
◆ THE EDIFIER ◆

Volume 15

CHURCH of GOD 7th DAY - AUSTRALIA

SEPTEMBER 2009

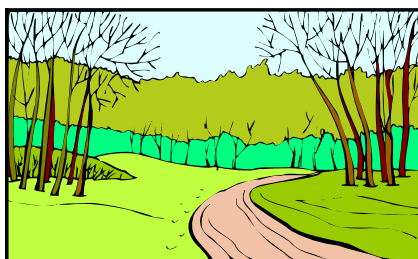
The Way of Salvation in Christianity

According to Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5-7 the way of salvation in Christianity is not through the good works which we have done, but according to God's grace shown toward us through Christ. Salvation is a free gift which we could never earn by our own goodness or good works. The apostle John was so certain of the hope of eternal life through faith in Christ that he could write of eternal life as a present possession of the believer (subject to the believer continuing in the faith):

'these things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe...'

This way of salvation is fundamentally different to the proposed way of salvation in other religions. The eastern religions for example are based generally on the notion that our position in life depends on our behaviour in a previous life. Our good deeds could elevate us to rebirth as a wise or wealthy person on Earth or see us directly through to 'heaven'.

On the other hand our evil works might see us being reborn in an inferior situation. The essential and fundamental difference with Christianity is that practitioners of these 'eastern' religions are effectively told that they must save themselves through their works, whereas Christians have an indwelling Saviour. In Islam, similarly, at the last judgment, the record of the Moslem's deeds figures prominently in determining whether they go to heaven or hell.



Below are eight meditations on why the way of salvation in Christianity is so wonderful, which I hope encourage you to persevere in the faith with all love and diligence.

. As Christians we have great security and confidence in our salvation. We do not have to attain a certain level of goodness to be saved. We are not left wondering on judgment day whether we were good

enough to merit heaven.

. God guarantees our salvation by giving us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee and provides us wonderful assurances of our salvation (see 2 Cor 1:22 & 5:5, 1 John 3:14-15 & 5:11-13).

. We can be certain that God will not change His mind because He has sacrificed so much to save us – namely His only begotten Son, who went through 'hell' to save us.

. Our way of salvation truly demonstrates God's unconditional love – while we were still sinners Christ suffered and died for us. It's very easy in Christianity to see God as a loving God.

. It is God who saves us, not we ourselves. This is very comforting and reassuring knowing how fallible and frail we truly are as human beings.

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A magazine dedicated to uplifting and transforming peoples lives through the uncompromised word of God.

The God Who Sees Me



“And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?” Genesis 16:13

Today we are being watched, just as Hagar was on that day. Not merely are the eyes of our fellow man upon us, but we are being looked upon by the host of heaven. There is a great cloud of witnesses about us even now. Think of the holy angels who desire to look into our lives. In the Book of Daniel they were called ‘Watchers’, and they indeed watch us. I think of the sight Elisha’s servant saw when his spiritual eyes were opened! There was an exceeding great army of angels with fiery chariots all about them! Sometimes animals sense them when we don’t. Think of Balaam’s ass; it could see the angel with a drawn sword when Balaam could not. So be assured my brethren, we are being watched right now.

We are being watched not only by the blessed angels of God, but also by dark spirits. They watch and they wait for one to halt, so they may pounce. They stream through the air, flying here and there, seeking one they may devour; seeking a place that they may abide. They search, they study and they plan. They want to know our weakness, and they are biding their time, looking for that opportunity to attack. Like lions, they wait for the lamb to wander from the flock, away from the care of the shepherd.

The eyes of all the angels and devils would however only amount to a puddle compared to the ocean of our

text. For we are told that ‘God seest me’. God’s eyes are upon us. The eyes of angels are nothing, the eyes of devils are less, and the eyes of man are nought, when compared to the eyes of GOD who is our Creator, our Sustainer, our Savior, and our judge.

