou hast the words of life.*"

And, when you discover the truth of Christ, the truth of His sufficient sacrifice, when you discover the truth of His Gospel, when you discover the truth of it, my friend; you will have total peace of mind.

You won't have to look back and wonder, "Well, should I do this or should I do that, or should I do something else? Have I done enough? Have I given enough, have I prayed enough? Have I gone to church enough? Have I done this enough? Maybe I shouldn't have done that. Maybe I won't make it after all."

But, when you see the truth of the good news of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, that it's a true saying, "*this is the record, God hath given us eternal life and this life is in his Son.*" This is a complete record, the finished record. It's the true record; you will have peace of mind.

You are not going to have any peace at all as long as you keep running here and there and trying to do this and that and trying to follow this preacher and that preacher and trying to pay your way to heaven and trying to make yourself acceptable before God and trying to improve on your righteousness, you will never have any peace of mind until you find the truth of the Gospel, all the truth of it and the work of it.

When you get peace of heart is when you are going to see the work of Jesus Christ and the work of the Gospel, when you find that He satisfies; it won't satisfy.

Somebody says: "I found it." It won't do! It can be most anything but He is one thing: "*His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*"

I found Christ in whom my soul delights. I found Him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote. I found Him of whom the Father said: "*this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*" I found Him of whom the angels declared: "*He's not here; he's risen.*"

I found Him who is enthroned on the right hand of God, and my heart is at perfect peace: "*Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.*"

That's it buddy! And I will tell you, when you discover the truth of this Gospel you will quit running around, like a chicken with its head cut off, looking for all the answers, somewhere, in

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

somebody, from some pulpit, and you look to God's Word and see that Christ is the answer and see the truth of it, you will have peace of mind.

When you see the worth of Christ, the value of Christ, as the sufficiency of Christ, the all-encompassing fullness of Christ, you will just rejoice and you will cease from your labor and enter into his rest. That's what the apostle is talking about there, "*ceasing from my labor and entering into his rest.*"

And this Gospel is the subject that Peter is dealing with here in **1 Peter chapter 1**. It's the subject of wonder and glory. He says: "*The prophets* (prophets of old; all looked with amazement, in wonder) *searched diligently* (and inquire into this Gospel that we are talking about of Christ) *testified beforehand of the sufferings of Christ.*"

And listen to this, and he says: look at **verse 12**, "*which things the angels of God desire to look into,*" the redemption of Christ, the glory of Christ, the satisfaction and righteousness of Christ. These are the things that Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel and all of these old prophets, these are the things they searched into and diligently enquired into.

This occupied their thinking and meditation all day long, these things that I preach to you every Sunday. These men, they didn't know everything about it, but they believed it and they received it by faith. But these are things that I talk about every Sunday that they enquired into.

These things that we preach, that we take for granted; you know, it's amazing to me that the angels of heaven, the angels, it says: "*desire to look into things*" and we are so flippant, and indifferent and so careless.

Most don't have that same desire to look into the things that are recorded in the Word of God right here, for the promises, the provisions, and the gracious mercies of God.

I can see those men of old, those old prophets, as they looked at this promise and that promise and said: "What's He like? What will the Redeemer be like? What will the Messiah be like? What will the Christ be like?"

And they searched into it and Isaiah wrote: "*He was wounded for our transgressions.*" Do you reckon He saw the cross? I don't know. "*He was bruised for our iniquities.*"

When the prophet of old talked about God's elect and God's the messenger of the Covenant and these things, these prophecies, the virgin's Son; what do you reckon they knew about those things?

They diligently enquired into it and the angels of God stand in amazement around that bloody tree to see the Lord of glory expire in human flesh.

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

I'll tell you that some preacher gets up and says: "We won't have time to preach the Gospel today; we've had all of this music." We don't have time to talk about the greatest glory that ever took place from time until eternity.

Somebody hadn't seen that glory. Somebody hadn't realized that somebody hadn't seen the one on that tree. Somebody hadn't understood at all what these angels desired to look into or you put aside everything and preach the gospel of Christ.

The preaching of the Gospel would be the utmost, uppermost, and topmost thing that you would be most interested in. "Hurry up and get through with that so we can preach the Gospel." That is what it would come down to.

