

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

SESSION TWO NOTES: "SALVATION"

We need a Saviour because there is something seriously wrong with the world (with society as a whole and with individual lives) which cannot be resolved without God's help.

- God made the world to be a place of peace and justice and happiness, a place in which he would reign. He still wants the world to be that way (Isaiah 2:1-5).
- But everyone agrees that there is something seriously wrong with the way the world is now (war, poverty, riots, racial conflict, generation gap, exploitation).
- There is a growing realization that there is more than just a number of individual problems-- society as a whole has something wrong with it.
- Individuals suffer from the situation and from lack of help, and they experience many problems (loneliness, isolation, depression, anxieties, insecurities, lack of direction, meaninglessness, personal relationships characterized by fear, suspicion, mistrust, exploitation. Filling the emptiness with drugs, sexual immorality, pursuit of money or fame).

Since the cause of what is wrong (Satan, sin, and the dominion of darkness) is bigger than mankind can handle on our own. we need God to find the new life that is needed.

- Human efforts to improve the world are not succeeding. Even the most educated people and the most highly placed executives in business experience problems in their own lives, work, and relationships.
- Religions developed by mankind such as Buddhism, Yoga, Transcendental Meditation, Scientology, Freemasonry, New Age etc. do not provide a solution.
- Even some forms of Christianity amount to being human efforts to find a good life and change the world. But these are based on human wisdom; God's wisdom is needed (Isaiah 55: 8-9).

God tells us in the Bible that we are not just confronted with particular wrongs in society or in ourselves; behind the particular things that are wrong there is something bigger than we can handle:

- The pervasive power of sin (Romans 3:9, 23)
- A kingdom, the dominion of darkness (Colossians 1:13)
- A force in rebellion against God, at enmity with him (Ephesians 6:12)
- Satan is behind it (I John 5:19)
- We are not free, nor is our society (people are in spiritual bondage, under the oppression of evil) (Ephesians 2:1-3)

Mankind was created to need God to achieve true peace, justice, and truth:

- The spiritual realm is not an optional extra. (John 15:5c)
- Only in God's kingdom (under his rule) are these things possible. (Isaiah 2:1-5, Isaiah 45:22)
- Under God's rule, life can be changed now. (Isaiah 48:17-18, Mark 1:14-15)
- There is a choice before us: to live under the dominion of darkness or in the kingdom of God.

God sent his son Jesus to break the hold of Satan and give us new life through his death and resurrection. Jesus is the Lord and Saviour, the Christ, the Messiah, the one God sent. (Colossians 1:13, John 11:21-27, Matthew 16:13-17).

- Jesus died to free us from our sins. (Isaiah 53:4-6, Hebrews 9:11-28)
- He rose to give us new life (Romans 4:25, Colossians 1:20, Titus 3:3-7):
- He broke the hold of Satan. (John 12:31, 1 John 4:4)
- Salvation is more than just going to heaven: it is a whole new way of life on earth as well. (John 10: 10b, John 4:14)
- Jesus is Lord: God gave him full power and authority to bring freedom and new life to those who accept him. (Matthew 28:18, Philippians 2:5-11). Jesus lives in his church and acts through it and in it to bring life to those who are his followers. (Ephesians. 2:17-22)

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DAILY SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION WEEK TWO – “SALVATION”

Day 1

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” John 3:16

Where it says: “the world” it means “you” (and me of course) but try putting your name in there instead: “For God so loved (your name) that He gave His one and only Son that (your name) who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”. So, all we have to do to receive His love **and** have eternal life, is to “believe in Him”. Simple!

Day 2

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” John 3:17

Phew! Thank Goodness! But what does it mean to “believe in Him” so we can be saved? The Amplified Bible expands the words “believe in” to “believes in, trusts in, relies upon”. So, more than just mentally acknowledging Jesus exists (which after all even Satan does!) it is more about incorporating His existence and activity as a major factor into our lives.

Day 3

“...Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” Isaiah 1:18

So, no matter how bad it looks, He will sort it out for us if we bring our lives to Him - even Jesus’ name in Hebrew “Yeshua” means “Saviour.” He came to save us from ourselves, from the sin that clings so readily to us and messes up our lives.

Day 4

“Jesus answered ‘I am The Way, the Truth and the Life. No-one comes to the Father except through Me’” John 14:6

In other words, there is only one **way** to this “life to the full” - in this life now and into eternity - and that is Jesus! This means that we can’t get there under our own steam, that we aren’t saved from ourselves and our sin by our own efforts - but by what Jesus has done for us. We just have to receive what He has done but, as we have seen, this will take some adjustments in our lives not just in our thinking.

Day 5

“Be perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect” Matthew 5:48

If it were down to us, this command of Jesus would be scary because we know it is impossible; but if it is a perfection of sinlessness, it is possible (at least temporarily!) because Jesus has won this for us. He has paid for every sin on the cross and, as we come to Him for forgiveness, we receive it completely and utterly.

Day 6

“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love, He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities - as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” Psalm 103:1

So, our sins are dealt with completely if we bring them to Jesus - we don’t have to go back over them again (and again), despite what the enemy may say!

Day 7

“We all like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” Isaiah 53:6

Jesus accepted from our Father the burden of all our sin so we could be reconciled to the Father and come into His presence cleansed and forgiven. This gift is free to us, but cost God everything, so let us make the most of the gift on a daily or even hourly basis.