



SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





Simplicity of Salvation

ADRIAN ROGERS

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this transcript produced from a live sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This transcript is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

Note: Though it has been transcribed from a version used for broadcast, it may contain stutters, stammers, and other authentic remarks as would be common in a live setting.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright © 2022 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

Transcripts are used by permission of the Rogers Family Trust.



Simplicity of Salvation

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 5:13

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2006

God wants salvation to be explained simply, because it is His desire that anyone can understand and obtain it.

1 John 5:13 says, “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

Salvation is a relationship with God that pardons us from our sins. By salvation, we have peace with God and power over sin. We are given His presence through the Holy Spirit, and through the process of sanctification, we will be made perfect in God’s sight.

In order to understand how salvation saves us and makes us perfect, we must understand our human nature.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 says, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Human beings, God’s crowning creation, are composed of body, soul and spirit.

Our bodies are made of the dust of the ground. But we are not our bodies; we just live in our bodies.

We also have souls, which are our personalities, sense of humor, intelligence, likes and dislikes, idiosyncrasies — the things that make us unique.

The human spirit is inextricably united with its soul, completely inseparable, but they are not the same thing. The human spirit is the organ of spiritual knowledge; it is evidence that God put Himself into man.

Adrian Rogers says, “Salvation is not primarily getting man out of Earth into Heaven; it is getting God out of Heaven and back into man.”

It is important that believers dwell in the Holy Spirit, because He speaks to our human spirits, which speak to our souls, which speak to our bodies. Our bodies move out into the world and allow us to be physical manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

When we are saved, we immediately receive justification in our Spirit; we are progressively sanctified in our souls, and ultimately glorified in our bodies.

Anyone can be saved; and when we are, we are given the assurance of our salvation through Jesus Christ. Faith is not a feeling; it is depending on God’s facts.

Life Application

Do you have the assurance of salvation? Remember: salvation is simple: whosoever may come.



Simplicity of Salvation

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 5:13

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2006

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Salvation is not hope-so, maybe-so, wish-so, but a know-so salvation.
 - i) "If you could have it and not know it, you could lose it and not miss it."
 - ii) If you have it, you ought to know it.
 - iii) If you do have it, you can't lose it.
- b) Some people say you can't know you're saved. You can only "hope so."
 - i) When you die, you'll find out.
 - ii) That will be too late.
- c) You need assurance of salvation right now.
- d) A Christian should be an exclamation point, standing up straight, not a question mark, bent over, wondering if you're saved.
- e) To know you're saved, two things are necessary:
 - i) Know what God said to do to be saved.
 - ii) Do what God said to do to be saved.
 - (1) If you don't know what God said to do to be saved, you won't know if you've done it.
 - (2) If you don't do it, you have no right to say you're saved.
- f) What is salvation? What does "being saved" mean?
 - i) Salvation is a personal relationship with God that brings:
 - (1) Pardon
 - (a) We are justified.
 - (i) Our sins are buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness.
 - (2) Peace
 - (a) Romans 5:1
 - (b) Jesus made peace by the blood of His cross.
 - (c) Our warfare against God is cancelled out.
 - (i) Colossians 1:20
 - (d) God is now our friend, benefactor and Father.
 - (e) God is no longer our judge or enemy because of our sin.
 - (3) Power
 - (a) We are not alone; God comes into us.
 - (b) Romans 1:16
 - (i) "Power" here literally means "dynamite."
 - (c) God doesn't just forgive our sin, then leave us.
 - (d) God is a Savior, not probationary officer. He doesn't say, "I've forgiven the past. It's up to you for the present."
 - (e) It's not a new start; you become a new creature.
 - (4) Presence
 - (a) The Holy Spirit of God comes to live in the saved person.
 - (b) You are never alone, God is with you.
 - (c) John 14:16



- (d) Once you're saved, He keeps you saved, because the Bible says the Holy Spirit will abide forever.
- (5) Perfection
 - (a) Hebrews 12:23
 - (b) This doesn't mean we will never sin again.
 - (c) But in God's eyes, we will be made perfect.
 - (i) Every sin is buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness, never to be brought up against us again.
 - (ii) God demands perfection.
 - (iii) The precious blood of Jesus provides that perfection.
 - (iv) Without the blood of Jesus, you could never hope to go to Heaven.

