

FACETS OF TRUE SAVING RELIGION

a lesson presented to

Fairview Memorial Winter Bible Study

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By

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Isa 12:1 And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

Isa 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Isa 12:3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Isa 12:4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

Isa 12:5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

Isa 12:5 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Introduction

A facet is "a little face; a small surface; as the facets of a diamond." Humanity cannot with carnal mind comprehend or fathom the depths of salvation; but, we can by the Word of God, as instructed by the Holy Ghost, examine some of its facets.

Def Salvation

(Webster, 1828)

1.The act of saving; preservation from destruction, danger or great calamity.

2.Appropriately in theology, the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and the conferring on him everlasting happiness. This is the great salvation.

Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation. 2 Cor 7.

This most precious jewel is heavenly in original, in fact, it is God Himself, "God is my salvation." Although God cannot be fully comprehended by humankind, He must be known before He can be believed. Believers must present these facets of salvation to the men of the world that they might do as the pearl merchant; having found THE pearl of great price, sold all that he had and purchased it.

I. True Saving Religion Is Spiritual.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

1.It is more than an intellectual pursuit; understanding the truths of the Bible is not sufficient for salvation.

2.Ceremonials of religion are not sufficient; forms, Baptism, Lord's Supper, assemblies, praises, prayer, and singing will not save.

3.It is more than morality. Perhaps all religions have some form of morality; but great morality does not produce saving religion.

4.Saving religion is spiritual in its source. It comes from heaven. Salvation must come from the Christ—He is the Authorized One, The One Anointed by The Holy

Spirit; and is administered by that quickening Spirit. A sinner is dead in trespasses and sins, and must be born again (quickened) by the Holy Spirit.

5. Therefore, true saving religion involves the Holy Spirit's work on the hearts and souls of men. By the Holy Spirit the understanding is enlightened; the affections are sanctified bringing the will into perfect obedience to God's will.

Eze 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

6. True saving religion produces spiritual effects and fruits: spiritual desires, affections, communion, exercises (prayer, reading, praise, etc.). The life will be spiritual.

II. True Saving Religion Is A Religion Of Love.

Un 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

1. Love is commanded by God.

Mat 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Mat 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Mat 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Our love to God is to be: filial, reverential, confidential, grateful, and of delight.

Our love to others must be: to all of them, truly, and manifestly. Love among brethren is a distinguishing characteristic of God's people.

2. It is essential in saving religion. It is the very nature of true religion (God so loved...), it a major element of the new nature, it is one of the "fruits" of the Holy Spirit, it is the badge of discipleship. In love we resemble Christ. Only in love can we have fellowship with God.

3. Love is a prerequisite of heaven. Everything in heaven connected with love: God is love; the throne rests on immutable love; the Lamb is love; the society; satisfaction; the atmosphere.

III. True Saving Religion Is A Religion Of Faith.

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1. Faith is first the credence given to Gospel message. The sinner must come to believe in truth of the Holy Scriptures: the Holiness of God; his/her own sinful condition; God's ability and willingness to save; that Jesus gave Himself for him/her.

Faith believes all that God has spoken; and expects, and lives, and feels as though everything promised is possessed.

2. Faith is connected throughout true saving religion.

A. It is directly involved the commencement of saving religion.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

B. Faith is necessary for the progress of true saving religion: in the progressive work of sanctification; by claiming the promises of God in troubles, trials, and conflicts (with the world, man's own sinful nature, the great adversary).

C. Faith conducts from the earthly Christian life to eternal glory. The Christian dies in faith. To live is Christ, to die is gain.

IV. True Saving Religion Is A Religion Of Works.

Jas 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

Jas 2:15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

Jas 2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Jas 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Jas 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Jas 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Jas 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Jas 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

Jas 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Jas 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Jas 2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

Jas 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

1. Pardon and justification are by faith alone.

Act 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Pardon and justification are productive of good works.

Faith is the root—obedience the fruit.

Faith is the soul of religion—obedience is the body; which becomes productive.

Faith enters the divine family—obedience shows that relationship.

2.The nature of obedience (works^).

Of a renewed heart (by the grace of God I am what I am);
Must be affectionate (I love you, keep my commandments);
Must be done earnestly;
Must be constantly and perseveringly;
Should be done humbly;
Works must rely on the communications of Divine Grace.

3.Our work must be accounted for to God.

V.True Saving Religion Is A Religion Of Prayer.

1.The nature of prayer.

A.Prayer may occur with or without audible words.

B.Prayer may include:

The adoration and blessing of God;

Thanksgiving for former mercies;

The confession of our sins;

Deprecation of evil;

Supplications for mercies we need, and blessings on other men.

2.Distinguishing characteristics of prayer.

A.Sincerity;

B.Simplicity;

C.Humility;

D.Believing confidence (faith);

Jas 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Our faith in prayer must have respect to God's promise and Christ's mediation.

E.Prayer should defer to God's wisdom and love.

3.Sustaining prayer. We are to be instant in prayer. To pray always, "to pray

without ceasing."

A.By continuing to have a sense of our dependence on God.

B.By daily reading the Divine Word.

C.By regarding the means of grace.

D.By seeking from the God the spirit of prayer.

VI.True Saving Religion Is A Religion Of Sorrow And Self Denial.

1. A religion of sorrow. 2Co7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. There can be no repentance without sorrow for sin. This sorrow does not just happen once. It is the bitter herbs that allow us to partake of Jesus.

2. A religion of self-denial. Mar 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
Mar 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; hut whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.
- A. We must deny our own wisdom: submit ourselves to the wisdom of God.
 - B. There must be the utter rejection of all self-righteousness^ and entire reliance on the mediation of Christ.
 - C. We must subordinate all self-seeking to the will and pleasure of God.
 - D. We must crucify self for the good of others. Rom \4:14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.
Rom 14:15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.
 - E. We must place ourselves, and all we are and have, at the Lord's disposal.

Conclusion

The jewel of heaven was given to be our salvation. Though He came in divine holiness, He had to come and become one of us, and be perfected to be our savior. The corn had to be beaten, ground and baked before it could be consumed as bread. Jesus ("Jehovah is salvation") had to be bruised so that we could have true saving religion. But, how can to the son of man be perfected?

As with the most precious of stones, It takes diamond to cut diamond.

Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

This holy being was fashioned to be the perfect Savior; only through Him is found true saving

religion:

1. He was anointed by the Holy Spirit. He along being authorized to save;
2. He demonstrated the love of God toward fallen man by suffering in his place;
3. He taught us about faith, that we had to believe in Him;
4. He ceaselessly toiled, accomplishing all that was required of Him by the Father;
5. He demonstrated, by example, the necessity of continual prayer;
6. Because of sin it was necessary for Him to be a man of sorrow and deny himself
for the benefit of the sons of Adam.