

Rebuilding The Broken Walls

Wednesday Evening Series Led By Pastor Dan Betzer

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

STUDY # 3

Brief Review of Sessions 1 and 2

TONIGHT WE EXAMINE THE WALLS OF SALVATION AND RE-VISIT THE GREAT DOCTRINES OF THE "BORN AGAIN" EXPERIENCE.

The truths of salvation, those load-bearing walls of our eternal hope, have, in many instances, been broken down to a sort of psychological experience alone. The marvel for which Jesus gave His life has been devalued and the believer often does not know the full dimension of his or her gift of salvation. So let's carefully examine the scriptural aspects of our redemption.

CONVERSION

Romans 10:8-16 [New Living Translation]

Salvation that comes from trusting Christ—which is the message we preach—is already within easy reach. In fact, the Scriptures say, "The message is close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart."

[9] For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. [11] As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed." [12] Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They all have the same Lord, who generously gives his riches to all who ask for them. [13] For "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

[14] But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? [15] And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

I have put verses 15 and 16 in the box because they form part of the scriptural rationale

1 for our emphasis on global evangelism and missions at First Assembly of God.

2
3 **[16] But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said,**
4 **"Lord, who has believed our message?"**

5
6 It is the responsibility of a pastor to prepare the church body to be the "bride of Christ."

7
8 Rev. 19:6-9

9 **Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a huge crowd, or the roar of**
10 **mighty ocean waves, or the crash of loud thunder: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our**
11 **God, the Almighty, reigns. [7] Let us be glad and rejoice and honor him. For the**
12 **time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared**
13 **herself. [8] She is permitted to wear the finest white linen." (Fine linen represents**
14 **the good deeds done by the people of God.)**

15 **[9] And the angel said, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the**
16 **wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from**
17 **God."**

18
19 We must remember that the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is for Jesus primarily, as He is
20 the Eternal Groom. It is a pastor's duty before God to equip the Church and prepare it to
21 be the Bride of Christ. Thus the THEOLOGY OF SALVATION (Soteriology) is
22 foundational for the walls of our faith to have any strong bearing.

23
24 The great doctrines of salvation are:

- 25 • Conversion
- 26 • Justification
- 27 • Regeneration
- 28 • Sanctification
- 29 • Reconciliation

30
31

We begin with CONVERSION. This means "to turn yourself to God."

32
33 Matthew 18:2-3

34 **Jesus called a small child over to him and put the child among them. [3] Then he**
35 **said, "I assure you, unless you turn from your sins and become as little children, you**
36 **will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven.**

37
38 Conversion involves two elements: Repentance and Faith.

39
40 REPENTANCE

1 Without repentance there is no salvation. You can weep and howl in an altar from now
2 until doomsday, but unless you have truly repented of your sins, you are not saved, the
3 Bible teaches.

4
5 **REPENTANCE IS A SINCERE AND THOROUGH CHANGING OF THE MIND,
INVOLVING A SENSE OF PERSONAL GUILT AND HELPLESSNESS,
APPREHENSION OF GOD'S MERCY, A STRONG DESIRE TO BE SAVED
FROM SIN AND THE VOLUNTARY ABANDONMENT OF SIN.**

6
7 1. Jesus preached repentance:

8
9 Matthew 4:17 (KJV) **From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for**
10 **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

11
12 Luke 13:5

13 **I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

14
15 2. Repentance was the theme of Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost:

16
17 Acts 2:38

18 **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of**
19 **Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

20
21 3. Repentance was fundamental to Paul's life and preaching:

22
23 Acts 26:19-20 **Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the**
24 **heavenly vision: [20] But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem,**
25 **and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should**
26 **repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.**

27
28 4. Jesus taught that repentance was of great importance in Heaven:

29
30 Luke 15:7 **I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that**
31 **repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.**

32
33 **THE THREE PARTS OF REPENTANCE**

34
35 A. The INTELLECTUAL part

1 **Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins
2 be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they
3 shall be as wool.

4
5 What does this mean? It means:

- 6 1. I see sin as GOD sees it
- 7 2. I see sin as “my fault” alone
- 8 3. I accept God’s demand for righteousness

9
10 **B. THE EMOTIONAL PART**

11
12 This involves a change of “feeling.” I now feel SORROW for sin - the fact that I
13 committed sin against God devastates my heart.

