

“You Have Been Saved”

Lesson Text: Ephesians 2:8-10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. At some time, somewhere, you’ve probably heard the question, “Are you saved?”
1. Often a very sincere individual whose life appears to literally radiate with love and piety, whose interest in others is above any doubt, asks you the question, “Are you saved.”
 2. Frequently one hears a report like this.
 - a. “Our son was saved last night in our revival.”
 - b. Or, perhaps something like, “Isn’t it just too wonderful for words, our neighbor who died last night was saved just before he went on to his reward — he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal savior.”
 3. All of those statements are sincere and reflect honest convictions about the most precious part of human existence—salvation.
 4. But what is really meant by, “Are you saved,” or “he was saved,” and similar expressions? May this time be profitably used in studying the matter.
- B. **Ephesians 2:8-10** - “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
- C. Are you saved?
1. If so, how do you know you are saved?
 2. Can a person be saved and not know it?
 3. These are questions I believe you will agree are worth investigating.
 4. And, the best part of all this is that the Bible has an answer for us— if we are willing to accept it.
- D. You see, salvation is a Bible word, but it was borrowed from the normal workday world.
1. It is a word that describes a rescue from danger. Mr. R. C. H. Lenski, a very fine Bible student, wrote, “The verb SODZO (save) signifies to deliver or rescue and to place in a position of soundness, and joy.”
 2. In salvation there is a deliverance or rescue from danger and to safety.
 3. Let’s note three examples:
 - a. A valiant fireman strains every part of his body to enter a raging inferno to bring a trapped family to safety. That’s physical salvation.

- b. A doctor uses all his skill and power to operate on a critically ill person and is successful. That is also physical deliverance or salvation.
 - c. An inspired man in the first century, directed by the Holy Spirit, preached the gospel of Christ to thousands of people, and many of them listened, believed, and put into practice what he said. They were saved from their sins. That is spiritual salvation.
4. So, you can easily see that salvation is the most valued part of human life, either physically or spiritually. But, let’s look a little further.
- E. Now we know what we are talking about when we hear salvation mentioned.
1. It would be impossible not to know one was saved from sin as much so as being unable to know one was saved physically from some life-threatening peril.
 2. However, with salvation from sin there is a slight problem . . . Feelings are not reliable as evidence of salvation.
 - a. Feeling right is not to be equated with being right.
 - b. There is a very vivid biblical illustration of this. Do you remember the story of Joseph and the coat of “many colors?”
 1. You probably remember that Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob, and Jacob had twelve sons.
 2. This favoritism evoked some envy in the other eleven and they sold their own brother as a slave to some Midianite traders, thinking no doubt that they would no longer be bothered with this spoiled younger brother.
 3. How were they going to cover this up and explain it to Jacob?
 - a. Humans have a natural tendency to cover up, to cover over, the sinful things that we do.
 - b. We try to hide our moments of ungodliness.
 4. The brothers took the coat, which Jacob would instantly recognize, and dipped it in the blood of an animal.
 - a. They took it to Jacob and asked, “Do you know whether it is your son’s (notice not our brother’s) tunic or not” (Genesis 37:31-32).
 - b. Jacob was stunned, shocked, devastated, and crushed.
 - c. He knew full well the tunic was the one he had personally given to Joseph.
 - d. Joseph was no doubt dead. He said, “Without doubt, Joseph is torn to pieces” (Genesis 37:33). Please observe this truth: When the truth is held back from others, false conclusions are easily reached.
 - e. We begin to see how Jacob felt.
 1. He mourned many days and would not be comforted.
 2. His feelings told him his son was dead but, his feelings lied to him.

5. The beautiful study of Joseph continues on.
 - a. Over time and through a series of events, he worked his way up from slavery to a high position in the government of Egypt.
 - b. He became Pharaoh’s right hand man, his lieutenant-governor if you please.
 - c. During the course of the seven-year famine, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain.
 - d. Through another series of events, Joseph told them he was their brother.
 - e. Now, Joseph’s brothers had to now go back to Jacob and tell him that Joseph was not really dead, that in fact he was alive and well and had become one of the most powerful men in the most powerful nation on earth at that time.

