

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING SAVED AND BEING LOST

What does it mean to save someone or even to save yourself? The word “save” can mean to bail someone out, come to someone’s rescue, deliver, free, liberate, recover, redeem, salvage, guard, keep safe, look after, preserve, protect, safeguard, shield, take care of, etc.

In referring to the salvation of one’s soul we are referring to the promise of God to believers that they are granted the gift of eternal life. The goal or end result of the Christian faith is to receive the salvation of your soul (1 Peter 1:9). There are many other things as well, but your salvation is of prime concern and importance.

The opposite of being saved is being lost. The word “lost” can mean that you are adrift, astray, off-course, off-track, clueless, confused, helpless, ignorant, destroyed, perishing, ruined, wasted, wrecked, misdirected, squandered, corrupt, damned, fallen, etc. Unfortunately people can do this to their own lives and to their very inner being. People destroy themselves by their own lifestyle and by remaining in spiritual darkness.

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE DANGER OF LOSING YOUR SOUL?

The problem is that most people don’t realize the seriousness or the extreme danger of losing their own soul, which is their very self (Luke 9:25). The warning about forfeiting or throwing away your own soul comes from the lips of the One who came to save us, Jesus Christ. People often hold their material possessions and worldly wealth in higher esteem to that which is most important. They ignore and forget their very own eternal

salvation. Jesus therefore gave repeated warnings of mankind’s danger.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

In this world there is a Highway to Hell and a Stairway to Heaven. One is wide and the other is narrow. Which path are you on? Mankind needs to be warned of the broad road that leads to destruction because the majority of people travel through life like those who are blind walking to the edge of a cliff. Little do they realize how close they are to the edge of eternity.

SAVE YOURSELF

“With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation” (Acts 2:40).

The apostle Peter pleaded with the people to be saved. What we need to understand is the corruption of the world, the corruption of our own hearts and of those who have influenced us to remain ignorant of the deeper truths of God. Then we need to understand how we can save ourselves.

There is a sense in which we cannot save ourselves at all and a sense in which we can. We cannot save ourselves by trying to be good or by thinking that our good deeds will somehow outweigh our bad deeds. We have to come to God on His terms and not our own. Yet by submitting to God’s requirements for salvation we do in fact save ourselves. We

urgently need to know what God’s requirements for salvation really are, rather than mere religious traditions of men.

We need to be saved from the corruption found within our own hearts. The heart of man is deceitfully wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Out of the heart of man come the things that make us unclean. To be saved you have to wash evil from your heart and refuse to hold onto wicked thoughts (Jeremiah 4:14). Check your own inner being and see if you are allowing these evil things to come from within you:

“For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’” (Mark 7:21-23).

To have a good and productive garden you need to keep removing the weeds. If you allow evil to grow within you it will choke out that which could produce good fruit. The fruit of God’s Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). These are the godly characteristics which God is looking for. The nature of Christ must be developed within our hearts. You have the choice between good or evil – things that make you unclean or the fruit of righteousness.

There are many people who believe in God but sad to say, they are not at all close to Him because they are not listening to His voice (John 10:27). They believe but don’t obey. Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46). The difference between the two is that the sheep listen to Jesus’ voice and obey Him while the goats do their own thing. Okay, you may believe in Jesus but do you obey Him? Is

Jesus the Shepherd of your soul? Are you one of His sheep? Are you a true Christian?

THE WAY TO BE SAVED

Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God. Jesus lived without sin and because He was faultless He could lay down His life and die for the sins of the world. When mankind first turned away from God and sinned it brought death to this world. In order to save us Jesus had to therefore die for our sins and rise from the dead. The death and resurrection of Christ is what grants eternal life to those who believe and then obey the gospel. Jesus is alive and you can know Him personally. Open your heart to Him so that your heart can be filled with God's presence.

'That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved' (Romans 10:9).

*'I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.** And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God' (Ephesians 3:16-19).*

I know that God longs for people to be saved, but He won't save you unless you choose to follow Him. Do what the Bible says you need to do for salvation—replace sin with righteousness and put your trust in Jesus Christ today. Open your heart to the Lord and

let Him fill your heart with God's love. Would you like to make peace with God and receive eternal life right now?

'God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8).

'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9).

Please realize that if you haven't surrendered your heart to Almighty God, you are not saved. You are a lost soul and your only hope of salvation is to acknowledge this and then open your heart to the love of God and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord, Saviour, Master and King. Jesus calls out to each of us:

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

DO YOU RECEIVE OR REJECT GOD'S LOVE?

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you are born of God's Spirit (John 1:12-13; 3:1-21; 1 Peter 1:23-2:3). The old life is gone and you enter the new life (2 Corinthians 5:17).

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

For more information contact:

Evangelist Matthew Needham
findsalvation@hotmail.com

www.evangelistmatthew.com

ARE YOU
SAVED
OR WILL YOU
LOSE YOUR
SOUL?

"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul" (Mark 8:36-37).