

## Who Then Will Be Saved?

Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1989

### Hebrews 7:24-25

*But this Man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

The title of the message today is: "Who Will Be Saved?" I'm reading from Hebrews 7. I wouldn't mind if you would take your Bible and open it to Hebrews 7. I'm going to be using a passage from Hebrews 7, 9 and 10 for this message on the subject, "Who Will Be Saved?"

Here, in Hebrews 7, the text is verses 24 and 25 in which the apostle says, "*But this man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*" This man who continues forever hath an unchangeable priesthood, wherefore, having that unchangeable priesthood "*He is able to save them to the uttermost that come to God by Him. Seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.*" Now, that is our text.

Who will be saved? I'm sure that a topic such as this will create much discussion and maybe some debate. Perhaps someone following along with me now will say, "Who does he think he is? What can he know about such mysterious matters? Who will be saved indeed?"

You may say, no man can answer the question "who will be saved?" Nobody can answer that question. I can answer that question; oh yes I can. I know indeed who will be saved. So can you, if you will study the Word of God. The Word of God tells us who will be saved.

You see my friends, salvation is the doctrine found only in the Word of God. It is not found anywhere else. Salvation is a doctrine that is only found in the Word of God. That's right and nowhere else can He be found.

We can find a lot about God and His wonderful works by other means, but this business of salvation and eternal life is limited to the Scriptures. I challenge you. How do you know God will forgive sin? How do you know that there is a Saviour for sinners? How do you know that God purposed in a covenant of grace to save a people?

How do you know there is a mediatorial kingdom at all? How do you know there is a Messiah? How do you know that there is a Saviour? He can only be found in the Word of God.

The trees didn't tell you that; the sky didn't tell you that and your inner feelings didn't tell you that. If they did, how can you trust them? Your feelings will tell you something else tomorrow. So, we can find a lot about God and His wonderful works in other ways, but not about salvation; it only is from the Word of God.

You see; creation reveals the power of God and the greatness of God. David said, "*The heavens declare the glory of God. The firmament showeth His handiwork. When I consider the sun, the moon, the stars, the things, which Thou hast made, I ask the question; 'What is man that Thou art mindful of him?'*"

The stars won't tell me. The moon won't tell me. The heavens won't tell me. Only the Word of God can tell me if God is mindful of me.

Science and nature reveal the wisdom of God. David, when he considered the ear, the eye and the human body, said; "*How wonderfully I am made.*"

Then, the Lord, in Job 38, challenged Job. You'll be interested in reading that some time. He said to him, "*Tell me; where were you when I put the stars in place and I created the world? When I gave the sea its limits and boundaries? Where were you? Have you entered the treasure of the snow? Will the lightening come and go at your command? Can you make it rain on earth on a place where no man is?'*" Do you know about these things?

Science and nature reveal the wisdom of God. The conscience reveals the Holiness of God. The Scripture says, "*The law is written on the heart.*" Our conscience accuses us or excuses us. The conscience tells us about the Holiness of God.

Divine providence tells us about the government of God. "*God reigns and rules over all things.*" God said, "*The heart of the king is in the hands of the Lord to turn it whither so ever He will.*"

Nebuchadnezzar said, "*God reigns in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this earth and giveth it to whom He will.*" He said, "*I am the Lord; I kill; I make alive. I wound and I heal. The Lord lifteth up and the Lord bringeth down.*"

So, you can find out through creation the power of God. Through conscience, you can find out about the Holiness of God. Through science and nature, you can find out about the wisdom of God.

You can find out a great deal about God in other places but salvation, redemption, and eternal life can only be learned and known from the Word of God. I promise you that.

You see; holy men of God who were moved by the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible. The Scriptures are God-breathed. All Scripture is given by the breath of God and by inspiration of God. All Scripture is God-breathed. These men wrote the Scriptures as the Holy Spirit led them.

The Word of God is verbally inspired and divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Word of God wasn't written to teach me history, but to teach me grace, God's grace. The Bible wasn't written to give me a system of philosophy and proverbs, but to give me knowledge of the mercy of God in Jesus Christ to sinners. Can you see that?

John tells us that in Chapter 20, he says; *"These are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ and believing, you might have life through His name."* That is why this is written.

