

WHO WILL BE SAVED?

HEBREWS 7:25 • TV250A

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by
HENRY T. MAHAN

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Hebrews 7:25

“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.”

I would like for you to open your Bible with me to the **Book of Hebrews**. There is a passage of Scripture in the **7th chapter of Hebrews** that I would like for you to look at carefully (verse 25): *“Wherefore, He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come to God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*

This is my subject: **“WHO WILL BE SAVED?”**

There is much about the Kingdom of God and the divine purpose of our living God that I do not understand. I do not have all the answers. The apostle Paul said in **First Corinthians 13**; *“We know in part; we prophecy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, then I shall know even as I have been known.”* There are a lot of questions I cannot answer. I know that the secret things belong to God and the revealed things belong to us and to our children.

There are some things that are quite clear to me. After preaching the Gospel for almost 40 years and having pastored the same church for nearly 35 years and reading the Scriptures, there are some

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things that are quite clear to me and very obvious from the Scriptures and I am going to give them to you.

The first one is this: I know that God is Holy. The supreme attribute of God is holiness. God is love and God is just and God is righteous, merciful and gracious. We can keep on naming the attributes of God. The supreme, chief, attribute of God is this; “*God is Holy.*” God is unchangeably, infinitely, eternally, Holy.

When Isaiah saw the Lord in **Isaiah Chapter 6**, he said; “*I saw the Lord high and lifted up and His train filled the temple and the seraphims cried as they flew about the throne of God; Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory.*”

The Scripture says, “*God is in His Holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.*” The Scriptures are called, “*The Holy Scriptures.*” The angels are called “*The Holy angels.*” The tabernacle was called the, “*Holy of Holies.*”

Our God is Holy, unapproachably, infinitely, immutably and Holy, I know that; “*Holy and reverend is His name.*”

The second thing I know is this: I am positive and quite certain and it is beyond question and without debate; I know that we are sinners. You are a sinner and I am a sinner. Every son of Adam is a sinner; “*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*”

The Scriptures teach us that we are sinners. Our hearts tell us that we are sinners. We don't love God as we ought to love God. We don't love one another; we love ourselves. We are self-centered creatures. What we see all about us tells us that we are sinners.

In **Isaiah 53** the Scripture says, “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we've turned everyone to his own way. Paul writes, “There is none righteous, there is none that understandeth. There is none that seeketh after God. They are altogether become unprofitable. In the book of Job we read, “The heavens are not clean in God's sight. How much more abominable and filthy is man who drinks iniquity like the water.”*”

The most holy of men have confessed their sins. Isaiah said, “*Woe is me; I am undone; I am cut off; I am a man of sinful lips and I dwell among a people of unclean lips,*” unclean in God's sight.

Job said the same thing. He said, “*I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear. Now mine eye seeth thee, wherefore, I hate myself. I repent in sackcloth and ashes.*” David said, “*My sins are ever before me.*” Paul said, “*O wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*”

So, I know that. There is not a doubt in my mind. There is not a question in my mind that God is holy, unspeakably holy, and that we are sinful, unspeakably sinful. Jeremiah asked this question; “*Can the Ethiopian change his skin?*” Certainly not, that is his nature. “*Can the leopard change his spots?*” Why certainly not; it is his nature to be spotted.

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Then He said, “*Neither can you do good*” and that is good in the sense of God’s goodness. “*Neither can you do good that are accustomed to doing evil*” or who are born doing evil. Your nature is evil.

We sin because we are sinners. Adam is the only man who ever became a sinner because he sinned. Adam sinned and therefore, he became a sinner. You and I sin because we are already sinners; we are born sinners.

Thirdly: I know and am absolutely positive (and you can rest your soul upon the truth of this statement): We need salvation.

There are plenty of people out there who have different needs. We have one thing in common whether we are male or female, old or young, rich or poor, black or white, learned or ignorant, short or tall, Jew or Gentile, Baptist or Methodist; we all need salvation from sin.

We need to be saved from the curse of the Law. The Scripture says, “*Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things written in the book of the law to do them.*” You haven’t and I haven’t kept the Law; we are under the curse of God’s broken Law.

