

The Hope of Salvation

1 Corinthians 15: 19

Today is a special day for us, and in particular, it is a very special day for Brady. He has trusted Christ as his Savior and will come forward in a few moments to participate in believer's baptism. Baptism is one of the two ordinances that our Lord left for the church. All who have been saved, born again in Christ, ought to have a desire to follow our Lord's instruction to follow through with baptism.

Down through the ages of time there has been great debate and controversy over baptism. In fact, many gave their lives due to their stand regarding biblical baptism. The teachings of baptism vary from denomination to denomination. I really am not interested in what men believe or teach regarding baptism, but I am interested in what our Lord commands. Many today believe that baptism is essential to salvation. Some even believe that baptism is virtually all that is necessary to become part of the family of God.

These may be popular beliefs, but they are not biblical. Baptism does not confirm or solidify one's salvation. It is simply an outward testimony to that which has taken place on the inside. In baptism we see an outward portrayal of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It pictures the change that has taken place within the heart of the believer. The old man of sin has died and those who are born again have been resurrected anew in Christ. The baptism experience testifies of one's faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

It is that finished work and the benefit it affords all who come to Christ by faith that I am interested in this morning. I'm glad that our salvation and the testimony of baptism isn't just something that we hope is true, but it is something we can have absolute confidence in. I want to consider the [truths](#) regarding salvation as we think on: [The Hope of Salvation](#).

I. The Purchase of Salvation (1 Cor.15: 3-4) – [For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; \[4\] And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:](#) This is the gospel summed up in two sentences, but it reveals an abundance of truth. Consider:

A. The Preparation – These verses reveal [that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures](#). It was no accident that Christ was crucified upon the cross of Calvary. He was an innocent man. There was no guilt or sin in Him at all. The crucifixion of Christ was the greatest injustice that humanity has ever known, but it was all within the plan and will of God.

- Jesus did not die because the Sanhedrin and Pilate cast their voices against Him in death. This was not all a big misunderstanding that went terribly wrong. This was the plan of God for the redemption of mankind, since before time and creation.

- We were all born in sin and our sin had to be atoned. Sacrifices had been offered for thousands of years, but they could not purchase man's redemption. Salvation required a perfect sacrifice and the Lord was the only one worthy! [Heb.10:4-5 – For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. \[5\] Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:](#)

B. The Crucifixion – [For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins.](#) Because of the sins of humanity, God demanded that sin be atoned through a perfect sacrifice. Jesus became our sacrificial atonement. Apart from His death upon the cross there could be no redemption from sin or reconciliation to God.

- There on the cross of Calvary, the holy, perfect, sinless Son of God bore our sin and our shame before the Lord. It was there that God judged the sins of the world in the body of His only begotten Son.

C. The Substitution – [For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins.](#) We must notice that Christ did not die for sins He had committed. Never had He known sin. Never had He committed sin. He lived a perfect, sinless life here upon the earth. He died for our sins! He took our place upon the cross of Calvary. He was there because we needed forgiveness and cleansing. Apart from His substitutionary atonement, we would yet be in our sins.

- It would have done no good for us to have died upon the cross. We could never do enough to merit the favor of God, but in reality we ought to have been upon the cross. We were the guilty and condemned. Jesus died in our place so that we could be forgiven of sin and escape eternal death.

D. The Resurrection – [And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:](#) That is what sets our Lord apart from every other man. Had He not risen from the dead, He would have not been able to secure our salvation. He would have been like all who had died before Him. Their remains are still in the grave. Our Lord rose bodily from the grave! We do not worship the memory of one who was, we worship One who is and shall forever be!

I. The Purchase of Salvation (1 Cor.15: 3-4)

II. The Promise of Salvation (19-20) – If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. [20] But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. This is what we celebrate in salvation. This is the reason that Brady is coming forward to be baptized. He has put His faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of Christ, he has hope beyond the grave. He no longer has to worry and wonder what might happen to him when he dies. He doesn't have to live the rest of this life only hoping that he has salvation and eternal life; he is promised that through the Lord Jesus Christ.

- As Christ rose from the dead, He became the firstfruits of them that slept, those that have died in Him. That has the idea of “*being consecrated to God for all time.*” Because Christ came forth victorious over death, we too have the promise of a glorious resurrection and eternal life beyond the grave.
- Consider [VV.51-52](#). That isn't speaking of a “hope so” salvation, but a “know so” salvation. Our hope and assurance in Christ is not limited to this life. All who are born again can rest in the confidence of knowing that we will live eternally with Christ!

III. The Preeminence of Salvation – As I close this morning, I must share with you that Christ is the only way of forgiveness of sin, reconciliation to God, and eternal life. If you have never trusted Christ as your personal Savior, you are yet in your sin. You are still accountable to God for every sin you have committed. If you do not accept Christ in this life, you will stand before God in judgment and stand responsible for every sin you ever committed.

- Apart from Christ there is no hope beyond this life. He is the only way. He purchased your redemption as He died upon the cross and rose again. Salvation is available, but you must come to Christ to receive it. Good works are not good enough. Being baptized and joining the church isn't enough. You must have a personal relationship with Christ. [Rev. 20:12 – And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. \[15\] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.](#)

Was there a moment in your life that you realized you were a sinner and needed salvation? Do you know Christ as your personal Savior? He stands waiting to save you today if you will only come to Him.