In First John 5:13, it says; *"These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life."* That is why this is written. It's written that you might believe and that you might know.

So, if we entertain the question, "Who will be saved?" (That is my subject). How can a man come to God? Who will come to God? *"How can God be Just and justify sinners?"* If you entertain any question relative to mercy, grace, forgiveness, and eternal life, you have got to go to the Scriptures. You are forced to turn to the Word of God. It is the only source on matters of salvation.

Now, the Old Testament Scriptures are filled with pictures of how God saves sinners. There are patterns and types of redemption. That is what the Old Testament is. It is filled with patterns, pictures, and types of how God saves sinners.

The New Testament, called the New Covenant, is the fulfillment of these pictures and patterns and types in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have said this before many, many times. I will probably say it many more times; the Old Testament says: Someone is coming. The Messiah is coming.

That Prophet like Moses, that King like David and that Priest like Melchizedek that atonement and the sacrifices say that someone is coming. That's what the Old Testament says. It says it in promise; it says it in prophecy, picture, pattern, and type, and in many ways, that God gave those people. It says, Someone is coming.

In the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the Scriptures tell us; that Someone has come. He is Jesus Christ of Nazareth. That is what John the Baptist did. He pointed to Christ and said, "*Behold the Lamb of God.*"

There is the lamb, there is the altar, there is the atonement, there is the sacrifice, and there is the Lamb of God. These epistles tell us that He is coming back again. Do you see that? In other words, in the Old Testament, "*Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. Even so must the Son of man be lifted up.*"

That serpent did not put away sin. That serpent was a picture and type of Him who did put away sin. The serpent was Christ the Lord. He said, "*The Son must be lifted up. The Son of God must be lifted up. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.*"

There were many Passovers sacrificed. There were many Passover lambs from the first one in the land of Egypt, "*The firstling of the flock, the male of the first year taken from among the flock.*"

It was kept up four days, slain, its blood shed, and its body roasted and eaten. There were many of those lambs, thousands of them. It took place for years, and years and years until Christ came. The apostle Paul said, "*There is our Passover. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. When I see the blood, I will pass over you.*"

That Rock smitten in the wilderness, that Rock smitten by Moses, which gave forth water, quenched the thirst of all those people. That Rock is Christ. "*Smitten of God and afflicted*" that we might have the Living Water.

"*It is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats can take away sin, but this Man.*" You will find that those three words "*But this Man*" occurring over and over in the Book of Hebrews.

Hebrews talks about Moses being a servant in the House of God. "*But this Man*" is the Son. It talks about the angels of God and the glory that God has given to angels. "*But this Man hath greater glory than the angels.*"

Hebrews talks about Aaron the priest and the sons of Levi. "*These men all offered sacrifices every year that can never take away sin. But this Man after He had offered one sacrifice for sin forever, sat down on the right hand of God.*"

Hebrews talks about the tabernacle and the sacrifices. *“But, this Man hath a continual priesthood that never ends. “ But, this Man.”* This is the theme of the Book of Hebrews. It shows the Excellency of Christ over Moses and over the angels, over the tabernacle, over the priesthood, over the atonement and over all things. *“But, this Man.”*

I told you a while ago that I wanted you to take your Bibles and turn to Hebrews 9. Let me show you something. This Bible is such a rich treasure. Oh, how I wish that preachers would really get into it so that they could teach the people.

You just can't spend your time walking the streets, sipping coffee, visiting folks, and carrying on this, toastmaster business. You can't run a sideshow and teach the Word of God. We are going to have to get into the Word of God, get into the Book, and find out what God says, so that we can teach our people who are busy about their vocations, occupations, and tasks.

This is the preachers business to find out what God says about Himself and about His dear Son and salvation. Let's be found in our studies, preachers. Let's be found in the Word of God. God didn't call us to be a streetwalker or a doorknocker. He called us to study the Word of God and to preach the gospel.

That's what the early apostles said to the deacons. They said, “You fellows take care of this business and we will give ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.” The reason our people don't know anything is that we haven't taught them. The fault is not in the pew; it is in the pulpit.

Look at Hebrews 9: Listen to this and know that adlibbing won't get it. Running around and hollering “Praise the Lord, whoopee, and hallelujah” won't get it either. We are going to have to find out what this Book says and teach people verse-by-verse, line upon line, precept upon precept, over and over again.