2) HOW TO BE SAVED

- a) The nature of human nature.
 - i) 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - (1) "Wholly" means "completely."
 - (a) Every part of our being.
 - (2) God made us: spirit, soul and body.
 - ii) We live in a body.
 - (1) We also have a soul.
 - (a) The Greek word for soul is "psyche."
 - (i) We get the words psychiatry, psychology, psychological, psychic from psyche and all refer to the soul.
 - (b) The soul comprises personality, idiosyncrasies, intelligence, sense of humor—what makes you uniquely you.
 - (c) Basically, your soul is your mind, emotion and will.
 - (2) At the center is our spirit.
 - (a) The Bible distinguishes between soul and spirit.
 - (i) 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - (b) Hebrews 4:12
 - (c) Both soul and spirit are invisible and inseparable but are not the same.
 - (d) Man is different from any animal or plant because we have a spirit.
 - (e) Man's spirit is what enables him to worship God.
 - (i) John 4:24
 - (ii) Romans 8:16
 - (f) Plants have a body but not a soul.
 - (g) Animals have a soul: mind, emotion and will, but God did not give animals a spirit.
 - (h) Only man has a spirit.
 - (i) Only man can worship God, pray and conceive of eternity.
- b) God made Adam: healthy in his body, happy in his soul and holy in his spirit.
 - i) With our body we know the physical world: the world around us.
 - ii) With our soul we know the psychological world: the world around us.
 - iii) With our spirit we know the spiritual world: the world above us.
 - (1) When your body is right, you are healthy.
 - (2) When your soul is right, you are happy.
 - (3) When your spirit is right, you are holy.

**3) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LOST?**

- i) Those who need to get saved are those who are lost.
 - (1) Jesus did not come to feed the hungry, to heal the sick or to educate people.
- ii) Luke 19:10
 - (1) Jesus came to Earth for one reason, "To seek and to save that which was lost."
- iii) "Lost" is the condition of every man, woman and child without Jesus Christ.
- iv) How man was meant to function.
 - (1) Man has a body which houses his soul and spirit.
 - (2) God is a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Ghost
 - (3) God's Holy Spirit comes into our human spirit.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 2:12
 - (4) Down in the deepest precincts, the holy of holies of man, the Holy Spirit is there, telling us what to do intuitively.
 - (5) The Holy Spirit speaks to the soul; the mind, emotions and the will.
 - (a) The Spirit gives the mind discernment.
 - (b) The Spirit gives the emotion and the will impulses.
 - (6) The human soul speaks to the body.
 - (7) The body moves out into the world.
 - (8) God's life is being manifested; God the Holy Spirit in the human spirit, through the soul to the body and out into the world.
 - (a) We are just showing the life of God.
- v) There is a dark void where the Spirit should be.
 - (1) God made Adam healthy, happy and holy.
 - (2) God was living in Adam's spirit.
 - (3) God walked with Adam.
 - (a) Genesis 3:8
 - (4) Adam sinned and God moved out of him.
 - (a) God will not live in a dirty house.
 - (b) God is a holy God.
- vi) God warned Adam about not eating the forbidden fruit.
 - (1) If he ate of it, that day he would die.
 - (a) Genesis 2:17
 - (2) Adam continued living for hundreds and hundreds of years.
 - (3) Adam's soul and body didn't die physically on that day.
 - (4) Where did he die?
 - (a) Immediately in his spirit.
- vii) Death is not separation of the soul from the body but separation of the spirit from God.
 - (1) The child of God can never die.
 - (a) John 11:26
 - (2) Adam died immediately in his spirit.
 - (3) Adam died progressively in his soul.
 - (4) Adam died ultimately in his body.
- viii) Many come to church on Sunday morning spiritually dead.
 - (1) Their mind, emotion, will, and body are operating.
 - (2) But they are minus God in their spirit.
- ix) What do you have to do to be lost?



- (1) Nothing
- (2) We are lost by nature.
- (3) We are born with a depraved nature.
- (4) We are by nature the children of wrath.
 - (a) Ephesians 2:3
- (5) We inherited that nature from Adam.
- (6) You can be a fine, upstanding, wonderful, religious person and still be lost.
 - (a) Jesus told Nicodemus, a great man morally, he must be born again to see the kingdom of Heaven.
 - (b) To be lost simply means to be minus God.

4) WHAT IS SALVATION?

- a) Salvation is not primarily getting man out of Earth into Heaven; it is getting God out of Heaven into man.
 - i) God moved out because of sin.
 - ii) Romans 3:23
- b) What does it mean to be saved?
 - i) Luke 19:10
 - ii) Acts 16:31
- c) There is a chasm between holy God and sinful man.
 - i) Man tries many things to try to get close to God.
 - ii) Man have a God-shaped vacuum in our hearts where God was in the Spirit.
 - iii) Man can never be satisfied.
 - (1) Animals can be satisfied but man is constantly trying to fill that void with something.
 - (2) Man keeps bouncing off of that sin barrier.
 - (a) Romans 3:23
 - iv) What is sin?
 - (1) To fall short of the glory of God.
 - (2) Sin is everything in us that's not like God.
 - v) Do not compare yourself to others whether saint or sinner.
 - vi) We will not go to Hell for Adam's sin, we will go because of our own sin.
- d) What has God done to make salvation possible?
 - i) The Incarnation: God Himself became a man.
 - (1) God in glory stepped out of Heaven to come to Earth.
 - (2) Romans 5:8
 - (a) Sin has separated man from God.
 - (b) Yet God has not stopped loving us.
 - ii) Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, is as much God as if He were not man at all, and as much man as if He were not God at all.
 - iii) He had to be a man to pay sin's price and redeem our lost estate.
 - iv) God took on human flesh, and the infinite became an infant.
 - (1) Matthew 1:21
 - (2) Luke 19:10
 - v) John 14:6
 - vi) Jesus died on the cross and built a bridge between man and God.



