

UNDERSTANDING THE MIRACLE OF SALVATION

Pastor Rick Reager – March 19, 2023

I. THE TRUTH ABOUT SALVATION

1. NO ONE SEEKS GOD UNTIL _____

¹⁰ *As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one. ¹¹ No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. ¹² All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.” Romans 3:10-12*

⁴⁴ *For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up.” John 6:44*

2. SALVATION CANNOT _____

⁸ *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-9*

3. SALVATION IS _____

²³ *Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. ²⁴ I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” ²⁵ The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. ²⁶ Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.” Matthew 19:23-26*

4. LIKE ANY OTHER MIRACLE, GOD WILL NOT ACT UNTIL WE _____

¹ *Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. ² The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?” ³ Then they scoffed, “He’s just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.” They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. ⁴ Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.” ⁵ And because of their unbelief, he couldn’t do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.” Mark 6:1-6*

SHOULD I BE FEARFUL THAT GOD WON’T SAVE ME?

¹ *I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. ² Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:1-4*

5. SINCE SALVATION IS LITERALLY A MIRACLE, IT CANNOT BE REDUCED TO A _____

KEY: SALVATION HAS MORE TO DO WITH _____ THAN ONES WORDS OR ACTIONS

⁷ *But the LORD said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7*

II. THE CONDITIONS OF THE MIRACLE OF SALVATION

1. _____

“⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

2. _____

“⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.” Romans 10:9

3. _____

“³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Acts 2:38-39

WHAT DOES REPENTENCE REQUIRE?

TURNING FROM LIVING _____ TO LIVING _____

i. _____ **My Sins**

“⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.” James 4:9-10

ii. **Asking God For Forgiveness Of My** _____

“⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.” 1 John 1:9

iii **Choosing To Turn From** _____ **& Turn To** _____

“² Repent of your sins and turn to God.” Matthew 3:2

iv. **Surrender** _____ **& Commit to Let Christ** _____ **Every Day**

“²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.” Luke 9:23

KEY: THIS REQUIRES A _____ **HEART & COMPLETE**

_____ **(100% OBEDIENCE)**

4. **AN OPEN & PUBLIC** _____

“⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.” Romans 10:9

KEY: THIS STARTS WITH _____

“³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

III. KEYS TO RECEIVING SALVATION

1. SEEK GOD _____

“¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.” Jeremiah 29:13

2. _____ MY SALVATION

“²⁴ Work hard to enter the narrow door to God’s Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. ²⁵When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ ²⁶Then you will say, ‘But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷And he will reply, ‘I tell you, I don’t know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.’” Luke 13:24-27

“¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” Philippians 2:12

IF SALVATION IS A MIRACLE, WHY MUST I SEEK & WORK?

I MUST OVERCOME _____

IV. HOW WILL I KNOW THAT I’M SAVED?

1. I WILL SEE THE FRUIT OF THE _____ IN ME

“³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

“²¹ It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, ²² and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.” 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

“¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.” 1 John 4:13

V. WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. _____

“⁷ But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.” John 16:7-8

“³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:3-6

“¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13

2. _____

“⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

“¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 1:19-20

“²⁰ For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power.” 1 Corinthians 4:20

“¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13

3. AT LEAST ONE _____

“¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.” 1 Peter 4:10-11

4. _____

“⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” Philippians 1:6

“²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.” John 14:26

5. _____

“²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5:22

6. SUPERNATURAL LOVE _____

“⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

“³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:35