



SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Real Salvation

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 3:4-9

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2115

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

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 ©2021 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

- 1) INTRODUCTION
 - a) The devil is a counterfeiter.
 - i) He would rather us have a form of religion but not genuine and real salvation.
 - b) We have many churches today that are filled with baptized pagans; full churches of empty people.
 - i) These are people who have never been saved.
 - ii) They have culture, but they don't have Calvary.
 - iii) They have ritual, but they don't have reality.
 - iv) They have form, but they don't have force.
 - v) They have religion, but they don't have righteousness.
 - c) Today's message is a warning to everyone, lest you be deceived and miss real salvation.
 - d) 1 John 3:4-9
 - e) Many people are deceived because they have a gross misunderstanding of what true salvation is.
- 2) THE REBELLION THAT PROVES OUR SINFULNESS (1 JOHN 3:4)
 - a) We may sit in church, well-dressed with smiles on our faces, but God looks down into our hearts and sees the rebellion that is there.
 - b) 1 John 3:4
 - i) There are many definitions of sin in the Bible, but this verse may contain the clearest and the best:
 - (1) Sin is breaking God's law.
 - (2) There are other verses in the Bible that define sin:
 - (a) Romans 14:23
 - (b) James 4:17
 - (c) 1 John 5:17
 - ii) Sin is the transgression of the law; it is lawlessness.
 - c) God created the whole universe, and He built into this universe both physical and moral laws.
 - i) The whole universe works according to the fixed laws of God.
 - ii) God gave these laws because He wanted order.
 - (1) Without law, there is no order.
 - (2) Without law, we would have chaos rather than a cosmos.
 - (a) God made the stars to move in their orbits.
 - (b) He made the tides to ebb and flow.
 - (c) He made our bodies to work according to certain principles.
 - iii) These laws are built into nature and into the moral system of things.
 - d) We often speak of the laws of nature, but there are no laws of nature.
 - i) There are only God's laws that nature obeys.
 - (1) Instead of talking about Mother Earth, we need to talk about Father God.
 - e) The universe works according to law.

- i) In the physical universe, there are laws.
 - (1) There is the law of gravity.
 - (a) We don't break the law of gravity; instead, we demonstrate it and are broken on it.
- ii) In the moral universe, there are laws.
 - (1) We have the Ten Commandments.
 - (a) We don't really break the Ten Commandments, but we are broken on them.
 - (b) When we transgress God's Ten Commandments, we are then a sinner.
- f) God is not a cruel, vengeful Deity making all of these rules to harm us.
 - i) These laws are for our welfare.
 - (1) The law of gravity is for our benefit.
 - (2) Moral laws are also for our benefit.
 - (a) Every time God says, "Thou shalt not," He is saying, "Don't hurt yourself."
 - (b) Every time God says, "Thou shalt," He is saying, "Help yourself to happiness."
 - ii) God made these laws for us.
- g) Sin is the transgression of the law; and when we transgress, we break God's law and His heart because He loves us.
- h) There is a lawless spirit in all of us.
 - i) The Bible says that sin is the transgression of the law and that all have sinned, so that means that all of us have transgressed God's laws.
 - (1) Romans 3:23
 - ii) We have all broken God's Ten Commandments.
 - iii) Different sins have different repercussions, but sin is sin.
 - i) We have tried many things to try to fix the problem of lawlessness and rebellion in this world.
 - i) We have tried education.
 - (1) Men's hearts cannot be changed by education.
 - (a) Nazi Germany was educated.
 - (2) Education makes man a clever devil.
 - (3) Education is not the answer.
 - ii) We have tried psychology.
 - (1) We think that perhaps we can train and analyze people, but we still have a flood of lawlessness.
 - iii) We have tried legislature.
 - iv) We have tried the police force and prisons.
 - (1) When we let people out of prison, they oftentimes go right back to their crime because the problem is in the heart.
 - (2) A person can be restrained outwardly, but he's still a rebel in his heart.
 - j) 1 John 3:4

