

“So Great a Salvation!”

Hebrews 2:1-3

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- “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation”

“So Great a Salvation!”

- William Pope, atheist (1797) (*Lockyer, Herbert, All The Last Words Of Saints And Sinners (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1969) 132-133.*)
- Voltaire, infamous French unbeliever (1778) (*IBID. 133*)
- D. L. Moody, famous denominational minister (1899) (*Tan, Paul, Encyclopedia Of 7,700 Illustrations (Rockville: Assurance, 1985) 314*)

“So Great a Salvation!”

- Matthew Henry: “Sin is bitter. I bless God I have inward supports.”
- Martin Luther: “Our God is the God from whom cometh salvation: God is the Lord by whom we escape death.”
- John Knox: “Live in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death.”
- John Wesley: “The best of all is. God is with us. Farewell! Farewell!”

“So Great a Salvation!”

- Charles Wesley: “I shall be satisfied with thy likeness, satisfied!”
- Baxter: “I have pain; but I have peace. I have peace.”
- Treston: “Blessed be God! though I change my place. I shall not change my company.”
- Goodwin: “Ah, is this dying? How have I dreaded as an enemy this smiling friend!”

“So Great a Salvation!”

- There are just two kinds of people in the world: saved and lost.
 - And which of the two one becomes is completely, and without exception, up to the individual
- Salvation is great because of its:
 - Ability
 - Availability
 - Reliability
 - Durability
 - Desirability

Its Ability

- God's plan of salvation can do what no other plan devised by any man or system can do: It can save the sinner
 - 1Tim. 1:12-16 - “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”

Its Ability

- God's plan of salvation is a life changing plan
 - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Its Ability

- God's plan of salvation is the only plan that will work.
 - John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
 - Acts 4:12 - "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Its Ability

- God's plan of salvation is without price.
- All the plans of men are bloodless plans
 - Heb. 9:22 - "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."
- The salvation of the Lord was bought with the blood of Deity
 - 1Peter 1:18-19 - "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Its Availability

- It is above all other religious systems in the world; it is available to:
 - Anyone
 - Anywhere
 - At any time
- Religions of men:
 - Born into it
 - Buy into it
 - Beg into it
 - Burden into it

Its Availability

- There are qualifications which must be met before one can come to Jesus:
 - You must be a sinner - Rom. 3:23
 - You must be a believer - Heb. 11:6
 - You must be a penitent - Acts 17:30
 - You must be a confessor of Christ - Rom. 10:9-10
 - You must be baptized - Mark 16:16

Its Availability

- God's salvation is free
 - Rev. 22:17 - “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”
 - Isa. 55:1 - “Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.”

Its Availability

- God's salvation is fast
 - Acts 16:32-34 - "Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household."
 - Acts 22:16 - "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Its Reliability

- God's plan of salvation will never fail, never expire, and never be devalued.
 - Some believe if a person is sincere, then God will see they are trying and will accept them into Heaven when they die
 - 1John 5:12 - “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

Its Reliability

- Heb. 6:17-19 - “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil”

Its Durability

- God promises everlasting life
 - John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- God promises that His saints will not perish
 - John 10:28 - “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

Its Durability

- God promises those who come to Him will not be cast out
 - John 6:37 - “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”
- God promises that His saints are saved to the uttermost
 - Heb. 7:25 - “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

Its Durability

- God promises that nothing apart from our own will can separate us from His love
 - Rom. 8:33-39
- God promises that He will never forsake us
 - Heb. 13:5 - “For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Its Desirability

- God's plan of salvation is desirable because it offers something to humankind no other plan can: the assurance of Heaven
- All other plans offer the promise of some otherworldly type of adventure:
 - Hindus look for Svargam - reincarnation to the point of perfection
 - Buddhists look for Nirvana - transcendence into oneness with all
 - Muslims look for Jannah - a garden of equality and peace
 - Mormons look for a new planet to populate
 - Jehovah's Witnesses look for heaven on this earth

Its Desirability

- Only God's plan of salvation offers a home in Heaven that has no equal among all of the world's religions
 - John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

Its Desirability

- It promises:
 - A home for us designed by God
 - Built by Jesus
 - Populated by heavenly beings and righteous souls made perfect
 - In a realm that exceeds every imagination of humankind
- 1Cor. 2:9 - “As it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

“So Great a Salvation!”

- Heb. 2:3 - “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”
- There are four things God does not know:
 - He does not know of a sin He does not hate.
 - He does not know of a sinner He does not love.
 - He does not know of a better plan of salvation.
 - He does not know of a better time for you to be saved than the present.