- (1) Jesus is not a good way to Heaven; He is the only way to Heaven.
 - (a) Acts 4:12
- (2) Galatians 3:21
- (3) If you could be saved by being good, why did Jesus die upon the cross?
 - (a) He didn't die as a martyr.
 - (b) It wasn't an accident
 - (c) He was crucified before the foundation of the world.
 - (d) God came to Earth that we might go to Heaven.
 - (e) He became the Son of Man that we might become sons and daughters of God.
 - (f) He was born of a virgin that we might be born again
 - (g) He carried my sin and your sin to the cross.
 - (h) Colossians 1:20

5) WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

- a) Acts 16:31
 - i) "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."
 - (1) It does not say, "Everyone who wants to be saved, run around the block." Some people cannot run.
 - (2) It does not say, "Everyone who wants to be saved, read the Bible." Some people cannot read.
 - (3) It does not say, "Everyone who wants to be saved, give \$1,000." Some people do not have \$1,000.
- b) Every one of us has a control center in our life, a throne, where our ego sits.
 - i) When man becomes spiritually dead, God moves out of man's spirit and man's soul takes over.
 - (1) The mind, emotion and will.
 - (2) Christ is on the outside of this life.
 - (3) Most people in the world are here, running their own life the way they see fit apart from Jesus.
 - ii) The opposite of the lost person is the Christ-controlled person.
 - (1) Jesus Christ is on the throne of that life.
 - (2) A Christian is not someone who merely believes intellectually that Christ died for his sins, even the devil believes that; a Christian is someone who has invited Christ into his life.
 - (3) The Greek word for "believe" in Acts 16:31 means "trust."
 - (4) If you aren't willing to make Him Lord of your life, He cannot be your Savior; Jesus comes in to take control of your life.
 - (5) A Christ-controlled life has harmony and purpose as God intends for our lives to be.
 - iii) All believers are a work in progress.
 - (1) Philippians 1:6
 - (2) When you give your life to Christ, He begins to take control and make you the person He wants you to be.
 - (3) Your life doesn't have to be absolutely perfect for you to go to Heaven.
 - (4) The moment you trust Christ as your personal Savior, that moment you are eternally saved, eternally secure.



- (5) God begins to work on you.
 - (a) Philippians 1:6
- iv) When you are saved:
 - (1) You are justified immediately in your spirit.
 - (2) You are sanctified progressively in your soul.
 - (3) You are glorified ultimately in your body.
 - (a) One day you will have a resurrected body like the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) Revelation 3:20
 - i) You must hear His voice.
 - ii) You must open the door.
 - (1) Jesus will not break in the door.
 - iii) You must invite Him in.
 - (1) You say, "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus."
 - (2) It is an act of faith.
 - (3) You open wide the door.
 - (4) You say, "Come in and take control of my life. Begin now to make me the person You want me to be."
- d) Will Jesus save you right now?
 - i) Revelation 22:17
 - ii) Does Jesus want to save you?
 - (1) Revelation 3:20
 - iii) Jesus loves you.
 - iv) John 3:17
 - v) He came to save the world and He wants to save you.

6) HOW CAN YOU KNOW YOU ARE SAVED?

- a) If you do what God tells you to do to be saved, then you can have the assurance of your salvation.
- b) John 5:24 is like a spiritual birth certificate to a Christian.
 - i) "He that heareth My Word..."
 - (1) Hearing the Bible preached is hearing the Word of God.
 - ii) "and believeth on Him that sent Me..."
 - (1) The word "believe" appears 99 times in the book of John.
 - (2) Believe in the God who sent the Savior and believe in the Savior whom God sent.
 - iii) "hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life."
 - (1) "Condemnation" refers to "judgment."
 - (a) To die and go to Hell.
 - (2) Not "will pass" but already "is passed."
 - iv) When you give your heart to Jesus, it is settled, done, finished; you have passed from death into life.
 - v) You don't get eternal life when you die, you get eternal life the minute you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - vi) "Verily, verily" means "pay attention, pay attention," "this is true, this is true," "listen, listen."
- c) How do you know you are saved?
 - i) Not by your feelings.
 - (1) 1 John 5:13



- (2) If you depend upon your feelings, you will never have the assurance.
- ii) We have God's Word.
- iii) Comparison to a train:
 - (1) The engine represents the facts revealed in God's Word.
 - (2) We put our faith in God's facts.
 - (a) Our faith is the fuel that runs the engine.
- iv) Feeling happy does not indicate you are saved.
- v) Feeling happy is the result of knowing you are saved.
- vi) When you put your faith in God's facts, you will have the joy of knowing you're saved

