

Salvación Serie
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The Door With Blood On It

Last week we started talking about salvation. And, if nothing else, I hope we at least saw that **salvation is Christ, and that salvation is now.** Those were the main two things I was trying to communicate last week.

Salvation is a Person. Salvation is not something that Jesus gives to you. Salvation is Jesus given to you. And we come to know and experience salvation when we come to know and experience the person of Jesus Christ. We become acquainted with our salvation when we learn to abide in Jesus Christ. That was the first thing I was trying to communicate.

And I was also attempting to explain that everything that God has given you is NOW in Christ. Our failure to experience salvation is not because there is something different or new that is still in the future. Our failures to know and express the greatness of salvation is not because God is still waiting to do something or even to show you something. Do you realize that time is completely irrelevant to God? Do you understand that, in Christ, everything is the same yesterday, today, and forever? Everything of spiritual reality is NOW IN CHRIST. Nothing is tomorrow in church, or yesterday during a prayer meeting. Everything that God has given you IS CHRIST, and is IN CHRIST NOW.

We are progressively learning it and experiencing it. We are progressively being changed to bear it's image. But it is now. And it is Christ. God is not waiting for a particular time to do anything. I know that the church often talks about God as though he is waiting for the right day or time or natural event. But this is not true. **If you are willing to hear this - the only time that God knows is NOW IN CHRIST. For those of us who are in Christ, we are never waiting for God to show us the Truth. He is ALWAYS waiting for us to let Him.**

I know these are hard things to face, because it makes us responsible for the problem. If God is not waiting on time, then he must be waiting on ME! if the problem is not with timing, the problem must be in MY heart! And we do not like to face that. We do not like to think of ourselves as being the problem. We like to think that it just isn't the right TIME. But I'm trying to tell you that it already IS the right time. I'm trying to tell you that salvation has brought you into the right time and the right place. The place is Christ. And the time is NOW!

It might be that last Thursday you began to see the Lord in a new way that changed your life forever. But that was not because God has been waiting for Thursday. It is because on Thursday you turned your heart to see what is NOW in Christ.

Ok, well that is a bit of a review from last week. Salvation is a Person, and salvation is now. But still it is not enough for us simply to know this much. As I said last time, it is not enough that we know that we have salvation. We must come to know the salvation that we have. We can see this even by looking at natural types and shadows. It is not enough for me to know that I am married; I must know my wife. Why? Because if I do not know my spouse, then I am not experiencing marriage.

Do you know how much trouble I would be in in my house if marriage was a concept I believed in an not a living experience and a daily relationship? Do you know how disappointing that would be for my wife? Do you now how disappointing, so to speak, it is to God when salvation for us is a belief or doctrine or position, and not a living experience and relationship?

Salvation is not a place where you are going. Salvation is not a status of righteousness that you have been given. Salvation is not a present for you to open. **Salvation is a Person that offers you His life iat the cost of yours. Salvation is a person that grants you a death that you could not die, in order for you to know a life that you could not live. Salvation is a terrible judgment and end. It is also a glorious new birth into a new world.**

If you are like me, many of you here have accepted salvation without ever knowing the greatness of the salvation that we have accepted. It is time for that to change. It is time for all of us to stop talking about the fact that we are saved, and to start living in the greatness of our salvation. It is time for us all to stop trying to get our neighbor saved, and start demonstrating to our neighbor the reality of salvation. Do you understand?

So today, in the time that we have left, I want to spend our time looking at the doorway to salvation. All of us who have been saved have walked through this door. But very few of us understood anything about the nature and character of this door. We all know the Bible verses that speak of Jesus being the door. And we have come to Him, to the Door, to be saved. But most often we have failed to realized that this door has blood on it. And the blood on the door points to a great judgment. And the judgment is YOUR judgment, and mine, through the death of Jesus Christ.

We must understand that salvation begins with judgment. Our judgment. We are so blind that we actually think that Jesus died so that we do not have to. That is a very common idea in the church today. But what a terrible lie. What a horrible deception. Jesus died so that we could be judged in His death, and thereby live in His Life. Jesus died so that we could die in Him. He was judged so that we could be judged in His death. Jesus didn't save us from judgment. Jesus GAVE us His judgment - the only judgment that has resurrection on the other side.

