



Salvation

by Dale & Sandra Hudson

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Covenant Word Ministries

*TEACHING. TRAINING. BUILDING. EQUIPPING.
(EPHESIANS 4:12,13)*

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Perhaps you have realized (or already knew) that you cannot truthfully, nor confidently say you have taken the necessary steps toward accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. If that is the case, we would like to give you an opportunity to make the most important decision you will ever make, that is, to receive the free gift of salvation. Like many others you may ask, "What is salvation?" What does it mean to be saved? From whence did the idea come? Is it something that I really need? How can I get it? Well, below we have shared a few main points that we pray will provide the answers you need to prompt you to act today. If you have received Christ, the following information may help to shine more light on this glorious gift that is now yours.

~ It is a free gift from God born out of His love for all mankind! ~

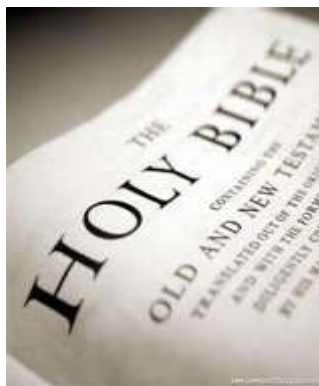
A few years back we heard Dr. Myles Munroe say, "If you don't know the purpose of a thing, abuse is inevitable." Can you imagine giving a friend a new, top of the line 80" LED (LCD), 3D television and then discovering he was using it as a dinner table the next time you were invited to his house? It sounds ludicrous doesn't it? Completely absurd! I would imagine that, upon your friend receiving your valued gift, you would expect him to, at the very least, glance at the picture on the box and consider how the TV should look once it has been set up in his family (not dining) room. You, perhaps, would be happy to know the instructions were included in the box so that, if followed, he could partake of the best viewing experience imaginable for that particular model. The hope being that this valued gift would be precious enough to him that he would not want to abuse or misuse it in any way.

God's idea of what we should do or make of the life He has given us is somewhat like the one you would have toward your friend's "correct" response to your valued gift. However, like your friend, so many are responding incorrectly by trying to live life following their own thoughts, ideas, desires, plans, etc., without ever considering God or giving real thought to how or why they are alive in the first place. One of the prevailing thoughts in certain circles today is that there are no absolutes and no one to whom we must give an account. It's a "do as you please, get all you can for yourself and

forget the next person" mindset: a rather interesting philosophy with extremely dangerous consequences.

I must say it is not the first time this has been the prevailing thought. In Deuteronomy 12 of the Christian Bible, the children of Israel were given instructions as to how they were to worship God when they came into the land which He was giving them. In the midst of the instruction (verse 8) they were told,

"You shall not at all do as we are doing here today--every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes." Now, did they listen? Well, according to the book of Judges (years later), the answer is emphatically no. The widespread theme at that time was exactly "...that every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Judges 17:6) It did not matter that they ended up in captivity on several occasions and for many years.



Despite the harsh conditions and God's faithfulness to deliver them, the book of Judges closed out reiterating that same theme: every man did what was right in his own eyes. Somehow, like many today, seemingly it really didn't matter to them whether they chose correctly. It was this "I, me and my mentality." The problem, as Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV) so eloquently sums up, is that there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Of course God foresaw this day; therefore He had his "Word" preserved in book form so that, through the ages, men and women everywhere would have a reference manual, an instruction booklet, a guide to help them navigate through life in the precise manner He had conceived. That book (The Bible) unveils thoroughly His design and original intent and it provides the wisdom necessary to carry it out. That book contains the historical evidence of God's love, respect and admiration for all mankind as well as His deep desire to be one with His creation. That book shows how God went beyond just the desire to reveal and manifest the ultimate plan of securing that oneness throughout eternity to also include the detailed account of its complete and costly fulfillment in His Beloved Son, Jesus: God's "Word" who took on flesh (bodily form) to ensure that throughout the

ages to come, you and I, personally, could have an intimate, one-on-one relationship with God Almighty. All of this carried out and fulfilled through Jesus, just so that His Father God could express to us this great love wherewith He loved us.

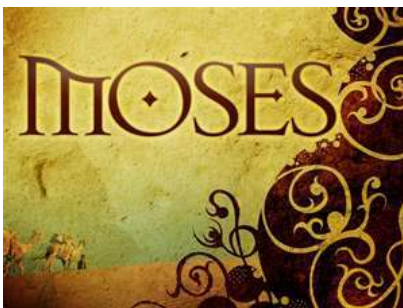
**~ The plan was lavish, but definitely needful;
The plan was not reactionary, rather proactive;
and
The plan always included you. ~**

Since the beginning of time it has always been such that the soul that sins shall surely die. This was not so just in order for God to have a reason to pour out His wrath on sinful mankind. It had everything to do with a Holy, just God (which we want and need Him to be) not deviating from that standard of righteousness so that truth could prevail throughout all eternity. Instead of lowering Himself (His standard), He raised us up to meet it. God foreseeing that all mankind would be subject to the first man's choices (since all mankind would come from the seed of that man), proactively made a deliberate and conscious decision on our behalf to Himself fulfill His own righteous requirement. The main reason being, no matter how hard we tried, we could in no way (without divine intervention) accomplish the required level of righteousness; hence, the "plan of redemption."

