

# HE SAVES US 2

## *Forgiveness, Freedom, Transformation, & Resurrection*

(preached 2/25/24)

### LAST WEEK:

- Let's share the entire Gospel, the whole story!
- We might be tempted to share only part of it, perhaps reacting to someone else doing the same.
- Some fall down on the side of holiness and truth, with less emphasis on God's more tender fruits like compassion and mercy, coming off as condescending and holier than thou.
- Others may side more with compassion and mercy, compromising the truth.
- God is all of these things, all the time, without any contradiction or compromise.
- Gospel can be broken down into Forgiveness, Freedom, Transformation, & Resurrection.
- In part 1 we covered God's willingness to forgive all and set us free as sons vs. slaves.
- The Gospel is GOOD news only!
- Yet we must tell people the Titanic is sinking, they're on it, and will drown first.
- We must identify the problem that we commit sins and owe God a debt we cannot pay.
- Then we go on to the actual good news the Jesus chose to go the Cross and pay everything for us!
- That He sets us free from this debt so we can live as sons and daughters of God our Father!

TODAY we're going to talk about the last 2 aspects of the Gospel: **its TRANSFORMATIVE power and RESURRECTION.**

*As a young Christian, I was a passionate evangelist.* I used to make appointments with people, literally, and share the Gospel with them. When I was done, I would attempt to "close" them by getting them to say the Sinner's Prayer and receive Jesus as their Savior. It was amazing at first! I was getting 1-3 people per week to supposedly made a decision for Jesus and I considered these to be "notches" in my belt.

**THEN THE OTHER SHOE DROPPED** because there was no change whatsoever in the majority of the people I'd supposedly led to the Lord. Although most reported a rush of good feelings, that was it. I was confused because when I came to Christ, I was immediately convicted of my sins and the loving power of the Holy Spirit was inspiring me to cast off wicked ways and live a holy life. It was confirmed by a friend who'd known me since my teens saying "*you've really changed! I liked the old Scott better, he was more fun.*"

## **What was lacking in the people I got to say the Sinner's Prayer was TRANSFORMATION.**

Why weren't they different? **They hadn't experienced the Godly sorrow** we spoke of last week—that it was our sin that put an innocent man, Jesus, on the Cross. Here is the verse we quoted:

**[2Co 7:10 NKJV]** For godly sorrow produces repentance [leading] to salvation, not to be regretted;

A Godly sorrow only comes about when we tell people that the Titanic is sinking...and that **it was all of us, not just the Captain, who steered it into an iceberg.** Said sorrow leads to a powerful process: REPENTANCE which translates to *“a change of mind, an abhorrence of errors & misdeeds, a course change in life.”* (Strong's G3340, 3341).

**THINK OF ADAM AS THE ORIGINAL CAPTAIN** in charge and that we all heard stories about how he disobeyed God and rammed the iceberg. Now imagine that, even though we've heard that Biblical lesson and ought to know better, we repeat the same mistake he did.

**That's us...all of us.** We dug ourselves into a pit we can't get out of. We've landed ourselves in jail and have no defense lawyer. We steered our own ships into an iceberg and are taking on water. There's no room on the lifeboats and all the lifejackets are gone.

Suddenly a man comes forward and **offers us both his lifejacket and spot on the lifeboat**...even though this whole thing is our fault.

**He will die so we can live** even though he's innocent of the fact the ship is sinking. That's Jesus!

We argue with each other over exactly **HOW GOD LOVES US** and the different sides look like this:

AFFIRMATIONAL: God loves me just as I am and doesn't want or require me to change.

PERFORMANCE: God loves me when I do good and restrain from evil, but takes away His love when I don't.

TRANSFORMATIONAL: God loves me just as I am, and His love transforms me to live more like Jesus.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> one is the right one** and any person, church, or ministry teaching otherwise is deceived.

***God's love is the most powerful force in existence!*** Just as He promoted us from being slaves to sin to being sons of God, the love of our Heavenly Father works in us to do good and restrain from evil. It transforms us from dark to light and is a lifetime process that never stops.

***[Col 3:9-10 ESV]*** 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that **you have put off the old self with its practices** 10 and have **put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge after the **image of its creator.**

***[Eph 4:20-24 ESV]*** 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!-- 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to **put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and **to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.**

**Don't separate God's love from this process**, because we cannot achieve this on our own any more than we could save ourselves from the sinking ship we were on. Putting off the old self STARTS with a decision on our end yes, but it's empowered by the freeing love of God our Father to "do."

