

Salvation Plain and Simple by Dr. Curtis Hutson

<http://westlawnbaptistchicago.com/sal7.html>

Salvation 1

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" --II Tim. 3:15.

Salvation is the most important thing in the world, both now and hereafter. If you are not saved, nothing else really matters.

An old man and a little boy were out together for a boat ride. As they rode across the lake, a beautiful leaf came floating by the boat. Taking the leaf in his hand, the old man asked, "Son, do you know anything about botony?" "No," replied the boy. "Why," said the old man, "you have missed twenty-five percent of your life." After a while the boat passed some beautiful rocks along the shore. "Look at those beautiful stones," said the old man. "Do you know anything about geology, Son?"

"No, I'm afraid not," said the boy. "Then, you've missed twenty-five percent of your life," he said. In the early evening stars appeared in the sky. Looking at them, the old man asked, "Son, do you know anything about astronomy?" "No, Sir" replied the boy, "I know nothing about astronomy."

Now it was time to go home, and when they turned the boat for shore, it flipped over in the water and sank. The young boy started swimming for shore. Looking back he noticed the old man was only splashing the water. He yelled, "Mister, do you know how to swim?"

"No!" screamed the old man. And the boy replied, "Then you've lost your life." If you know everything else, but do not know Christ as personal Saviour, you have lost your life. The Bible says in John 3:36, *"He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

I think many people are in Hell because they did not know how to be saved. The Bible seems to indicate this in Matthew 7:22, 23 where it says, *"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works. And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

If I understand these verses, these people wanted to go to Heaven and offered to God their good works as a claim for Heaven. But according to Jesus they were not saved. He said, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

In the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25, all ten thought they were ready to meet the bridegroom, and went out to meet him. But when the bridegroom came, five found they were not ready.

It is possible to be saved and know without a shadow of a doubt that when you die you will go to Heaven. The way of Salvation is plain and simple in the Bible.

Salvation Plain and Simple by Dr. Curtis Hutson – Salvation 2

(continued)

In the Matter of Salvation, We Are Dealing With an Infinitely Holy God

There can be no understanding or appreciation for the plan of salvation without understanding this. This infinitely holy God has said that sin must be paid for. He said to Adam in Genesis 2:17, *"In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* Ezekiel 18:4 says, *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."* Romans 6:23 says, *"The wages of sin is death."* And James 1:15 says, *"Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."* This infinitely Holy God said sin must be paid for. And the payment for sin is death.

This death is more than dying with a gunshot wound or cancer. It is described in the Bible as the second death. Revelation 20:14, *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."* If I pay what I owe as a sinner, I must die, go into Hell and stay there forever and ever. That's the price God demands for my sins. The Bible does not say the wages of sin is joining the church. I could join every church in town but that would not pay what I owe as a sinner. The Bible does not say the wages of sin is performing good works. I could work a thousand lifetimes and never earn Heaven.

If I offered to God my works as a hope of Heaven, the motive behind the works would render them ineffective. The only motive God accepts is love. First Corinthians 13:3 says, *"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."* Good works that are not motivated by love will not be rewarded. If I worked to stay out of Hell, the fear of Hell would be my motive, and thus render the works ineffective. The Bible says *"The wages of sin is death."* God has one payment for sin and that is eternal death in the lake of fire. The only thing I can do to pay my debt is die, go into Hell, and stay there forever.

This Infinitely Holy God Says All Men Are Sinners

The Bible says in Isaiah 53:6, *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way."* Again the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 7:20, *"For there is not a just man upon earth that doeth good, and sinneth not."* Romans 3:10 says, *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."* And Romans 3:23 says, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*

The words "come short" simply mean "to miss the mark." How far we miss the mark is not the important thing, but the fact that we have missed it. When I went to high school you had to make seventy to pass. If you averaged anything less, you had to repeat the grade. Suppose one student averaged sixty-five and another thirty-five. There are thirty points difference between their grade average, and both are in the same predicament. They are below the passing mark.

When God looks down on this world He says in the words of Romans 3:22, *"For there is no difference."* I say, "Lord, what do You mean no difference? I know some folks that live better than others." "There is no difference," God says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Suppose I hang a target on the wall and ask every person in the room to take a dart and do his best to hit the bull's eye. Now everybody in the room throws a dart. Some miss the bull's eye by only a quarter of an inch. Others miss by a foot. Still others miss the whole target. But not one hits the bull's eye. When all the darts are thrown, I say, "There is no difference."

"Oh," says someone. "What do you mean no difference? I only missed the bull's eye by a quarter of an inch."

I say, "There is no difference because all came short of the bull's eye." In God's sight there is no difference between sinners. We may not commit the same sins, but everybody has sinned and all men are sinners.

God says we are all sinners and sin must be paid for.