Then, I want you to look into this glorious promise. He says: "*The salvation of your soul.*" He's talking about the cross of Christ and the sufferings of Christ. He talks about the salvation of your soul. Let's look at it:

You know, "*we ought to give diligence to make our calling and election sure.*" One of these days we will look into it and it will be too late then; we will "*cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne.*"

I want to give you four things about this Gospel and faith in Christ, of which is the salvation of your soul!

First of all: This salvation is a salvation altogether of grace, grace, grace!

Now, do you see **there in 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 10?** It says: "*These prophets (Old Testament prophets) prophesied of the grace of God that should come to you.*"

My friend; the Gospel is called the Gospel of grace. Do you know what grace is? Well, it's an old definition but it is a good one: its unmerited favor. It's God giving us what we don't deserve; that's what grace is. This whole Gospel is the Gospel of grace.

Our calling, the apostle says, is the calling of grace: "*he called me by his grace.*" Then, our growth is a growth in grace. And salvation is said by Paul in **Ephesians 2**, "*by grace through faith and that not of yourself; it's the gift of God.*"

So, this salvation we are talking about is not a salvation by works: "*By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified. A man is not justified by works in the sight of God; it is evident; the just shall live by faith.*"

Now, a lot of people are justified in the sight of men by works. You can justify your faith by works in the sight of men. You can justify your honesty by works in the sight of men. You can justify your claim to love people by works in the sight of men.

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

But, in the sight of God, “*no man is justified by works,*” it’s by grace alone. “*Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness.*”

Now, this grace, it comes from God in His mercy to man in his misery. It says: “*They prophesied of the grace that should come unto you, (not come from you), come unto you.*” It’s from God in His mercy to man in his misery.

This grace is not a reward but a free gift: “*The gift of God is eternal life.*” The unspeakable gift of God is Jesus Christ the Lord. It doesn’t come as a plan; it comes as a proclamation. My friend, the Gospel is not a plan; it’s a proclamation.

You can call it a purpose if you would like to but it’s not a plan. It’s not something that God drew up and handed down to man and said: “now; work that out.” It’s a proclamation.

When Mr. Lincoln freed the slaves, he didn’t issue a plan for the United States; he issued an “Emancipation Proclamation.” He didn’t care what they thought about it in Alabama, the slave was free.

It wasn’t up to the judgments of men. It wasn’t up to the opinion of men. They were free; they are free. It was a proclamation; it was an Emancipation Proclamation. Men may violate it but they are free and that’s what the Gospel is, it’s a proclamation of a work completed and of a job done and of a people set free.

Grace planned it, grace executed it, and grace applied it. Grace sustains it and grace perfects it. As I said to you earlier, the religionist gives man something to do. God gives us the gift of His grace which is a work already done.

Listen to this song by the hymn writer:

**“Naked I come to Christ for dress
Helpless I look to Christ for grace
Vile, I to the fountain fly
Wash me Saviour or I die.”**

That’s the sum and substance of all of it. This salvation is a salvation by grace. This salvation is a salvation, the salvation of your soul by grace!

Second: It’s a salvation revealed by the Spirit of God!

Now, these Old Testament prophets, it says in **verse 10**, “*prophesied of the grace that should come to you;* (now, watch the next verse), **verse 11:** *which the Spirit of Christ in them testified of the sufferings of Christ.*”

My friend, I wouldn’t offend you if I could help it but salvation and the Gospel is not understood by natural men; there’s just no way: “*the natural man does not understand the things of God;*

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

they are foolishness to him.” “The natural mind is enmity against God. The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; (they are sheer nonsense).” That’s as clear as a bell throughout the Word of God.

Listen in 1 Corinthians 2 verse 9-10: *“Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered the heart of man, the things God has prepared for them that love him: but he hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth the all things of God, yea, the deep things of God.”*

Now, the Spirit: *“No man knoweth the things of a man save the spirit of man that’s in him.”* You don’t know what’s going on in here in my mind, I do. You will know as I tell you. *“Even so, the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God and he to whom the Spirit will reveal it.”*

Paul said, *“If our gospel be hid, it’s hid to them that are lost, in whom the God of this world hath blinded their mind lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine in unto them and they should be saved. But God hath revealed it to us. He hath revealed his glory in the face of Christ Jesus.”*

I don’t care how smart you are. No man can come to the Father except by Christ and by the Holy Spirit revealing Christ to his heart, being drawn by the Father. It says: *“They shall be all taught of God; everyone that learneth of the Father cometh to me.”*

I count not how religious you are. The apostle Paul had to count everything but dung. He said: *“I was born a Pharisee, I was born a Hebrew, I was made a Pharisee, I was this, that, and the other but I didn’t know God, I didn’t know Christ.”*

I care not how religious you are or how moral you are. Paul says: *“Concerning the law, I was blameless.”* A man has to have the Gospel revealed to him.