14
15 And now I have a desperate desire for PARDON. Psalm 51:1

16 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him,
17 after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

18 **Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the**
19 **multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.**

20
21 **C. THE VOLITIONAL PART**

22
23 This implies a “change of will.” YOU decide to TURN FROM SIN. 2 Cor. 7:10

24 **For God sometimes uses sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and**
25 **seek eternal life. We should never regret his sending it. But the sorrow of the man**
26 **who is not a Christian is not the sorrow of true repentance and does not prevent**
27 **eternal death. (TLB)**

28
29 **IS REPENTANCE “PENANCE?”**

30
31 No. We are not saved FOR repenting....we are saved IF we repent. Repentance is not
32 a satisfaction rendered to God, but a condition of the heart necessary before we can
33 believe God unto salvation.

34
35 **THE ELEMENT OF FAITH**

36
37 Someone has aptly observed: A PERSON’S LIFE IS GOVERNED BY WHAT HE OR
38 SHE BELIEVES. Faith is such a key element in our salvation and the way we live as
39 saved people:

1 1. We are **saved** by faith Acts 16:31 **And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus**
2 **Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

3
4 2. We are **enriched** by faith Galatians 3:5

5 **He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you,**
6 **doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? [14] That the**
7 **blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we**
8 **might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

9
10 3. We are **sanctified** by faith Acts 26:18 **To open their eyes, and to turn them**
11 **from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may**
12 **receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith**
13 **that is in me.**

14
15 4. We are **kept** by faith 1 Peter 1:5 **Who are kept by the power of God through**
16 **faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

17
18 5. We are **established** by faith Isaiah 7:9 **If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not**
19 **be established.**

20
21 6. We are **healed** by faith James 5:15 **And the prayer of faith shall save the sick,**
22 **and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be**
23 **forgiven him.**

24
25 7. We **surmount** difficulties by faith Romans 4:18-21 **Who (Abraham) against hope**
26 **believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that**
27 **which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. [19] And being not weak in faith, he considered**
28 **not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the**
29 **deadness of Sarah's womb: [20] He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief;**
30 **but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; [21] And being fully persuaded that, what he**
31 **had promised, he was able also to perform.**

32
33 Furthermore....Scriptures declare that faith:

34
35 1. Pleases God Hebrews 11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please him: for**
36 **he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that**
37 **diligently seek him.**

1 2. Makes us a constant blessing to others John 7:38 **He that believeth on me, as the**
2 **scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

3
4 3. Causes us to make an effort on behalf of others Mark 2:3-5 **And they come unto**
5 **him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. [4] And when they**
6 **could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was:**
7 **and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy**
8 **lay. [5] When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins**
9 **be forgiven thee.**

10
11 4. Introduces perseverance in service Matthew 15:28 **Then Jesus answered and**
12 **said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her**
13 **daughter was made whole from that very hour.**

14
15 5. Obtains help for others Acts 27:24-25 **Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be**
16 **brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. [25]**
17 **Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was**
18 **told me.**

20 LET'S DEFINE FAITH

21
22 Faith is NOT denial of reality nor is it foolish presumption. It is more than HOPE for
23 hope is only for the future while faith includes past, present and future. Faith is more
24 than BELIEF for Satan most certainly believes in God and we know he does not please
25 the Creator. Faith is even more than the definition in Hebrews 11:1 that faith is the
26 substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

27
28 There are three elements to faith:

29 1. The Intellectual Element

30
31
32 This includes belief in the revelation of God in nature and in the historical facts of
33 Scripture. Faith fully accepts Biblical doctrines that deal with mankind's sinfulness, the
34 redemption provided in and through Christ, the conditions to salvation and all the
35 blessings promised to God's children.

36
37 I can personally only be in God's ministry because of my strong and unshakeable
38 foundation of faith based on the INTELLECTUAL ELEMENT. Emotion is just too
39 flimsy and shaky. Paul wrote, "I KNOW whom I have believed" and "I am
40 PERSUADED." Me, too!

1 2. The Emotional Element

2
3 Emotion is needed in all of this, but it is emotion based upon something solid. Jesus
4 warned of emotion just for “emotion’s sake”: Matthew 13:20-21 **But he that**
5 **received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon**
6 **with joy receiveth it; [21] Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for**
7 **when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is**
8 **offended.**

9
10 THE EMOTIONAL ELEMENT MEANS THE AWAKENING OF THE SOUL TO ITS
11 PERSONAL NEEDS AND TO THE PERSONAL APPLICATION OF THE
12 REDEMPTION PROVIDED IN CHRIST.

13
14 Those who have an undue amount of emotion in their faith tend to backslide and to feel
15 the need of being “saved” over and over again.

16
17 3. The Voluntary Element

18
19 This one is simple: The person who accepts the revelation of God and His salvation as
20 true, and believes in it with all his or her heart should logically go on to **appropriate it** to
21 himself or herself.

