**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Simplicity of Salvation |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 John 5:13 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2006 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Salvation is not hope-so, maybe-so, wish-so, but a *know-so* salvation.
      1. “If you could have it and not know it, you could lose it and not miss it.”
      2. If you have it, you ought to know it.
      3. If you do have it, you can’t lose it.
   2. Some people say you can’t know you’re saved. You can only “hope so.”
      1. When you die, you’ll find out.
      2. That will be too late.
   3. You need assurance of salvation right now.
   4. A Christian should be an exclamation point, standing up straight, not a question mark, bent over, wondering if you’re saved.
   5. To know you’re saved, two things are necessary:
      1. Know what God said to do to be saved.
      2. 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.
   6. What is salvation? What does “being saved” mean?
      1. Salvation is a personal relationship with God that brings:
         1. Pardon
            1. We are justified.

Our sins are buried in the grave of God’s forgetfulness.

* + - 1. Peace
         1. Romans 5:1
         2. Jesus made peace by the blood of His cross.
         3. Our warfare against God is cancelled out.

Colossians 1:20

* + - * 1. God is now our friend, benefactor and Father.
        2. God is no longer our judge or enemy because of our sin.
      1. Power
         1. We are not alone; God comes into us.
         2. Romans 1:16

“Power” here literally means “dynamite.”

* + - * 1. God doesn’t just forgive our sin, then leave us.
        2. God is a Savior, not probationary officer. He doesn’t say, “I’ve forgiven the past. It’s up to you for the present.”
        3. It's not a new start; you become a new creature.
      1. Presence
         1. The Holy Spirit of God comes to live in the saved person.
         2. You are never alone, God is with you.
         3. John 14:16
         4. Once you’re saved, He keeps you saved, because the Bible says the Holy Spirit will abide forever.
      2. Perfection
         1. Hebrews 12:23
         2. This doesn’t mean we will never sin again.
         3. But in God’s eyes, we will be made perfect.

Every sin is buried in the grave of God’s forgetfulness, never to be brought up against us again.

God demands perfection.

The precious blood of Jesus provides that perfection.

Without the blood of Jesus, you could never hope to go to Heaven.

1. HOW TO BE SAVED
   1. The nature of human nature.
      1. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
         1. “Wholly” means “completely.”
            1. Every part of our being.
         2. God made us: spirit, soul and body.
      2. We live in a body.
         1. We also have a soul.
            1. The Greek word for soul is “psyche.”

We get the words psychiatry, psychology, psychological, psychic from psyche and all refer to the soul.

* + - * 1. The soul comprises personality, idiosyncrasies, intelligence, sense of humor—what makes you uniquely you.
        2. Basically, your soul is your mind, emotion and will.
      1. At the center is our spirit.
         1. The Bible distinguishes between soul and spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

* + - * 1. Hebrews 4:12
        2. Both soul and spirit are invisible and inseparable but are not the same.
        3. Man is different from any animal or plant because we have a spirit.
        4. Man’s spirit is what enables him to worship God.

John 4:24

Romans 8:16

* + - * 1. Plants have a body but not a soul.
        2. Animals have a soul: mind, emotion and will, but God did not give animals a spirit.
        3. Only man has a spirit.

Only man can worship God, pray and conceive of eternity.

* 1. God made Adam: healthy in his body, happy in his soul and holy in his spirit.
     1. With our body we know the physical world: the world around us.
     2. With our soul we know the psychological world: the world around us.
     3. 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.

