

# Salvation

## By Arthur Whiting

Arthur Whiting:

This is the broadcast for Dr. Talbot's Bible study hour on station KGER for Thursday January the tenth before we turn to the Word of God for our study today. Let us pause for a moment of prayer as we look to the God of the word our father. It is always a delight to our hearts to draw nigh unto thee. As we come in the name of our adorable savior the Lord Jesus Christ and we come in his name in full assurance of faith. We thank thee for thy undying love for thy unfailing grace we praise Thee for Thy great faithfulness to us and thy wonderful patience with us Lord graciously ministered to the needs of our hearts in this hour as once again we look into thy wonderful word for we ask these things with grateful hearts in the name of our blessed Savior amen.

Now friends we come to our study as we consider what the Bible reveals about salvation there are certain words in our vocabulary which may be well designated encyclopedic words so great is their outreach and embrace in the Bible the word salvation is such an all embracing term so comprehensive is this word salvation that it is used to designate the whole work of God that work by which he rescues man from the devastating effects of sin and does for man and in man a mighty work of grace the Greek word for salvation I think occurs some forty nine times in the New Testament and it carries with it the thought of a deliverance its root meaning is to rescue although in usage the word is widened to indicate soundness of health. In fact it is actually translated health in Acts twenty seven thirty four. Thus I think we at once see the propriety of

this word in describing God's work in delivering us from the dreadful pit of sin and bringing us to soul health as he cures us of that awful loathsome sin sickness with which all are afflicted. I want us first of all to consider the source of salvation if you will turn to the second chapter of Jonah and look at verse nine. You will see these words. Salvation is of the Lord that is from Jonah. Chapter 2 verse 9.

Salvation is of the Lord as you remember the words came from the lips of Jonah as he was being transported by the God appointed sea monster to the God appointed but point of disembarkation Spurgeon in his own quaint way says Jonah learned that line of good theology and a strange seminary Spurgeon was right. But my friends regardless of the place where one learns it this is the all-important truth. To learn the provision of salvation is attributed solely to the Lord.

Salvation is of the Lord that its source can never be human is very evident from the character of sin for sin is a constitutional disease which has disordered every part of our nature. Sin is not merely local. You see friends. A man may be short sighted and yet enjoy very good health. Short sightedness is purely a local defect and it is something which may be adjusted by means of a mechanical appliance. We call glasses but this is not true of sin. A hasty temper a lying tongue and an impure imagination cannot be dealt with by any local application. You cannot remedy the faults in human nature as you can correct bad taste in a painting for instance the whole man is disordered and the whole man must be put right. If any sin is to be checked and yet you well know that thousands of people today are trying the local application. By that I mean they are trying. Church attendance. They're saying prayers they are reading the Bible.

They are giving and giving generously. But listen to me not one bit is effective in the sight of God until the person has been born again. Instead of working for God in order to earn salvation. Man needs to behold God working for him in the provision of salvation works will be the fruit of a right relationship with God that we are sure but not one work will ever aid in providing salvation for any man. It has all been done. That is the real reason why the Lord Jesus Christ cried. It is finished as he hung on that cruel cross. It is finished. What was finished? The evident reference is not to his life nor to his humanitarian service nor to his tortuous suffering but rather to the special task committed to him by the father speaking in anticipation. He had said in the garden I have finished the work which thou gave me to do. He had become the propitiate person for the sins of the whole world that which had been foreshadowed in the Old Testament figures was now accomplished. In fact when we sang that gospel number we emphasize this very truth. Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe.

Yes. Salvation is of the Lord. Having thus briefly considered the source of salvation. We are now going to think for a moment about the scope of salvation. Many years ago a train drew into an English railroad station and a Salvation Army Lassie stepped into one of the compartments. The English coaches of course differ from the American coaches in that each coach is divided into a number of separate compartments entrance to each compartment being made by the door that belongs to that compartment. Now the compartment into which the Salvationist stepped was occupied by only one other passenger a very portly gentleman who was sitting in a corner seat the Salvation Army lassie seated herself in the opposite corner and being full of zeal for the Lord.

She did not waste any time at all. Excuse me sir she said but are you saved. A little startled the old gentleman. Lowered the book he was reading peered through his glasses for a moment and then in a firm but very kindly tone inquired Do you mean esothane sozo monas or sothesomai. Well actually you can imagine. The girl was just flabbergasted. She had asked what she thought was just a very simple question Why did she get this complex answer. Just what was he talking about? Esothane sozo monas sothesomai the man seeing her puzzled look then broke into a smile and with a twinkling eye. He said my dear I was only asking you did you mean have I been saved. Am I being saved? Or shall I be saved. Taking out his new testament he turned to a number of passages and gave the girl a good Bible study on salvation. You see friends the girl had not realized that the portly gentleman to which she had addressed her inquiry was none other than Bishop Westcott the famous Bible scholar of the Church of England.

