

Theme Sharing Christ Beyond Church & Country

Topic Salvation Belongs to the LORD

Speaker SP Daniel Foo

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Wessage Summary

Salvation Belongs to the Lord

When one thinks of salvation, there are certainly many questions that comes to mind: "Once I am saved, will I always be saved?", or "Can we be assured of our salvation?", and "What happens to the backslidden?" These are questions many of us would have grappled with at some point during our Christian life. To answer these questions, we would have to look at the Bible, bearing in mind that a truth and a principle such as salvation must be based on the weight of Scriptures. If a part of Scriptures appears to contradict the rest of the bible, then it has to be measured against the rest of HIs Word, because God never contradicts Himself.

3 Broad Truths

(1) We must have assurance of salvation

As Christians, we must have the assurance of salvation. The Bible assures us that when we believe in our hearts and confess from our mouths, we will have eternal life. This is the truth that has been emphasized throughout the Bible, in John 1:12, John 3:16 and John 5:24. It is an experiential knowledge that when we believe in Him, He will gift us with an everlasting life.

(2) How we live and what we do will result in rewards or losses

These rewards and losses will happen both in this life and the life to come. When we believe in Jesus, we must carry forth this belief through what we do, and how we live our lives; through our daily actions and words.

(A) This covers:

(I) Our journey in discipleship to become more like Christ

As humans, we are not perfect. As Christians, then, we have to keep growing spiritually so as to be conformed to the likeness of Christ. Through the anointed worship of our Lord, reading the anointed Word and being part of an anointed body-life by joining a cell group, our works may become anointed as works of faith.



(II) How we serve God

Serving our Lord means carrying out good works which would please Him. As God is just, He will judge everything we do in our lives, be it good or evil.

(B) (I) We build on the foundation of Christ, i.e. we are already saved

As Christians we do not have to do good works in an attempt to be His child; we live with the knowledge that we are already saved

- (II) <u>How we live and serve God are depicted in 6-picture languages</u>: Wood, Hay, Straw, Gold, Silver and Precious Stones.
- (III) They will be tested by fire

All of our works will be tested by fire and only some will withstand this test.

- (IV) Fire will burn up wood, hay and straw, i.e. the believer will suffer losses
- (V) Fire will purify gold, silver and precious stones, i.e. the believer will receive rewards.
- (VI) How we end this life matters; we must finish well

As followers of Christ, we should come to repentance for our wrongdoings and evil works. We will be judged according to our ways as we stand before the judgment seat of the Lord.

(C) (I) The message of the gospel of the kingdom of God has inherent power to save, deliver and heal

It is not our good works which will save us; it is our faith which will. Our personal commitment for God to be our Lord and Saviour.

- (II) The message ought to be in the messenger who delivers the message
- (III) When the messenger himself falls away from the message, the message will still save, deliver and heal, but the messenger himself will face the consequences accordingly

(3) Apostasy- When we lose our salvation

The conclusion is: When a believer in his sound mind, deliberately, intentionally, explicitly reject the Lord up to his last breath, he will lose this salvation. Judgment is always according to revelation. If we deny Him with the clear knowledge of the consequences, or if the disobedience is deliberate, then the consequences are most severe. Our window of grace only ends when we pass away.

Application

(1) Praying for the salvation of our loved ones

As Christians, we have to open the eyes of our pre-believing loved ones- to turn from the power of Satan to the power of God. Our weapon is prayer. We should never lose sight or give up on the salvation of our loved ones.



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- (A) Find a man of peace
- (B) Fellowship with them: Eat and drink
- (C) Fulfill their felt needs: Heal the sick, pray for them etc.
- (D) Share the gospel of the kingdom of God

(2) Aim not to fall-stumble

We must aim to finish well, and not fall or stumble in our growth. This involves ongoing encounters with God, and constant renewal or revival of our faith.



What are some common doubts about salvation? How were they addressed through the sermon? (Fill In Answer Here)

What does "finishing well" mean? Describe what is required of us in order to finish well and which stage we are at currently.

(Fill In Answer Here)

Share the name of a loved one on your oikos list. Which stage of evangelism are you at with this person? What is one thing you can do to move on to next stage?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3