We need to be saved. The word “*saved*” means to be delivered, ransomed, or redeemed from that broken Law. We need to be saved from the justice of God. God has promised that “*Every soul that sinneth it shall surely die. Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*” There is no way around it. “*It is appointed unto men once to die and after that judgment.*”

“*We shall all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ.*” That is Scripture and there is no way around it or no way to avoid it. There is no way to escape. We will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

We need to be saved from our sins. We need pardon; we need justification; we need mercy, we need forgiveness and we need salvation. This is true and you cannot argue with that.

There is not a preacher out there that can argue with that, a deacon, an elder, a Sunday school teacher or whatever; “*God is Holy,*” unchangeably Holy. He will remain Holy. “*He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*”

We are sinners and you know it and I know it. You can profess perfection all you want to but in your heart there is sin. We need salvation from sin.

Fourthly: I know this is certain and sure and it is as sure as God is in Heaven and the Bible is His Word; I know that salvation from sin, pardon and justification is of the Lord. I can’t save myself and you can’t save yourself. We can’t save one another.

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If we are ever redeemed, if we are ever justified, and if we are ever saved, it will be by an act of God. This won't be done by an act of a priest, preacher, evangelist or a pastor. It won't be by an act of mother or father, or by the church or the church ordinances.

If we are forgiven, it will be by an act of God. You see; *"The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life."* We have sinned against God. It is God who must pardon.

If you have wronged someone you can't come to me and say, "Forgive me." You haven't sinned against me. You haven't wronged me; you will have to go to the fellow you have wronged. You will have to ask his forgiveness.

We have sinned against God. That is what David said, *"Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned and done this evil in Thy sight."* All your sins are against God.

You may wrong another human being but you can't sin against anyone but God. Sin is against God. You may do a person wrong. You may mistreat a person but sin is against God. Sin is a transgression of God's Law.

So, it is God who must pardon. It is God who must justify. It is God who must accept you. *"Salvation is of the Lord."* It is in His hands.

Will the Lord indeed show mercy? That is what the Publican in the Temple said; *"Lord; you be merciful to me the sinner."*

Fifthly: This is as certain as you are listening to my voice; I know that God's way of salvation of life, forgiveness and pardon, God's only way of salvation, is only found in the Scriptures, in the Word of God and nowhere else.

Now, *"The heavens declare the glory of God."* You can stand out and look at the heavens and know that there is a God but you can't know much about Him. You can know that He is powerful. He says, *"The firmament showeth forth His handiwork."*

His power and wisdom are shown in all of creation. You can stand out and look at the heavens and see the power and glory of God. You can look at the creation and see something of the wisdom of God.

There is only one place where you can find out anything about the redemptive work of God and the salvation for sinners, pardon, and eternal life, and that is in the Scriptures.

The heavens do not tell you that God gave His son to die for sinners; the Bible tells you that. The heavens do not tell you that God is merciful to the ungodly that *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."*

Where do you find that? You can look at the trees, the mountains, the valleys and the streams. You can look at the stars and the clouds all the rest of your life and they won't tell you one thing

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about the redemptive work of God or the redemptive grace of God. You will have to go to the Scriptures. That is the only place that you will find it.

You see; the Bible is given to reveal the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. This is His story; it is the story of Christ from Genesis to the last chapter of the Revelation. This Book is about a person; it is about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible is not written to teach me history. That is not why the Bible was written; it was written to teach me about God's love and grace in Christ. The Bible was not written to give me a system of philosophy, not at all. The Bible was written to teach me the way of life.

The Bible was not written to give me religious form and ceremony. We are so wrapped up in this day with religious form. What we need is to get back to the simplicity of worship, to the simplicity of Christ, to the simplicity of the Gospel.

"God does not dwell in temples made by hands." That is what Paul said when he stood on Mars Hill. He looked down and saw all of these temples, shrines, and alters. He said to the people gathered in front of him, *"The living God does not dwell in temples made with human hands;"* He dwells in the heart.

