
Jesus, My Savior

“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ . . .”
(1 John 1:1–4).

After the sin of the first couple in the Garden of Eden and God’s execution of His judgment against their sin, the human race began its journey through the maze of life’s difficulties and hardships that resulted from His judgment. In the wisdom and righteousness of God, curses fell upon the serpent and the ground, upon woman through Eve, and upon man through Adam. When God meted out sin’s punishments, the world immediately bowed and trembled under its weight, changing into a broken place, beautiful in places and at times, but afflicted by the curses of sin. All succeeding generations would confront the presence of sin and experience its guilt because of their personal transgressions. Every human being would in one way or another be touched and tormented by disease, deterioration, and death. Nature, as most people would name it, became violent; and the physical earth became more reluctant to give forth a harvest to its cultivation.

Following God’s judgment of sin, the family which we have come to call humanity became the most needy group of living creatures on this planet. Spiritual tragedies grew and multiplied. Every responsible human being succumbed to temptation, sinned, and descended into “spiritual death.” That spiritual demise came regardless of where he lived, regardless of his culture, and regardless of his intellectual acumen. He had died in sin and could not resurrect himself. He was lost, and he could not find himself.

Spiritual death had attendant effects that showed up in every area of life. Difficulties perplexed and disturbed his spirit and pulled

even some of his physical strength from him. It robbed him of his peace and put emptiness in his heart. It spilled over into his family, bringing confusion to it and rendering it dysfunctional. Community, regional, and national tragedies appeared throughout different parts of the earth, so that the landscape of people was torn asunder by accidents, murders, theft, war, and hatred.

The spiritual death that came into the world because of sin, the death we all have experienced, stands behind all other problems. It has manifested itself in four great calamities that each man has had to wrestle with: guilt, estrangement from God, turmoil of spirit, and an inability to walk with God and worship Him. Man’s sin has brought him into condemnation before God, removed him from God’s fellowship, destroyed his tranquility, and corrupted his mind so that he cannot worship properly the God who made him. On his own, without divine help, man is lost and unable to rescue himself. From the fall in the garden to this present time, in the quietness of our souls, we must acknowledge that the only hope we have is for God to reach out with His hand of grace and provide a way for our salvation.

Being separated from God, filled with fear, and unable to walk with God and worship Him, we simply have to look to God, who has sent us a Redeemer. In 1 John 1:1–4, John the apostle said that God took care of our dilemma by sending Jesus. In fact, he said that God gloriously addressed all of the needs that broken men have. What, then, has Jesus done for us?

First, He has saved us from sin. God sent Jesus as our Savior to bring us eternal life. John said, “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us” (1 John 1:1, 2).

We can refer to Jesus in various ways: He is our Teacher, our Example, and our Friend. He is our Door, our Light, our Water of Life, our Bread, and our Path. However, John wrapped up all of these metaphors, combined all the great attributes of Jesus, and put them into two words—“eternal life.” According to him, the person who has Jesus has life eternal. All the afflictions brought by sin—guilt, shame, debilitation, and condemnation—are dealt with when Jesus imparts eternal life to a sinful soul.

Second, He has saved us from separation from God. He sent Jesus to bring us divine fellowship. John also said, “What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). The apostles entered into this fellowship, and now through their word, we can enter into it with them and be one with God the Father and Jesus the Son.

One crippling devastation that comes from sin is its destruction of our fellowship with God. Sinners cannot walk with Him. By sinning, we enter into darkness and live in it. John said that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. He wrote, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth” (1 John 1:6).

Because of the coming of our Savior, according to John, we now have fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. This fact implies that Jesus has not only saved us, but He also keeps us saved. As we walk in the Light, we are continually cleansed, which results in our continued fellowship with God, Jesus, and everyone who is walking in the light (1 John 1:7).

As those who are standing in God’s grace, we can worship God sincerely, truthfully, and properly. Jesus said, “God is spirit, and those

who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).

Third, Jesus has saved us from sorrow. God sent His Son to bring us enduring joy. John further wrote, “These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete” (1 John 1:4). Some manuscripts have “your joy,” and some have “our joy.” The weight of the evidence seems to be in favor of “our joy.” John was describing the joy the apostles would have if those to whom he wrote would also become the recipients of eternal life, even as they were. Whether it is the joy of the apostles or ours, it is the joy of salvation of which John wrote. This joy can only be received through the eternal life that Christ imparts. Whether we are rejoicing over someone’s being saved or whether someone who has been saved is rejoicing over his or her own salvation, the joy in both cases is the joy that rises up from the salvation that Jesus brought.

This brief statement from John makes us think of the quality and the magnitude of the joy of salvation. It is the highest type of joy, for it abides regardless of the circumstances, regardless of the pain we experience, and regardless of what might happen to the world. Further, it is so all-pervasive that it not only fills our hearts with its qualities, but it also sends out its aroma to all who love God and long for the world to be saved.

Christ, in His coming to the earth, in His dying for us at the cross, met every affliction that our sin has brought upon us—our guilt, separation from God, lack of peace, and inability to walk with God and worship Him. Jesus, therefore, is our Savior. He is our initial Savior, for He has saved us from our past sins; He is our continual Savior, for He keeps us saved by washing us daily from our sin; and He is our ultimate Savior, for He will take us to the Father at some point in the future and lead us into the eternal kingdom. He is the Word of Life, the truth about life; He is Eternal Life, the salvation for life; and He is the Joy of Life, the true and abiding happiness in life.

Eddie Cloer



Are we not glad that Jesus came and the angel

had to say, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will

bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20, 21).