7) CONCLUSION

- a) Salvation is not simply getting out of Earth and into Heaven.
 - i) Heaven is the by-product of salvation.
 - ii) Salvation is getting God out of Heaven and back into man.
- b) Jesus stands at your heart's door, knocking to come in.
 - i) You must open the door by faith.
 - ii) When you do, the authority of God's Word guarantees He will come into your life, save you and keep you.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



Simplicity of Salvation

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 5:13

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2006

Take God's Word and find First John, not the Gospel of John, but First John chapter 5 and verse 13. I've been working on my memory work a little bit, so I want you to look at it. I'm using the King James Version of the Scripture. You look at it, and I'm going to see if I can get it right, so you check me out, okay? First John chapter 5 verse 13. Are you ready? "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may hope that you have eternal life." Got it wrong. All right, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may guess that you have eternal life." "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may wish that you had eternal life."

What word is it that I'm missing? "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may," K-N-O-W, "know that you have eternal life." Now folks, God wants us to know it. Amen? I don't want to talk to you about a hope-so, maybe-so, wish-so salvation, but a know-so salvation.

Somebody said if you could have it and not know it, you could lose it and not miss it. Truth of the matter is, if you have it, you ought to know it, and if you do have it, you can't lose it. And so therefore we need to understand what this thing called salvation is. Because John said, "I wrote the whole book of First John that you might know that you have eternal life."

I hear some people say, "Well you just can't know that you're saved. You just have to hope that you're saved. And when you die, you'll find out." I don't want to wait till I die to find out whether I'm saved or not; I mean, after it's too late to do anything about it. You need to have that sweet, wonderful, blessed assurance. A Christian needs to be an exclamation point, standing up straight, not a question mark all bent over, saying, "I just wonder if I'm saved." I want you to have an absolute know-so salvation.

Now in order to know that you're saved, two things are necessary. Number one, you have to know what God said to do to be saved. That's the reason why John said, "I wrote it." "These things have I written unto you." Okay? You have to know what God said to do to be saved. That's the first thing. The second thing is you have to do it. Know what God said to do to be saved and do it.

Now if you don't know what God said to do to be saved, of course, then how are you going to know whether you've done it or not? Then if you know what God says to do to be saved and you don't do it, what right do you have to say that you're saved? But here our Lord is talking to us about being saved. Now what do we mean by being saved anyway? What is salvation? Well salvation is **a personal relationship with God that brings the pardon of our sin**. You know, the Bible says in Romans 5 verse 1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God." We're justified. That means our sins are buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness.

And then number two, to be saved means that **we have peace with God**. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Now that doesn't mean you have a peaceful feeling. That's not the idea here. We're talking about a war, and we're enemies of God, and



we're in trouble. But the Bible says that Jesus by the blood of His cross made peace, and that sin debt, that enmity, that warfare against God is canceled out, and the peace with God is that God is now the friend to us and He is the benefactor and He is the Father. No longer is He the judge and our enemy because of our sin. We have peace with God. It means, folks, pardon and peace. And it means **power**.

We're not alone. He comes into us. The apostle Paul said in Romans 1:16, "For I'm not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation." That word literally means dynamite. You see, God doesn't just forgive your sin and say, "Now, it's up to you." He's a Savior, not a probationary officer. He doesn't just say, "Now I've forgiven the past. It's up to you for the present." It's not a new start. You become a new creature.

Now, there is this pardon. There is this peace. There is this power. There is this **presence**. When a person is saved, the Holy Spirit of God comes into him, and the Holy Spirit of God lives in him. He's never alone. The darkest night, the most lonely road, God is with him. Jesus said in John 14 verse 16, "I will send the Holy Spirit, that He may abide with you forever." Always, never to leave you. That's one of the reasons I believe that once you're saved, He keeps you saved, because the Bible says clearly and plainly that the Holy Spirit will abide forever.

And then it means this. And this is just the front porch; we haven't gotten in the house yet. But now listen, there's this pardon. There's this peace. There's this power. There's this presence. And to be saved literally means that God gives you **perfection**. Now that doesn't mean you're going to sprout wings and get a halo. Doesn't mean you'll never sin again. Doesn't mean that you can't say another bad word. It doesn't mean that you'll never have another evil thought. But in God's sight, in God's sight, when you get saved, in Hebrews 12 verse 23, the Bible speaks of the spirits of just men made perfect. You will be perfect in God's sight. Every sin buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness; never, never, never, never, ever to be brought up against you again. God demands perfection. God doesn't grade on the curve. And therefore without the precious blood of Jesus that provides in God's sight that perfection, you could never, ever hope to go to Heaven.

Now all of that is by way of introduction. Let me talk to you now about how to be saved. First of all, let me talk to you about **the nature of human nature**. What did God make when He made a man and a woman? Well, First Thessalonians chapter 5 and verse 23 says this, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly." That means W-H-O-L-L-Y; that means completely, wholly. That means every part of you. "And I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." So you are spirit, soul, and body.

