

SALVATION # 2

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb. 2 :3) .

The matter of greatest moment to every individual is the matter of salvation. The most important question that ever trembled upon the lips of man is the one asked of Paul and Silas by the Philippian jailer, "What must I do to be saved ?"

I. The question is a personal question

"What must *I* do?" We are not to despise that which is done by parents, preachers, Sunday-school teachers, companions, etc. The teaching, the example, the prayers, the pleading, the love of others, help to safeguard and to influence our lives. Those who love us do much for us that we may come to an appreciation of the value and importance of "this great salvation."

But, after all, the question has in it a necessary personal element. There is the necessity of personal choice. There is the necessity of a personal faith and obedience.

II. The individual is active, not passive

"What must I *do*?" Not how must I feel, but what must I do? The religion of Jesus Christ is always active. It is not something you get, but something you do. "Pure religion and undefiled before God the Father is this; to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to, keep himself unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27). To speak of "getting religion" is absurd—is not even good nonsense. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, for they shall have a right to the tree of life and shall enter in by the gates into the city" (Rev. 22:14). "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall inherit the kingdom, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Be assured that if one is ever saved, he must "do the will of the Father."

III. The doing is imperative, not optional

"What *must* I do?" There is a divine "must" in the matter of salvation. We constantly rejoice to stand in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free," but no man can truly honor and serve Christ unless he does his will. There are many things in many matters that we can do or leave undone, just as we choose, but in the matter of salvation we have no choice only to hear the voice of the great Commander, believe what he says, obey what he commands, become and be what he requires and as he requires, live as he directs and trust him for what he promises. We must deny self, take up our cross and follow him. We must comply fully with his terms.

IV. The "what" to do to be saved is all-important

"Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." No man can

afford to go wrong here. No man can afford to mislead others. Better far go wrong in medicine or in law or in science or in philosophy, etc., than to go wrong in our answer to this all-important matter. Some things are fundamental because fixed by eternal, divine authority.

1. If saved at all, *it must be through Jesus Christ*. "No man cometh unto the rather but by me." Christ said it. There is, then, no room for doubt or questioning.

2. *We must comply with the terms proposed* by the Saviour. The sinner should not presume to dictate his own terms.

3. *To doubt Christ's statements and to ask for additional evidence of pardon is to doubt his veracity and prove ourselves unworthy of his great salvation*. The individual who doubts the word of Christ doubts Christ. To doubt is disloyalty.

Finally, then, what does God's word say about salvation?

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

"Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3) .

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1) .

"He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22).

"There is none other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

"If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Pet. 4:18).

My friend, where are you today?

— Author unknown