So; the Bible was not given to teach me form, ceremony, and legalism. The Bible was given to reveal Christ *"who is my wisdom, my righteousness, my sanctification and my redemption."*

Sixthly: I will tell you something else and I know this beyond a shadow of a doubt. I know that God's Word in the hands of God's Spirit is effectual. If God's Spirit is pleased to make His Word effectual to your heart right now, (while I am preaching), using the Gospel, (the Word of God), it will give life and salvation to those who hear it and to those who believe it.

The Word is the seed; *"Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth."* Peter said, *"We are born again not of corruptible seed, (not like our fleshly birth), but of incorruptible seed by the Word of God that liveth and abideth forever."*

Our Lord said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you; he that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life."*

This hearing is not just hearing it with these ears, but it is hearing it with the heart, in that supernatural, mysterious, revelation by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God makes God's Word effectual.

"I'm not ashamed of the Gospel," Paul said; *"It is the very power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."* Our God said this; *"My Word will not return unto Me void; it shall accomplish that whereunto I have sent it and that which pleaseth Me."*

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God is able to save sinners. That is God's work. I know this, it takes the preaching of the Word in the hands of His Spirit to make it effectual, to give life, to give eyes to see, ears to hear and understanding hearts, to illuminate, to enlighten the blind creature who sits in darkness and to bring him forth into the very light of the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

My work is to preach the Gospel, to declare it. The work of the Holy Spirit is to give you an understanding of it.

Look back at my text and let me answer that question; **"Who will be saved?"** It says in **Hebrews 7:25**; *"Wherefore, He is able to save."* This is what we are talking about; God is Holy and we are sinners.

We need salvation. *"Salvation is of the Lord"* and it is revealed in His Word. This is the salvation that I am talking about. *"Wherefore, He is able to save them to the uttermost who come to God by Him; seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

Now, three questions: Who will be saved; who will be delivered and who will have everlasting life? Who will be *"Translated from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of God's dear Son?"* Who will be? I know and it is very clear to me.

Secondly: How far does this salvation reach? He said that it reaches *"to the uttermost."* That is an important word.

Thirdly: Why is He able to perform such a great task, *"Seeing He ever liveth?"*

Let's take these one at a time:

First of all: Who will be saved? I know who will be saved. It is perfectly clear. The Scripture says, *"He is able to save them to the uttermost who come to God by Him."* There is the first thing. These people who are going to be saved are people who come to God.

It is not those who come to church; it is those who come to God. It is not those who come to the priest or to the preacher or pastor; it is those who come to God. It is not those who come to the altar. To come to the altar is not to come to God.

It is not those who come to a doctrine. *"He is able to save to the uttermost them who come to God."* Listen to David; *"Out of the depths have I cried O Lord unto Thee. Lord, hear my voice. As the heart panteth for the water brooks so panteth my soul after Thee,"* the Living God.

He said, *"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Me, while I am near. You shall seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."*

This thing of salvation is not a ritual. Salvation is not walking an aisle, shaking a preacher's hand, an idle profession, joining the church, getting religion or turning over a new leaf; it is coming to God, the Living God, the true and Living God, the only true and Living God.

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It is the heart, the innermost being, the soul of a sinner that pants after the knowledge of God, a communion with God, a fellowship with God and to know God.

These people who are going to be saved are those who come to God. That is not all it says; it also says; “*They come to God by Him*” (by Christ). “*He is able to save them to the uttermost that come to God by Him.*”

Don’t get upset with me. There is only one way to God. I hear people talk about there being many ways to God. There is only one way to God if the Bible is true. The Bible says (Christ declared) “*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*” Those are definite articles “*the way, the truth, and the life.*” “*No man cometh to the Father but by Me.*”

Again He said, “*Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Jesus Christ.*” Again He said, “*There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved,*” except the name of Christ.

It says again, “*He that believeth on the Son hath life. He that believeth not the Son shall not see life.*” It is very clear to me; Christ said: “*I am the door, (not a door); by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved and go in and out and find pasture.*” Again He said, “*No man knoweth the Father but the Son and he to whom the Son will reveal Him.*”

There was just one Passover Lamb and “*Christ is our Passover.*” There was just one Rock in the wilderness and that Rock was Christ. There was just one tabernacle, one mercy seat, one atonement, and one Great High Priest.

