

The 78th Annual California State Missionary Baptist Association
Convenes in Rialto with the Mt. Vernon MBC on April 2nd, 3rd & 4th of '09

Mariah Waits For A Donated Heart at Stanford Children's Hospital, Palo Alto, Ca.
Joshua James Williams is Healing Nicely, Sitting Up Straight and Smiling

GOODNEWS LETTER

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No April Foolin' Around, Here

Salvation Can Never Be Lost

Once Saved Always Saved is constantly discussed by Missionary Baptists. We wonder why others can't grasp what it means to be saved only one time, and forever! Missionary Baptist still think salvation is by God's grace, only.

John Davenport, a long time member of the Lord's Church, presented a clear way of seeing **Once Saved Always Saved (OSAS)** - one that cannot be missed. And, that's a "Cannot," with a capital "C."

Brother Davenport said, "First, take them to Luke 16 and show that the rich man was in hell, in misery; that he desired his brothers would escape hell. In verse 28, the rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead to warn his brothers '**lest they also come into this place of torment.**'"

John continued, "The rich man thought that if one from the dead went to his brothers and preached to them, '**they will repent**' (V30)."

"Now, what keeps one out of hell? It is clear that it is **REPENTANCE**," John asserted.

"Then, go to Matthew 3, where John, the Baptist told the Sadducees '**...who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?** In fact, the Baptist demanded, '**Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance,**' vv 7 & 8."

"Notice," Brother Davenport firmly avowed, "Luke 16 shows that repentance keeps one out of hell. And, Matthew's account shows that John, the Baptist required fruits meet for repentance before he would baptized anyone."

"Now, go to 1st Corinthians 3:10 and see what Paul writes to the Corinthian Church. These saved and baptized believers were warned, '**let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.**'"

Brother Davenport gives his major point: "But, even if a church member builds incorrectly, as the passage records, he's still saved! Verse 15 proves that!!! Read it. '**If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer lose: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire**' (ICor 3:15).

Brother John's conclusion is: "The saved, baptized church member is still saved because he repented before he was baptized. Baptists pastors would not baptize anyone unless they had fruits of repentance, just as was required by John, the Baptist."

[Thank you, Brother John for that clear explanation of how one is saved from hell, forever, once repentance is granted; even, if one fails to follow on in the faith. God is good, all the time; not just when we were first saved]

'Once Saved Always Saved' (OSAS) is what Baptists have always taught. However, there is an explanation as to why others fail to see this truth. They do not understand the difference between **salvation from hell** and **salvation of the life; not in the finality of it, at least.**

Without knowledge of what it means to inherit the **Kingdom of Heaven** - that saved, baptized church members are responsible to obey their Head or suffer loss; yet, remained saved, makes it extremely difficult to grasp how one stays saved, no matter his life style. (see Mt 7:21; Gal 5:21).

This difficulty is compounded by churches. They fail to either, understand "**salvation of the life**" or, simply do not teach this Bible doctrine. These so-called churches leave only two positions that a church member has; he becomes lost or, he remains saved.

Of course, the problem grows because there are good church members and not so good ones. Thus, most have the idea that God's salvation offers extra reward for extra effort; giving more jewels in the crown for those who do more. They know that Scripture shows a difference in judgment, so they add a bit here, and a bit there. But, still, they have only two positions in eternity.

Because, only a few understand about **inheriting the kingdom of heaven**, passages that teach about "**hiding a talent**" (Mt 25:25) or "**enduring to the end**" (Mt 10:22; 24:13), are interpreted as losing one's salvation and ending up in hell. It becomes a teaching that places salvation's maintenance upon the saved; not what Jesus did on behalf of the saved ones. It's our works; not His.

But, if we read Matthew in **kingdom light**, it reveals that most of the saved will **not inherit** the Kingdom. Neither, **rule** on the earth as a **co-inheritor** with the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (Ro 8:17).

For example, Matthew 7 records, "**Not everyone...shall enter into the kingdom of heaven...**" And Luke 12:32 adds that the kingdom is for the "**little flock.**" Shepherd Jesus, clearly speaking on how the kingdom is received, says: "**But rather seek the kingdom of God; and all these things** (food, raiment, etc.) **shall be added unto you**" (V31).

God's "little flock" truth will open up to you by studying the three positions in eternity. First, the **lost** (in hell, Lk 16:28); Second, the **saved** (unfaithful servant, weeping, Mt 24:45-51; 1Co 3:15); and, thirdly, the **Bride** (who marries Christ and rules, co-jointly, Rom 8:17; Rev 19:6-9).

One very clear way to understand that **Salvation Can Never Be Lost (OSAS)** is looking back to the **Old Testament Types**; that of the "blood." Animal blood was so powerful that **not one Israeli returned to Egypt**. If we can see what the **TYPE** accomplished, we ought to realize that the real blood of Christ has eternal staying power, keeping those under the blood, safe and secure; relative to hell.

When Jesus ratified the New Covenant in His blood offering, it was forever. His blood and the New Covenant are eternally inseparable.

Therefore, every sinner who asks God's forgiveness has New Covenant blood applied. It is then that the Laws of the New Covenant became effective on the sinner's behalf. He is kept by the **BLOOD POWER** and will never return back to Satan's control; not his spirit, that is. When it comes to hell, blood bought saved people are secure, forever.

The Bible does warn about following Israel's example of disbelief (I Cor 10; Heb., chaps. 3& 4). These passages are to be taken seriously because of just how powerful the principle of the flesh is. It even makes saved folks want to go back to the leeks of the world, just like Israel.

And, what church hasn't seen neglect of salvation by members? People give up and return to the world all the time. True, some may not have been saved at all; but, those who claim to be, deny the Lord that bought them. Like Israel, it's a sad testimony of God's saving grace. They miss God's rest now, and are in danger of missing the rest when Jesus returns. Leek lovers are too independent. They aren't flockish, at all.

However, we quit looking at people a long time ago. To keep us going we remember what initiated our "**passing from death unto life**" (Jn 5:24); which, was the death of the Savior and His blood shed sacrifice. There can be no re-crossing when it comes to hell. We have the testimony of One that was raised from the dead! We know that we are eternally secure.

And, Paul makes no bones about it. He was well aware of the flesh and its control that it can have over man; even, saved men. He records in Romans 8:5 that far too many saved folks "**...are after the flesh.**" Paul said, they "**mind things of the flesh; but,** on the other hand, Paul explains, "**they that are after the Spirit (mind) the things of the Spirit.**"

Paul's writings tell us that two **LAWS** operate within man (Rom 7:22-25). And, here again, the laws continue to work, even after one is saved. The flesh law

operates the flesh; while, the LAW of the spirit - not only operates within the saved man, the LAW of the Spirit is so powerful that it overrides the fleshly law. Amen! (Of course, we must walk in the Spirit to overcome)

So, while salvation begins with the spirit of man, his body will not be saved until the resurrection. Controlling the body and walking in the Holy Spirit's Law is not automatic, unfortunately. But, Paul says it is a must.

Listen, carefully to his words in Romans 8:13: "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." To Paul, God's declarative salvation does not mean that it is a given; that man is automatic pilot. It still is by faith.

But, Paul did see the finality of salvation in Romans 8:38; that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ; "not death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities..."

No! Paul said, "Therefore brethren, we are debtors not to the flesh, to live after the flesh." He teaches that we are to follow the Spirit's witness in order to be children of God; "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **IF SO BE THAT WE SUFFER WITH HIM, THAT WE MAY BE ALSO GLORIFIED TOGETHER,**" Romans 8:17.