Perhaps the clearest picture in the Scripture on this subject of salvation is found here in Hebrews 9:6 through 8. *“Now, when these things were thus ordained the priest went always into the tabernacle.”*

Look at this carefully. *“The priest went into the tabernacle accomplishing the service of God, the worship of God. But, into the Holy of Holies (where dwelt the Shekhinah glory of God), into the Holy of Holies went the high priest alone once a year, not without blood which he offered for himself and for the sins of the people.”*

This is worship when you enter into the presence of God. This is being accepted of God. This is doing business with God. This is doing business over sin with God. This is forgiveness, redemption, and acceptance of God, by God, of sinners. This is a picture and a pattern of how everybody comes to Christ.

There are three things mentioned here. If you were paying attention, you heard it. There are three essentials to worship. There are three essentials to coming to God, three things that were necessary and had to be. Do you know what they were? Read it again.

*“Now, when these things were ordained the priest always went into the tabernacle.”* There had to be a tabernacle. There has to be a meeting place. There has to be a place where God meets men and men meet God. Now, come and look at the tabernacle. In the tabernacle, there were two divisions. It had the Holy Place where there was the shewbread, the lamp stand, incense and the veil.

The second part of the tabernacle called the *“Holy of Holies.”* This is where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. Do you know what was in that Ark of the Covenant? There were the Ten Commandments, written on tables of stone by the finger of God and given to Moses. These were the Ten Commandments, which the people had broken.

Also in that Ark was Aaron’s rod that budded, which designated him as God’s priest. There was also the Manna (or bread), that came from heaven, which was a picture of Christ.

Over that Ark was a Mercy Seat of beaten gold. Over that mercy seat were the cherubims. In the middle of the mercy seat was a cloud, the presence of God, where the very Shekinah glory of God was in that tabernacle. That is where God met men and men met God in that tabernacle. There was the Ark, the mercy seat, and the very presence of God in the tabernacle.

The second essential element was this; there had to be a priest. No man came to God without the priest. No man took this office upon himself voluntarily, but he that was called of God. There was always the priest.

You see; they had a lot of priests that ministered about the courtyard and the outer court. They took care of the table of shewbread, fresh bread every day. They took care of the lamp stand and kept the oil there. They took care of the incense and kept the incense burning 365 days a year. They even cleaned up the altars. There were a lot of priests doing a lot of things.

One high priest, only one, went into the Holy of Holies and into the presence of God once a year. What was the third thing? To come to God, to worship God, to be accepted of God and to come into the presence of God, there had to be a tabernacle.

There had to be a place where God designated that He would meet men over the mercy seat, only over the mercy seat, only with a covering and propitiation over the mercy seat.

There had to be a priest, someone to represent the sinner. There had to be someone consecrated by God. There had to be someone anointed by God and someone ordained of God. There had to be some special person representing the people. *“He came into the Holy of Holies, not without blood.”*

In other words, the third thing is that there had to be a sacrifice. Do you understand what I am saying? I will tell you this; in the Old Testament, old King Uzziah tried to do it another way and God killed him.

The sons of Aaron tried to do it another way and God killed them. Old Uzza touched the Ark and God killed him. I can just keep telling you about folks that came another way. There is just One Way to come to God. Come to the tabernacle represented by the priest who has the atonement.

You say, “What does that have to do with us?” Well, look at Hebrews 9:11 and 12. I just read 6 through 8. Now, watch the next verses and here are the three essentials; *“But Christ being come a High Priest of good things to come by a greater more perfect tabernacle.”*

Now, we need three things for worship. We need a priest; we need a place, and we need a tabernacle. We need *“A tabernacle not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building. Neither by the blood of goats and calves but by His own blood He entered in once, our great High Priest into the Holy place and obtained eternal redemption for us.”*

Have you ever heard that preached before? This has been in this Book for 2,000 years. My friends, this is so vital. There is no coming to God without it. I don’t care how many aisles we run up and down, scream, and sing, “I shall not be moved.”

I don’t care how many times we “Whoopie, or throw our arms around and cut up like a bunch of people who have lost their mind.” There is no coming to God except by one way. The greatest mistake a man ever made is to turn his back on God’s way and try another way.