1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LOST?
   * 1. 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.
     2. Luke 19:10
        1. Jesus came to Earth for one reason, “*To seek and to save that which was lost*.”
     3. “Lost” is the condition of every man, woman and child without Jesus Christ.
     4. 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.
           1. 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.
           1. The Spirit gives the mind discernment.
           2. 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.
           1. We are just showing the life of God.
     5. 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.
           1. Genesis 3:8
        4. Adam sinned and God moved out of him.
           1. God will not live in a dirty house.
           2. God is a holy God.
     6. God warned Adam about not eating the forbidden fruit.
        1. If he ate of it, that day he would die.
           1. 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?
           1. Immediately in his spirit.
     7. 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.
           1. John 11:26
        2. Adam died immediately in his spirit.
        3. Adam died progressively in his soul.
        4. Adam died ultimately in his body.
     8. 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.
     9. 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.
           1. Ephesians 2:3
        5. We inherited that nature from Adam.
        6. You can be a fine, upstanding, wonderful, religious person and still be lost.
           1. Jesus told Nicodemus, a great man morally, he must be born again to see the kingdom of Heaven.
           2. To be lost simply means to be minus God.
2. WHAT IS SALVATION?
   1. Salvation is not primarily getting man out of Earth into Heaven; it is getting God out of Heaven into man.
      1. God moved out because of sin.
      2. Romans 3:23
   2. What does it mean to be saved?
      1. Luke 19:10
      2. Acts 16:31
   3. There is a chasm between holy God and sinful man.
      1. Man tries many things to try to get close to God.
      2. Man have a God-shaped vacuum in our hearts where God was in the Spirit.
      3. 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.
            1. Romans 3:23
      4. What is sin?
         1. To fall short of the glory of God.
         2. Sin is everything in us that’s not like God.
      5. Do not compare yourself to others whether saint or sinner.
      6. We will not go to Hell for Adam’s sin, we will go because of our own sin.
   4. What has God done to make salvation possible?
      1. The Incarnation: God Himself became a man.
         1. God in glory stepped out of Heaven to come to Earth.
         2. Romans 5:8
            1. Sin has separated man from God.
            2. Yet God has not stopped loving us.
      2. 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.
      3. He had to be a man to pay sin’s price and redeem our lost estate.
      4. God took on human flesh, and the infinite became an infant.
         1. Matthew 1:21
         2. Luke 19:10
      5. John 14:6
      6. 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.
            1. Acts 4:12
         2. Galatians 3:21
         3. If you could be saved by being good, why did Jesus die upon the cross?
            1. He didn’t die as a martyr.
            2. It wasn’t an accident
            3. He was crucified before the foundation of the world.
            4. God came to Earth that we might go to Heaven.
            5. He became the Son of Man that we might become sons and daughters of God.
            6. He was born of a virgin that we might be born again
            7. He carried my sin and your sin to the cross.
            8. Colossians 1:20
3. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?
   1. Acts 16:31
      1. “*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.
   2. Every one of us has a control center in our life, a throne, where our ego sits.
      1. 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.
      2. 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.
      3. 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.
            1. Philippians 1:6
      4. 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.
            1. One day you will have a resurrected body like the Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. Revelation 3:20
      1. You must hear His voice.
      2. You must open the door.
         1. Jesus will not break in the door.
      3. 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.”
   4. Will Jesus save you right now?
      1. Revelation 22:17
      2. Does Jesus want to save you?
         1. Revelation 3:20
      3. Jesus loves you.
      4. John 3:17
      5. He came to save the world and He wants to save you.
4. HOW CAN YOU KNOW YOU ARE SAVED?
   1. If you do what God tells you to do to be saved, then you can have the assurance of your salvation.
   2. John 5:24 is like a spiritual birth certificate to a Christian.
      1. “*He that heareth My Word*…”
         1. Hearing the Bible preached is hearing the Word of God.
      2. “*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.
      3. “*hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life*.”
         1. “Condemnation” refers to “judgment.”
            1. To die and go to Hell.
         2. Not “will pass” but already “is passed.”
      4. When you give your heart to Jesus, it is settled, done, finished; you have passed from death into life.
      5. You don’t get eternal life when you die, you get eternal life the minute you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
      6. “Verily, verily” means “pay attention, pay attention,” “this is true, this is true,” “listen, listen.”
   3. How do you know you are saved?
      1. Not by your feelings.
         1. 1 John 5:13
         2. If you depend upon your feelings, you will never have the assurance.
      2. We have God’s Word.
      3. Comparison to a train:
         1. The engine represents the facts revealed in God’s Word.
         2. We put our faith in God’s facts.
            1. Our faith is the fuel that runs the engine.
      4. Feeling happy does not indicate you are saved.
      5. Feeling happy is the result of knowing you are saved.
      6. When you put your faith in God’s facts, you will have the joy of knowing you’re saved
5. CONCLUSION
   1. Salvation is not simply getting out of Earth and into Heaven.
      1. Heaven is the by-product of salvation.
      2. Salvation is getting God out of Heaven and back into man.
   2. Jesus stands at your heart’s door, knocking to come in.
      1. You must open the door by faith.
      2. When you do, the authority of God’s Word guarantees He will come into your life, save you and keep you.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. 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.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16