

THE SALVATION I BELIEVE IN

The basis of salvation lies in the total satisfaction of God's righteous demands by the Person Jesus Christ. I do not know why nor can I understand how this is so. To be able to do so would require my being able to comprehend the fullness of deity and possess an objective abhorrence of Sin. I can claim neither. I am finite and my nature is affected by Sin.

Besides, I could not claim to be privy to the discussions and decisions that took place within the Godhead when the plans were laid to counter Sin, should it ever arise. All I can claim is that this is what I have been told and this is what I accept, in faith.

Indeed, if everything were laid out so that there was no room for doubt, there would be no room for faith or trust. We groom and develop our young children telling them how to behave and we expect them to follow in trust, not to doubt that we know better.

What then are we told about Salvation? That we are to accept, without needing to rationalise, but accept on face value, just as a child accepts the loving message from its earthly Father or Mother.

Salvation has already been achieved for all men and is given to any person who asks. It is as simple as that. Unfortunately, men do not like simplicity; they find it difficult to accept unearned gifts.

Salvation is a gift. The price has been paid in full, so nothing more can be added. To try to do so is to say that the price has not been paid, that Christ's payment is inadequate. But Christ has somehow satisfied God's demands.

The implications are significant. The gift of Salvation is available to anyone. There is no club, no secret society, no initiation process required. It is a gift and not a wage for work well done. There is now neither Jew nor Greek, and there is no Hindu, Moslem or Christian. All are now one in him.

Salvation does not depend upon feelings. These are transient, varying daily, seasonally. Salvation relies on the solid rock of the firm commitment between the supreme Father and Son.

Salvation does not depend upon doctrinal purity. If that were the case, then none would be saved. God does not say that that one is saved because their doctrines and beliefs are unassailable. Of course each person holds to some doctrinal error, since each is finite and doctrine is a human attempt to distil the infinite realm into humanly comprehensible terms.

Salvation does not rely upon accuracy in eschatological exegesis. It relies upon a satisfied relationship within the Godhead. Man simply needs to accept the outcome of that satisfaction.

The Bible is not a book of doctrine but a history of God in action, as he affected human lives in a range of circumstances. The Law of God, his Holy Scripture, shows how people fail when they say they will achieve salvation through their obedience.

We see this clearly in the report of Jesus' ministry, where Jewish sects had elevated works as a means of obtaining salvation. Actions were enshrined as the means to obtain salvation, rather than seeing actions as being the outcomes, the fruitage, of having realised that one is already saved through the gift of God. A person's obedience is the fruit of salvation, and not the root of salvation.

The greatest commandment is LOVE. When Jesus said this, he was not quoting from the Decalogue, the Jews' primitive constitution, but from outside it. Love underpins the Throne of God.

Man tries to elevate human rules and human perceptions and force them on to the consciences of others. These rules may concern making times, sites and human activities sacred.

Religious observance of Time, such as Passover, Sabbath or Ramadan, is not fundamental to the Throne of God. Simple physics shows that the cyclical Day, including the Sabbath, and the manmade Week and the Month, are confined to this planet. Other bodies in the skies do not have our Sun to rule their days while the lengths of their days do not parallel ours. The day as we know it was given to Man, but not to other beings.

Our days are determined by the revolution of the Earth and the length of our days is not duplicated anywhere else. We have a year related to the revolution of our Earth around our sun and our one moon provides for the monthly cycle of around 30 of our earth days. I do not know that these patterns are replicated anywhere else in any universe. These periods were "made for Man", not for the inhabitants of other worlds. Time, such as the Sabbath, is confined to this Earth; it is not a foundation of God's universal throne. There is only one foundation – Love.

I am disturbed by the smallness of people's thinking on God. We may rightly class the one group or another as a sect since they believe they have a unique, sectional, claim upon Him. Such people believe God classes only their group as His. How petty.

The great story of salvation says salvation is being provided because of what Jesus Christ has already achieved, not because of my doctrinal purity. God does not say, "you are saved because you have understood such-and-such doctrine correctly". We are saved because Father and Son determined that the demand of Righteousness would be satisfied through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The extrapolation of this says that God is able to declare righteous anyone he wishes. It is not for me to judge whether this one or that one is saved or lost, for God is the Judge, not I.

Since salvation has been achieved through an historical event, it is accepted solely on the basis of faith – by the Jew, Christian, Arab, Hindu, Buddhist and anyone else. To claim that God loves only our section makes us a member of a sect also. This is true of any Christian who claims God loves only Christians and saves only Christians, just as much as it is true of the Catholic who says God saves only Catholics or the JW who says He saves only Jehovah's Witnesses.

People need to experience freedom from the mental stranglehold of human organisation and walk a personal dynamic path. People need to know that they are already at peace with God, because Jesus has provided that guarantee.

People need the freedom Jesus spoke about. No longer need people be bound by human rules and structures. They come to God, drawn by the love that comes directly from Him.

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