

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## **Theology Bites—Salvation**

### **Selected Passages**

**PowerPoint Presentation: None**

**Keywords: Orthodoxy, Sound Doctrine, Salvation, Jesus Christ, New Birth, Forgiveness**

**SermonAudio blurb:**

#### **I. Introduction.**

- A. Today we move to the final section of this series on sound doctrine.
- B. The goal of this series: To teach sound doctrine. To correct error. To give to members basic theological information that they can keep and use.
- C. We have looked at several aspect of Christian theology, all of them necessary and all of them critical.
  - 1. They all fit together and do not exist by themselves.
  - 2. Example you cannot rightly say you believe in God but not in the Trinity.
  - 3. The last couple of sermons on sin are very important because how you view sin, both in a macro sense and a micro sense, affects so much of how you understand the idea of salvation.
    - a. Being saved from what? And why?
    - b. How is a person saved?
    - c. Who does the saving?
    - d. What is my role in being saved?
    - e. Why are some not saved?
- D. Show slides.
  - 1. As you can see, there is a lot of serious misinformation and misunderstanding out there regarding salvation.
  - 2.

#### **II. Only in Jesus Is Salvation.**

- A. The promise that Jesus Christ is sufficient (John 14:4-6).
  - 1. The word sufficient seem inadequate, but it is proper. Sufficient means that there is nothing else needed. And that is our Lord Himself.

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2. Context is just prior to Crucifixion. T
  - a. 13- 16 are filled with preparatory words of encouragement, reminders, and correction.
  - b. This would be a Thursday night. He is with His disciples and they really don't understand what is going to happen in a few short hours.
  - c. He has been with them for 3 years. He has taught them and loved them
  - d. For them, their world is beginning to spiral out of control. In 13:33 He has told them He is leaving. Peter makes one of several bold but foolish declarations in 36-37.
  - e. It is not a happy time for them. This is not the victorious reality that they somehow imagined in spite of His consistent warnings.
  - f. Jesus is leaving. He says it repeatedly in various ways in these chapters. Add to this fact that He also is telling them that one of them is actually a traitor and you can begin to imagine the emotion and confusion.
  - g. And in this confusion Thomas speaks.
3. Thomas is concerned and shows the weakness of his own faith.
  - a. But we ought not be too hard on him, for I suspect that many of us would be the same.
  - b. We need to remember that God has elected not many wise, but the foolish, not many strong, but the weak.
  - c. Here is old Thomas, who has gone down in history as "doubting Thomas." Yet we ought to thank him. For out of these words of weakness and doubt come some of the most mysteriously grand statements from Jesus.
  - d. Thomas shows us his heart here as well for he shows the fear that he would not be with Jesus. This is not unbelief, this is belief that doesn't understand fully.
4. Christ says, "I am the Way."
  - a. Present tense. He is always the way.

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- b. He is the way to eternal life and to peace with God. Note that He is not “a” way, but “the” way. That right there begins to answer the questions we just saw from the survey.
  - c. He is not just the guide, the teacher. He is also the path and the ladder by which we draw near to God.
  - d. John 10:9 says the same thing in a different way.
  - e. It is because of Him, and only because of Him that we can hope to have eternal life.
  - f. And He is the only way. There is no other way. Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."
5. Christ says, “I am the truth.”
- a. Again, there is no truth apart from Christ. All three of these words have the definite article. Christ is emphasizing that He is the very essence of these three things.
    - (1) He defines and fills them out. He is what gives them meaning.
    - (2) Without Christ there simply is no way, no truth and no life.
    - (3) Beloved, consider that for just a moment. For everything we have is built upon these truths. Everything we do must start and end with Christ.
    - (4) Prophecy has no value unless it shows us Christ.
    - (5) The doctrines of grace have no purpose but to show us Christ.
    - (6) Our time here together right now has no value if we do not see Christ. For Christ is the Way, Christ is the Truth.
6. And Christ is the Life.
- a. He is the very fountain of life. Whether it is physical or spiritual life, it comes from Him.
  - b. His life is intrinsically eternal, for He is eternal.
  - c. Understand that...we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ....so that we are said to be “in Christ.” From that

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- moment on we are partakers of Christ and His nature and that is why our salvation, our new life is not only potentially eternal, it is truly eternal. Anything less would not be of Christ.
- d. And that is why Hell is so horrible. It is being apart from Christ in the fullest sense of the word. Right now even the vilest of people still see God. Creation is constantly declaring it. But in hell they will be eternally separated from Him and there will be no life, no joy, just misery and horror, eternally separated from the Lord.
  - e. John 8:19-32— you don't have Jesus you don't have life.
7. In the second half of the verse Jesus simply drives home the absolute necessity of coming to God the Father through Him.
- a. "No one" makes the popular statement that there are many paths to God one that is foolish and a lie.
  - b. Notice how casual and yet firm this statement is. No blushing, no qualifying or softening his position. He is the way and no one will see the Father except through Him.
  - c. Is this your conviction? Does this drive you in what you pursue, love and believe in? When you talk to your friends and family and the subject of eternity comes up is this a part of your conversation?
  - d. This is one of many clear statements regarding the supremacy of Jesus Christ over all things.
    - (1) In Isaiah 43:7 God says that we are created for His glory.
    - (2) "Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture" (Psalm 100:3).
    - (3) These and other passages develop the idea that it is God who is the greatest, most soul-satisfying reality. No matter how much Satan and this age seeks to tell us otherwise.
    - (4) If that is true then it is also true that if we truly desire to delight in Him we can only and ever do it through Jesus Christ.
    - (5) Nothing else created, seen or unseen, can bring us to the one place our soul will find joy and rest. Only Jesus Christ.