Now in the third place:

Salvation Plain and Simple by Dr. Curtis Hutson – Salvation 3

(continued)

This Infinitely Holy God Says That We Are Already Condemned

The Bible says in John 3:18, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Some have an idea that we are going to die and go to a judgement. At that judgement God is going to weigh our good works against our bad works. If the good outweighs the bad, He is going to allow us into Heaven, but if the bad outweighs the good, He will condemn us to Hell. However, that teaching is not in the Bible. The Bible teaches that we are already condemned. John 3:18 "He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." The condemned criminal is the one who has been arrested, tried, found guilty, and sentenced. Maybe he has been sentenced to die in the electric chair. He is in death row awaiting the date of execution. He is already condemned.

According to what God has said, I am a sinner, my sins demand a payment, and that payment is death, the second death in the lake of fire. This is not a sentence that is going to be given me. It is a sentence I am already under if I'm not trusting Jesus Christ as my Savior.

The person who is not trusting Jesus Christ completely for salvation is already condemned. He is living under the sentence, waiting only for his heart to stop beating, and the moment the heart stops, the soul and the spirit leave the body and go immediately to Hell. The Bible says of the rich man in Luke 16:22,23, "The rich man also died, and was buried: And in Hell he lift up his eyes, Being in torment..."

The infinitely Holy God says all men are sinners, sin must be paid for, and sinners are already condemned.

Now, in the fourth place:

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How Can an Infinitely Holy God Forgive Sin?

The answer is God does not forgive sin. He forgives the sinner. Sin must be paid for. Somebody must bear the burden. I have been told that the word "forgive" literally means "to bear the burden". If I owed someone a thousand dollars and he forgave the debt, that means he bore the burden. He paid the thousand dollars.

In order for an infinitely holy God to forgive the sinner someone had to pay the debt. Someone had to bear the burden. That is where Jesus comes in The Bible teaches that God took every sin we ever have committed and ever will commit, and laid those sins on Christ two thousand years ago at Calvary. Isaiah 53:6 says, *"The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Every sin we have ever committed or ever will commit if we live to be a thousand years old, God placed on Christ.* The Bible says in I Peter 2:24, *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree..."* First Peter 3:18 says, *"For Christ also hath Once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..."*

The greatest truth that ever coursed through my brain is the truth of the substitutionary death of Jesus, that Jesus actually took all my sins, past, present, and future, and bore them in His own body. I told a lady that once. And she said, "I can understand how He died for my past sins, but I cannot understand how He died for my future sins that I have not committed yet."

I smiled and said, "Lady, when Jesus Christ died all your sins were future. You were not even born."

She thought a moment and said, "I guess you are right." I said, "I know I am right, unless you are an awfully old lady." She laughed and said, "I am not that old."

Friend, God looked down through the telescope of time and saw every sin you would ever commit. Then He put those sins in one big package and laid them on Christ. *"The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."* While Jesus was bearing our sins in His own body, God punished Him in our place to pay a debt that we owe, so that when we die we won't have to pay it.

Somebody said, "The Jews killed Christ." Someone else said, "It was the Roman soldiers" But the Bible says, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* According to the Bible, God let Jesus die in our place. He actually punished Jesus in our place so we could escape the punishment. Romans 8:32 says, *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all..."*

Jesus uttered seven things while hanging on the cross. The sixth utterance was, *"It is finished."* Among other things the statement meant that our sins were completely paid for.

Now,

Salvation Plain and Simple by Dr. Curtis Hutson – Salvation 5

(continued)

How Can I Be Sure That God Was Satisfied With the Payment Jesus Made?

I can answer that in three words - an empty tomb! When the prisoner is set free it means the debt to society has been paid. And when God raised Jesus from the dead, He was saying to the whole world, "I am satisfied with the payment My Son made for your sins."

In a certain part of the world when a merchant is selling goods, he does not put a price tag on them. He simply displays his goods on a counter or table. When someone comes along wishing to buy the item, he begins to lay down money. If the merchant is not satisfied with the price offered, he leaves the money on the table. When enough money is put down to satisfy the merchant, he reaches down and takes it up. When he does, he indicates, "I am satisfied with the payment." When God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, He said to the whole world, "I am satisfied with the payment My Son made for your sins."

That's what the Bible means in Isaiah 53:10 when it says, *"It pleased the Lord to bruise him..."* That expression does not mean that God got certain joy or glee out of seeing Jesus die on the cross. The word "pleased" literally means "satisfied". In Isaiah 53:11 the Bible says, *"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied..."* The death of Jesus Christ on the cross fully satisfied the just demands of a holy God. And we must accept the satisfaction that Jesus made to God for our sins, or satisfy God ourselves. Dear friend, if we satisfy God ourselves that means we must die, go into Hell, and stay there forever and ever. That's the payment He demands.

Now,

Salvation Plain and Simple by Dr. Curtis Hutson – Salvation 6

(continued)

What Can You Do to Let God Know That You Are Satisfied With the Payment?

