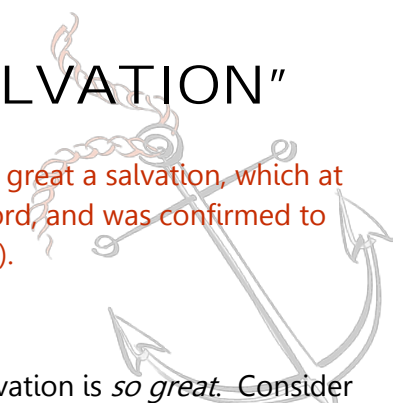




"SO GREAT A SALVATION"

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him" (Heb. 2:3).



WE want to submit a fifth reason in this article as to why our salvation is *so great*. Consider that it is the *sacrifice* made which makes our salvation so precious. In the previous article we noted how valuable the soul is. Because the soul is more precious than anything ever made, the price to redeem it is costly as well (Ps. 49:8). Peter wrote:

"knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet. 1:18, 19).

Though man saw the devastating consequence and cost of sin in the life of animals being taken for his transgression and ultimately his own death, these were mere shadows and not the very image of what was to come, viz., God coming to die for man's transgressions. Sin originally separated man from God with the graphic slaughter of an animal or animals to cover and conceal his nakedness (Gen. 3:21). Sin also denied man access to the tree of life in the Garden (Gen. 3:22–24). Yet, in all of these things, they pointed to man's severance from God and the seriousness of his rebellion against God. God is our life; our sins were not against the beasts of the field but are fundamentally against Him (cf. Ps. 41:4; 51:4).

Our sins defy God's will and word (1 Jn. 3:4). We can only be saved by God forgiving us, and in order for Him to justify sinners, a payment must be made for their souls. The death of animals is an insufficient payment (Heb. 10:4, 11). We might also conclude that the death of a good man would be insufficient for the sins of the world. Why stop Abraham from sacrificing his own son if such could have had the power to purge the sin of all men (Gen. 22)? Even this was but the foreshadowing of God's plan. God's only Son and His singular sin sacrifice were able to provide the payment for all sin forever (Heb. 10:12; 9:26–28; 2 Cor. 5:20, 21). This should make us think, "How much do we lose out on by neglecting the great salvation through the Son of God?"

Sin is the greatest curse to humanity, but the Lord provides us the great remedy through receiving His word (Jas. 1:21)! Sin brings despair, but the Lord in His great salvation provides hope (Titus 1:1, 2). For what greater hope could a man have than that of eternal life? This hope is a living hope and is as sure as the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was (1 Pet. 1:3). Our hope is an anchor which does not descend, but ascends into the presence of God where our High Priest makes intercession for us (Heb. 6:19, 20). The one who is not baptized into His death does not have access to this great sacrifice and hope (Rom. 6:3, 4). Dear friend, do you presently have this hope?

—Steven J. Wallace

