

Saved

Scripture: Acts 16:31

Introduction

This week as I was traveling to Carson City, I began to think of the meaning of being saved. What are we saved from? What does it mean? The Lord began to speak to me as I drove, and I jotted down the notes for this message on the back of an envelope.

I. From sin's frustration

Romans 7:15, 18b-19 NIV I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. For I have a desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do this I keep on doing.

A. There is no lasting satisfaction in pursuing wealth

Ecclesiastes 2:11 NIV Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

B. There is no lasting satisfaction in pursuing knowledge

Ecclesiastes 2:17 NIV So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me, All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

C. Lasting satisfaction comes only in knowing God

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NIV Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

II. From sin's ravages

James 1:15 NIV Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Romans 1:27b NIV Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

A. Sin gnaws away the very fiber of life

B. Sin progressively brings us to do more depraved acts

Romans 1:28 NIV Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

C. Sin destroys dignity, self worth and self respect

III. From sin's penalty

Proverbs 1:24-28 NIV But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you -- when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and troubles overwhelm you. Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me.

A. Exclusion from the presence of God

Revelation 21:27 NIV Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

B. Eternity in the lake of fire

Revelation 20:15 NIV If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Conclusion

To be saved means God has delivered us from all the implications of our sins and makes us new in Jesus Christ. He gives us a future, and gives us purpose and hope.