Now let's talk about you. First of all, **you are a body**. You have a body. You live in a body. You're sitting there in a body, right? Right. Okay, you've got a body. That's the space suit you wear while you're on spaceship Earth. So you have a body. You live in a body. That's obvious. None of us would doubt that.

Now the second thing is not quite as obvious. Paul also spoke of a **soul**. First Thessalonians 5 verse 23, "I pray God your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." The Greek word for soul is the word psyche. It's the word we get psychiatry from, psychology from, psychological, psychic. All of these words, they refer to the soul. The soul is the you; that's your personality, your idiosyncrasies, your intelligence, your sense of humor, all of those little proclivities that make you the uniquely wonderful person that you are. That is your soul. Roughly speaking, your soul is mind, emotion, and will. You live inside this body. You have a soul. Okay? You have a soul.



Now, there's **the spirit**. Now what is the spirit? You know, I used to think that soul and spirit were about the same thing, six of one, half a dozen of another; just the invisible part of a person. But the Bible clearly makes a distinction between soul and spirit. Remember our verse? First Thessalonians 5:23, "And I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Put in your margin if you're making notes Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, dividing asunder between soul and spirit."

Well what is the difference between the soul and the spirit? Both the soul and spirit are invisible. Both the soul and spirit are inseparable. But they are not the same. The spirit is that part of you that makes you unique, different from any of the animals or any of the plants. God did not give to animals a spirit. God gave to man a spirit. It is that quality in human nature that enables you to know and worship God, for the Bible says in John 4 verse 24, and I know you know this verse, many of you, "God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him," how? "In spirit and in truth."

The Bible teaches in Romans 8:16, that when we get saved, God's Spirit, that's the Holy Spirit, bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. See, plants have a body, but they don't have a soul. Animals have a soul. Animals have mind, emotion and will, but they don't have a spirit. Only man has a spirit. Only man can worship God. Only man can pray. Only man can conceive of eternity.

So God when He made Adam, made Adam healthy in his body, happy in his soul, and holy in his spirit. That's the way the first man was made: healthy, happy, holy. Healthy in his body. You see, with your body you know the physical world, the world beneath you. With your soul, you know the psychological world, the world around you. With your spirit, you know the spiritual world, the world above you. When your body is right, you're healthy. When your soul is right, you're happy. When your spirit is right, you're holy. That's the way God made you to function.

All right, now that is the nature of human nature. What does it mean to be lost? You know, we talk about being saved. Well, who needs to get saved? Well those who need to get saved are those who are lost. And why did Jesus come to Earth? Did Jesus come to Earth to feed the hungry? Did Jesus come to Earth to heal the sick? Did Jesus come to Earth to educate people? No! Why did Jesus come to this Earth? For one reason: He tells us what it is in Luke 19:10. Do you see it? "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Now that's the condition of every man, woman, boy, and girl without the Lord Jesus Christ.

Well how did man get lost? Now again I want to remind you how man was meant to function. There is his body, the body houses the soul, and the spirit. And God is a triune God, isn't He? Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. And there is God in the human spirit.

Now here is the way to function with unction. You see, God's Holy Spirit comes into our human spirit, and the Bible says we know the things that are given to us of God by the Spirit that He's given to us. So, it, the Holy Spirit, down in the very deepest precincts, the holy of holies of man, that is the Holy Spirit of God, He is there telling us what to do intuitively in the Spirit.

Now the Spirit is to speak to the soul: the mind, the emotion, and the will. And the Spirit gives the mind discernment, it, the Spirit, gives the emotion impulses. The Spirit gives the will impulses. And so the Holy Spirit in the human spirit speaks to the soul: the mind, the emotion, and the will.

Now what does the soul do? The soul speaks to the body: the hands, the feet, the eyes, the ears; the



body. The soul motivates the body. And what does the body do? The body moves out into the world. Now whose life is being manifested? The life of God; God the Holy Spirit in the human spirit through the soul to the body out into the world. And so we're just showing the life of God. Does that make sense? Okay. That makes sense, okay. You understand what we're talking about so far. Here is the way a man is supposed to function with unction.

Now we're going to talk about what it means to be lost. Notice now where the spirit was, there's just a dark void. Because what happened when Adam sinned is this. Remember that God made Adam healthy, happy, and holy, and God was living in Adam's spirit. The Bible says, "God walked with Adam." Why? Because He was in Adam, and He walked with Adam. And Adam was there with God in the Garden of Eden. But Adam sinned. And when Adam sinned, do you know what happened? God moved out of Adam. God will not live in a dirty house. God is a holy God.

Remember what God said to Adam in the Garden of Eden and to Eve? He warned them about the forbidden fruit. And God said in Genesis 2:17, "In the day that you eat, in the day that you eat of this forbidden fruit, you will surely die." In the day. "In the very day," God said, "you're going to die." Well question: did Adam die that day? Well if you'll read your Bible, you'll find out that he went on operating for hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years. And yet God had said, "In the day that you eat thereof, you'll die." Well did he die? Yes, he died. He did not die immediately in his soul. He did not die immediately in his body. Where did he die? In his spirit.

