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THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Salvation

I Have?

Bill Brinkworth

- I have some good, reliable, and faithful friends, but slowly I see many leave this life and move on to their next.
- I have the best wife, but that wonderful relationship is temporary. It will disappear when death visits either one of us.
- I have a wonderful house, but that too will not be everlasting. Fire, hurricanes, or vandals could take the possession away from me.
- I have the most loving dog, but that life also will not last forever.
- I have the best church, but the feeding of my soul from that pulpit will not be permanent.
- I have a residence in a nation that allows so many freedoms. That, too, can change quickly.
- I have an income that provides my needs, but that also can come to a screeching halt.
- I have a reliable car, but my transportation could break down at any moment.
- I live in a magnificent world with outstanding beauty, but one day that too will change (Rev. 21:1).

What surrounds me and what I “have” in this world is only temporary. I will only have them as long as the Lord allows them to last. However, I do have something permanent — my eternal soul.

Fortunately, one day many years ago, it became evident that my sins were ruining my life, and they broke God’s heart. Because of my transgressions, I realized if I did not do the right thing, I would be doomed to an endless, tormenting Lake of Fire.

I finally admitted my grievous sins to God in Heaven. I realized that the only thing that would give me a peaceful, joyous eternity was trusting that Jesus’s death was the only payment acceptable to God as payment for my horrible sins. At that moment, unworthy as I was, God became my Father in Heaven and Christ became my Saviour from a Hell I deserved.

I did not earn that salvation. It cannot be lost, although I often fail my Lord and let Him down. Salvation is a gift freely given to me. I will have it forever.

Now, I have God's promise of an eternity with Him. I am a very wealthy man with riches in my future that I can barely imagine, as undeserving as I am! I sure wish you had the same treasure!

“God paid the price; we keep the change.” — *Author Unknown*

The Freed Fettered Bird

D. L. Moody

A friend in Ireland once met a little Irish boy who had caught a sparrow. The poor little bird was trembling in his hand and seemed very anxious to escape.

The gentleman begged the boy to let it go, as the bird could not do him any good. However, the boy said he would not, for he had chased it three hours before he could catch it.

He tried to reason with the boy, but in vain. At last, he offered to buy the bird. The boy agreed to the price, and it was paid.

The gentleman took the poor little thing and held it out on his hand. The boy had been holding it very fast, for the boy was stronger than the bird, just as Satan is stronger than we. There it sat for a time, scarcely able to realize the fact that it had gotten liberty. In a little while, it flew away, chirping, as if to say to the gentleman, “Thank you! Thank you! You have redeemed me.”

That is what redemption is, buying back, and setting free. Christ came to break the fetters of sin, to open the prison doors, and set the sinner free. This is the good news, the Gospel of Christ.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;” 1 Peter 1:18

“Salvation is free for you because Someone else paid the price.” — *Author Unknown*

Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God

Excerpts from Jonathan Edward's 1741 Sermon that encouraged many to be saved and altered many lives

The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked. His wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire. He is of purer eyes than to bear you in his sight; you are ten thousand times as abominable in His eyes as the most hateful, venomous serpent is in ours.

You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince; and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment. It is to be ascribed to nothing else that you did not go to hell last night; that you were suffered to awake again in this world, after you closed your eyes to sleep. And there is no other reason to be given why you have not dropped into hell since you arose in the morning, but that God's hand has held you up. There is no other reason to be given why you have not gone to hell since you have sat here in the house of God provoking his pure eye by your sinful, wicked manner of attending His solemn worship.

Yea, there is nothing else that is to be given as a reason why you do not this very moment drop down into hell.

O sinner! Consider the fearful danger you are in! It is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath that you are held over in the hand of that God whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you as against many of the damned in hell. You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of Divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it and burn it asunder.

It would be dreadful to suffer this fierceness and wrath of Almighty God one moment; but you must suffer it for all eternity. There will be no end to this exquisite, horrible misery. When you look forward, you shall see along forever a boundless duration before you; which will swallow up your thoughts, and amaze your soul. And you will absolutely despair of ever having any deliverance, any end, any mitigation, any rest at all. You will know certainly that you must wear out long ages, millions of millions of ages in wrestling with this Almighty, merciless vengeance. And then when you have so done, when so many ages have actually been spent by you in this manner, you will know that all is but a point to what remains. So that your punishment will indeed be infinite.

Oh! who can express what the state of a soul in such circumstances is! All that we can possibly say about it gives but a very feeble, faint representation of it. It is inexpressible and inconceivable: for “who knows the power of God’s anger”!

How dreadful is the state of those that are daily and hourly in danger of this great wrath and infinite misery! But this is the dismal case of every soul in this congregation that has not been born again; however moral and strict, sober and religious, they may otherwise be. Oh! that you would consider it, whether you be young or old!

There is reason to think that there are many in this congregation, now hearing this discourse, that will actually be the subjects of this very misery for all eternity. We know not who they are, or in what seats they sit, or what thoughts they now have. It may be they are now at ease, and hear all these things without much disturbance, and are now flattering themselves that they are not the persons, promising themselves that they shall escape.

If we knew that there was one person, and but one, in the whole congregation, that was to be the subject of this misery, what an awful thing it would be to think of! If we knew who it was, what an awful sight would it be to see such a person! How might the rest of the congregation lift up a lamentable and bitter cry over him!

But, alas! instead of one, how many is it likely will remember this discourse in hell! And it would be a wonder if some that are now present should not be in hell in a very short time, before this year is out. And it would be no wonder if some persons that now sit here in some seats of this meeting-house, in health, and quiet and security, should be there before tomorrow morning!

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” *John 3:3*