

SALVATION
Phil. 2:12.

Surely we can talk about nothing of more importance than salvation. Yet there is great confusion in the minds of many people about it. You will hear people say, "There is nothing that I can do to be saved." I have seen those people. Some of them are sincere because they have been taught that line of thought and nothing else. There are some who claim such a doctrine and from the actions of their lives it would seem that it is a matter of "There is nothing I want to do to be saved."

We make bold to say that there are two factors in salvation:

1. God's part in salvation.
2. Man's part in salvation.

We should say that God's part is a wonderful part and yet at the same time man's part is wonderful too because God planned for man to have a part in it. When the Standard Oil Company or many other great organizations want loyal and interested employees. Employees who are contented and willing to do their best work what do those corporations do? Why they sell the employees some stock in the company. Let them have a part in it. God has arranged for you and me to have a part in this great salvation organization.

Let us now look at God's part in salvation. In the early dawning hours of the race man became sinful to the point that the Bible says, "And it repented God that He had made man." God loved the world and for the good of man let the Flood come, and sent great patriarchs and Prophets to lead them out.

There was great chasm still between man and God. Before the race could be saved that chasm had to be bridged. Jesus was the only person that could be the Bridge across that chasm. Nothing else had stood up. No man could establish that part in salvation so God had to ^{do} it by sending His own Son into the world as connecting link between God and man. When Jesus had given Himself for this noble purpose we had this situation: GOD—CHRIST—THE WORLD. And Jesus said, "No man cometh unto the Father but by Me." This is one thing that God did that man could not do.

This passage way is large enough for the whole world to pass over and strong enough to support all the world at the same time if the world decides to cross. We have the invitation to come to God through Christ. But in all the Bible you will not find where God Crosses over Christ^x into the world and forces any one to come to Him through the provision of Jesus.

When I was a boy people had droves of hogs that would almost go wild in the large bottom ranges. A man might sell his wild drove to some neighbor. This neighbor, in the hog and cattle business, would pay for the hogs. He then would go into the swamps and call his hogs. After much effort he might get them. Or he might fail to get all of them into his lot. Those hogs could not keep him from calling. He had bought but did not possess. God through the blood of Jesus has bought the whole world but as you will agree He does not yet possess the hearts of all men. Well if God is the only one that has to do with salvation and we have nothing that we can do then why does not God have all his creatures in His Kingdom?

#2. SALVATION

"God willeth the death of no man but would that all men come unto Him and live." Jesus came and called men. In no age have all men come to God since Noah and his family. Jesus said, "If any man WILL come after me---etc." It seems from this that God has left something for man to do. He made him a free moral agent. Man could not do that so this was part of the plan which God had to look after.

God sent the Holy Spirit into the world to call people. People can not keep Him from calling any more than the hogs could keep the owner from calling. His calling through which He convicts us of sin is the first step in salvation. I heard a minister of another faith say that God finishes what He starts. That when He starts to save a man He finishes it. Conviction starts salvation and I can not keep the Holy Spirit from doing that. What is true of me is true of all men. Then if God finishes that which He starts all men will be saved whether they do any yielding on their part or not.

Now man's part. Man must repent. We have no promise of salvation unless we repent of our sins. Now God does not repent for us. He never has and never will. I must believe. God has never said that He would believe for us. But the Bible says, "He that believeth on Jesus Christ hath eternal life but he that believeth not hath not life." So the Bible says, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling." Why fear? There is danger of letting it slip.

(In other words when I have repented, believed, and obeyed to point of conversion I must then work to keep myself unspotted from the world. If being converted is all that is necessary then Christianity does not amount to very much it seems to me. Some says, "But He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him." To be sure He is able to keep it. So is the People's Bank down here able to keep the money I deposit there for they have good vaults. But I have a check book and may draw all that I have out at any time.

It does not matter to me how you are converted, whether in a revival, around the family altar, in Sunday school room, out in the woods, in the desert, or any where else. The thing that does vitally concern me is that you be converted and that after conversion you show proof of your new birth by giving up the sinful things you once liked and now do the works and will of God in newness of life and with a great zeal.

PUTTING AWAY THE SWORD.

