

Salvation "Now" And "To Come"

Introduction:

- A. A young man and his girlfriend were having a discussion about their religious differences. As she continued to try and convert him, he started to ask questions about what she was saying in an effort to thwart her efforts.
- B. I would like to look at the questions and the answers the young man gave to them based on what he believed the Bible taught. "When I became a Christian I wasn't sure if I could be saved forever. What if I rebel or deny or go back to living the way I used to?" Her answer: "In 1 Cor. 5:5 Paul is telling the saved man that he is not going to lose his salvation. He's going to take him to heaven!"
- C. Again he says: "What if I turn away? Then Rom. 8:35-39 answers that. That scripture says you are still saved."

NOTE: The answers fail to consider that we are responsible for "keeping ourselves."

- D. Also, she says: "Based on 1 Pet. 1:5 you are questioning your salvation if you don't think you are saved forever."

Note: She needs to understand that to admit one can fall is not questioning whether you are saved.

- E. Again: "The only thing 2 Peter 2:2 does is describe a false teacher." Note: It does much more than that, as we'll see.
- F. This statement is also from the same young woman: "Rom. 6:22 says "everlasting life" and that's not 'partial' or 'temporary'." With reference to Rom. 6:23 she says, "Show me where the Bible says 'temporary'. God is not an Indian giver! God is not going to take it away from you! You don't have to wake up every morning and say the "sinner's prayer"! God cannot lie! You have eternal life! What an awful feeling to wake up and think if I sin-- that one sin could keep me from heaven! Is God going to leave you here when the Rapture comes because you sinned one time? So many times in the Bible you find 'eternal life.' I cannot believe you can read the scripture I've shown you and say you can lose your salvation. God holds your salvation and you cannot lose it!"
- G. You'll notice this is simply the same old Calvinist position. They teach what this young woman believed, i.e. if a child of God sins, he is punished here and his sin will not allow him to be lost eternally.

I. *Eternal Life (Two Senses)*

[In all fairness to the truth of God's word there is a sense in which we have salvation "now," and another sense in which we will have salvation in the "world to come."]

A. NOW:

1. Acts 2:21, 37-41

Acts 2:21 - 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

Acts 2:37-41 - Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

2. Rom. 10:13

Romans 10:13 - for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

3. 1 Jn 5:11-12

1 John 5:1-12 - Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

a. The thing many fail to realize is, this "life" is conditional

b. 1 Jn. 5:18 says "...he who was born of God "keeps himself ..." What if he does not keep himself? (The same with Jude 21).

c. Look at the "if" in 1 Jn. 1:7 and compare 1 Jn. 1:6. Make the "key verse" 1 Jn. 1:6 which shows we (Christians) lie when we say we have fellowship but walk in darkness. No one is saved who has "no" fellowship with God!

1 John 1:6-7 - If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

B. THE WORLD TO COME:

1. We **hope for**: Rom. 8:24-25; Titus 1:2

2. Are **patient for**: Rom. 2:7

3. **Forsake all for**: Mk. 10:30

4. **Fight for**: 1 Tim. 6:12

C. Unless salvation in "two senses" is true, there is no way in the world to explain the passages that speak of salvation yet in the future:

1. Rom. 13:11, "**now** salvation is **nearer** to us than when we believed." Nearer!

2. 1 Tim. 6:12, "...take hold of the eternal life"

3. 2 Tim. 2:10, "...that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it, eternal glory." With eternal glory!

D. The young woman fails to accept this because she's looking at passages that have to do with God and what God does or purposes to do; not with man and what he as a free moral agent can do.

1. Any time one admits he must and can of his own will believe and confess in order to be saved, he ought to be able to see we claim no more for man by saying he can disbelieve of his own free will and be lost, i.e. lose the salvation "now" that he has.

2. To admit man can disbelieve of his own will and disobey and thus be lost is not voiding the grace of God, denying God's grace, the work of Christ, or establishing our own righteousness.

II. *Some Proofs Salvation Is "Conditional" Now*

- A. Bought Then Bring On Themselves Destruction - 2 Pet. 2
 1. THEIR SAVED STATE:
 - a. Bought by the Lord, v.1
 - b. Escaped, v. 20
 - c. Had known way of righteousness, v. 21
 - d. Had been in the right way, v. 15
 2. THEIR LOST STATE:
 - a. Denying, v.1
 - b. Covetousness, v.3
 - c. Forsaking right way, gone astray, v. 14-15
 - d. Turned from holy commandments, v. 21
 - e. Again entangled in world, v. 20
 3. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THEM:
 - a. Swift destruction, v.1
 - b. Later end worse, v. 20
 - c. Surely be destroyed, v.12
 - d. Cursed children, v. 14
 - e. Blackness of darkness reserved for, v.17
- B. Can Become Reprobates - 1 Cor. 9:27
 1. The word means "to reject"
 2. Why warn others? These types of warnings are wasted on people who do not believe you can fall - 1 Cor. 10:12
- C. Falling without "Adding" - 2 Pet. 1:3-11
 1. Note verse 10. "Why, Peter, don't you know that one who has salvation cannot possibly fall?"
 2. Every positive has a negative. What's the opposite? If he does not add them he will fall!
- D. Fallen From Grace - Gal. 5:4
 1. You can't fall off the roof without being up there!
- E. Weak Brother May Perish - Rom. 14:15; 1 Cor. 8:11
 1. Will those who perish be saved?
- F. Converting A Brother from Error - Jas. 5:19-20
 1. One converted is saved from death.
 2. 1 Cor. 5:5 explained: "flesh" --- discipline so he would subdue and destroy the lust of the flesh.
- G. Sorer Punishment - Heb. 10:26-31
- H. No Renewal - Heb. 6:4-6
 1. "Seeing" i.e. "all the while"
- I. Book of Life - Rev. 3:5; 22:19

Conclusion:

- A. Such is God's teaching concerning our salvation "now" and "in the world to come." Let's do our part with the full assurance that God will do His!