- i) We may think that our transgression is an innocent, little offense and that we haven't sinned much.
- ii) What we don't realize is that what we do is not the problem; it's what we are that is the problem.
 - (1) A person is not a liar because he tells lies.
 - (a) He tells lies because he's a liar.
 - (2) A person is not a thief because he steals.
 - (a) He steals because he's a thief.
 - (3) The problem is in the human heart.
 - (a) Jeremiah 17:9
- 3) THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT PROCLAIMS OUR SONSHIP (1 JOHN 3:5-6)
 - a) 1 John 3:5-6
 - i) This is the righteousness that proclaims our sonship.
 - ii) If we are in Christ (if we are saved), the Bible says that we are not going to sin.
 - b) There are many people who say that they're saved and on their way to Heaven, but there's been no change in their life.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - ii) If your religion hasn't changed your life, you better change your religion.
 - (1) You do not have the Bible kind.
 - c) What we have today is an easy believe-ism.
 - i) This is where people believe that they are saved simply by believing in Jesus and believing that He died for their sins.
 - ii) The devil also believes and trembles.
 - (1) James 2:19
 - d) We are saved when we bow the knee to Jesus Christ, when we make Him the Lord of our life.
 - i) That is an act of faith.
 - e) We are not saved by reforming our life.
 - i) Our Lord never tells us to clean up, and then He will save us.
 - ii) We come to Jesus just as we are.
 - f) Jesus came to save us from our sin.
 - g) In our passage in 1 John 3, the Apostle John says that if we belong to Him, then we're going to be like Him.
 - h) 1 John 3:7
 - i) This is the righteousness that proclaims our salvation.
 - ii) If we are not righteous, then we are not saved.
 - (1) The very word "Christian" means "Christ-like."
 - (a) In Christ, there is no sin.
 - (2) We cannot be Christ-like and live a life of sin.
 - i) 1 John 3:6
 - i) The word "abide" means "to be at home with," "to dwell with."
 - (1) It speaks of union and communion with the Lord Jesus Christ.

- (2) The reason why many people have their names on church rolls but are still living in sin is because they've met creeds, but they've not met Christ.
- (a) They've met causes but not Christ.
 - (b) They've met churches but not Christ.
- ii) When we abide in Him, we sin not.
- (1) This is not talking about sinless perfection.
 - (a) There is no one who is sinlessly perfect.
 - (b) The saints in the Bible sinned.
 - (i) Abraham lied about his wife.
 - (ii) Moses lost his temper.
 - (iii) Peter denied the Lord.
 - (iv) David was unfaithful.
 - (2) In the Greek language, this is in the present continuous tense, which means that as a Christian, we don't make sin our lifestyle.
 - (1) The New American Standard version says, "Whosoever is born of God does not practice sin."
 - (2) This doesn't mean that we cannot slip and fall or make a mistake.
 - (a) 1 John 1:10
 - iv) When we give our heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, there is a radical, dramatic change.
 - (1) And because we are saved, we have the nature of God in us, and we do not habitually practice sin.
- j) 1 John 2:1
- i) God's desire for us is that we not sin.
 - (1) But if we do slip and fall, Jesus Christ is there.
 - ii) "Advocate" is another word for "lawyer."
 - (1) We have someone who will plead our case before Heaven.
- k) 1 John 2:3-4
- i) The word "keep" here is a navigational word that sailors used.
 - (1) They would steer by the stars.
 - (a) The stars are fixed in Heaven, just like God's laws are fixed.
 - (2) They called steering by the stars "keeping the stars".
 - ii) If we know Jesus, then we are going to keep His commandments.
 - iii) This doesn't mean that a sailor couldn't get blown off course.
 - (1) But it does mean that he has a guide for his life and a direction in which he's going.
 - (a) He has a fixed standard that he's living by.
- l) A person who does not care for God's commandments, who lives as he pleases and is habitually practicing sin, does not know God.
- i) They are not saved.
- m) There are many people today who have joined churches who have never met Jesus.
- i) They have never really been saved.