I am not trying to sound confusing. This is not abstract or deep. This is just the beginning of our salvation, and I trust it will become more obvious and wonderful to all of us very soon. We are just so unaware of what salvation is. Salvation, before it is anything else, is a death that is granted to you by God. A death that you could not die on your own. A death that He had to provide for you.

God said to Abraham on the mountain with Isaac - "I will provide fo myself the sacrifice". Can you see that is what He did? That is exactly what God needed to do to give us the life of His Son. He needed to first give us the kind of death that would be a true and permanent end of all that fell short of the glory of God. He desired us to share His life, and so he first provided for Himself a way that we could die with and in His Son.

He provided for Himself a way for us to be judged, killed, and buried. And yet there is LIFE on the other side. There is hope! There is resurrection! But only those who die with Him can live with Him. Only those who lose their life will find true Life. Only those who accept their judgment in Him, can stand with Him, in Him, where there is now no condemnation.

Remember, we are talking about salvation. And I'm trying to help us understand that we have great misunderstandings of our wonderful salvation. Our misunderstandings start

right at the door. We do not understand that the doorway to salvation is our crucifixion with Christ.

When I was a young kid, probably 8 or 9 years old, I went to a Christian camp for a week. At some point during this time, one of the camp leaders sat us down around a campfire and told us a story to illustrate salvation. He said to us - imagine that you are standing in the middle of the road and an enormous bus is speeding down the road towards you. Maybe you are day-dreaming, or looking at all of the pretty buildings, and you have no idea that your life is in danger. Jesus, however, is safe on the side of the road, but he sees that you are in danger. Quickly he runs out into the road, right in front of the oncoming bus, grabs you and pushes you to safety. But in saving your life, he lost his life. The bus strikes and kills Jesus with a terrible impact. He was killed so that you could continue living. He gave his life for you.

Now that was a very nice story. Very sentimental. However, it is completely wrong. A much more accurate story would be like this: Jesus is walking in the middle of the street and a bus is speeding directly towards him. You, however, are on the side of the road watching all of this take place. And just before the speeding bus reaches Jesus, he runs over to you, grabs you, drags you into the middle of the road, holds you tightly, and the bus crashes into both of you, killing you both. Then, Jesus raises from the dead, stands up on the street, looks down at your dead body and says - "NOW that you have died with me, you can live with me. Now that you have been judged in my death, you can live by my life! I am the resurrection and the life!".

I realize that doesn't make quite as nice of a campfire story for young children. But it is much more accurate. Christ did not die so that you could keep on living YOUR life. Christ died so that your life could be crucified, and you could experience HIS life. Jesus said this many times when he was in the flesh. "Unless you lose your life you will not find it". "Unless you hate your life, you will not know life". But we prefer a gospel that does not involve a cross. We prefer a door that does not have blood on it. We prefer a Christianity that preserves and blesses what we call life, rather than finding and living the only life that is acceptable to God.

Friends, if this sounds like theology to you, then please give it some time. Give it time and attention. Turn your heart to the Lord. This has NOTHING TO DO with theology and doctrines to me. That is not what I am trying to talk to you about today. Let the Spirit of truth change these words today from theology into reality, from doctrines into experiences. And let Him start by showing you the great judgment of the natural man on the cross. That is where our understanding of salvation must begin. Salvation begins to become real in us when we start to realize what God has rejected. Salvation begins to feel real when we are willing to face what God has cut off.

I once lived in a house with a man who had had his leg shot off by a shotgun. And he swore to me that for months or perhaps years afterward he could feel the leg that was no longer there. He said it itched horribly when he was trying to sleep. There is a medical term for that. Its called "phantom pain". Somehow the body, the nervous system, is not in agreement with the reality of something that has been removed. The limb is no longer there, but the brain continues functioning as though it is.

Why am I talking about this? Because we are like that man. By allowing us to come into Christ God has judged, and removed, and cut off something enormous. God has cut off more than a leg. He has cut off what you and I call our lives. But the natural man, the natural mind, does not agree with what God has ended and what God has begun. The natural mind cannot see it with physical eyes or touch it with earthly hands. And so our

natural, unrenewed mind, remains in direct conflict and enmity with God about what His cross has accomplished.