Now what is death, precious friend? Death is not the separation of the soul from the body. If I were to go, "HHUUU!" and fall down here. A doctor would come up here and he'd, you know, tap around on me, do those things that they do. And he might stand up and say, "Folks, I hate to tell you this, but he's gone. He's dead." Well, don't you tell them I'm dead! I won't be dead. I'll be kicking up gold dust on the streets of glory, right? I can't die. Jesus said, "He that lives and believes in Me shall never die." You're looking at a man can't die.

Death is not the separation of the soul from the body. Death is the separation of the spirit from God. Now have you got that? Death is the separation of the spirit from God. Adam died immediately in his spirit. Adam died progressively in his soul. Adam died ultimately in his body.

About Christmas time, you go out there and buy a Christmas tree. And you say, "We're going to have a live tree this year? Yeah, let's get a live tree this year. I want a live tree." So you go down there and buy one of those trees that's been cut. You call that a live tree? You wait till New Year's. Now folks, that's not a live tree. It just looks live. But you see, it's been cut off from the source of life. And what happened when it was severed will show up about New Year's, you see. You may decorate it. A lot of folks come to church and decorate themselves on Sunday morning, but they're dead. They're dead. Why? They're spiritually dead. Their mind, emotion, and will is operating. Their body is operating. But they are minus God in the spirit.

What do you have to do to be lost? Rob a bank? No! Commit murder? No! Commit perversion? No! I tell you what you have to do to be lost is just nothing, because you are lost by nature. We are born with a depraved nature. The Bible teaches in Ephesians 3:3 that we are by nature the children of wrath, and we inherited that nature from Adam. And you can be fine, upstanding, wonderful, and religious. God told Nicodemus in John 3:3, a better man outwardly, morally, religiously, than any man, woman, boy, or



girl, he had to be born again in order to see the kingdom of Heaven. So what does it mean to be lost? It just simply means to be minus God!

Now let me tell you what salvation is. Salvation is not primarily getting man out of Earth into Heaven. It is getting God out of Heaven back into man. Getting God right back there where He belongs, because God moved out because of sin, and Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Now let's talk about what it means to be saved. Now you know sometimes people mock us and ridicule Bible-believers for talking about being saved. You know if Hollywood wants to ridicule a Bible believer, they will find some preacher talking some time about being saved, and he'll be talking about Heaven and Hell and all that. They think that is so funny. They think that is ridiculous. But folks, I want to tell you, the Bible says in Luke 19:10, we've already seen that, "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

And when Paul talked to a Philippian jailer one night after an earthquake in that jail, and that jailer was so scared, frightened, that he was about to commit suicide. He asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16 verses 30 and 31.

You see, here's the situation. Up in Heaven is holy God. Down below, now, is sinful man, and sin has separated us from a holy God. There is a wedge, a chasm, between holy God and sinful man. And man has a God-shaped vacuum, where God was there in the spirit. Man is never satisfied. Animals can be satisfied, but not man. Man's riding motorcycles, climbing mountains, acquiring money, planting flowers, inventing things. Man has a void. He's seeking. He's trying to find. "Friends all around me are trying to find what the heart yearns for, by sin undermined." Man has an empty void.

St. Augustine said, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are empty, restless, until they rest in Thee." So man is constantly trying to reach God. Now he may not even know that it's God he's trying to reach, but there's a void, there's an emptiness. But he keeps bouncing off of that sin barrier. For again, the Bible says in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Let me give you the best definition of sin that I know of. It's coming short of the glory of God. Do you know what sin is? It's just everything in us that's not like God. And there's a lot of it, isn't there? There's a lot of it. I mean, don't go strutting your stuff, folks. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Now don't you stretch yourself out in the gutter alongside some old hypocrite and say, "I'm longer than he is." So what. I hear people say, "Well I'm just as good as those folks down there at the church." I'm looking for a man that's honest enough to say, "I'm just as bad as those folks down there at the church." Hey listen folks, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." All, A-double-L. That means me, that means you, that means us, that means every mother's child. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." You say, "Well, I don't want to go to Hell for Adam's sin." Okay, you'll go for your own. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." And so man is trying to reach God, but he keeps ricocheting off of this sin barrier.

All right, let's look now and see what God has done. Now up there is still God in Heaven. And down here is man on Earth. Okay. But now notice, Christ came to Earth, that's the incarnation. That represents God in glory stepping out of Heaven. You see, God looked down at us. And God loves us while we're



sinners. The Bible says in Romans 5:8, "God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." The fact that we have sinned and that sin has separated us from God has not stopped God from loving us. And God, moved in mercy by the pitiful plight of sinful man, said, "I will do something." And so this time God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit planned our salvation; and God the Son, the Lord Jesus, left Heaven, came out of those ivory palaces, down to this world of woe.