There are those who think that once Adam (the first man) sinned, God had to scramble quickly to come up with a plan to stop the devil. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, Revelation 13:8 speaks of Jesus being the lamb slain from the foundation of the world. What does this mean? Have you ever heard of the story of the first Passover? Just in case you have not, you can find it in the book of Exodus, which is the second book of the Torah (Hebrew) or Pentateuch (Greek): the first five books of the Bible. They were written by Moses, the man God used to deliver His people (the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Israel [Jacob]) from bondage. Let's pick up at the point in the story where Moses was living in the wilderness with his wife, children and his in-laws when God revealed himself and reiterated His plan of redemption for the children of

Israel. (Allow me to interject that the plan of redemption was first spoken to Adam after the fall when God declared in Genesis 3:15 the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent. That theme and purpose was carried throughout the generations and sealed in the covenant God made with Abraham to fulfill His Word concerning Jesus. Actually, God made the covenant with Himself [Jesus] on behalf of Abraham because only through Jesus could the covenant be kept.) (See our "Covenant Word Study")

God informed Moses that He had heard His people's cries and He was ready, through him, to fulfill His Word to Abraham that, after 400 years of captivity and slavery, He would deliver his descendents and judge the nation whom they served. (Gen. 15:13, 14) So Moses did as God commanded; He returned to Egypt to confront Pharaoh and demand the release of all of Israel. God went through a series of actions to show Pharaoh that He alone was God and His purposes would prevail. Of the ten (10) plagues sent, Israel was protected and shielded from nine (9). However, the only way Israel was to be spared of the final



plague was that they obeyed the Word of the Lord to Moses regarding the blood of the Passover, "paschal" lamb. There was to be no exception or differentiation between Egypt and Israel. If the blood of the lamb was not properly applied (to the doorpost) for that particular house, the death angel would not "pass over" or spare the firstborn of any living creature associated with that house. The children of Israel were required to follow specific guidelines regarding the selection, care and preparation of the lamb and application of the blood. By doing so, they soon would walk free of their oppressors into health, wealth and a land flowing with milk and honey. A land where they could worship freely and completely the one true and living God: The God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel (Jacob). Yahweh, "I AM THAT I AM," would be their God and they would be His people through whom Jesus, the promised seed, would come.

That Passover was to be the first of many. In fact, they were commanded to keep the Passover as a "Feast of the Lord" every year thereafter in the first month of the year. Passover would occur each year between March/April, based on their "Sacred" calendar. This is called a "moed" or appointed time. You are probably asking the question, "What has this to do with salvation or getting saved or more importantly, you?" Actually, everything! The children of Israel were required to keep the Passover each year as a "holy convocation" or "dress rehearsal." It was in preparation for a big event; it was a foreshadowing of things to come. When the actual, true Passover eventually came, God wanted them to be able to recognize the day and respond appropriately. So year after year, for many years, Jerusalem was filled with both the usual residents, as well as those from afar, and the towns round about who came to celebrate the Lord's Passover. (See "Feasts of the Lord" Word Study)

~ No longer types and shadows or dress rehearsals: for the true, real has come! ~

Now Galatians 4:4-7 states, "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." We will assume you have heard the story of the birth of Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem of Judea. (Matthew 1:18 -2:23) He lived for 30 years before beginning His ministry. At the age of 33, the stage was set for him to complete the final and truly redemptive performance of the Lord's Passover. There would be no more dress rehearsals or holy convocations where animals were sacrificed (yearly) to cover the sins of mankind. The true Lamb of God had come and the day of redemption was upon them. This particular year, at the same time the children of Israel were inspecting their Passover lamb, Jesus was being inspected by Pilate after having been handed over by the Jewish religious leaders (those who envied Jesus and were afraid of losing their position and status with the people). The Jewish people

whom revered and followed Jesus were themselves keeping the Passover as they and their ancestors had always done for many years.



Just as God had instructed the children of Israel to select a Passover lamb without spot, blemish, or broken bones, Jesus was selected by the "religious leaders" to die and was declared by Pontius Pilate (The Roman leader in Jerusalem) as blameless, a man in whom he found no fault. As the Scripture had foretold, He was indeed the perfect sacrificial Lamb of God! Because God (before time began) had declared Jesus as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," at the right time, the blood of Jesus had to be shed as the propitiation for all sin so that it could be applied in the true tabernacle in heaven. (Matt. 26:20-28:20; Mark 14:12-16:20; Luke 22:1-24:53; John 17:1-21:25)

Jesus was crucified exactly as God had prophesied and ordained. God laid all the wrath for our past, present and future sin on His Anointed, beloved Son and opened the way for us to choose Jesus: His gift of redemption, power and blessing. The Bible says, "It pleased the Lord to bruise him." (Isaiah 53:10 NKJV) As a result, Jesus brought peace on earth, good will from God toward man; He brought all mankind back to a place of peace (Hebrew - 'shalom' and Greek - 'eirene') with God and enabled mere men to "come close" to God without fear of wrath or death. However, there was and still is one catch. Like the children of Israel, to partake of this redemption, you must personally apply the blood to your life. You must exchange (by covenant) your sinful nature for His righteous, holy nature. As 1 Corinthians 1:30 states, "Jesus is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption," but it is enacted in our lives by our own, personal choice.