So, the natural mind seeks to carry over into the new something of the old. It seeks to live in the new according to the understanding of the old. It seeks to offer in the new the best of the old. It seeks to live in the new according to the understanding of the old, the mind of the old. And all of this is meaningless. Worse than that, all of this is an attempt to offer to God the very thing that He rejected and discarded through the cross.

We walked through a bloody door to get saved, but we didn't understand the meaning of the blood. We thought that Jesus died so that we didn't have to. We thought that Jesus died to preserve my life. But the truth is that Jesus died so that, in Him, we could lose our life and be joined to Him. We walked through a door that cost us our lives. But we continue to try to live our lives for God. We walked through a door that brought our souls into heaven. And yet we continue to live in and for the earth.

In John chapter 12, Jesus was about to be crucified and he said, "Now is the judgment of the world. And if I am lifted up, I will draw all men to myself". Why did he say "NOW is the judgment of the world?" Why didn't he say, "Now I will be judged instead of the world!?" Because the death of Christ was a great end. The cross is the end of all that falls short of the glory of God.

Here is what I am trying to say. Salvation is a completely new life. It is a life that is completely new and completely foreign to us by nature. But it is first of all a very serious end. It is the end of one kind, and the beginning of another kind. It is the destruction of one seed and the planting and increase of another.

Salvation is the Life of Jesus Christ given to the human soul. But if we do not allow the Spirit of God to deal with our hearts about the door with blood on it, about the great rejection of the natural man, then we will commit the dangerous error of expecting salvation to be the improvement of what we are by nature. We will expect salvation to make ME better. We will expect salvation to help ME live for God. We will expect salvation to be the lengthening of MY life, and not the experience and increase of His. We will always be trying to mix the old with the new, to blend the living with the dead.

Everybody always assumes that we understand this. I know I did. We assume that we understand the difference between the old and the new, the living and the dead, the natural and the spiritual, Adam and Christ. So did Adam and Even in the garden. They thought they could live by their knowledge of good and evil. They thought they could understand, they thought they could be wise, they thought they could be like God. They underestimated the darkness of their mind apart from the light of God's. They underestimated the flood of self-obsession that would forever control them when they walked away from the Tree of Life.

We are the same. We were born into the same adamic nature. According to your Bible, we are born dead in trespass and sin, our minds enmity with God, our hearts hopelessly attached to our carnal appetites. We are by nature, Paul says, children of wrath. Adam is our father, and we are his seed. Our souls are saturated with a nature, a life, that God cast out of the Garden of Eden. And we greatly underestimate the darkness of our hearts and minds. We underestimate the severity of the problem, and therefore we fail to see, or even look for, the greatness of God's solution.

What do you need salvation to be? Are you a sinner that simply needs to be forgiven? Is that your problem? Well, then you need a very small salvation. Are you confused, and only

need some answers to questions and some direction for your life? Then you need a very small salvation. What is your view of your problem? Or are you like Paul - deeply conscious of the fact that your heart is lifeless and black, your mind is hostile towards God, and even your religious zeal only serves to make you an enemy of God's true church? If you are willing to accept that about yourself, if you are willing to accept the severity of the problem, then God has a door with blood on it that he would like to show you. He has a great judgment, a great rejection that He would love to reveal to you - because those who die with Him can live Him. Those who eat His flesh and drink His blood can share His life.

Salvation is far greater than we can imagine. But the aspect of salvation that I am focusing on today is what I am calling the door with blood on it. It is the reality of judgment, division, rejection of the natural man. Salvation is greater than words can describe, but it involves a judgment that is far greater than we realize. "Consider both the kindness and severity of God" (Rom 11:22) And we often fail to grow in our understanding of salvation because we do not want to face the judgment of the cross.

As Christians, we often just assume that, once we are saved, suddenly and naturally we begin to know and express Christ. And yet just the opposite is true. **Do you realize that nothing that is natural to you is spiritual.** Apart from you being conformed to His death, being utterly transformed in nature by the renewing of your mind, nothing that comes natural to you will be Him. We are utterly contrary in nature. My mind is at best another mind. Scripture says it is "enmity with God" at its best. My love is at best another love...one that seeks its own gain. My righteousness is, at best, filthy rags, says the prophet Isaiah.