You start in the Book of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges. You can go all through this Bible and all the way through the Old Testament; every man that ever came to God and was accepted, came to the temple through a Priest with a Suitable Sacrifice.

Christ fulfills all of that. *“Christ is our tabernacle.”* He said, *“A body hast Thou prepared me.”* Jesus Christ tabernacled among us. He is where God meets men and men meet God.

No, we don't go to a building now. The temple is gone. The tabernacle is gone. The Ark of the Covenant cannot be found. The cherubim who stood on either side can't be found. Our Tabernacle is Christ. He tabernacled among us. *“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”*

They said, *“Show us the Father.”* He said, *“You are looking at Him. He that hath seen Me hath seen My Father. He that comes to Me, comes to the Father. He who knows Me knows the Father. He who loves me loves the Father. No man cometh to the Father but by Me.”* Christ is the Tabernacle.

When He died on that cross, God ripped that veil into and said; “The Holy of Holies is open.” Christ is our great High Priest. *“Having a High Priest over the House of God let us come boldly.”* He's our Priest.

When Christ died on that cross, *“He didn't go into that holy place made with hands; He went into heaven itself.”* He didn't go to the mercy seat in the tabernacle but He went there to the mercy seat in the very presence of God Almighty. *“And offered not the blood of animals but with His own precious blood He obtained eternal redemption for us.”* I don't know how to make it plainer.

The thing that I get from my generation is that we are just not interested in learning. We just want to have a good time. We are not interested in knowing anything; we are not interested in any foundation. We are not interested in studying the Word of God.

I hear people say, “You're not much of a preacher; you are a teacher.” A man who doesn't teach doesn't preach. I don't accomplish anything by stomping around up here and foaming at the mouth. I don't accomplish anything by sweating and throwing my handkerchief around, yelling and screaming.

I'm trying to tell you how to come to God. I'm trying to tell you who will be saved and how men are saved. It says here, *“When these things were ordained of God, the priest*

*went always into the tabernacle accomplishing the services of God. But, into the Holy of Holies went the high priest alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and the sins of the people.”*

But Jesus Christ, *“But this Man,”* to whom all this points and to whom all this speaks, of whom all this is written, of whom all this is a picture, *“But Christ becoming a High Priest of good things to come, perfect things, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, but a body hast Thou prepared Me,”*

*He said, “Neither by the blood of calves and goats but by His own blood.”* Our High Priest made an effectual sacrifice. That’s the reason there’s not any more offered. *“By one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified,”* them that are redeemed.

And having made that perfect offering; *“He sat down.”* He sat down because there is nothing further to do. There are no more trips into the Holy of Holies to make. There is no more death to die. There is no more suffering to bear. There are no more sins to bear or for which to pay. It is done!

“These Old Testament priests stood daily offering the same sacrifices which could never put away sin. But, this man after He had offered one sacrifice for sin forever, sat down on the right hand of God.”

Now, the question; “Who will be saved?” Well, here is the answer; *“Them that come to God by Him.”* Those are the ones. You see; that is the way to come to God.

In the Old Testament, who was accepted? It was they who came to God, to the tabernacle, through the priest, by the offering. That’s right! Those are the ones who were accepted. It was Israel.

Now, that type being fulfilled in Christ, all of that pattern being fulfilled in Christ, who shall be saved? The answer is *“them.”* That’s the Jews, Gentiles, old or young of every tribe, kindred, and nation under heaven. The answer is *“them”* and that’s all, all of them (His elect).

It is not the Baptists, the Catholics, the Presbyterians, or the Nazarenes, just *“them.”* What denomination do you belong to? The answer is *“them.”* *“Them,”* is my denomination, *“The Thems.”*

The “them” that come to God are not those who come with their formal religion. It is not coming to the front of the church, a priest, or a preacher. It is not coming to an altar; they come to God; they come to God.

How do they come to God? They come by Him. They come through their High Priest. They come through His blood and they come through His sacrifice. The greatest mistake a man ever makes is to come some other way. The Scripture says, *“There is none other Name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ Jesus the Lord.”*

To what extent can He save them? *“He can save them to the uttermost”* to the uttermost extent of guilt, despair or time. Why? *“Seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”* That is how He does save them. He has a continual Priesthood, an unchanging Priesthood and *“He ever lives to make intercession for them.”*