

The Second Aspect of Salvation. (stage, step, category)

Text: 1 Thess. 5:23-24; Heb. 4:12-13

Intro: Importance of the three aspects, brief review. Last time I dealt with the first aspect. "Three Things About The Death of Christ You Should Know Before You Die".

That was about repentance and faith in the gospel. The salvation of your spirit.

The third aspect is about the salvation of the body of the born again Christian. The Day of Christ will soon dawn. (2 Thess. 2:2). That day will be an eternal day that will never end. This will begin at the rapture. Don't confuse this with The Day of The Lord. While the day of Christ is blessing for the believer, the day of the Lord will be judgement for the world. (1 Thess. 5:2). That will be the tribulation. It will be more than a 24 day. It begins at the rapture and goes beyond the tribulation period and will continue on through the millennial reign of Christ. He will rule with a rod of iron). It will include God's judgement on the rebellion at the end of the millennium (Rev. 20:7-9) and finally terminate at the burning of the earth by fire (2 Peter 3:10) preparatory to the creation of the new heavens and the new earth, "...wherein dwelleth righteousness" .

(2 Peter 3:18)

However we are restricting ourselves today to the Second Aspect of Salvation. This is the salvation of the life (soul) of the believer. It is about the believer's fellowship with and service to the LORD, now, in this present life. God wants to do more than to take you to heaven. He wants you to be happy and useful from now until you die or you go up in the rapture.

I- First, the negative side. What happens if we sin and persist?

A- Problem of the two natures of the believer. Perfection in this present fleshly body is not possible. (1 John 1:8,10)

B- What is backsliding? Broken fellowship with the LORD. We should keep short accounts. God forgives (1 John 1:9)

C- Since we are all prone to backsliding we should never be judgmental of others. (Rom. 2:1; 14:10-13)

D- The grave danger is Persistent backsliding. Persistently broken fellowship with Lord leads to a shortened life and service and loss of future rewards.

II- The Book of Hebrews deals with this problem.

A- Heb. Written to saved people. (Heb. 3:1; "we" - 51 times, "us"- 31, "our" - 16)

B- At Least 21 dangers and Warnings to Believers

- 1- Letting things slip (2:1-4)
- 2- Neglecting salvation (2:3)
- 3- Hardened hearts (3:7-8, 17)
- 4- Unbelief (3:19)
- 5- Disobedience (4:6)
- 6- Dull of hearing (5:11)
- 7- Unskilful in the Word (5:13)
- 8- Being a spiritual "baby" (5:13)
- 9- Lack of discernment (5:15)
- 10- Falling away (6:6)
- 11- Forsaking the Assembly (10:25)
- 12- Trampling under foot the Son of God (10:29)
- 13- Counting the blood of the covenant an unholy thing (10:29)
- 14- Doing despite to the Spirit of Grace (10:29)
- 15- Drawing back from the life of faith (10:38)
- 16- Carrying weights (12:1)
- 17- Besetting sins (12:1)
- 18- Refusing Him who speaks (12:25) (Zechariah 7:8 - [11] - 14)
- 19- Turning away from Him (12:25)
- 20- Fornication and adultery (13:4)
- 21- Covetousness (materialism) (13:5)
- 22- Doctrinal instability (13:9)

III- The Positive Part of Walking in Fellowship With God

- A- Psalm 23
- B- 1 John 1:3b - 7
- C- 1 John 2:1-2
- D- Phil. 3:7-14
- E- Eph. 6:10-18
- F- 2 Tim. 4:7-8

Conclusion: Don't be taken by surprise at the rapture (1 John 2:28)