Somebody once said to me, "Jason, don't be so hard on yourself." No, don't say that. I'm not being hard on myself, or on you. I'm just agreeing with God. I'm just beginning to see something of salvation. Don't take that from me with false pity or self pity. There is a great rejection here. A rejection that was shown through countless types and shadows in the old covenant. Cain, rejected. Able accepted. Esau rejected. Jacob accepted. Ishmael rejected, Isaac accepted. Leah rejected. Rachel accepted. Manasseh rejected, Ephraim accepted. Saul rejected. David accepted. What did all of those people have in common? In every single instance I just quoted, it was ALWAYS the firstborn, that which was first, that which was natural, that which was there before, that was rejected. And the second, the new, was accepted.

I'm telling you that salvation involves a great rejection. Not of your soul, but of your kind, your nature, your life. What I have called life is circumcized from my soul. And the king of Life is revealed in me. Paul says "But when it pleased God, who severed me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, (Gal 1:15-16). Paul was severed from His mother's womb... that is, his first birth, his natural life. Cut off by the cross in order that another Life could be revealed in Him.

And then the One Life that is pleasing to God began to work in Paul's absence. He was manifest as Paul was conformed to death. He was seen when Paul got out of the way. Isn't this what God said to Paul? "My grace is sufficient for you Paul. In your weakness, then I am most strong." In your absence, I am manifestly present.

And so after new birth, Christ is not automatically known by us or expressed in us. It is not right or safe to assume so. **The only thing that is automatic after new birth is that you will automatically try to bring over into Christ that which stands in His way.** Like King Saul, you will automatically try to hold on to your kingdom, after David has already been anointed. Saul tried to keep the best things from the nations that had already been judged by God. Like Esau, you will automatically try to hold onto your birthright

when it was already given to Jacob. Like Abraham you will cry out to the Lord to accept Ishmael as the promised son.

If we do not see and understand the judgment of the cross, we will automatically, quite naturally, seek to offer up to God what He has rejected. That is what is natural to us. Adam is natural. Adam is automatic, until Christ, your life, is revealed.

But here is the point for this morning – Salvation means a completely different kind. A completely different Seed. It is not the improvement or cleaning of the first. The door to salvation is a door of destruction. It is a door covered with blood. And when His light shines, you will find your death in that blood. You will find yourself crucified with that Lamb.

There is a kind of man that has been rejected by the cross. A kind of man has been cut off. Adam - the nature of your birth. And the first several chapters of Genesis will tell you the story of the man that fell short. A man that cannot. A man that is corrupt. A man that is grievous to God. A man that is cursed. A man that is driven by the lusts of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. A man that God desires to wipe off the face of the earth. The flood was the type and shadow of that judgment...the cross was its fulfillment.

We all need to understand this in a deep and personal way. We must come into agreement with what God thought about that kind. You can see it right in the very beginning of the Bible. Somebody might argue saying, "where do you get this idea that God needed to destroy the entire Adamic kind?" You get it all throughout the entire Bible, but starting right in the very beginning. Here, in the beginning of Genesis you can come to understand God's perspective and understanding of this first man.

Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man in his erring; he is flesh.

Gen 6:5 And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved to His heart.7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created, from the face of the earth,

Gen 6:12 And God looked upon the earth. And, behold, it was corrupted! For all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me,

Gen 6:17 And behold! I, even I, am bringing a flood of waters upon the earth in order to destroy all flesh (in which is the breath of life) from under the heavens.

Why do you have to understand and agree with God's thought and view of the Adamic kind? So that you can understand what the cross was. The cross was flood of Noah fulfilled. It was the rejection and putting away of that entire kind and the offer of an altogether different kind. The cross was the destruction of which the flood was only the type and shadow. The cross was the grand, the monumental ending, the judgment of man. As Jesus said, "now is the judgment of the world".

It was, in God's view, a far greater judgment than the flood of Noah's day. It was, in fact, in a very real sense, the end of Adam and his world. And yet that world goes on, but not in

Christ. That man and his world are judged and dead,. Dead in sin. Dead to God. But now "the dead who hear My voice can by Me live".

But my point is that we must know that salvation is a total rejection of one man, one kind, one seed – Adam – what you were by nature. And the birthing, the planting, the beginning of an entirely different Seed. You and I must reckon with this. You and I must come to see what has been cut off. We must know more than the fact that we have salvation. We must know the salvation that we have.