

“So Great a Salvation!”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple Internet sources)

Introduction: Heb. 2:1-3

A. William Pope (1797) is said to have been the leader of a club of atheists who ridiculed everything religious. One of their exercises was to kick the Bible about the floor. Friends who were present at his death-bed spoke of it as a scene of terror as he died crying: "I have no contrition. I cannot repent. God will damn me. I know the day of grace is past. You see one who is damned forever. Oh, Eternity! Eternity! Nothing for me but hell. Come, eternal torments. I hate everything God has made; only I have no hatred for the Devil -- I wish to be with him. I long to be in hell. Do you not see? Do you not see him? He is coming for me?" (Lockyer, Herbert, *All The Last Words Of Saints And Sinners* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1969) 132-133.)

B. Voltaire, (1778) noted French unbeliever and one of the most prolific and talented writers of his time, used his pen to hinder and destroy Christianity. Of Christ, Voltaire said, "Curse the wretch!" He once boasted, "In twenty years Christianity will be no more. My single hand shall destroy the edifice it took twelve apostles to rear." Shortly after his death the very house in which he printed his literature became the depository of the Geneva Bible Society. The nurse who attended Voltaire said: "For all the wealth in Europe I would not see another infidel die." The physician, Trochim, waiting up with Voltaire at his death said that he cried out desperately: "I am abandoned by God and man! I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months' life. Then I shall go to hell; and you will go with me. O Christ! O Jesus Christ!" (IBID. 133)

C. These are the dying words of men who neglected God's great salvation. Too late these men came to understand the truth that there is an eternity, and that men are given a brief time to prepare for it.

1. What a shame it is live one's life separated from God in this world and then go to perdition for eternity still separated from God.

2. In contrast to the dying words of unbelievers, D. L. Moody (1899) near his death awoke from a sleep and said: "Earth recedes. Heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go." His son who was standing by his bedside said. No, no father, you are dreaming.' "'No.' said Mr. Moody just before he fell asleep to never wake up in this world: "This is my triumph; this my coronation day! It is glorious!" (Tan, Paul, *Encyclopedia Of 7,700 Illustrations* (Rockville: Assurance, 1985) 314) Now, while Moody was in error, the confidence and peace with which he faced his end is starkly different from the terror of the faithless.

3. Matthew Henry: "Sin is bitter. I bless God I have inward supports."

4. Martin Luther: "Our God is the God from whom cometh salvation: God is the Lord by whom we escape death."

5. John Knox: "Live in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death."

6. John Wesley: "The best of all is. God is with us. Farewell! Farewell!"

7. Charles Wesley: "I shall be satisfied with thy likeness, satisfied!"

8. Baxter: "I have pain; but I have peace. I have peace."

9. Treston: "Blessed be God! though I change my place. I shall not change my company."

10. Goodwin: "Ah, is this dying? How have I dreaded as an enemy this smiling friend!"
- D. There are just two kinds of people in the world: saved and lost.
1. And which of the two one becomes is completely, and without exception, up to the individual
 2. Salvation is great because of its ability, availability, reliability, durability, and desirability

I. ITS ABILITY

- A. God's plan of salvation can do what no other plan devised by any man or system can do: It can save the sinner - 1Tim. 1:12-16
- B. God's plan of salvation is a life changing plan - 2Cor. 5:17
- C. God's plan of salvation is the only plan that will work. No other plan, no matter how much sense it makes, or how many followers it has, will ever save the soul of a single human being - John 14:6; Acts 4:12
- D. God's plan of salvation is without price.
1. All the plans of men are bloodless plans - Heb. 9:22
 2. The salvation of the Lord was bought with the blood of Deity
1Peter 1:18-19

II. ITS AVAILABILITY

- A. It is above all other religious systems in the world; it is available to anyone, anywhere, at any time.
1. Religions of men: Born into it, buy into it, beg into it, burden into it
- B. There are qualifications which must be met before one can come to Jesus:
1. You must be a sinner - Rom. 3:23
 2. You must be a believer - Heb. 11:6
 3. You must be a penitent - Acts 17:30
 4. You must be a confessor of the Christ - Rom. 10:9-10
 5. You must be baptized - Mark 16:16
- C. God's salvation is:
1. Free - Rev. 22:17; Isa. 55:1
 2. Free - Acts 16:32-34, 22:16

III. ITS RELIABILITY

- A. God's plan of salvation will never fail, never expire, and never be devalued.
1. Some believe if a person is sincere, then God will see they are trying and will accept them into Heaven when they die - 1John 5:12
 2. Heb. 6:17-19

IV. ITS DURABILITY

- A. It will outlast and overpower all other forces and enemies
1. God promises everlasting life - John 3:16
 2. God promises that His saints will not perish - John 10:28.
 3. God promises those who come to Him will not be cast out - John 6:37.
 4. God promises that His saints are saved to the uttermost - Heb. 7:25.

5. God promises that nothing apart from our own will can separate us from His love - Rom. 8:33-39.
6. God promises that He will never forsake us - Heb. 13:5.

IV. ITS DESIRABILITY

- A. God's plan of salvation is desirable because it offers something to humankind no other plan can: the assurance of Heaven
- B. All other plans offer the promise of some otherworldly type of adventure:
 1. Hindus look for Svargam - reincarnation to the point of perfection
 2. Buddhists look for Nirvana - transcendence into oneness with all
 3. Muslims look for Jannah - a garden of equality and peace
 4. Mormons look for a new planet to populate
 5. Jehovah's Witnesses look for heaven on this earth
- C. Only God's plan of salvation offers a home in Heaven that has no equal among all of the world's religions - John 14:1-3
 1. Even If salvation did nothing more than rescue the soul from Hell and cleanse away one's sins, it would be desirable.
 2. But it promises a home for us designed by God, built by Jesus, populated by heavenly beings and righteous souls made perfect, in a realm that exceeds every imagination of humankind
 3. 1Cor. 2:9; Heb. 2:3

Conclusion

- A. There are four things God does not know:
 1. He does not know of a sin He does not hate.
 2. He does not know of a sinner He does not love.
 3. He does not know of a better plan of salvation.
 4. He does not know of a better time for you to be saved than the present.