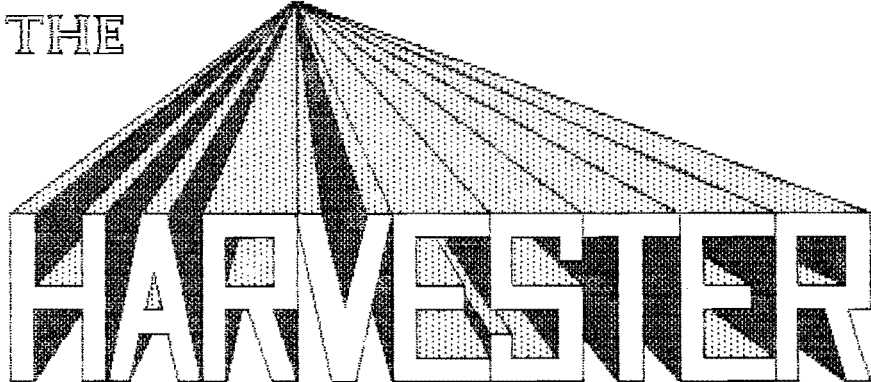


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." [Luke 10:2]

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## TWO PARTS TO SALVATION

As the old saying goes, "there's two sides to every story." The same is true concerning the salvation of our soul. There is a divine side where God has an important part and there is a human side where man has his part to play.

God's part began when the need for salvation arose. After man sinned in the Garden of Eden, he was spiritually separated from God (Isa. 59:2). But God promised Adam and Eve that reconciliation would be forthcoming in the form of the "seed of the woman" (Gen. 3:15). The Lord repeated this promise of salvation to his faithful servant, Abraham: *"And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed"* (Gen. 12:3).

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God's part of the plan of salvation included preparing the way for man's Saviour with the birth of John the baptist. *"And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins"* (Luke 1:76-77). Then God sent his Son to earth to suffer a cruel death for the sins of man (Heb. 2:9). *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"* (Luke 19:10).

It was also part of God's plan to send the chosen apostles into the world with the Gospel News. This was known as the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"* (Mark 16:15-16). Then after Peter preached the first message of New Testament salvation (Acts 2), God scattered the remaining disciples to ensure that the message would reach every soul (Acts 8:4). Soon everybody (Col. 1:23) would know that God did his part to save mankind from eternal death. God extended his grace and mercy to all men. Now the rest would be up to man himself.

Man's part of salvation has several steps and it begins with the desire to be saved. If a man chooses not to obey God nor to be saved, then that man will not be saved! Surely God will not force a man to do anything against his own will. If God did, then that man may as well be a puppet with God pulling every string and directing his every move. No, man is a creature of free will. The desire to be saved is what prompted the Jews at Pentecost

(Acts 2:37), the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:36), and the Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:30) to seek salvation. Their part consisted of asking, "What must I do to be saved?"

The next step in man's part of salvation is to hear God's Word. That is the only place where man will find fulfilling answers: in the inspired writings of God. Friend, please read the Bible, hear its message, and meditate on the Word. That is exactly what the Samaritans did (Acts 8:6), as did the Eunuch (Acts 8:35) and Cornelius (Acts 10:32,33) and Lydia (Acts 16:14) and the Jailer (Acts 16:32). They desired salvation by searching the scriptures for the right answers! They did not listen to the ideas of other men. Neither did they give heed to human opinions or seducing thoughts.

After hearing the answer, each man must make a sober decision. Are these things in the scriptures true? Do I have faith in what the Bible tells me? Do I believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ? Those who sought God's saving grace in the early days of Christianity believed these things! Notice again the example of the Samaritans (Acts 8:12), the Eunuch (Acts 8:37), the Jailer (Acts 16:31) and the Corinthians (Acts 18:8). They believed God was their Creator and Jesus was the Son of the Almighty. Man's part of becoming a disciple of Christ involves faith!

But man's part does not end here. If he quits at this point, he is not in a saved condition yet. Just believing in Jesus Christ is not sufficient to save one's soul (Jas. 2:17). Man must repent of all his wrongdoings and acknowledge the fact that he is a sinner and has separated himself from God. Man's part, therefore, also involves repentance -- to change for the better! Such was the

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exhortation that Peter gave to the Jews in Acts 2:38. *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out . . ."* (Acts 3:19).

The next step in man's road toward salvation is to confess the Lord before men. *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I deny before my Father which is in heaven"* (Matt. 10:32-33). We should never be ashamed to confess Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Instead, we must display the courage of the Ethiopian Eunuch who confessed, *"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God"* (Acts 8:37) and *"with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"* (Rom. 10:10).