~ Choose this day whom you will serve! ~

So what will you do in response to all this? Will you continue to follow your own way without any real guidance or instruction? Or will you allow God's Holy Spirit to live in you, instruct you, lead you into all truth, empower you and enable you to live a life of divine purpose, with the ability and means to overcome every obstacle and triumph over every circumstance? Will you choose the victorious life God originally ordained and apportioned for you? If so, it is as simple as confessing with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believing in your heart God raised him from the dead: for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Romans 10:9, 10)

Like the hypothetical gift (80" LCD, 3D television) given to your friend, righteousness, as well as salvation, is a free gift. As mentioned, righteousness is accomplished simply by believing in your heart God raised Jesus from the dead. It is that simple because you cannot in any way or means attain righteousness apart from Jesus; you must believe in Him through whom righteousness has been provided. When you believe, God in His great love and mercy freely bestows upon, reckons, imputes and accounts you as righteous. You can't earn it, complete any act of kindness or say any great words. To be made righteous, you must believe in your heart that God raised His Beloved Son, (the true Lamb of God, the incorruptible seed, the perfect sacrifice) from the dead and that He now lives forevermore as the High Priest of our confession, seated at the right hand of God, making intercession for all mankind. Being made righteous involves believing that God, out of His act of love, places you in right standing with Himself when you accept Jesus, His only begotten Son in whom He is well-pleased. God then, based on the blood of the eternal covenant, sees you through Jesus' righteousness.

~ Because of Jesus' unselfish sacrifice, salvation is free to all who call upon His name: "FOR WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (Romans 10:13 NAS) ~

Saved in the Greek is the word "sozo", pronounced sode-zo. "Sozo" (spiritual and eternal salvation, and material or temporal deliverance from danger, suffering, sickness and the bondage of sin) further means the following: - to save, deliver or protect, heal, make whole, be whole, preserve and do well. (The New Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Greek Dictionary of the New Testament, pg. 245)

The word "salvation" in the Greek is "soteria" and it comes from the word "sozo." As used during the time of Jesus, The NAS New Testament Greek Lexicon lists "soteria" as meaning deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation. "Salvation" in the Hebrew language is just as comprehensive and awesome. It is "Yeshua" and it means "Yahweh [the Lord] is Salvation. You may ask, what makes Yeshua so awesome? Well, Yeshua translated into the Greek is Iêsous, from which we get the English spelling "Jesus," the name by which we know the Savior, Messiah. His very name is Salvation. In Psalm 91:15-16, it states, He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation. (KJV) (See Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Mounce, William D.; Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI)

~ It all culminates in Jesus, (Yeshua) - our Righteousness and Salvation! ~

Please note that in God's redemptive plan, righteousness and salvation (being saved) covers the entire man throughout his time on Earth and life throughout all eternity. Therefore, salvation is more than just an escape clause set in force upon a believer's death; it's much greater than the "go to heaven, miss hell

concept." To the believers at Galatia, Paul wrote, "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God." His redemption plan involves making you, in this life, a son (daughter) and an heir so that you may have the power to live and enjoy a victorious, overcoming life. According to Galatians 3:29, "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." That's right! The new covenant promise God made with Abraham is now made available to you through the "seed" singular, which is Jesus. When you accept Jesus, God raises you to the place of being a joint-heir with Jesus Christ, which means you are made righteous like believing Abraham and you are in this life just as Jesus is, beloved and highly favored.

~ Remember: this glorious salvation is activated in your life only by you personally applying the blood of Jesus; it is not self-executing or automatic. You must choose Jesus as your SAVIOR and LORD! ~

There is much more we could cover, but to do so would take pages and pages. We hope that, by touching on the main points, we have armed you with enough information to make a wise, informed decision that will cause you to be all that you can be and equip you to live life above the negative, debilitating mindset of doing what's right in your own eyes. Change your mind, embrace a new mindset and accept the greatest gift ever: the perfect love of God as provided in His Son, Jesus Christ. The ultimate plan of redemption is that **God so loved** the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16) Jesus says to you today: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne." (Rev. 3:20, 21 KJV)



Prayer of Salvation

Dear God, I acknowledge your son Jesus as the only sacrifice for sin and I believe in my heart that you raised Him from the dead, and He is now seated at your right hand.

Come live in my heart, baptize me by your Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and give me eternal life with you. I choose to turn away from all that is unlike you, and as a disciple, set myself to learn of you to receive of the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness that I may be conformed to the image of your Dear Son.

Thank you God! You are now my Father and Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord; your Holy Spirit has baptized me and lives in me forever.

**Welcome to the Body of Christ:
The kingdom and family of God!**

Dale Hudson
Teaching Ministries

Teaching. Training.
Building & Equipping!



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