If you try to add anything to what Jesus has done, no matter how good the addition may be, you are saying by your actions, "I am not really satisfied with the payment Jesus made." It is not the death of Jesus Christ on the cross plus my baptism that saves. It is Jesus alone. Acts 4:12 says, *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* If I am trusting Christ plus baptism, then I am not really satisfied with the payment Jesus made for my sins.

To show that we are fully satisfied with the payment, we must cease to trust any and everything else and trust Jesus alone. I must cease to trust my good works, no matter how good they may be. I must cease to trust my church membership, no matter how good my church may be. I must cease to trust my baptism, no matter how beautiful the ordinance. I must cease to trust my good

life, no matter how pure and noble. To trust anything other than Jesus and what He did at Calvary for salvation is to say to God, "I am not fully satisfied with the payment Your Son made for my sins. I feel I must have something else."

In order to show God that I am satisfied with the payment made, I must trust Jesus Christ completely. The Bible says in John 3:36, "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life...*" Now, dear friend, there is no promise in the Bible to those who partially believe on Christ. The promise is to those who believe on Christ. If I trust Jesus Christ ninety percent and something else ten percent, the ten percent destroys the ninety. The ten percent says I am not fully trusting Christ, and the Bible says in John 3:18, "*He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*" John 3:36, "*He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*"

Dr. George Truett told the story of a man who wasted a fortune in search of peace and happiness, then died in a cheap hotel. When they found his body, they found next to his bed this poem written with pencil on a piece of tablet paper:

*I've tried in vain a thousand ways,
My fears to quell, my hopes to raise,
And all I need, the Bible says, is Jesus.
My soul is night; my heart is steel.
I cannot see; I cannot feel.
For light, for life, I must appeal to Jesus
He died; He lives; He reigns; He plead.
There is love in all His words and deeds.
All, all a guilty sinner needs is Jesus.
Though some will mock, and some will blame;
In spite of fear, in spite of shame,
I'll go to Him because His name is Jesus*

Dear friend, have you let God know that you are satisfied with the payment Jesus made for your sins by trusting Jesus and Him alone and nothing else for your salvation?

Now, finally:

Salvation Plain and Simple by Dr. Curtis Hutson – Salvation 7

(continued)

How Can You Know That if You Trust Jesus Christ as Your Saviour You Will Go to Heaven?

The answer is simple. You have the promise of God Himself. And keep in mind that God is too wise to be mistaken and too honest to deceive us. If God said it, it is guaranteed! When He prescribes a cure, He is bound by His honor to put potency into it. What does He say? John 3:36, "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life...*" God says if you are trusting Jesus Christ completely for your salvation, then you have everlasting life. You are not going to have it

someday. You have it now. God says in John 3:18, "*He that believeth on him is not condemned...*" Here He promises that the person who is trusting Jesus Christ completely for salvation is no longer under the sentence. The sentence has been lifted. He is not condemned. He does not have to pay the sin debt. It has been paid for him.

I had rather have the Word of God in writing, as it is given in the Bible, than to have every angel in Heaven come down to earth and say to me, "You have everlasting life. You will never perish. You are going to Heaven."

If the angels came, I would say, "I'm glad you came, but, you really didn't help me. I have Word from greater authority - God Himself."

God says to me in John 6:37, "*Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*" Not only will He not cast us away from Himself, but He has promised that He will never leave us. In Hebrews 13:5, God says, "*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*" I have read that in the Greek there are five negatives in this verse. A Greek professor, preaching in an old country church, said, "That verse says, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee'. But, in the Greek text there are five negatives which have the effect of saying, 'I will never, no never, leave thee; never, no never, no never forsake thee.'"

An old lady came to him after the service and said, "Well, He may have to say it five times for you professors, but one time is enough for me."

I certainly agree with the dear old saint of God. If God said only one time that I had everlasting life, that's enough for me. I will stake my eternity on it. What better assurance can you have than God's own Word? Hebrews 6:18 says that *it is Impossible for God to lie*. And Titus 1:2 says *God cannot lie*.

The worst sin in the world is not trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour, and that is the only sin for which a man will go to Hell. Mark 16:16 says, "*He that believeth shall not be damned.*"

This is the way of salvation plain and simple. Now will you do something about it? Will you trust Jesus Christ today as your Saviour? If you will trust Him, pray this simple prayer:

***Dear Lord Jesus,
I know that I am a sinner.
I do believe that you died for me.
And the best I know how, I do trust you as my Savior.
Now help me to live for You and to be a good Christian.
Amen.***

Dear friend, if you have prayed this simple prayer, and mean it from your heart, then you may be sure that you will have everlasting life and you will never perish. You have God's Word for it. Jesus said in John 5:24, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*"

Since you are trusting Him as your Saviour, you have everlasting life, and you will never again come into condemnation. That is what Jesus promised, and He cannot lie.