Man's part in the plan of salvation culminates with scriptural baptism. For most men, this is the hardest part of all. They say it is not required. But in every example of New Testament conversion (See Acts 8:12; 8:38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:15; 16:33 & 18:8), immersion in a watery grave (Rom. 6:3-4) is necessary! The scriptures are very clear on this point: *"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye*

*shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost"* (Acts 2:38). *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ"* (Gal. 3:27).

There are two sides to salvation. First, there is God's part. Then there is man's part. Only after man fulfills his part does he become a new person in Christ. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (2 Cor. 5:17).

God wants every single person to be saved. *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Tim. 2:3-4) God has done his part. He kept his promise of sending a Saviour to die for our sins. Now we must ask ourselves, have we done our part in the plan of salvation?

RAY McMANUS

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What was the age of Joseph when he gave his father an evil report about his brothers?
2. Why did God want the Israelites to be holy?
3. In Romans, Paul says that the sinners have changed the truth of God into what?
4. What Biblical author wrote from an island?
5. Could the Pharaoh's magicians duplicate Aaron and Moses' act of turning their staffs into serpents?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who shared in the inheritance that Job left for his seven sons?   JOB'S THREE DAUGHTERS (Job 42:15)
2. According to Psalms, a thousand years in God's sight is like what?   A DAY (Psa. 90:4)
3. What did John the Baptist eat?   LOCUST AND WILD HONEY (Matt. 3:4)
4. What two books record the death of Judas?   MATTHEW (27) AND ACTS (1)
5. Whose descendants were the only ones allowed to burn incense before the Lord?   AARON'S (Num. 18:40)

### POINT TO PONDER

In visiting Park View Hospital, thanks to the ever present courtesies of the parking lot guard, I parked in the section marked, "Doctors Only." (Beautiful are the considerations shown preachers by the hospital of the city -- most of us try not to impose on either space or time when doctors most need these areas.) As I left the car, walking to the hospital, I became aware of the fact that a lady was walking toward me with an intense stare.

When we shortly met face to face, in an effort to be an "unfresh yet friendly" man, I spoke first with, "Good afternoon." Immediately as though my greeting had been filled with antibiotics that chase away all pain and germs, she broke into obvious delight and replied, "How do you do, Doctor?" In most charming bedside manner I responded in pure antiseptic tones, "I'm fine and hope you are." We passed

as ships in the night perhaps never to see or greet each other again.

But she called me "Doctor!" I "ain't" one. I'm proud of those who are. But why did she call me one -- oh, yes, I parked in the doctor's lot.

It takes more than veneer to make a cabinet -- it takes more than a hospital lot assignment to make a M.D., and it takes more than church attendance to make a Christian. The friendly lady misjudged me. I could not have cured her ingrown toenail, but she thought I was a talented physician -- just because of where I parked.

Do I go through life fooling folks? Am I what my presence at the Lord's table says I am? Am I genuine? Is my Christianity for real -- or have I just parked in God's churchlot? Make it real -- be a Christian!

JIM BILL MCINTEER

(submitted by Harry Cobb)

### QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

The strength of an ox.  
 The tenacity of a building.  
 The daring of a lion.  
 The patience of a donkey.  
 The industry of a beaver.  
 The versatility of a chameleon.  
 The vision of an eagle.  
 The melodies of a nightingale.  
 The meekness of a lamb.  
 The hide of a rhinoceros.  
 The disposition of an angel.  
 The resignation of an incurable.  
 The loyalty of an apostle.  
 The faithfulness of a prophet.  
 The tenderness of a shepherd.  
 The fervency of an evangelist.  
 The devotion of a mother.

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# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
October 3 - 6	Hokes Bluff Church Gadsden, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
October 7 - 9	West Gadsden Church Gadsden, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
October 9 - 15	Liberty, KY	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
October 17 - 22	Oak Grove Church Liberty, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
October 24 - 28	Blanchester, OH	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	New Bethel Church near Stanford, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
November 11 - 13	Pleasant Grove Church near Alex City, AL 7:00 evenings	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

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## SEVEN THINGS THAT ARE UNCERTAIN

1. Beauty (Psa. 39:11)
2. Men's Promises (Psa. 146:3)
3. Riches (Prov. 23:5)
4. The Future (Prov. 27:1)
5. Friendship (John 16:32)
6. Life (Jas. 4:14)
7. Earthly Glory (1 Pet. 1:24)