- 4) THE REDEMPTION THAT PROVIDES OUR SALVATION (1 JOHN 3:5-9)
 - a) When God tells us how to live, that doesn't mean that we can automatically do it apart from Him.
 - b) 1 John 3:5
 - i) The Lord Jesus is manifested to take away our sins.
 - c) In the Old Testament, Leviticus 16 tells us about the ritual of the scapegoat.
 - i) The priest would take two goats.
 - (1) Both goats would represent us.
 - ii) The high priest would lay his hand on the head of one of the goats and confess the sins of the people; thus, placing the sins of the people on the head of that goat.
 - (1) That goat would then be killed.
 - (2) This goat pictures the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Our sins were laid upon Him, and He died on the cross for our sins.
 - iii) Then, they would take another goat, called the scapegoat, and lead him away into the wilderness never to return.
 - (1) This pictured the Lord Jesus taking away our sins into the grave of God's forgetfulness, never to be brought up against us again.
 - d) We are redeemed from the penalty of sin.
 - i) Jesus took that away.
 - (1) 1 John 3:5
 - ii) John 1:29
 - e) We are redeemed from the power of Satan.
 - i) 1 John 3:7-8
 - ii) Jesus came to take away our sins and to destroy the power of the devil.
 - iii) This is why the Apostle John is saying that if you're still living like the devil, it is because you belong to the devil.
 - (1) We sometimes criticize sinners for sinning, but that's what they do.
 - (a) Sinners sin.
 - iv) 1 John 3:8
 - (1) The word "destroy" here does not mean "annihilate" in the Greek language.
 - (a) It means "to make ineffective."
 - (2) On the cross, Jesus ruined Satan's kingdom, and now Satan has no power or authority over us.
 - (a) Before you were saved, you were Satan's slave.
 - (i) You were free to do what you wanted but not free to do as you ought.
 - (b) Jesus came to set us free.
 - v) Because we have new life in the Lord Jesus Christ, we will never face the penalty of our sins.
 - (1) Jesus took our sins away, and we don't have to obey Satan.
 - vi) Satan's power is broken.

- (1) Jesus destroyed the destroyer.
- f) We are redeemed from the principle of self.
 - i) 1 John 3:9
 - ii) If Jesus only dealt with our sin, then we would still have ourselves to deal with.
 - (1) But not only did He die for my sins, He also died for me and what I am.
 - iii) When we get saved, we get a new dynamic.
 - (1) When we were born the first time, we had physical life.
 - (2) When we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, we receive spiritual life.
 - (3) John 3:6
 - (4) 1 John 3:9
 - (a) "Whosoever is born of God"
 - (i) Our spiritual parents are the Word of God and the Spirit of God.
 - (ii) 1 Peter 1:23
 - (5) The Word of God is our spiritual father, and you can't separate the God of the Word from the Word of God.
 - (6) It is the Spirit that quickens and gives life.
 - (a) John 3:6
 - (7) There is the Word of God and the Spirit of God, and a conception takes place in the womb of grace; and we become a new person.
 - (a) We have a new life and a new dynamic.
 - iv) We have a new desire.
 - (1) 1 John 3:9
 - (2) When we are born, the natural life of our parents is in us.
 - (3) When we get saved, we are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the Word of God.
 - (a) 1 Peter 1:23
 - (b) There then is a divine life principle in us, and that principle gives us a new dynamic and a new desire.
 - (4) 1 John 3:7
 - (a) If Jesus Christ is in us, we will have a new dynamic and a new desire.
 - (5) When we were born physically, that was settled once and for all.
 - (a) When we are born again, that is settled once and for all.
 - (b) We cannot be unborn physically, and we cannot be unborn spiritually.
 - (6) Some people think that if they have eternal security, then they would sin all they want to.
 - (a) But when we love Jesus, we don't want to sin.
 - (b) When we come to the Lord Jesus Christ and get saved, then God's nature comes into us.
 - (i) We then have the nature of God in us, and we don't want to sin.
 - (c) When we give our heart to Jesus, we want to live for Him.

- (i) If you don't have that desire, then you need to evaluate whether or not you are saved.
 - v) We have a new deterrent.
 - (1) 1 John 3:9
 - (a) He cannot sin because he's born again.
 - (i) This is present continuous tense.
 - 1. We cannot habitually live in sin.
 - (2) If Jesus Christ is in us, then we cannot go on carelessly, thoughtlessly, continuously, practicing a lifestyle of sin.
 - (a) The Holy Spirit of God will chasten us.
 - (b) We will be under conviction.
 - (3) We are living for Jesus.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) The devil had rather send someone to Hell from the church pew as he had the gutter.
 - i) Do you know Jesus?
 - (1) This question is not where do you go to church or are you a member of a church, but do you know Jesus?
 - b) 2 Corinthians 13:5
 - c) Are you saved?
 - d) If this were your last moment, do you absolutely know that you would go to Heaven?
 - e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - f) 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