

The Lord Will Come ... Perhaps Today ... Behold, I Come Quickly ... Rev. 22:7

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Is Salvation Limited?

Introduction

Often Gospel preachers will emphatically declare that salvation is for the "Whosoever", that is, none are excluded. They will emphasize that irrespective if the individual is male or female, educated or illiterate, a CEO or a common worker, titled or a commoner, the rich and poor, salvation is available to all.

Despite this truth, there are and have been and will be millions of individuals who are aware of this offer of salvation without works and are afraid to depend for their eternal security wholly on the Person and work of the Lord at Calvary.

Due to their rejection of God's way of salvation, they are determined to try to gain enough points with God to get them the full perfection needed to be made righteous before God. Listening to the voice of men who themselves are not righteous before God and telling them lies will result in their being under the full wrath of God for all eternity. They will be there, not because they were unloved by God, not because there was no salvation available for them, but because they rejected God's way of salvation.

Understanding Whosoever

The gospel preacher is true for God's salvation is unlimited.

- a) It is unlimited to those who accept God's diagnosis of their spiritual condition, which is, "I am a guilty sinner and void of any merit to offer God. God's salvation is available to them.
- b) It is unlimited to those deeply scarred by sin. For instance, on our streets, we see not only the outcasts from society, the drug addicts, the prostitutes, but also the corrupt politicians. God's salvation is available to them. God is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).
- c) It is unlimited to those who have spent in years of sin with multitudes of the offer of salvation rejected. Some folk have lived lives of debauchery, are serial murderers and evil con men and women. God's salvation is available for them also.
- d) Being for the "whosoever", it is not limited to a certain age, culture, or particular bracket of humanity. God's salvation is available for every individual who has ever lived, is living or will live.

It is unlimited to those who accept God's diagnosis of their spiritual condition

We humans are marred by sin by nature and lifestyle. In Exodus 12 there is the record of the Passover and God warned that there was only one way of escape and assurance of life. His way seemed foolish to many for it was by having the blood of a sacrifice on the two side posts and the lintel of the door (Ex. 12:22). There was no difference if it was an

Egyptian or Israeli home, for the only way the firstborn was assured of being alive in the morning was if God's way was accepted. If there was no blood on the lintel and doorposts then the firstborn was assured he would be dead in the morning, irrespective if the firstborn was an Israelite or Egyptian.

<u>A very important fact.</u>

The firstborn was not condemned because he was a more wicked sinner than any other. Neither was he spared because he was a clean-living fellow. He was condemned by birth. Nothing he could have done could change that. He could have been a bad boy or a good son which was irrelevant. Condemnation was written over him because of birth and that was something that could not be changed. All the good works or religious rituals a fellow could do could not nullify the fact of his condemnation due to his birth. Because this condemnation had nothing to do with his works, it follows that no amount of work could change his situation.

We are the same in that we are under condemnation due to our parentage in Adam. No matter what an individual does, they can pray, go to church, rise in the hierarchy of the church, become a minister, give to charities etc, one could do all of that but the individual cannot change their spiritual situation. As long as the son knew the blood had been applied to the doorposts and lintel as God demanded, He was assured He would be alive in the morning.

Salvation is unlimited no matter how long or how deeply an individual is marred by sin

When in Australia a man of 69 years of age was saved. I know of situations where a child of 5 was saved. God does not say one can only be saved if they are under 50 years of age and only committed the less violent or evil depravities. There was a prostitute who came to the Lord repenting, and she was forgiven. I knew a man who was at one time the most wanted man in the UK for multiple murders. He heard of God's forgiveness and how to be made right with God. Repenting of his sins he accepted God's way of salvation. God did not cast him away. The promise of the Lord is clear, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (Jn. 6:37). In other words, the sinner who comes to God through Christ will receive a genuine welcome and be saved for all eternity.

Salvation is unlimited to those who have years of rejection behind them

Some sincerely think that for many years they have rejected the way of salvation. It is not that they did not know about it, nor the need for salvation. They just kept putting it off. It may be the unwillingness to give up a drink, a habit, or a friendship, but throughout the years the answer has so far been "Tomorrow". The words of the old hymn are so true for many say, "I'll be saved when I am dying, I'll get saved but not tonight", and in so doing, they put it off again.

This is the epitome of foolishness and presumption, for what assurance does an individual have that God will ever speak to them again? God is God and He does not jump when it suits the individual. For seven days after Noah and his family went into the ark the door was kept open, but when it was shut there was no opening of it. God was waiting for those individuals to respond to the warning, but their thoughts were, "Tomorrow". They did not know how long the door would be open but acting presumptuously, they waited too long. Then the door shut and as the skies darkened and the rain began, they realized their danger but it was too late. The door was closed. The individual must respond to the invitation while there is time. "Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

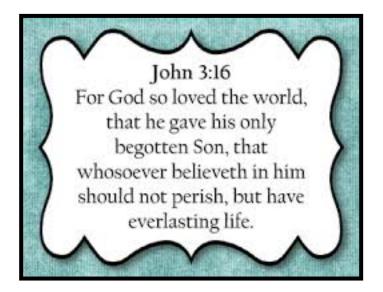
We may be in danger of thinking I will get saved another time, but even if I am feeling well and hearty at this moment, the questions to be faced are:

- a) If, just if, I died tonight where would I be eternally?
- b) If, just if, the Lord were to come tonight, would I be left for the judgment of God?
- c) If, just if, I was in an accident today and as long as I henceforth lived was reduced to being a vegetable, what then?

The reality is, every tick of the clock brings us closer to the terminus of life. I have a clock in my study, it is useless at keeping time but I keep it for by its tick-tock I am reminded that time is passing.

Wise is the individual who comes to God and accepts His way of salvation while they have clarity of mind and can make rational decisions for at the moment of death, there is no changing the place or decisions made. The pleading of God is true at this moment but He will not wait forever. "O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!" (Deut. 32:29)

.... Rowan Jennings



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