

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

24 September 2023

Salvation Today

Text: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling: for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." *Phil. 2:12-13*.

In our living there are three days.

Yesterday, today and tomorrow.

You can only accomplish things in one of those days, today.

We can miss the opportunities of today worrying about the other two.

We can fret over what happened yesterday and worry over what might come tomorrow.

Salvation has the same three parts to it.

Jesus Christ came to save us from the past.

As the Lamb of God, Jesus came to take away the sin of the world.

He came and lived and loved and served and suffered on the cross, that he might die in our place under the penalty of our sins.

Many passages of Scripture confront us with the glorious truth that Jesus died for our sins that he might save us from all we have done in the past or are doing in the present or will do in the future.

Through faith in Jesus we gain the position of acceptance with the holy God.

Through faith in Jesus we pass from under the wages of sin to receiving the gift of eternal life.

As we look at the great redemptive acts of Jesus and our new relationship with God on the basis of faith in Christ, we need to beware lest we think in terms of salvation only in the past tense.

Jesus The Christ came to save us in the future.

One of the main motives people have for trusting in Jesus is that they might be prepared for the future.

The Scriptures tell us, and observation verifies it, that it is appointed for all people to die.

This passage also informs us that after death occurs we all will meet God in judgment.

The following verse informs us that Jesus Christ, who has already borne the penalty of our sins, will appear the second and final time, not to deal with our sin, but to save us from the very presence of sin.

Paul wrote to the Philippians that the day will come when we will be raised from the dead and be fashioned after the likeness of our glorified and risen Lord.

Jesus encourages his people not to be anxious about the future, because he will not only go to prepare a place for them, but he will return to receive them unto himself.

In *Revelation* we find a brief description of the house not made with human hands, eternal in the heavens, which God is preparing for those who love him.

The present salvation experience through Jesus Christ.

Jesus, the Savior, came into this world to do more than just save us from the sins we committed in the past.

And he came to do more than save us from the presence of sin in the future.

He came to save us from the power and practice and downward pull of sin as a present-day experience.

Our text gives us the gospel of our present tense salvation: "God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure".

Jesus Christ died on the cross under the penalty of our sin.

He conquered death and arose triumphant and victorious that he might deliver us from the power

and practice of sin in the present.

In the conversion experience, we invite the living Christ to dwell within us in the person of the Holy Spirit.

He dwells within each of us in order that we might experience a great salvation in the present.

He teaches us how to relate to God and our fellow humans.

Our Lord would save us in the present from hate and hostility toward other human beings. *Matt. 5:43*

By teaching us about Christian love, our Lord wants to deliver us from destructive relationships with others.

Our Lord would save us in the present from anxiety about the necessities of life by encouraging us to have a great faith in our Father God.

Our Lord encourages us to seek first and foremost the rule of God in all of our relationships and to trust the Father to provide for us the necessities of life.

Our Lord has bestowed on each of us the gift of his Holy Spirit so that we might be enabled to live a Christ like life in the present.

The great salvation that Jesus Christ brings to us relates to the past and to the future but also very much to the present.

It is not his will that we live in weakness and defeat.

If we will come to him and trust him, not only for the gift of forgiveness but for victory in the present, we can be sure that he will assist us.

He is not a Savior who is limited to the past.

He is not a Savior whose power is to be revealed only in the future,

Jesus Christ wants to give us victory over evil in the present moment in which we live and fight the good battle.

How do we live in the middle of God's will for us?

We pray that his will be done here like it is there.

Some like to say that what ever happens is God's will, but is it?

God's will created the world, human beings, and it sent His Son to redeem us.

These are expressions of God's eternal purpose and will be accomplished in His good time.

God's will includes commands and a plan for our day-to-day living.

So the prayer for His will to be done is for each moment of our lives.

Can we look to heaven for the pattern since we pray that his will be done here like it is there?

We do know some things about heaven.

There is only one Lord in heaven.

All creatures there bow before him in worship, adoration, and submission.

All serve him day and night.

He is absolute Lord over everything and everyone is submissive to his will.

There is a difference between obeying and total submission.

We can obey like Dennis the Menace when sitting in the corner, I might be sitting on the outside but I am standing on the inside.

To submit is to bring our will in sync with his will.

Without reservation.

And we are to do this completely.

Without question.

We must want whatever God has for us to perfect us for his kingdom.

We also must do his will joyfully.

Joy is one of the most obvious marks of the heavenly realm.

Scripture tells us that the angels sing as they do the will of the Father in heaven.

Psalm 40 declares: "I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea, thy law is within my heart".

We do his will with great delight, trusting him in everything.

Like Jesus our food becomes doing the will of him who directs us.

We can find real joy in doing the will of God, it can be food for our spirits.

Our response to the will of God should become one of our first concerns when we bow before him.
We need to be concerned that we know his will fully and do it joyfully.

Revival in heaven is a constant.

All are devoted to God's will each moment.

Each day God's will is done and his purposes accomplished.

Even though it has been thousands of years each day is fresh with the possibilities of doing the will of God.

The delight of heaven is knowing and doing His perfect will for that moment.

Jesus provides the perfect example.

He allowed nothing to turn him from doing the Father's will.

With a willing heart and delight in his God, he went all the way to the cross.

He accomplished God's will for us in his life and obedience.

God's will was done in and through the Son.

It can be the same for each of us.

Jesus saved us for such a life as this.

His redemptive power was to bring us into this kingdom.

Now and forever more.

So let it be known.

So let it be lived.