

Intro:

XVIII. Saving a Soul from Death

A. The Evidence - vs 19a; 20b

1. Brethren

a. used in a general sense throughout the epistle

i. 1:2,16,19; 2:1,5,14; 3:1,10,12; 4:11; 5:7,9,10,12, here

ii. Usage covers his Jewish heritage as well as any who identify as part of the church

b. here, as in 2:1, speaking to believers

2. if anyone among you

a. three categories of people

i. The one suffering, needs to pray

ii. The weak, defeated, needs the care of the Elders

iii. The wanderer, needs to be called back to truth or to true salvation

b. among you indicates they are associated with the church

c. wanders from the truth,

i. grammatical structure indicates likely to happen

ii. *planao* - to cause to) roam (from safety, truth, or virtue):--go astray, deceive, err, seduce, wander, be out of the way.

- often used of straying from spiritual truth - Lk 21:8; Heb 3:10; 2 Pe 2:15

- used of the 1 sheep that went astray - Mt 18:12

- frequently describes the unsaved - Mt 22:29; Tit 3:3; 2 Pe 2:25

iii. Truth - the word of God, could be the gospel

d. he who turns a sinner from the error of his way

i. Sinners - *hamartolos* - used exclusively of unbelievers

ii. *plane* - fraudulence; a straying from orthodoxy or piety:--deceit, to deceive, delusion, error.

- errant theology results in errant living

- rejection of God's truth means rejection of the only power for obedience to it

B. The Threat - vs 20c

1. will save a soul from death

a. *psuche* - breath, spirit, (the animal sentient principle only; thus distinguished on the one hand from 4151, which is the rational and immortal soul; and on the other from 2222, which is mere vitality, terms thus exactly correspond respectively to the Hebrew heart, life, mind, soul, + us, + you.

i. refers to the whole of the person

ii. Mr 8:36-37 "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

b. death

i. Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death,

ii. Re 20:14b-15 the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

2. and cover a multitude of sins.

a. one sin brings death, they have a multitude

b. they also have responsibility of sitting in the church and hearing the truth and having rejected it, their fate would be worse - Heb 10:26-29

C. The Agents of God - vs 19b; 20b

1. Three pronouns used - One, him, he
2. Every believer responsible, not just pastors
3. 2Co 5:18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

D. The Goal - vs 19b; 20c

1. and someone *turns* him back.....he who *turns* a sinner from the error of his way

a. ***epistrepho*** - to revert:--come (go) again, convert, (re-)turn (about, again).

i. used often describing a sinners conversion to God

ii. Lk 1:16-17; Acts 9:35; 26:18,20; 2 Co 3:16; 1 Pe 2:25

b. verb form used in Mt 18:3 - Mt 18:3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are *converted* and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

c. used elsewhere

i. Ac 3:19 "Repent therefore and be ***converted***, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

ii. 1Th 1:9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you ***turned*** to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

2. let him know that will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

a. save - ***sozo*** - to save, deliver or protect:--heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

b. cover - ***kalupto*** - to cover up:--cover, hide.

i. Ps 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

ii. Ps 85:2 You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. Selah