1. Would you expect Jacob to believe that?
2. Would you have believed it, were you Jacob? Let’s see his reaction. Let’s see Jacob’s initial reaction as we read from the sacred record in **Genesis 45:25-26**. “Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. And they told him saying, ‘Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt.’ And Jacob’s heart stood still, because he did not believe them.”
3. See just how strong feelings based on false evidence can be?
4. Jacob was given false evidence, believed a lie and his feelings confirmed it to be true.
 - a. Now he was told the truth and refused to believe it.
 - b. His feelings deceived him both times.

F. There is a great lesson in this for all of us.

1. We dare not lean on our feelings to know we are saved.
2. No man can even believe he is lost, based on feelings alone, much less feel he is saved, and be absolutely sure he is correct.

G. Friends, there is a very simple way to know for sure.

1. That way is to examine the evidence presented.
 2. In the case of salvation, there are two possible sources of evidence.
 - a. One is a divinely inspired source.
 - b. The other is a humanly devised source.

3. None of us have to be told which one is the wise course to follow.

H. Human evidence promises salvation on such things as:

- “Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.”
- “Let Jesus come into your life and take control.”
- “Surrender your heart to Him and He will speak to your heart the sweet

words of comforting salvation.” We have heard all these sentiments expressed one way or another. But the sad thing is, no one ever goes further to explain how one accepts

1. While many contend for accepting Jesus Christ as personal Savior, they never give Bible evidence as to how it is done.
 - a. If it is explained at all, it either ignores divine evidence from the New Testament, or only partially uses it.
 - b. Example: Let Jesus come into your heart . . . but how?
 1. The Bible says it is by faith (John 1:11-12) and men say it is “by faith only.”
 2. Notice the difference?
 - a. The Bible says that our hearts are Purified by obedience to the truth (1 Peter 1:22) and men say “obedience is optional.” **1 Peter 1:22** - “. . . you have purified your souls in obeying the truth . . .”
 - b. The Bible shows that obedience consists of faith that acts, and men say that **obedience is not really required for salvation.**
 - c. **Romans 1:5** – “Through Him we have received grace and apostleship **for obedience to the faith . . .**”
- F. You see, if men would see clearly that obedience to the commands of Christ is essential, they could not rule out water baptism to the penitent believer as a part or salvation.
1. The vast majority of religion today does, however.
 2. Nonetheless, as Jesus was about to ascend to the Father, He gave final instructions to the apostles. He said, “Go teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you (what had Christ commanded them? -. baptism) and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (**Matthew 28:19-20**).
- G. A person can know he or she is saved when false evidence is rejected and the truth is accepted. Jesus said, “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (**John 8:32**).
1. Listening friend, you can know the truth — there need be no guess work or doubting.
 - a. Just take the New Testament, read what Jesus said about being saved and do it.
 - b. Read **Mark 16:15-16** —that which is often called the great commission. It reads, “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned’.”
 - c. A simple statement like that defies misunderstanding, it is so plain and simple.

1. It is essential for a believer to be baptized in order to be saved and when a baptized believer is asked, “are you saved,” he can truthfully say, “absolutely.”
2. He does not have to base it on feeble and fickle feeling, false and fake evidence . . . He stands on the solid rock of what the Lord Jesus Christ said with His own mouth.

CONCLUSION:

A. Kind listener, how is it with you?

1. You may have felt secure in the Lord for a number of years . . . But you may very well be in the same condition of Jacob all those years he believed one way when the truth was . . . it was another.
2. Paul commanded in **2 Corinthians 13:5** - “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.”
3. **John 6:29** - “Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”
 - a. Faith and work are translated from the same Greek word.
 - b. To any who believe that anything beyond faith is work, overlook that faith is a work also, “For by grace you are saved . . . through Faith.
4. Why not do some new and fresh investigation of your own condition.
 - a. Will you obey the feelings of man or the written will of God in the Bible?
 - b. Needed changes can be made this very hour.

B. God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation

Matthew 11:28-30 - “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”