Well you can be sure of this she never forgot that meeting in that train. Yes my friends Bishop Westcott was right. The New Testament presents salvation in three wonderful aspects showing us that it is past present and future. Let us think for a moment of past tense salvation turn if you will to Titus. Chapter 3 verse 5. The third chapter of Titus. And the fifth verse. Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy. He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. You see that his past and salvation he saved us. You have it also in Second Timothy. Chapter 1 verse 9. Second Timothy. Chapter 1 verse 9 where we read who have saved us and called us with a holy calling. Did you get the tents of that who have saved us and called us with a holy calling? You see in both of these verses the most definite tense in the Greek language is used and it points to a distinct fact definitely completed at some point of time in the past. It entitles the believer to say I have been saved but you say saved

from what and I believe the answer to this question is found in the third chapter of John verse 18. That's the gospel according to John chapter 3 and the 18th verse he that believe is on him is not condemned.

Now according to this revelation the believer is saved from the doom of condemnation. In our previous studies we have seen that sin in every aspect brings man under divine condemnation. The penalty for sin must be paid. It is inescapable. God solved the problem in the death of Christ and offers release to all who will accept it by faith. Thus when a person accepts God's offer he is completely delivered from the guilt of sin. He is rescued from his lost estate. He is placed in full favor with God. There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. So says Romans 8:1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. You see the believing sinner has been saved, saved from the guilt of his sin. So such a person can say I have been saved. It is something which is definitely passed now but there is also a present tense salvation which so frequently is overlooked when the penalty of sin has been paid and the account with God has been settled. There still remains the problem of how the reigning power of sin may be broken in daily experience.

Believe me friends that is a real problem indeed and we shall consider this aspect more fully when we deal with a great subject of sanctification later on. But just now we pause to note the problem and to indicate very quickly the divine solution that there is a present tense aspect to our salvation is seen in such verses as Galatians 5:16 for instance walk in the spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. We find it in Romans 8:2 for the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2 is the divine answer to the

Human Problem expressed in Roman seven twenty four where we read oh wretched men that I am who shall deliver me from the body of this death. You see friends. The matter is not a question of doom that has been settled for the believer once and for all rather it is a question of danger and I want you to recognize that there is a vital difference between doom and danger. Perhaps we can illustrated in this fashion the soldier on the battlefield is in danger but he is not necessarily doomed. The criminal awaiting execution is not in danger. He is doomed and I believe this vital difference is very beautifully illustrated for us by a scriptural type. I think of Israel in Egypt Israel in Egypt is a picture of the doomed sinner Israel was doomed to slavery and possible extinction through the edict concerning the male children.

But Israel was saved, saved by divine intervention. They are delivered from the Egyptian tyranny. They are saved from God's judgment by sprinkled blood. They crossed the Red Sea by divine power as the waters are parted and they move over on dry ground. Standing on the other side exultantly singing about their miraculous deliverance by blood and by power. Believe me friends they present a perfect type of past and present salvation. They were saved. Yet they still needed saving. There was no need to be saved from the bondage of Egyptian oppression. That was a settled matter. But there were foes to be met there were foes to be overcome all the way from Egypt to Canaan. They were in danger. But they were not doomed. They possessed the pledge of safety in the Lord's presence and power. But they had to appropriate the resources God delivered them from the Amalekite. But they had to claim God's power for themselves. So my friends it is with the believer. This is a portrayal of his experience. He is saved from doom but he is not saved from danger. The World the Flesh and the devil beset the pathway and must needs be overcome.

The Divine provision of course is adequate but it operates only as it is appropriated. So the question is are we being saved. Undoubtedly I am speaking to many of you today who rejoice in the knowledge of sins forgiven of hell subdued and peace with Heaven. You know you have been saved but my friends I ask you this question are you being saved. Do you know anything in personal experience of deliverance from inward impurity deliverance from the love of the god hating world deliverance from innate selfishness? A rescue from jealousy a salvation from censoriousness from hatred from bitterness from anger from bad temper. Yes even from hypocrisy. Are we the slaves of wrong habits or do we know what it is to reign in life? Does the power of God's grace reign in experience or his sins still holding the reins. That is the question. Are we being saved from the danger of the control of sin in our own lives? You know how the hymn writer puts it. He breaks the power of cancelled sin. He sets the prisoner free. I wonder how many of us can sing that today. Sing it because it is a matter of personal experience.