In your mind just say, "Christmas." Christmas; a baby was born, born of a virgin. As much God as if He were not man at all, but as much man as if He were not God at all. He had to be a man to pay sin's price. Our domain, our legacy was forfeited by a man, the Bible teaches that through Adam all died, but in Christ all are made alive. He had to become a man to redeem our lost estate. And so God took human flesh and the infinite became an infant. And He was born there on Christmas day. That man's name is Jesus. Jesus! And what did the angel tell Mary in Matthew chapter 1 verse 21? "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sin!" Then in Luke 19:10, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." "Thou shalt call Him Jesus."

Now what did Jesus do? Let me show you the next verse here. Look at it in John 14:6, Jesus said, look, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." What did Jesus do? Jesus died upon that cross, and now with the rough-hewn timbers of a cross, He has constructed a bridge between man and God. Now man tried to cross that chasm and bring himself to God, but he keeps bouncing off the sin barrier. But Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man, cometh unto the Father but by Me."

Be reasonable, folks. Don't get the idea that Jesus is a good way to Heaven. He is not a good way to Heaven; He is the only way to Heaven. Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." I want to ask you this question: if there were some other way to Heaven, don't you think God would've taken it? Do you think God would've let His darling Son die upon that cross in agony and blood had there been some other way? That's the reason the apostle Paul says in the book of Galatians chapter 2 and verse 21, "If righteousness come by the law, Christ is dead in vain." If you could be saved by being good, pray tell why did Jesus die upon that cross? He didn't die as a martyr. It wasn't an accident. He was crucified before the foundation of the world. Why? God came to Earth that we might go to Heaven. He became the Son of Man that we might become sons and daughters of God. He was born of a virgin that we might be born again. He carried my sin, your sin, our sin, to the cross. And in Romans 5 verse 19 the Bible says, "With the blood of His cross, He hath reconciled God and man."

Look at this if you will for a moment. Now what must I do to be saved? "And they said," listen to it, Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." I'm glad He didn't say, "Everybody who wants to be saved, run around the block." Some little children, crippled, can't run. I'm glad He didn't say, "Everybody who wants to be saved, read the Bible through." Some people can't read. I'm glad He didn't say, "Everybody who wants to be saved, give a \$1,000." Some folks don't have a \$1,000. But there's one thing anybody can do and everybody must do in order to be saved, and the same thing that Paul told that Philippian jailer is what I'm going to tell you today, "What must I do to be saved? And they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.'" Remember what saved means? It means that pardon, it means that presence, it means that power, it means that perfection. It means all of that.



Now let me show you again. Look at this if you will, please. In everybody's life there is a control center. You've seen this in the little Four Spiritual Laws tract. There is a control center. That looks like a throne. There's a throne there. And sitting on that throne is a big "E." You know what that stands for? Ego; self. Because you see, when man becomes spiritually dead and God moves out of his spirit who takes over? The soul: the mind, the emotion, and the will. And here is Christ outside this life. And here is self on the throne. Now, folks, that's where most people in every major city and every hamlet and village in the world is, sitting upon the throne of his or her own life, saying, "It's my life. I'm going to do what I want to do. Nobody's going to tell me what to do. Nobody's going to make me do this or that. It is my life. I'm going to run it myself." And you see all those little circles out there? That represents the interests of life: business, family, pleasure, sex, home, vacations, and education. But the problem is that is a pretty messed up life. Self says, "Man, I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my salvation." But Christ is outside that life.

And now let me show you something else. Here is a Christ-controlled life. This time Christ is not outside that life. Christ is in that life, and Christ is on the throne of that life. Now a Christian is not somebody who merely believes intellectually that Christ died for his sins. The devil believes that. A Christian is somebody who has invited Christ into his life.

Now remember our Scripture in Acts 16 verse 31 that says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved?" That word believe is a Greek word that literally means trust. Trust! Now you can believe an airplane can fly, but you must trust it in order to fly on it. You must get on it. Now here is Christ on the throne of that life, and there is the "E," because it's still you. It's still your life. But you're in that life, at the foot of His throne, because Jesus Christ is Lord. "And they said, 'Believe on,'" what, "'the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.'" Now if you're not willing to make Him Lord, He can't be Savior. He comes in to take control of your life. Now, you have all of those interests of life in harmony and purpose as God intended for your life to be.

"Adrian, is your life like that?" Not yet, but He's working on me. You see, Philippians 1:6 says this, "He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ." And He is arranging my life, and He is arranging your life, and when you give your heart to Jesus Christ, He begins to take control of your life and make you the person He wants you to be. But your life doesn't have to be an absolute perfection for you to go to Heaven. The minute you trust Christ as your personal Savior, that moment you are eternally saved, eternally secure, and God now begins to work on you.

Remember what we said about Adam and how Adam died? Listen, Adam died immediately in his spirit, progressively in his soul, ultimately in his body. When you get saved, you're justified immediately in your spirit, sanctified progressively in your soul, and glorified ultimately in your body. One day you're going to have a resurrected body. You're not going to be hauled into Heaven by the wrecking crew. You're going to have a body like the Lord Jesus Christ, glorified ultimately in His body.