22
23 Such a person will MAKE Jesus Lord of his or her life. John 1:12 **But as many as**
24 **received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that**
25 **believe on his name:**

26
27 We are BECOMERS!

28
29 John 4:14

30 **But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but**
31 **the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into**
32 **everlasting life.**

33
34 THE RESULT OF FAITH IN THE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE

35
36 1. Blessed Assurance!

37 2. Good works Matthew 5:16

38 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and**
39 **glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

1 The story of John French, English actor and great friend of our family (John is now with
2 the Lord):

3
4 John spent most of his life in the English theater. He was successful. He had given
5 command performances before Queen Elizabeth and Sir Winston Churchill. He
6 appeared in quite a few films as well, including Disney's "*Robin Hood*."

7
8 In the 1960's, John was living near Windsor Castle with his actress girl friend. Billy
9 Graham came to town and the girl friend attended one night and was converted to Christ.
10 She immediately moved out of the house, which angered John to the point he decided to
11 beat up Billy Graham. Instead, when they met face-to-face, Billy took John to his hotel
12 room and led him to Christ.

13
14 When having dinner with Dr. Graham one night a few years ago, I asked him, "Do you
15 remember John French?" His eyes lit up and he said, "Yes, I do! Do you have contact
16 with him?" I told him of our many years of friendship with John and Graham was just
17 elated.

18
19 Some years after John's conversion, he gave his testimony in the Graham crusade at the
20 Cow Palace in San Francisco. By this time, his former girl friend had moved on,
21 married and had a child. This is part of John's memory of that event which I have
22 copied from his book *My Fight with Billy Graham*"

23
24 "I walked into that great pulpit of Graham's....and stood there, looking out at a great sea
25 of men and women. Television flood lamps bathed the huge platform....hundreds of
26 thousands were watching their sets at home. There with me were all the men I had once
27 hated....Grady Wilson, Cliff Barrows, and Graham. They were all there. Then out of
28 the thousands of faces I saw the girl I had loved (and lost to Christ.).

29
30 "Had I actually been wronged? Whether I had or not, I remembered that Jesus had
31 proved His teachings by loving and forgiving men when they wronged him, even as they
32 murdered Him on the cross. Then, if men had wronged me, John French, I must love
33 and forgive them or I would falsify everything I had told people about my conversion.

34
35 "Hate did not enter my spirit, nor any doubt, and I felt the strength of God which is His
36 gift to His children.

37
38 "I spoke to that crowd for about ten minutes. I told them how I had been searching for
39 love all my life and had lost it and how I had gone to that press conference to punch Billy
40 Graham on the nose for taking it away from me....and how we had shaken hands instead.

1 "I told them of my meeting with him in the hotel in London where I had gone with five
2 questions meant to embarrass Graham, but how I had forgotten them and had, in fact,
3 accepted Billy's Jesus as my own.
4

5 "I told them how I slowly came to realize that I was not fighting Billy Graham, but God,
6 and how Jeannie's departure into Christianity had actually led me to the discovery of the
7 greatest love a man can ever find, one which can never be taken away, now or ever. It
8 was a love which cleared the dulling fumes from a man's spirit, so that the spirit could
9 bring great power into his life, quiet and lasting peace, and an understanding of his
10 purpose on earth, whatever it might be, and the strength to achieve it fully.
11

12 "It was quiet when I sat down. Billy Graham walked up into his pulpit. All he said was -
13 in a sort of broken voice - 'That could happen to you.'
14

15 "Some days later, we had a one-night meeting in Turlock, California. On the way down
16 we stopped at an American's house for tea. I was standing at the dining room window,
17 hands behind me, looking out. I turned and in from the kitchen walked Jeannie. We
18 stood face-to-face, 7,000 miles from our London theater world.
19

20 "Hello, Jeannie.'
21

22 "She opened her mouth as if to say something. In another moment a little boy ran in and
23 grabbed her around her knees. 'This is Billy,' she said quietly.
24

25 "I bent down and clutched him....realizing that he might have been mine. I stood up.
26 Jeannie was pale. Two days later she left with her husband for Australia.
27

28 "Once, reaching for the stars, our hands had touched. Now, reaching for Christ, they had
29 touched again. It seemed unlikely that we would ever meet again. We had struggled in
30 the savage wilderness of the lost spirits. She had found her way out of it. I had
31 followed.
32

33 "I will not be alone. Christ will be my companion for eternity."
34

35 **THAT.....IS CONVERSION!**
36

37
38 Next week: Justification
39
40