

The Certainty of Salvation

John 6:30-40

The “food” which the Lord gives to his people is eternal. It never spoils. That is because the sustaining of life is in Christ’s power. The manna which the Israelites were given to sustain life in the wilderness eventually spoiled. But this is not the case with the Bread of life. Why is this so? It is because, behind our experience of salvation, stands the eternal purpose of God.

The Father has given a people to the Son. In the eternal counsels of the Triune God, it was decided that the reward of the Son, for his self sacrifice at Calvary, would be the gift of a people who are described by the prophet Isaiah as his “offspring.” *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.* Isaiah 53:10

And so the Lord Jesus Christ said that he had come to do the will of the Father who had sent him. He would accomplish that by keeping the commandments of God, and by dying on the cross in the place of the people given to him by the Father. Those people would come to believe in Christ. *All that the Father gives me will come to me...* John 6:37a

In this passage we get a picture of the certainty of salvation. It is the work of God, not ours. And, if it is the work of God, it is not subject to our weakness, to our failures. Here is the great encouragement for evangelism. Is the preaching of the gospel something which may or may not see success? No, when the gospel is preached many will come to Christ. There may be dry seasons for various reasons. But Christ has done the will of the Father, and his death on the cross will not be without effect. We will one day look back on these things and see that the Lord has brought to heaven

a great multitude of people who will praise him for all eternity.

And, we have the promise of the Lord that if we come to Christ we will never be “cast out.” Earthly kings show favor to their subjects but that favor is often temporary. A man, who is one day the object of the king’s respect, may the next, like Haman who sought the annihilation of the Jews in Esther’s day, be cast out.

But the love of the Lord never varies. It is an unchanging love. It was given to us by the cross of Christ. The atoning work of the Lord is of such worth that there can never be the possibility that it will not accomplish its purpose. It is sure, and we can not only depend on the Lord to save us, but to keep us as well. We will never be forced from the loving presence of the Lord.

All this is the fulfillment of things purposed in eternity. The Lord Jesus came to do the will of the Father who sent him. That will is this: that the people for whom Christ died will be saved, will be kept, and will go to be with him at death, which is better by far, to quote the apostle Paul. Not only that, but they will be raised up at the last day.

Christ was not only crucified, but was resurrected on the third day. He, by the Spirit gives life to his own, which is nothing less than a resurrection of the soul. The same power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead, raises us from our spiritual death, and places us in the kingdom of God. We are adopted into his family, taking our place in the church of the Lord. We become citizens of God’s holy nation, the Israel of God. And there we stay!

Do you see and feel the encouragement of these things? Everything in this world

is passing away. Some things like the pyramids of Egypt constructed by man last for centuries. But they show the ravages of time and circumstance. They will be destroyed, if not before, on the day when the Lord causes the old heavens and earth to be consumed by fire. 1 Peter 3:11-13.

And our bodies, which are far less permanent, will lie in the grave, or be changed at the return of the Lord. Nothing in this world is permanent, and yet people live as if things will not change at all.

How good to hear the assurance of the Lord Jesus Christ that the life we are given, when we come to him, is eternal. It will not come to an end. All else will pass away, but we will live with Christ forever.

(To be continued)

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