

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

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THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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SALVATION: WHO AND HOW DO WE OBEY?

Jim Stauffer

What do we know about Jesus that makes Him both Lord and Christ?

In the sermon Peter preached in **Acts 2**, he reminds his audience they had witnessed miracles, wonders and signs at the hands of Jesus. **Acts 2:22; John 9:35-38**

He then reminds them of an Old Testament prophecy they should know about His resurrection - **Psa. 16:8-11. cf. Acts 2:29-31**

He cited the fact the apostles had witnessed Him following the resurrection - **Acts 2:32 cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-8.**

They also witnessed His ascension to heaven as Peter speaks - **Acts 2:33 cf. Acts 1:9-11**

What must we do if we are to obey Him and be saved from our sins?

Repent and be baptized - **Acts 2:38**
cf. Mark 16:15,16; Acts 22:16

Can we be saved if we only believe?

Belief only is not obedience - **James 2:19, 22-24**

Jesus said believe and be baptized - **Mark 16:16**

Peter said to those who believed, *Repent and be baptized* - **Acts 2:38** (*obedience is necessary* - **Heb. 5:8,9.** (Exa. of obedience - Abraham - **Heb. 11:17-19)**)

At what point are we saved by having our sins forgiven?

Forgiveness and salvation occur at the same time - See the previous passages about forgiveness and baptism. See **Col. 1:13,14** and **1 Pet. 2:9** - We are translated from Satan's kingdom to that of His beloved Son when we receive the forgiveness of our sins. We become a possession of God when we are called out of darkness (the kingdom of Satan, into His marvelous light. To become His possession is to be purchased for a price - **1 Cor. 6:20** - that price is the blood of Christ -

1 Pet. 1:18,19 - blood in which we are washed - **Rev. 1:5** - and our sins are washed away in baptism - **Acts 22:16** and we are saved, as we have learned when our sins are forgiven.

So, what must you do to be saved?

The obvious answer is to have your sins forgiven and we now know that involves belief, repentance and baptism.

If you are not saved, what is your condition?

Jesus came to save the lost - **Luke 19:10** by giving Himself as a ransom - **Matthew 20:28**. What are we saved from? He came to save us from our sins - **Matthew 1:21**. The reason we need saved from our sins is to avoid the wrath of God - **2 Thess. 1:7-9; Romans 2:5-7; John 3:36**. Consequently if you are not saved you are lost and the wrath of God is eternal destruction - **Matthew 25:46**.

THE MARKS OF JESUS

"...for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus" (**Galatians 6:17**).

The New Revised Standard Version has, *"...for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body."* The New Living Translation says: *"... the scars that show I belong to Jesus."* The New American Standard Version translates it, *"the brand-marks of Jesus."* We are encouraged daily by advertisements to buy the brand names. Many people place great confidence in certain brands or trademarks.

Paul says: Look at me. I am a Christian. You can inspect for yourself the brand-marks. I belong to Jesus Christ.

Just what is he pointing to? There were certainly physical scars he bore because of his faith in Jesus: *“From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned...” (2 Cor. 11:24-25)*. The scars were deep. They were branded indelibly in his body. But this goes even deeper than that. The brand-marks of Jesus were burned into his soul. Had he not been inwardly conformed to Jesus he could not have endured the terrible physical torture that he suffered. The scars were the outward sign. The real brand-marks were inside where it really counts.

What are the marks of Jesus? Are they some mode of dress or a menu of approved foods or certain occupations or a list of taboos? Are they certain qualities of personality: courage, prudence, imagination, magnetism, initiative? These are desirable characteristics, but they are certainly not confined to disciples of Christ.

But, surely we move to the point when we consider those virtues commended by the words of our Master: love, humility, purity, gentleness, sacrifice. We know these to be Christian qualities. They are easily recognized. We are very aware when they are not present. Yet, when we have enumerated all such virtues, we have not reproduced Jesus. Only God can put these qualities together in the essential way. It is the inside that shines through. It is an atmosphere, an aura, a fragrance. The marks of Jesus are not moral achievements. They are spiritual gifts. We have to know Jesus.

These marks are evidences of ownership. In our culture, we declare and celebrate our independence. But if we are truly Christians, we belong to Christ. The Christian is not his own. We have been bought with a price. Christ has claims upon us. We are bound by chains. Not chains of steel. They are chains of love, and they are infinitely stronger than chains of steel. We do not need to constantly announce or advertise that we are Christians. People can tell whether or not we have been with Jesus.

The marks of Jesus are quite visible. If you want to know who or what is a man's master, listen to his conversation. Whatever the subject being discussed you will soon discover his attitude toward life and you will know the name of his master. Jesus said, *“By this, all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35)*. Even the enemies of the church in ancient times exclaimed in astonishment, “See how these Christians love one another!”