The "freeing" aspect is this: **we already have His love because He made us sons.** There's no threat of Him changing His mind and demoting us back to slave. We're secure in His family and forever a member of His house!

***We surrender to the transformative journey of God FROM a position of being a son***, free, and loved! We pursue casting off any way that God calls sinful and embracing what He calls holy and righteous with our Father walking with us the whole way!

***[2Co 3:17-18 ESV]*** 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is freedom.** ***[You're His kid!]*** 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.** For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**WE ARE NOT AND CANNOT BE THE SAME AFTER BEING SAVED.**

**Transformation is the key evidence of a real conversion.**

There's an oldtime bluegrass Gospel song by the Marshall Family and the chorus goes like this:

*"Things I used to do, I don't do no more (x3)  
For the Lord's made a change in me.  
Things I used to say, I don't say no more (x3)  
For the Lord's got His eye on me.  
The places I used to go, I don't go no more (x3)  
For the Lord's made a change in me."*

**Last is our resurrection. *Salvation itself isn't just an event, it's a process.***

We were Saved and are being Saved at the same time. The end of the process will be when the Lord raises us from the dead on the appointed day!

We can't just tell people that **their end reward is going to heaven** as a spirit and that's not what Jesus or the Apostles preached at all. All of them made the promise of everlasting life, which is being raised from the dead into immortality.

**[Luk 14:12-14 ESV]** 12 He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. **For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.**"

***The resurrection is our reward***—that's the bookend of the message of the Gospel.

**IT'S THE FINAL STAGE IN OUR TRANSFORMATION OF BEING SAVED.**

Let me ask you some questions. When we get our new bodies....

- Will they be subject to death or live forever?
- Will we still commit sins like we do now, or finally be completely freed from it?

Again: ***resurrection is the FINAL stage of transformation.*** That being the case, as was already quoted from the Bible, there's some progression along the way.

**Christians who believe that God's love is affirmational only see no need to change in this life, which means they aren't truly receiving and flowing in God's love!**

Recently in both Sunday service and Bible Study, we've talked of **the upcoming**

**Tribulation** which are the final 7 years before Jesus returns. Jesus the Apostles both teach that this will be a time of the greatest trouble, evil, and violence this world has ever seen. That Jews and Christians will be persecuted worse during this period than ever before. Jesus went on to say that the days would be "shortened" otherwise no one would survive it!

[GOOSEBUMP MOMENT! Song playing just said "waiting for the days to be shortened" right after I typed that last line! GOD IS AWESOME!!!!]

**The one hope Jesus gives any saints enduring these years is the resurrection.**

That if they can **ENDURE TO THE END, THEY WILL BE SAVED**...and this Salvation is referring to being raised from the dead.

**[Mat 24:9-14 ESV]** 9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But **the one who endures to the end will be saved** [RESURRECTED!]. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

The reward isn't money, land, or possessions. It's not a mansion, crowns, or fame. The **ultimate reward for every Christian is to be raised from the dead!** Whether we're living in the Tribulation or right now, we're waiting to be transformed into the new bodies Jesus has waiting for us that will live forever and never be subject to sin again!

John 11 is quoted at most funerals, but listen to what Jesus is really saying:

**[Jhn 11:25-26 ESV]** 25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection** and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

The resurrection isn't just an action or event: **Jesus IS the resurrection!!!** If we believe in Him for our forgiveness and freedom, then let's believe in Him for our transformation which culminates in being raised from the dead!

**[Rom 8:18-25 ESV]** 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the **revealing of the sons of God** [RESURRECTION!]. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for **adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies** [RESURRECTION!]. 24 For **in this hope we were saved**. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**Verse 19:** *Resurrection reveals who God truly made us to be!*

If our eyes could **see into the spirit world** right now, we would look at another Christian and see a GLORIOUS SHINING BEING! Right now that's being is being "hidden" by this body which isn't capable of showing it.

**OUR NEW ONES WILL BE ABLE TO!** They will reveal the glory that Jesus Himself placed inside each one of us! It will put Christ on full display!

**Verse 24:** for THIS hope we were Saved! Not for mansion or to sit on thrones. But to be raised up on the last day!

CONCLUSION. The Gospel summarized:

- Jesus forgives us
- Jesus frees us
- Jesus transforms us
- Jesus resurrects us

JESUS SAVES US  
(Altar call)