

Jeff Lingerfelt
PO Box 12131, SC 29211
803-467-7634
Jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org

LEADERSHIP DURING DIFFICULT DAYS
OBTAINING SALVATION
1THESSALONIANS 5:9B-10

*Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. ² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but for **obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.** ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.*

"PITHY PARADIGM" Octavius Winslow - For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1Thessalonians 5:9

Salvation is God's greatest work; in nothing has He so manifested forth His glory as in this...in the person of Immanuel, in the cross of Christ, in the finished work of redemption, God appears in full-orbed majesty. And when the believing soul surveys this wondrous expedient of reconciling all the interests of heaven, of uniting all the perfection of Jehovah in the salvation of sinners by the blood of the cross-"Mercy and truth meeting together, righteousness and peace kissing each other"-it exclaims in full satisfaction with the salvation of God-"Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

Why do you need salvation? What do you need to be rescued from? From our context of what we have been studying man is by nature a child of darkness. You need to be delivered from sin that necessitates God's wrath!

Obtaining salvation is God's primacy in redemptive history. He chose for Himself from humanity a people to set His love upon for all of eternity. Scripture affirms both divine sovereignty and human responsibility. We must accept both sides of the truth, though we may not fully comprehend how they correspond to one another. People are responsible for what they do with the gospel—or with whatever light they have (Rom. 2:19-20), so that punishment is just if they reject the light. And those who reject do so voluntarily.

Jesus lamented, "You are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life" (John 5:40). He told unbelievers, "Unless you believe that I am [God], you shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). In John 6, our Lord combined both divine sovereignty and human responsibility when He said, "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out" (v. 37); "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life" (v. 40); "No one can come to

Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (v. 44); "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life" (v. 47); and, "No one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father" (v. 65).

How both of these two realities can be true simultaneously cannot be understood by the human mind—only by God.¹

In the spiritual sense salvation in the New Testament has the idea of being saved from sin, being rescued from sin, from sin's power, from sin's penalty, being preserved therefore safe and unharmed from divine wrath, from judgment, from hell, from eternal punishment.

On a positive note salvation carries the essence of not only lifting us out of danger, but placing us into blessing, not only delivering us from punishment, but bringing us to glory, not only taking us out of the threat of hell, but giving to us the hope of heaven, not only dismissing us from divine wrath but bringing us under divine blessing.

This deliverance was accomplished "through Jesus Christ"! There is no other name given to humanity that can deliver!

[Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."](#)

Salvation according to John 3:3-7 & Titus 3:5 is a divine work of God—a new life that produces good fruit.

John 3:3-7(NASB) Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”⁴ Nicodemus *said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

Titus 3:5 (NASB) He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Salvation is an act of God² by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins³ and confess Him as sovereign Lord.⁴ This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man⁵ and involves the imputation of our sins to Christ⁶ and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us⁷ By this means God is enabled to "be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus"⁸

Genuine regeneration/salvation is manifested by fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct. Good works are the proper evidence and fruit of regeneration (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:10), and will be experienced to the extent that the believer submits to the control of the Holy Spirit in his life through faithful obedience to the Word of God (Ephesians 5:17-21; Philippians 2:12b; Colossians 3:16; 2 Peter 1:4-10). This obedience causes the believer to be increasingly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). Such a conformity is climaxed in the believer's glorification at Christ's coming (Romans 8:17; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:2-3).

The gospel of Christ is the means by which God displays His holiness. God is absolutely and perfectly holy (Isaiah 6:3), therefore He cannot commit or approve of evil (James 1:13). God requires holiness of us as well. 1Peter 1:16 says, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

All mankind is guilty of sin: "There is no man who does not sin" (1 Kings 8:46). That doesn't mean we're incapable of performing acts of human kindness. But we're utterly

incapable of understanding, loving, or pleasing God on our own (Romans 3:10-12).

God's holiness and justice demand that **all sin** be punished by death (Ezekiel 18:4). That's why simply changing our patterns of behavior can't solve our sin problem or eliminate its consequences.

Jesus Himself created everything (Colossians 1:16). He owns and rules everything (Psalm 103:19). He has authority over our lives and we owe Him absolute allegiance, obedience, and worship. Romans 10:9 says, "*If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.*" Even though God's justice demands death for sin, His love has provided a Savior who paid the penalty and died for sinners (1 Peter 3:18). Christ's death satisfied the demands of God's holiness (2 Corinthians 5:21), thereby enabling Him to forgive and save those who place their faith in Him (Romans 3:26).

Have you come to this place—salvation "***through our Lord Jesus Christ***"?

Who do you say Jesus is? That is the inescapable question. He is the way the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me. He alone can redeem you—free you from the power and penalty of sin. He alone can transform you, restore you to fellowship with God, and give your life eternal purpose. Will you repent and believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Should you have any questions Please contact me Jeff Lingerfelt 803-467-7634 or jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org

¹ <http://www.gty.org/resources/distinctives/DD10/the-sovereignty-of-god-in-salvation?>

² (Romans 8:33)

³ (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Isaiah 55:6-7)

⁴ (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Philippians 2:11).

⁵ (Romans 3:20; 4:6)

⁶ (Colossians 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24)

⁷ (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

⁸ (Romans 3:26).

LEGISLATIVE BIBLE STUDY

Blatt Rm. 317—Wednesday, 8:30am

Prayer Request-jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org