

Neglecting Salvation

Intro: As a basis for our study turn to Heb. 2:1-4 “¹ Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip. ² For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; ³ How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*; ⁴ God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?” Salvation is used in two senses in the New Testament. First it is used as Saved or forgiven of past sins (Mark 16:15-16 “¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”; Luke 24:46-47 “⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”). Second as saved in heaven or eternal salvation (1 Pet. 1:3-5 “³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you ⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.... ⁹ Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.”; Phi. 2:12 “¹² Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”). It is possible for men to neglect either of these salvations. To neglect salvation means a lack of sufficient attention is given to salvation.

I. SALVATION WAS FIRST SPOKEN BY THE LORD.

A. To know what to do to be saved one must go to the Lord's word.

1. Not to the words of Abraham, Moses, or John the Baptist, or anyone else.
2. Not to any latter day pseudo-prophet like Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Ellen White, etc.
3. Not to dreams, visions, still small voices or feelings.

B. Jesus has words of salvation; John 6:68 “⁶⁸ Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.”

1. Men must be taught the Lord's word.
 - a. John 6:44-45 “⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”
 - b. Mat. 28:19-20 “¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
2. Men must receive the word; Jas. 1:21 “²¹ Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
3. That word:
 - a. for forgiveness
 - (1) Mat. 28:19-20 “¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - (2) Mark 16:15-16 “¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

(3) Luke 24:46-47 ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

- b. For eternal salvation: the words of Jesus set forth the principles by which we are to live so we will inherit eternal salvation.

C. When men neglect the Lord’s word they neglect salvation.

II. THE DANGER OF NEGLECT.

A. We can be hardened by sin.

1. Heb. 3:12-13 ¹² Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
2. The heart can become so hardened that:
 - a. Eph. 4:19 ¹⁹ Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” (Gentiles were past feeling).
 - b. Heb. 6:4-6 ⁴ For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶ If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.” (Impossible to renew them).
3. To neglect salvation is to fact this possibility.

B. We will face the judgment.

1. Heb. 9:27 ²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
2. God has appointed a day of judgment; Acts. 17:30-31 ³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
3. All must appear in judgment.
 - a. Rom. 14:10 ¹⁰ But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”
 - b. 2 Cor. 5:10 ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.”
4. Each will be judged by their deeds, according to the Gospel.
 - a. Rom. 2:16 ¹⁶ In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”
 - b. Col. 3:24-25 ²⁴ Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”
 - c. 2 Cor. 5:10 ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.”
 - d. Rev. 20:12 ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”
 - e. Rev. 22:12 ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”
5. To neglect salvation is to endanger the soul.

C. How can one escape God's wrath?

1. Heb. 10:26-31 ²⁶ For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. ²⁸ He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: ²⁹ Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. ³¹ *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*"; Heb. 12:29 ²⁹ For our God *is* a consuming fire."
2. There is a hell for the wicked; Mark 9:43-48 ⁴³ And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁴ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁵ And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁶ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁷ And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: ⁴⁸ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."
3. Impenitent people have God's wrath facing them,
 - a. Luke 13:3, 5 ³ I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
 - b. Rom. 2:4-10 ⁴ Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? ⁵ But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; ⁶ Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷ To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: ⁸ But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹ Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; ¹⁰ But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:"
4. To neglect salvation imperils the soul.

III. WHY DO MEN NEGLECT SALVATION?

A. Why some neglect eternal salvation.

1. Persecution
 - a. Christ promised persecution.
 - (1) Mat. 10:24-28 ²⁴ The disciple is not above *his* master, nor the servant above his lord. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *shall they call* them of his household? ²⁶ Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* preach ye upon the housetops. ²⁸ And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."
 - (2) John 15:20 ²⁰ For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel."
 - b. We see it in the first century.
 - (1) by 60 AD the Roman government was persecuting Christians.
 - (2) 1 Pet. 4:12 ¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:"

- (3) 2 Tim. 3:12 ¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
- (4) It will come upon us also.
- c. Some want ease and comfort and so go back into the world.
2. Sacrifice
- a. Christianity is a life of sacrifice.
- (1) Luke 9:23 ²³ And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
- (2) Mat. 10:38 ³⁸ And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”
- b. It is dying to self and putting God first.
- (1) Gal. 2:20 ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
- (2) Mat. 6:33 ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
- c. Many are not willing to make the sacrifice.
3. Demands of spiritual growth
- a. We come into Christ as babes.
- (1) John 3:1-7 ¹ There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”
- (2) 2 Cor. 5:17 ¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- b. We are to grow.
- (1) Eph. 4:15 ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:”
- (2) 1 Pet. 2:2 ² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”
- (3) 2 Pet. 3:18 ¹⁸ But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
- c. Some fail to grow and thus are on the verge of destruction.
- (1) Heb. 5:12-14 ¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
- (2) Hos. 4:6 ⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”
4. Forgetting our blessings.
- a. Ingratitude will hurt or destroy our growth.
- (1) Ingratitude is the result of selfishness or self-centeredness.
- (2) Individuals who always feel sorry for themselves will never glorify God.

b. Christians are commanded to be grateful.

- (1) Phi. 4:6 “⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
- (2) Col. 3:15 “¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”
- (3) 1 The. 5:18 “¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
- (4) No murmuring;
 - (a) 1 Cor. 10:10 “¹⁰ Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”
 - (b) Phi. 2:14 “¹⁴ Do all things without murmurings and disputings:”

B. They are often deceived by sin.

1. Heb. 3:13 “¹³ But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”; Heb. 11:24-25 “²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; ²⁵ Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;”
2. Hearts are blinded by pleasure of sin.
3. Think Christianity robs them of a “good time.”

C. Some people are too concerned with the things of this life to “take the time out for God.”

1. They are too busy making a living (money).
2. Luke 8:14 “¹⁴ And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”
3. Luke 12:20-21 “²⁰ But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹ So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

D. Some are too proud to admit their need for God.

1. Mat. 18:3-4 “³ And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”
2. Mat. 5:3 “³ Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
3. Jas. 4:6-8 “⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.”
4. 1 Pet. 5:5-6 “⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”

E. Some people look for a “convenient season”; Acts 24:25 “²⁴ And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”

F. Some reason that they are the exception.

1. Acts 10:34-35 “³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: ³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”
2. Rom. 2:11 “¹¹ For there is no respect of persons with God.”

G. Others believe that they have plenty of time to make things right with God.

1. Heb. 9:27 “²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

2. Jas. 4:13-14 ¹³ Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: ¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Conclusion: “of all sad words of tongue or pen - it might have been.” There is too much at stake for any one to neglect salvation.

1. The Christian life is too wonderful not to live.
2. Heaven too beautiful to miss.
3. Hell too horrible to endure.
4. Too many people can be led to the Lord by you.