These marks are branded on us. There is pain involved. There is a price tag. Conflict shapes the soul. Life is not just a bowl of cherries. It is serious business. Life is not aimless or purposeless. We have a job to do, an assignment to complete, and a report to make. The big purpose of life is to conform us to Jesus Christ. He is the model, the prototype, the image that the Creator wants to reproduce in us. Every experience, every sorrow, every lesson is designed to this end. If we choose to turn into devils or greedy monsters or sniveling cowards, that is not God's choice for us.

All of us must pass through this world. We all suffer in similar, though not exact ways. We all experience the same trials. But such has different effects on people. On some it leaves ugly scars and gaping wounds. On others it brands the marks and the beauty of Jesus.

The marks of Jesus can be reproduced in each one of us. God is able to do it. He can do it for the vilest of sinners. Paul was a man like us, subject to like passions. He described himself as *“chief of sinners.”* We are all made of the same material.

I would that all would examine what Christ offers. It is not moral respectability or culture or social standing or worldly success and security. These are men's goals. Christ offers us conformity to His glorious likeness. If one doesn't want to be like Jesus, the gospel is not for him. There is nothing in it to interest him. No use wasting his time. True Christianity has no other message. This is it. Be like Jesus. Let God make you over. It starts with a new birth.

Ken Green

“Be Still And Know That I Am God”

Cleveland Reddinger

So writes the ‘sweet psalmist of Israel’ in **Psalm 46:10**. The entire psalm is about the kingdoms of men in an uproar and the consolation of the children of God. Never has the message of this psalm been more important to them than now!

Worldly nations have never really been at rest or peace. Someone who knows their history way better than I do said, in their observation, there have only been 25 years of peace, worldwide, in the last 1000 years. Think about the import of that statement! Assuming it's true, and in my brief time on this earth I have seen no reason to contest its truthfulness, that means that in the last millennium there have been less than 10,000 days of worldwide peace; days when there wasn't a war being fought between kingdoms or peoples somewhere on the planet. This is why, in the

Book of Revelation, when God wants to picture the mass of humanity He uses the picture of the restless sea (13:1) so also in **Daniel 7:2, 3**. Even in the best of times the sea is never at rest, as anyone who has been to the ocean can attest.

So what should the follower of God do? David, the sweet psalmist of Israel (**1 Samuel 23:1**) addresses this problem. His answer was most emphatically NOT: Do nothing! Anyone who's read 1 & 2 Samuel knows that David was not the kind to sit back and just let things happen. He was more the "Grab the bull by the horns and throw it to the ground" type of guy. So, when you have done what you can do to make things better, within the limits of the gospel, then it is time to stop striving to no effect and realize that the battle from here on out is not yours. It is the Lord's, and He will work things out for His ultimate glory, to save more souls in the end, and to bring you safely home!

When The Day Becomes Difficult

"Naked came I from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job:1:21)

Long ago there lived in the land of Uz a blameless, upright, God fearing man named Job who in a very short span of time lost most of his worldly possessions and all his sons and daughters are killed (**Job 1:1-19**). Surely Job's heart must have been filled with an unbearably deep, agonizing pain. What a great test of his faith this was for Job. Yet his trust in God remained steadfast and true (**Job 1:21-22**).

I am thankful that we have this example of so great a faith on the part of Job. We live for long periods of time when nothing but good enters our life. Then suddenly one day some heart wrenching event comes crashing down upon us. It may be the loss of some material possession; it may be some disease or illness that strikes a loved one or even our self; sometimes it will be the death of one that we love dearly. When these horrific events strike our human frame and our faith is sorely tested, what will we do, how will we respond. When our faith is tested, and you can rest assured it will be, I pray that it will be a faith in God that remains steadfast and true?

When everything seems to be chaos, out of control, when the burden seems too heavy to bear, when fear envelopes us and all seems to be lost, think about Job and the marvelous statement he makes when his world was turned upside down. When the day becomes difficult, don't panic, take it to the Lord in prayer

(**Phil. 4:6-7; Heb. 4:13-16; 1 Thess. 5:17; 2 Kings 19:1-7; 2 Kings 20:1-7; 1 Pet. 5:7**).

It is in those difficult, trying days of our life that we realize that we are weak, frail, flawed human beings and our hearts often become deeply pained. As a faithful child of God. the question should not be "Why did this happen to me?" It should be "What am I going to do now?" Whatever happens to us during this brief sojourn fades into insignificance when we consider the blessed hope that resides within us because of the unfailing promises of our God (**John 14:1-3; 2 Pet. 1:3-4; Heb. 5:8-9**). I may not know or understand why this tragedy, this loss, this sickness, this particular burden or this death. But one thing I do know, the God I love and serve is in control of my life and so long as I am faithful to Him, He will see me safely through all those difficult, trying days (**Ps. 23; Gal. 2:20; Rom 8:28**). What He will do for me He can do for you as well.

"We bring nothing at birth, we take nothing with us at death. The Lord alone gives and takes. Praise the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21 CEV)

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We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Things people believe about biblical subjects that are not so!

Did you know the Bible teaches that men are not to be given reverential titles?

Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

(Matthew 7:7-8)

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

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Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening - 1&2
Peter and Jude - Ron Peck

Sunday Sermon:
Bill Miller



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10