But look at this verse, Revelation chapter 3 verse 20. The Lord Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man will hear My voice and will open the door, I will come into him and will sup with him, and he with Me." Now I'm hoping today that you're hearing His voice, because I pray that as I speak that God the Holy Spirit will be speaking through me. Now you must hear His voice, and then you must open the door. He'll not break in.



All right, there is a Christ-controlled life. How do you get Christ from outside up there on the throne? You have to open the door and invite Him in. Folks, it's not enough to slip an offering under the door. It's not enough to whisper a prayer through the keyhole. You open the door. You say, "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus." That is the act of faith. You open wide the door. You say, "Now! Come! Take control of my life. Begin now to make me the person You want me to be."

Pastor, would Jesus save me today? The Bible says in Revelation 22 verse 17, "Whosoever will may come." Does He want to save you? He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Revelation 3 verse 20. Some of you have kept Him knocking for a long, long time. He loves you. He didn't come to condemn the world; He came to save the world. He wants to save you.

Now, how do you know that you're saved? Well, if you do what He tells you to do to be saved, then you can have the assurance of your salvation. I love John 5 verse 24. That's almost a spiritual birth certificate. Here's what Jesus said, "He that heareth My Word," and, folks, you've heard it today. I mean, I have given you Scripture upon Scripture. That's the Word of God. "He that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me," the word believe is used some 99 times in the Gospel of John. Believe, trust, "believeth on Him that sent Me," believe in the God that sent the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Savior God sent, "believeth on Him that sent Me, hath," now notice this, "hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation," that means come into judgment, that means to die and go to Hell, "shall not come into condemnation, but is passed," not will pass, already is passed, "from death unto life."

Folks, when you give your heart to Jesus, it is settled, it is done, it is finished. You have passed from death unto life. You don't get eternal life when you die. You get eternal life the minute you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. "Verily, verily." Do you know what the word verily, verily means? It means pay attention, pay attention; this is true, this is true; listen, listen. John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." Therefore how do I know that I'm saved? Not by my feelings. Remember the verse I started with? First John chapter 5 verse 13, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know." If I depend upon my feelings, I'll never have the assurance. If I depend upon my feelings, my assurance will vary with the condition of my liver. But I have His Word. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My Word, My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life."

Here's the way God's train runs. Now there's the engine, there's the coal car, and there is the caboose. Now let's say that you're the engineer on this train, and the coal is in the middle car. And you want the train to run. Question: would you put the coal in the caboose or would you put the coal in the engine? That's a dumb question. Well you'd put the coal in the engine. Now if you put the coal in the caboose, the train just sits there. But if you put the coal in the engine, then the train is going to move. Right? Say, Amen. Right, okay.

Now, the engine is the facts. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." "Christ died for our sins, according to the Scripture." First Corinthians 15:3. God left Heaven; took our sins upon the cross. Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Folks, those are facts. I'm not talking to you about Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian. I'm talking to you about Bible facts. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16 verse 31, that's a fact.



Now what do you do with your faith? You put your faith in God's facts. You put the coal in the engine. Don't put faith in feeling. Don't put the coal in the caboose. If you do, your train will just sit there. Put your faith in God's facts. Your train begins to run, and you look behind you and here comes the caboose. As a matter of fact that train didn't even have to have a caboose to run, does it? I've seen trains without a caboose. You see, you don't even have to have the feeling. Don't get hung up on feeling. I enjoy my salvation, I really do, and I'm happy in the Lord Jesus Christ. But folks, listen; I don't know I'm saved because I'm happy. I'm happy because I know I'm saved. You see the difference? I'm happy because I know I'm saved. And when you begin to put your faith in God's facts, then it dawns on you, "Hallelujah! It is true! I am saved!" And then the experience, the joy, of knowing the Lord Jesus.

Now, folks, I'm going to lead you in a prayer in just a moment. And remember what salvation is. Salvation is not just simply getting man out of Earth into Heaven. That's a by-product. There is a Heaven. I'm going there. There is a Heaven, hallelujah. But that's the by-product. Salvation, listen, is getting God out of Heaven back into man. And Jesus is standing at the heart's door knocking, wanting to come in. You are to open the door by faith, and if you will do so, I promise you on the authority of the Word of God, He will come into you, He will begin to change your life as He did mine over a half a century ago. He will come into your life and save you and keep you.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. Now if you know that you need to be saved, or if you're not certain that you have been saved, this is your time to get it settled. I want you to pray this prayer after me, "Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for me. Thank You for taking my sins to the cross. I now turn from my sin, open the door of my life, step down off the throne of my life, and put You, Lord Jesus, on the throne of my life. Take control of my life. And begin now to make me the person You want me to be. And, Lord Jesus, help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



PO Box 38300 | Memphis TN 38183-0300 | (901)382-7900