If a man came to God, he came through that high priest, through that atonement and that mercy seat. “*Christ is our Great High Priest. There is one God and one Mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus,*” the Scripture says.

Do what you will my friend; the Scripture set forth this just as clear as anything else in the Word of God that Christ is the way.

Then, I know this; who will be saved? “*Them that come to God by Him,*” (by Christ), *will be saved.*” There are men who come to God by Christ to be saved from sin.

I know that we are concerned about our health. I’m concerned about your health, my health and everyone else’s. I want people to be well. I know that you are concerned about your living, your job, your family, your indebtedness, your house, your children and all of these things.

My friend, here is our greatest need; we need salvation from sin. This is why Christ came into the world, it says; “*Thou shalt call His name Jesus; He shall save His people from their sins.*” Again He says, “*The Son of man has come to seek and to save the lost.*” Again, Paul said this; “*This is a*

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faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the chief.”

Sometimes God heals people and sometimes He doesn't. You see, trials and afflictions, sicknesses and sorrows are the result of sin. As long as we have sin on this earth, we are going to have these consequences and results of sin.

Who will be saved? Them that come to God by Christ seeking the one thing, the one great important thing, mercy and forgiveness of sin in Christ, they will be saved.

Secondly: How far does this salvation reach? Listen to the text: *“Wherefore, He is able to save to the uttermost.”* Have you come across that word before in Scripture, *“the uttermost?”* I read it over in **Psalm 139**; David said, *“Wither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend into heaven Thou art there. If I make my bed in the grave, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy right hand guide me and hold me.”*

In other words, the uttermost is the uttermost extent of the very dwelling of God, and the very presence of God. Where is that? Well, that reaches the far reaches of His dominion, wherever that is; *“That is as far as the east is from the west.”* That is as far as you can imagine and even farther because God dwells everywhere.

There is no end to His reign; there is no end to His presence. He is omnipresent; He is everywhere. God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. So, the uttermost is the uttermost extent of God's dominion. That is how far the saving power of Christ can reach.

He can save men to the uttermost extent of sin. You have never sinned so greatly that Christ's blood cannot make you clean. You have never stooped so low. You have never rebelled so terribly that the blood of Christ can not put away every stain. *“The blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

I don't care who you are or what you are or what you have done. If by the grace of God you hear the Word and believe it and turn to Christ, *“He is able to save to the uttermost.”*

He is able to save to the uttermost extent of holiness and righteousness and the Law. *“In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in Him.”*

He is our Righteousness; that is what the Scripture says. With His spotless garments on I am as holy as His Son. **Colossians 1:22** says, *“He is able to present you holy, unblameable, unprovable, in His sight.”*

What am I saying? I am saying that my Lord can take the most wretched creature listening to my voice, a wine-o, harlot, thief, gambler, drug addict or whatever you have been or are. He is able to cleanse you by His blood and present you spotless, holy, and unblameable in the sight of His Heavenly Father to make you holy to the uttermost extent of your sins and to the uttermost extent of God's requirement and God's holiness in Christ.

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No church can do that but Christ can. He is able to save to the uttermost extent of time. There may be trials and temptation. *“He is able to keep you from falling.”*

He is able to save to the uttermost extent of death, the grave, and judgment. *“He is able to raise our vile bodies”* and make them like His own, spotless, precious, body. He is able and He is the only one who is.

I point you to Christ. Look away from me. Look away from the mourner’s bench. Look away from the baptismal waters. Look away from the sacraments. Look away from anything or anyone. You look to Christ; He is able to save and no one else is.

Why is He able to save? Do you know what it says here? *“Seeing He ever liveth.”* He ever liveth and always has lived because He is God. He lives now at the right hand of God. He lived on the earth as a man, our Mediator.

He ever lives for what purpose? He ever lives to make intercession for us, to pray for us, to represent us. We have an Advocate; we have a representative at the very right hand of the Father who is seated at the right hand of God.

He prays for us. That is what it says; Paul said, *“Who can condemn me? Christ died, yea rather, is risen again who is even at the right hand of God and who also maketh intercession for us.”* What a promise! *“He is able to save to the uttermost those that come to God by Him, seeing He ever lives to make intercession.”*