

LESSON - 20

SALVATION IN THREE TENSES

References : Heb. 9 : 11 -28

Memory verse : Heb. 9 : 27 -28

Objective : To have more knowledge about the dimensions of salvation that God has prepared for us and to experience the lessons of salvation every day.

Introduction : Can you be sure about your salvation when you are alive on earth ? You may have heard many believers testifying that they are saved. Some people think that we can not say, of a surety, that we are saved yet. For any argument or solution of problem, we must search the scriptures, know what the Bible says about it and get assured of our salvation.

THREE TENSES OF SALVATION :

For salvation, there are three aspects namely the Past, Present and Future. They can also be said as salvation of the spirit, salvation of the soul and salvation of the body respectively.

1 Past tense experience of salvation :

We were saved from the **Penalty** of sin. When we believed on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and accepted Him as our Saviour, our sins were forgiven and we were freed from condemnation. We all must obtain this experience while we live on earth. Those who have received the remission of sins through Christ can boldly say that they are saved or redeemed. This is the salvation of the spirit. There are so many references to this aspect of salvation that God gives to all who believe. (Rom 3:25, 5:1, Gala. 3:26, Jn. 3:16-18, Eph.2:8). From these scriptures we understand that one can be sure of his or her salvation while still on earth. That the Israelites were delivered from the Egyptian bondage by

the blood of the Passover Lamb was a type of this experience. (Refer Hebr. 9, 6. 1 Peter 2:24 also).

2 Present Tense Experience of Salvation:

We are being saved from the **power** of sin. We who have been saved, are still living in flesh on earth. In a believer there is an inner conflict between two natures. One is the spiritual nature that prompts us to walk in the will of God. The other is the evil nature or carnal nature that always attracts us to the old evil ways and bad practices. In this conflict, the believer must make sure that the spiritual nature is more powerful and dominant in his life. This is possible only through crucifying our flesh with Christ and submitting ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit. If by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live (Rom. 8:13). Also Paul writes to Philipians "Work out your own salvation through fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). There are many believers who boast in their past experience of salvation and neglect the present. It is very dangerous. In the present, a believer must, with all deligence, seek to get away from the power of sin by the power of the Holy spirit. The Bible gives stern warnings aganist our possibly cold shoulder to sin. We need to have a militant attitude towards sin and not trifle with it (1 Cori. 10:12, Heb, 4:1-11). We have also the Holy Spirit sent down to dwell in us and lead us victoriously.

3 Future tense of Experience Salvation:

We shall be saved from the **Presence** of sin. Those who are being saved every day shall be saved from the presence of sin. That will be the most blessed occasion for all believers. For they will be completely delivered from this sinful system and freed from all human frailties and corruptions. It will take place at the coming of Christ in the mid- air. "To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation". (Heb. 9:28). At the coming of Christ, the whole creation also shall be delivered from its curse and bondage. This aspect of salvation is very thrilling to a believer. It is discussed in detail by the apostles. The saints who are dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible in the twinkling of an eye. Those who are alive shall be transformed. Thus all believers will be transformed and caught up together to be with the Lord forever. (1 Thess.4: 16- 17, 1 Cori.15: 52-54). this event is called capture. Skipping over to what is relevant to us, we understand from Scriptures that a new heaven and a new earth will be revealed. In the new earth and heaven, there will be a city known as

New Jerusalem in which God's people shall live with God eternally. This is the future aspect of salvation.

Salvation consists of the whole redemptive work of God in us beginning from our deliverance from sins condemnation and bondage, through our victorious pilgrimage on earth, to that glorious occasion when we shall attain the eternal bliss. Let us not neglect so great a salvation, but possess it by faith, stand steadfast and progress in it most carefully, so that we may all reach that eternal blessing yonder there

EXERCISE - 20

Answer the following questions

- 1 What are the three aspects of salvation ? How are they connected with the 3 appearances of Christ?
- 2 How were we freed from condemnation?
- 3 Who can say boldly that he is redeemed?
- 4 Can a person be sure of his salvation in while he is on earth?
- 5 Which are the two natures that conflict in a believer?
- 6 What do they prompt us to do?
- 7 What must a believer prove in the conflict?
- 8 How can the spiritual nature be more powerful?
- 9 Who leads us victoriously?
- 10 When will the believers be saved from the presence of sin?
- 11 Make a list of the events that will take place at the coming of Christ?
- 12 What is meant by rapture?
- 13 What does salvation consist of?
- 14 Compare the 3 aspects of salvation with the experience of Israel from the time of deliverance from Egypt at the time when they took possession to Canaan?

