

LESSON -19

SALVATION - In Christ Jesus

References : Heb. 9 : 11-28

Memory Verse : Heb. 9 : 27- 28

Objective : To be convinced of the fact that Jesus Christ is the only way for salvation of mankind and to accept Jesus as personal saviour and Lord.

Introduction : It is a common fact that only a creditor can forgive one's debt. Similarly, the entire mankind is in debt to God by sin. Therefore, unless God provides a way of pardon, nothing else will work. Bible says, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts. 4:12). Moreover, one who saves must be competent and qualified in certain aspects. Jesus Christ is the only saviour fully authorised by God and qualified by virtues to redeem mankind.

THE QUALIFICATION OF A SAVIOUR :

1. The saviour must be unique and sinless.
2. The saviour must be sympathetic.
3. The saviour must be willing and sufficiently potent to take the sinner's penalty upon himself.
4. The saviour must be infinite and eternally alive to give salvation at all times.
5. The saviour must be testified by others as competent to save.

Jesus Christ was perfect in all the above mentioned qualifications. Let us see how they fit into Jesus Christ.

1 Jesus - Sinless :

Though Jesus Christ was born as man and lived as man, he was different from other men. One who is born in sin and living in sin cannot save sinners.

a) The birth of Jesus Christ was sinless and unique .His birth was fore-told in the Bible. "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). In fulfilment to this prophecy Jesus Christ was born in Mary. It was not by a human agency that Mary conceived but by the Holy spirit. Yes everything is possible with God! At the birth of Jesus, it was God incarnated into humanity (The Pre-existen Logos took flesh Jn.1:1,14). No other person has been born into this world in this way except Christ Jesus.

b) The life of Jesus Christ was sinless too.He led a most holy life so much that He could challenge the people, saying "Who shall convict me of my sin?" (Jn. 8:46).He knew no sin (I Cori.5:21). He did no sin (I Pet. 2:22)

c) Jesus Christ was testified to be sinless. From the beginning of public ministry to the crucifixion, Jesus was testified to be holy and blameless on several occasions.

1. At the time of Jesus' baptism, God the Father said: "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased " (Matt . 3:17).
2. During the trial, Pilate's the governor said "I find no fault inHim " (Jn. 19:4).
3. During the trial, Pilate's wife sent him message : "Have nothing to do with that Just Man" (Matt 27:19).
4. When Jesus breathed His last on the cross, the centurion said: "Certainly, this was a righteous Man " (Lk. 23:47).
5. One of the thieves hung beside Jesus' cross said: "..... this Man has done nothing wrong " (Lk. 23:41).
6. Judas who betrayed Jesus said : "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood" (Matt 27:41).
7. Satan the accuser of God's people, who accuses them day and night said about Christ. " I know who you are the Holy one of God" In this way, Jesus Christ is different from all other men in His sinless birth and holy life.

II) Jesus - Sympathetic :

Jesus Christ was unique in His compassions.

1. He was compassionate towards the sick people (Mtt. 14:14)
2. He was moved with compassion when He found the people left as sheep without shepherd (Mtt. 9:36).
3. He was compassionate towards the hungry (Mtt. 15 :32).
4. He was compassionate towards the lepers (Mark. 1: 40 - 42)
5. He was compassionate towards the sinners (Jn. 8:11).

The overwhelming compassion of Jesus Christ towards the sinners makes him the unique Saviour. It also accounts for His endurance of the most shameful death.

III) Jesus Willing :

Jesus Christ was willing to fulfil the work of salvation for the whole mankind. When the mankind was in the depth of wretched sin and curse, Jesus Christ was willing to leave His glory and equality with the Father. He said "Behold I come I delight to do your will O'my God" (Psa. 40: 7,8). He lived in this earth and identified Himself with the fallen human race. At last, He was to die in substitute for the mankind. When the soldiers and servants of the High Priest came to arrest Jesus. He introduced Himself to them and delivered Himself into their hands. He willingly went through the meanest mockery, severest trials, torturous afflictions and finally the most dreadful death on the cross. Jesus bore all the punishments of mankind upon himself. "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed" (Issa. 53 : 4,5).

IV) Jesus Infinite and Eternal :

The deliverer must be alive forever to provide salvation at all times. Jesus Christ the Eternal son of God died for the sins of the mankind. But that is not the whole story. He rose again from death. He is ever alive as the Saviour. "Therefore he is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them "(Heb. 7:25). The entire mankind right from the beginning to the end of the world can avail this salvation through Christ.

V) *Jesus Competent to Save :*

Firstly, Jesus Christ claimed and proved that He is able to forgive sins and raise the dead. Jesus said to the Paralytic, 'Man, your sins are forgiven you' (Lk. 5.20). Jesus also said to the dead Lazarus, "Come out" Immediately, the dead Lazarus came out alive (Jn. 11:43, 44).

Secondly notice the testimony of those who experienced the salvation. Paul said, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that, Christ Jesus came into the World to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (I. Tim. 1:15) Peter said, "To Him all the prophets witness that through His (Jesus') name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins, (Acts. 2:33-36, 4:11 -12' 1 John 1:1-3). Even in Old Testament times, way of salvation was faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Old Testament sacrifices were only shadows of salvation through Jesus.

The only way that God has prepared for the sin's atonement and salvation of all people of all times is Jesus Christ. It is our duty to get saved by accepting Him as our Saviour and be concerned about the salvation of others as well.

EXERCISE -19

Answer the following questions

- 1 What should be the qualification of a Saviour?
- 2 Who had perfectly all the qualification of a Saviour?
- 3 How was the birth of Jesus a unique one?
- 4 Who all testified Jesus to be sinless? Quote 4 such testimonies?
- 5 Which is the only way of salvation prepared by God?
- 6 What is the meaning of the word Jesus? Explain how He is fully qualified to have that name?
- 7 Show, how Old Testament saints were also saved by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ?

