



The Blessing of Salvation

Salvation is the greatest gift God has ever offered man. Eternal salvation is the foundation of every Christian's hope. We long for heaven and living eternally with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. At the heart of salvation is God's grace. Paul writes, ***"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"*** (Ephesians 2.8). We can do nothing to earn salvation; it is strictly the gift of God. The gospel announces that God's love is not a wage to be earned but a gift to be received.

Salvation is the blessing that forgives our past. We all carry past mistakes, past shortcomings, and past sins. Many people feel that God could never forgive their sins because of their tremendous shame. Yet scriptures declare, ***"As far as the east is from the west, so far does He [God] remove our transgressions from us"*** (Psalm 103.12). In Christ, our sins are not counted against us. In Christ, our guilt and shame is washed away. In Christ, our record is wiped clean. In Christ, our condemnation is canceled. Salvation means your past no longer defines you. Salvation is the deliverance from sin and its consequences. Isn't it wonderful to know that our sins have been forgiven?



Salvation is not only about your eternal future, but also about who you are right now. Paul said, ***"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation"*** (2 Corinthians 5.17). When we come to Jesus, we receive a new identity and a new heart. Our desires change to please God—serving Him. God does not simply forgive sinners, He recreates them. Upon baptism we are given the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, He comes and resides in us, leading and guiding us as we live for Christ. He strengthens us to walk daily for Jesus.

Salvation gives life meaning. Without salvation, one's life is a constant search for happiness and purpose. But salvation gives purpose to everything. Again, Paul said, ***"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"*** (Philippians 1.21). Our salvation gives meaning to our work, our service, our worship, our suffering, our relationships. Salvation is the greatest treasure we can possess. What a tremendous blessing! Have you been saved today?

Gary



Good morning WH family!

I was able to go to the Rangers' home opener last week, and as I looked around the stadium, I saw all these "*retired*" numbers on the wall. The stars of yesteryear, some of my childhood heroes. As I was pondering this, Deatra asked if we were saving the game at home. "I'm taping it," I said." She started laughing at me hysterically— "On the VHS???" she asked. Ok, along with the numbers, maybe there are a few phrases that ought to be *retired*.

Hmmm, let's see . . . How about "groovy" for one, "totally" for another, and my personal pet peeve "It is what it is." Add to that a couple of old business phrases like "let's put a pin in it" and "let's talk about that offline." I would bet we all have a few phrases we would like to see "*retired*." What are some of yours?

What about adding this common church phrase to the list, referring to the youth of the church as "*the church of the future?*" After watching our young men and women perform their Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) events Sunday night, I am even more convinced that we, by and large, lose out on a great deal if we only look at the youth as the church of the future. These kids can be, need to be, must be, and in fact are, a vital part of the "*church of today.*" Over and over the Bible shows us how valuable youth are to the Lord and what pivotal roles they can play. How would the Bible story be without young David, Daniel & friends, Naaman's servant girl, the boy with the fish and loaves, and Timothy, just to name a few. Let's agree to *retire* that phrase "*the church of the future*" and start connecting with a very vital part of the church NOW! Reach out and get know these wonderful young people— You'll be blessed!

—Les Keele



Blessed When It Hurts

Matthew 5.10-12

- 1) Have you ever been persecuted for your faith?
- 2) What kind of persecution do we face in the United States?
- 3) Did you know that in some parts of the world Christians are severely persecuted.
- 4) Can good come from persecution?
- 5) Jesus said, *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5.10).*

I) The _____ of Persecution.

A) Jesus doesn’t say “if,” He says “when.”

1) Persecution is not always violent.

2) Persecution is not random.

B) Jesus tells us three different ways we may be hurt.

1) _____ Persecution.

2) _____ Insults.

3) _____ Accusations.

II) The _____ for Persecution.

A) Jesus says you will be persecuted for being _____.

1) Who will be persecuted?

2) Who will persecute?

B) The more your life reflects Christ, the more the world will respond to the way it responded to Him.

1) The world loves generic spirituality.

2) Why?

III) The _____ to Persecution.

A) Jesus tells us we are to _____ and be _____. Why?

1) Persecution is evidence of authentic faith.

2) Persecution connects you to the _____.

B) How should we live in the face of persecution?

1) Do not _____ but respond with _____.

2) Do not _____ your _____.

IV) The _____ Of Persecution.

A) Jesus begins and ends the beatitudes with the same promise.

1) *“The kingdom of heaven.”*

2) A double blessing.

B) We are rewarded when we endure persecution.

1) Blessings in our _____.

2) Blessings in the _____.

Conclusion: *Do you need to come to Jesus today?*

SHEPHERDS

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MINISTERS

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Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Steve Taylor

Song Leader - Russ Jones

Song - We Shall Assemble

Song - You're the One

Song - The Goodness of God

Opening Prayer - Rob Donahue

Scripture - Matthew 5.10-12

Song - In Christ Alone

Lord's Supper - Ben Meyers

Prayer For Contribution - Ben Meyers

Song - A Mansion, Robe and Crown

Blessed When It Hurts - Gary Williams

Song - Create In Me a Clean Heart

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer and Dismissal - Dan Kille

Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.



**Our Code For
Tithley**

**Our Code For
Attendance**



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, April 13

Deuteronomy 28; Proverbs 13

Tuesday, April 14

Deuteronomy 29-30; Proverbs 14

Wednesday, April 15

Psalm 139; Deuteronomy 31; Proverbs 15

Thursday, April 16

Deuteronomy 32; Proverbs 16

Friday, April 17

Deuteronomy 33-34; Proverbs 17

Saturday, April 18

Psalm 1; Joshua 1-2; Proverbs 18

Sunday, April 19

Joshua 3-5; Proverbs 19

Monday, April 20

Joshua 6-7; Proverbs 20

LAST WEEK

TIMES OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday		Wednesday	84	Bible Class	9:00 AM
Bible Class	81	On-Line	4	Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Worship	211	Contribution	\$11,199.62	Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Thai-Lao	32	Budget	\$15,372.28	Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM
On-Line	20				