GOD MUST SEE

When God created all things we are told that God *saw* everything that he had made and he pronounced that it was good. Before the flood God looked upon mankind and the Scriptures tell us that God *saw* that the wickedness of man was great. And then we are told that Noah found Grace in the *eyes* of the Lord, for the Lord *saw* him as righteous. In Psalms 11:4 it is written “his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men”. Even Jesus described God as ‘Your Father which seeth’ (Matthew 6:4). The Scriptures are filled with references to the eyes of GOD, and if we pretend that he cannot see, then we take away his Divinity. I do not think I could serve a ‘god’ who could not see me. I think not even the heathen ever invented a ‘god’ who did not have eyes. The very Greek word for God ‘Theos’ has its root in the words ‘He Sees’.

HOW DOES HE SEE?

Psalms 139:7-10 says “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou

art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me”.

The Scriptures testify abundantly that God is omnipresent; that is, He fills the heavens and earth. They even tell us that “in him we live and move and have our being”. But not only is he all about us, he is also in us. I speak now in a general sense, not of the special indwelling of the Spirit all true believers have, but that spark of life that is the breadth of God which exists in all who live. As Job said, “the spirit of God is in my nostrils”. Thus if you concede that God is everywhere, then he must also see all things.

GOD SEES THE HEART

Now that you sense the eye of God upon you, please consider what has his attention most about you. God is peering through the window of your soul, and he is examining your heart. He sees your thoughts as if they are played upon a screen. He knows your desires, he knows your motives, and he knows your emotions. It is all on display before him and he is searching and trying it all.

Then consider that God does not blink. He does not sleep. He does not grow weary. He does not cease observing you. He is not as men you see.

For men we will put on a false face, we will refrain from certain words and actions as long as we are in the view of our fellows. But they are not with us always. No, when we resort to the privacy of our bedroom, and there close the curtains we think, now no one sees me. But GOD still sees you. He hasn't taken his eye from you. He has not thought, they are home now, I will not observe them. No, I think his watching of us in private is of more value to him than any other, for the false face has been lifted and he can see what manner of man we really are, though he already knows it.

Because of all this, we can say God sees and knows us better than we know ourselves. Sometimes it is easy for us to overlook our own corruptions, but God passes over none. He knows them very well. He knows you better than your mother or father or spouse. He knows everything about you.

SOME COMFORT FROM THIS MESSAGE

Some might think it is hard to find comfort in such a message as this, but comfort abounds in it. Consider when Hagar said the words "thou God seest me". She said them with great comfort. She had been cast out into the desert, pregnant and all alone. She was fearful, and thought that she might die and no one would even know or care. But when God sent his Angel to help her, she found comfort in the knowledge that God saw her. God saw her plight, he saw her need, and he saw her future. 'God seest me' was a blessing to Sarah's handmaid, and it is to us also. Consider the following.

When Hannah went to the altar of the Lord to pray, her spirit was filled with deep sorrow, and as she prayed she merely moved her lips, as she

prayed from her heart (1 Samuel 1:12-15). Yet the Lord saw her prayer. It is comforting to know that God sees me when I pray from my heart, even though no beautiful words fall from my lips. God also sees me when I praise him. He sees me merely lift my hand in his honor, and it pleases him. Yet, even more, he sees me when I praise him in my heart. When thanksgiving flows from my spirit he sees it and regards it. He sees the good desires of my heart, the things I sincerely desire to do for his glory and he is pleased with it.

He knows your desires, he knows your motives, and he knows your emotions.

God also sees my burden and my cares. He sees my sorrow and my worries. He sees all these things and he tells me to cast them upon him. He sees and he pities his children. He sees me when men speak evil of me and slander me. I need not defend myself to him for he knows the truth. These are all comforts I find in the truth that "God seest me".

GOD SEEST ME - A FEARFUL THOUGHT FOR THE SINNER

Yet this will remain a fearful thought for the sinner for "God seest the sinner also". They sin in his presence, even in his face. How hard a heart of one that sins openly! How wicked is the child who transgresses before his father's face. They must also remember that God sees the sins of their hearts, their wicked thoughts, and their hard thoughts toward him. All are seen, all are remembered. What is more fearful

is the fact that the God who sees is also the God who shall judge. Your very judge is a witness against your sins. On that Day of Judgment he shall say to you before all of heaven, "I saw you do this sin", and as the pages of your history are unfolded before all the universe, he will testify against you. He is the faithful and true witness and you will not be able to deny a single charge. That is a truly fearful thought, for one charge is enough to have you cast out forever.