My friend, it’s the Holy Spirit using the Word of God, who convinces men of sin. Men are convinced of sin, not by preachers and not by weeping wives, and not by sobbing children, but by the powerful, supernatural, sovereign Spirit of God, who reveals to us what sin is.

Sin is not just an act; sin is an attitude. Sin is not just an action; sin is a nature, a principle within. A man steals because he is a thief by nature. A man lies because he’s a liar by nature. A man kills because he hates by nature.

The Holy Spirit deals with the source of sin, the root of sin. The Holy Spirit doesn’t spend his time whipping men over stealing watermelons and over these outward things. He deals with the heart.

He shows us that our sins are against God, not just against people, but true repentance springs from godly sorrow and godly sorrow springs from an awareness or conscientiousness that I have sinned against God.

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

David said after murdering Uriah: *“against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight.”* He was aware that he had sinned against God. His outward act of murder was because of a wicked blueprint drawn in his heart trying to escape the consequences of his adultery. Do you see that?

This is where the Holy Spirit works. Like John the Baptist said: *“He lays the ax to the root of the tree.”* And the apostle Paul said this: *“I didn’t even know sin until the law came in the hands of the Holy Spirit.”*

Paul, you are so dumb that you did not know that *“thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not kill, and thou shall not commit adultery.”* He knew those things but he didn’t know the meaning, he didn’t know the source. He didn’t know where the real problem spot was! Christ said it was the heart; it’s the heart.

And the Holy Spirit has to reveal that. He convicts of sin, He reveals Christ, He dives a man into the truth, and He glorifies Christ. You cannot see how a Holy God can be just and justify the ungodly sinner. You can’t see that except the Holy Spirit gives you an understanding of that mystery; it’s called a mystery, a mystery of the Gospel.

So, it’s a salvation revealed by the Holy Spirit!

Third: It’s accomplished by Christ!

Look at **verse 10-11**, he said: *“He testified of the grace that should come to you (the Holy Spirit gave them the understanding) and the Holy Spirit led them to the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.”*

My friend; *“Christ appeared to take away sin, put away sin, by the sacrifice of himself.”* Sin is hard to put away, sin is hard to put away. You say: *“That’s right preacher!”* You’re right when you discover that. Nothing will put away sin but one thing and that’s the blood of Christ.

There are three appearances in **Hebrews 9**, three appearances of Christ for every believer. The Scripture says, **Hebrews 9:26**, *“He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”*

The Scripture says **verse 24**, *“He appeared in heaven, right now, at the right hand of God for us.”* And the Scripture says in **verse 28**, *“He shall appear to them who look for him the second time without sin unto salvation.”*

That sin is put away. He came down here and put it away by His sacrifice. He went to heaven to intercede for us, to apply that which He purchased and then He’s coming down here to resurrect our bodies and give us that which He bought for us, this salvation and a salvation accomplished by Christ.

Now, in closing: This salvation comes to us by faith!

THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL

1 PETER 1:8-12 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Go back to the text; it says: *“Receiving, receiving the end of your faith (the outcome or result) of your faith, even the salvation of your soul.”*

Now, my friend; salvation is not received by pain and personal promises or penances; it's received by faith. Salvation is not received by works, good deeds, obedience to laws, rituals or ordinances; it's received by faith.

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

When Paul and Silas were in prison at Philippi and the jail was shaken by the earthquake and their bonds were broken and their fetters fell to the ground and the doors were opened. The Philippian jailer waking out of his sleep, disturbed by what he had heard and seen and experienced, came and fell on his face at the feet of Paul and Silas.

He was a wicked man. He was a brute of a man. He was a bloody man. He was a jailer in a dungeon. He fell on his face before Paul and he said: *“sirs; what must I do to be saved?”*

Now, if baptism saves or church membership saves or keeping the law saves or obeying the sacrament saves or going to the front of the church saves, now's the time for Paul to tell him. But Paul omitted all of those things and he said: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”*

I don't say to every sinner out there “believe on Christ.” Some of you don't feel your need. But, I say to every other sinner who feels his sin and feels his inability and feels his guilt and wants help and mercy and you are at your wits end: “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!”