B. Acts 4:12

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1. In this passage we find Peter taking the words of Jesus and bringing them into the world of missions—the proclamation that there is the certainty of God’s judgment and the certainty that salvation from that judgment is only through Jesus Christ.
2. Context:
  - a. Vs 1.
    - (1) We see that Peter was not the only one speaking, evidently John, too, was teaching, note the “they”.
    - (2) The captain of the guard was second only to the High Priest. He oversaw the Temple police.
    - (3) The Sadducees were Levitical priests who claimed to represent ancient orthodoxy. They denied the doctrine of bodily resurrection and so disagreed with Peter's teaching on that subject.
  - b. Vs 2.
    - (1) Why are the Sadducees having a problem?
      - (a) They wer teaching the people—this was the job of the Sadducees.
      - (b) Proclaiming the resurrection—they rejected that belief.
  - c. Vss 3-4.
    - (1) It was too late in the day to do anything so they arrested them.
    - (2) This results in the Sadducees being the first persecutors of Christians, beginning a long line of others.
    - (3) Contrast that with the response of many people—many believed. What makes these people become Christians?
      - (a) Believing the message. Jesus was God’s Christ and He did rise from the dead.
      - (b) Now the number of Christians grew to 5000 males. Normally the temple courtyard would be filled with only men.
3. 4:5-12 Peter’s apology and statement of faith.

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a. Vss 5-7.

- (1) You need to get a sense of how potentially intimidating this situation is. And when you get a grasp of it you then grow in your respect for Peter and his refusal to be vague regarding the person of Jesus.
- (2) The "Council" (v. 15) before which soldiers brought Peter and John the next day was the Sanhedrin, which was the senate and supreme court of Israel. It consisted of the high priest, who served as its presiding officer, and 70 other men. Its aristocratic members, the majority, were Sadducees, and its lay leaders were Pharisees.
- (3) Homer Kent points out that : "The Sanhedrin was acting within its jurisdiction when it convened to examine Peter and John. The Mosaic Law specified that whenever someone performed a miracle and used it as the basis for teaching, he was to be examined, and if the teaching were used to lead men away from the God of their fathers, the nation was responsible to stone him (Deut. 13:1-5). On the other hand, if his message was doctrinally sound, the miracle-worker was to be accepted as coming with a message from God." (44-45)
- (4) Notice the use of "name" in vs 7. This helps you understand the meaning when Peter says, "in the name . . . ." in vss 10 and 12.

b. Vs 8.

- (1) Notice the use of "filled". It is the term that speaks to the unique empowerment by the Spirit upon a person.
- (2) We see Luke 21:12-15 in action here. ""But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute."

c. Vss 9-10.

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- (1) Note the wording. He points out bluntly that the problem all centers around the good deed of healing a man who desperately needed it.
  - (2) The term “healed” or “made well” is the Greek term that we often translate as “saved” or “delivered.” This sets things up for vs 12 where the same term is used but in the eternal sense.
  - (3) He seems to be trying to provoke in them some sort of response in vs 10 for he is being very pointed in his words.
    - (a) What was their response when he speaks of God raising Jesus from the dead?
    - (b) None, which is interesting. He is baiting them and they won’t even try to defend their own position regarding the resurrection.
- d. Vs 11.
- (1) What does he call the Sanhedrin? Builders.
    - (a) What implication can you draw from this?
    - (b) I think there is the simple idea that as builders they should have recognized Jesus as the critical and most important, but instead they rejected Him.
- e. Vs 12.
- (1) Understand that Peter is actively putting his own life at risk here. He is a poor, uneducated fisherman standing before the wealthy and powerful. And he has just called them fools and murderers.
  - (2) He doesn’t just say that salvation is through Jesus, but it is found in Jesus. This is similar to John 14 where Jesus is the way and the life.
  - (3) No other name under heaven. Again, utterly absolute.
  - (4) It speaks also of the fact that God is the one who sets the rules. He is the one who “gives” the way of salvation. We do not define it nor can we demand it.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. This then is the heart of the message that any true Christian must bring to others.

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- B. There is the certainty of the coming wrath and judgment of God.
- C. There is the way of salvation which God has given to man.
- D. And it is found in Jesus alone.
- E. May this be your hope and your confession.