ONLY MEANS TO COMFORT A SINNER

"My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." Psalm 139:15-16

Here is comfort for even the sinner. God saw you before you were born. He saw your imperfect substance, he knew that you would be a sinner; and that you would choose to live in rebellion against him. He saw all of this, yet he loved you so much that he gave his perfect Son for you; to die for you on the cross. He saw your need, and he supplied your need through Christ. Dear sinner, your need is very great! You have a very heavy load of sin that shall drag you down to hell, but if you will believe, your sins shall be washed away. And this 'God who seest' shall see your sins no more. Though they are red as crimson now, they shall be blotted out and the page shall be white as snow. But you must look to the cross. Canst thou seest? See God in the flesh, nailed to the tree, the blood running from his

open wounds. Can you see the dark cloud of your sin being laid upon him there? Can you see the father pull his sword from its sheath and smite Christ for your sins? Can you see him suffering there for your sins, in your place? See him now bow his head and give up the ghost, it is finished.

But look again, he is risen from the dead, and he calls you to come to him! Seest thou this? Believest thou this? If you do oh sinner, cast thy soul at his feet and entreat him for mercy, mercy purchased by Divine blood, and thou shalt be saved. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. And then the God who seest, shall see you as his own son.

An edited version of a sermon by Martin Bledsoe based on a sermon of Charles Spurgeon (supplied by Pastor James Dugger, Ghana)

Continued from page eight

When Humiliation Is Good

Grownups can profit by such experiences, too. When an adult humbles himself to the point of embarrassment before fellows, he will long remember the evil of his ways and have great determination to shun such pitfalls again. Thus, we might gain much by reinstating James' advice: "Confess your faults one to another. . . (James 5 : 16).

Editor's Note: *The above editorial appeared in the February 26, 1962 issue of The Bible Advocate and Herald of the Coming Kingdom. The editor of the magazine at that time was Max M. Morrow.*



I knelt to pray but not for long, I had too much to do.

I had to hurry and get to work for bills would soon be due.

So I knelt and said a hurried prayer, and jumped up off my knees.

My Christian duty was now done my soul could rest at ease.....

All day long I had no time to spread a word of cheer

No time to speak of Christ to friends, they'd laugh at me I'd fear.

No time, no time, too much to do, that was my constant cry,

No time to give to souls in need but at last the time, the time to die.

I went before the Lord, I came, I stood with downcast eyes.

For in his hands God held a book; It was the book of life.

God looked into his book and said, "Your name I cannot find.

I once was going to write it down... But never found the time."

-Author Unknown



Do You Know Who Your Father Is?

I have a friend who is a few years older than me and unlike myself, he grew up, as a foster child. In fact, he never knew who his dad or mum were, and for fifty years he believed that he was an abandoned baby, the result of an unwanted pregnancy.

That is, until recently, when through some amazing circumstances he finally discovered who his real parents were. He discovered that his mother had apparently died shortly after he was born, and there were tears in his eyes as he showed me a photograph, a faded newspaper clipping, of who his father was.

I was amazed because the resemblance between him and his dad was remarkable!

After all these years of not knowing, my friend had come just a little bit closer to knowing that he was loved, and not abandoned.

So this begs the question: Do you know who your Father is? I mean, your eternal heavenly Father?

Because, did you know that He knows you? He is not distant or far away; your heavenly Father cares about you. In fact, we learn from Jesus Christ, when he came from heaven and lived among us, that your Father knows every hair on your head. And what's more, He wants you to know Him. That's why Jesus came and lived among us – to help us to know our Father, and truly find home.

Now, the truth of the matter is, until you know who your Father is, you'll never really know who you are, and you'll never know what inheritance awaits you.

Now there are those who in some circles purport that we evolved from the apes – you know, it's nothing more than a deliberate lie to prevent you from discovering who you really are and why you were born.

So how, then, do you find your Father?

Listen to what Jesus said when He reiterated, “My Father’s house shall be a house of prayer.”

When Jesus spoke of His Father, he used the Aramaic word “Abba”, much like we’d say “Daddy”, which is a term of endearment, love and affection.

So, why don't you take the time today to phone home. Talk to your Father.