Do we know anything of this salvation from the very danger of sins control but past and present salvation does not exhaust this subject? For there is the future tense. Salvation. There is a sense in which we shall yet be saved. If he will turn to first Peter chapter one and look at verses three to five you will find this blessed truth set forth. First Peter chapter one verses three four and five. 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 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not a way reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto a salvation. Ready to be revealed in the last time did you get that what salvation is ready to be revealed in the last time. Well let me answer that by asking another question from what do we need to be saved.

We do not need to be saved from sins. Condemnation for that is already accomplished as we have believed. We do not need to be saved now from sins control because that is what we are enjoying now as we appropriate God's resources. But we do need a rescue from sins contamination. We do need a deliverance from its very polluting presence. My friends there is a glad day coming when As believers we shall leave behind the great network of temptation in which we so frequently get enmeshed and we shall be transported into his wonderful presence where sin cannot live the very possibility of evil will be removed from us for we shall be like him. Yes there is indeed a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. This it Future Tense. Salvation is spoken of as a proper object of hope.

We are counseled to wear for a helmet the hope of salvation. First Thessalonians 5:8. Now I want you to notice something we do not hope for what we have received but we do hope for that which we are yet to receive. In other words future salvation. Oh my friends what a colossal thing salvation is. It is the biggest thing God ever did or ever will do. It is the most stupendous of all the divine undertakings. How broad is its scope because it reaches back into the past. It concerns the present and it stretches out to embrace the future past tense. Salvation is a matter of the application of the blood present tense. Salvation is a matter of adjustment to the word of God. Future Tense Salvation is a matter of the act of God in bringing us to glory. So then in the light of this study every believer ought to be able to say I have been saved. I have been saved through confidence in the Saviour. I am being saved through control of the sovereign. I shall be saved through conformation to the Son.



The important question is have you received past tense salvation. This is the necessary step to the enjoyment of the other aspects of salvation. So the big question is can you say I have been saved. What is the step to take in order to secure this past tense salvation? Well in the light of New Testament terminology there can be no doubt as to how a person may enjoy God's salvation in about one hundred and fifteen passages the salvation of a sinner is declared to depend only upon believing and in about thirty five passages it is said to depend upon faith. And after all faith is just a synonym for believing it is nothing short of amazing to discover the variety of ways in which the plain requirement of faith has been corrupted in the presentation of God's good news concerning the Son the subtle form in which some of the misstatements appeared unmistakably bear the imprint of that diabolical deceiver of the world Satan himself. For we are told to believe and be baptized to believe and call on the Lord to surrender to the Lord to give your heart to the Lord to let Jesus come into your heart.

My friends this is such an important matter that we are going to devote our next study to it so be sure to listen. But please remember that believing is the very opposite of doing. We are to trust not to try our salvation from the condemnation of sin depends on nothing else. No matter how we zealously endeavor to substitute and supplant by means of prayer Baptism or anything of human self-effort the word of God still insists on faith as the one condition. Yes the very simplicity of it stumbles multitudes of people believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Some say they believe but they refuse to say they are saved. Well either the Bible is lying or there is something wrong with their faith. You see it is sadly possible to have an incomplete faith. For Faith is the act of the whole man. The intellect apprehends the affections assent the will appropriates. Faith is not complete without the decision of the will. Then the whole being is

committed. A drowning man thrown a rope will not be saved from a watery grave until his will causes his hand to reach and grasp it.

So it is with the sinner. It is not sufficient to admit the truth of God's word nor to be moved to desire God's deliverance. The rebellious will must be brought to the place of subjection then not only will the need be acknowledged but the remedy will be accepted. You know friends every time I proclaim God's Word I remember that there are some sinking men and women and boys and girls before me and I try to throw the lifeline to them the lifeline of God's grace in Christ has been thrown to you today. How many will grasped. Let us pray.

We thank thee Father for the freedoms and the fullness and the finality of thy wondrous salvation. We thank thee for the Savior who has made it all so wonderfully possible Lord even as we pray. May there be those listening who truly acknowledge their bankruptcy in sin and by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their very own savior grant Lord that every believer may know what it is to be delivered from sins thrown him moment by moment. For we ask it all in the peerless name of the Lord Jesus Christ amen. And now friends it is time once again to bid you goodbye for the present. But May the joy of the Lord always be your strength as you keep looking up.