That's all prayer is, simply talking to God, your Heavenly Father.

And your compassionate and loving Father will hear you – and you will know that you're really loved.

A transcript of a short film “Do You Know Who Your Father Is?” by John Klassek. MessageWeek - www.message7.org

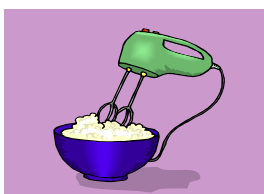


A Happy Home Recipe

*4 cups of love
2 cups of loyalty
3 cups of forgiveness
1 cup of friendship*

*5 spoons of hope
2 spoons of tenderness
4 quarts of faith
1 barrel of laughter*

Take love and loyalty. Mix it thoroughly with faith. Blend it with tenderness, kindness and understanding. Add friendship and hope. Sprinkle abundantly with laughter. Bake it with sunshine. Serve daily with generous helpings.



Selected

Continued from page one

. We have a demonstration, strongly attested to in history, of how one can be raised from the dead – namely, Jesus Christ.

. Even the worst sinner can be saved, even today, and even if they repent late in life.

. God puts confidence in us from the start by giving us the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us that we are valuable, chosen and righteous in God's sight right from our conversion.

I hope these eight meditations on the way of salvation through Christ are uplifting to you. If you are not yet trusting in Christ for your salvation I pray that these meditations will encourage you to seek the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart, for, as the Apostle Peter said:

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

David Kidd

**Without God our week
would be:**

***Sinday,
Mournday,
Tearsday,
Wasteday,
Thirstday,
Fightday
and Shatterday.***

-Author Unknown

The Youth Section

Kids Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

*Resurrection
of Jesus Christ*
Puzzle #3

ALIVE
ANGEL
BETRAYED
BLOOD
BODY
CHRIST
CRUCIFIED
DISCIPLES
FEET
FORSAKEN
FULFILLED
GOLGOTHA
JESUS
JOY
JUDAS



LORD
MAGDALENE
MARY
NIGHT
PILATE
RAIMENT
RISEN
ROBE
SCOURGED
SOLDIERS
SON
THIRTY
THORNS
TOMB
WATCH

Insights From the Past

When Humiliation Is Good

It is a natural thing to dislike being humiliated. The natural desire is to be held in good report, to be looked upon with favour—if not to be exalted. But there are real benefits to humiliation.

These times of humiliation should not just come at the annual Lord's Supper time, either; although, this season is an excellent time to feel godly humiliation. Rather, these times of humiliation ought to come throughout the year so as to keep the "old man," our "carnal nature," crucified.

One author has expressed that easy forgiveness encourages incomplete repentance. At first thought, this may seem to be contradictory to scriptural principles; however, upon closer consideration we must admit that God does not always grant a "Thou art forgiven" upon the first utterance of "I am sorry." [Sinners must sincerely and fully repent] before they receive assurance of deliverance from condemnation. This is beneficial because it teaches a valuable lesson.

One time Paul felt it necessary to teach his accusers a lesson by [humbling] them. He and Silas had been thrown in prison at Philippi because of doing wonders by the power of God. Those whose prestige was injured by the missionaries' work, stirred up the officials so that they put Paul and Silas in custody. Soon the magistrates sent word to the prison warden that the missionaries could be released.

"But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out" (Acts 16 : 37). Such a thing would no doubt have been embarrassing for an officer of the law—to think that he would publicly have to reverse his decision. But it must have taught each of the officers a very valuable lesson.

Sometimes humiliation of this nature is better for people than almost any other treatment. A little boy once picked up a sack of marbles and walked out of the store with them. His mother, knowing that he had not had the money to buy the marbles, escorted him back to the store where the lad had to return the marbles and in tears apologize to the proprietor. What could have done more good?

Continued on page four



The Ten Commandments

As Found in the Old and New Testaments

Moral conduct for every age and nation is based on the timeless precepts given so uniquely by the God of Israel.

Please send for the *free* chart which demonstrates that the principles of the Ten Commandments are incorporated into our new covenant relationship with God.

Produced & distributed by
Church of God 7th Day
 G.P.O. Box 2440
 ADELAIDE S.A. 5001.
www.cog7aus.com