

THE NEED TO BE SAVED (VBS RALLY 2010)

TEXT: ROMANS 10:9, 13

Introduction:

1. I would like to talk tonight about the importance of being saved.
2. Not everyone in this world is saved. In fact, most people are not saved.
3. Jesus said in Matthew 7:13 and 14, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
4. In Luke 19:10, Jesus said, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
5. So tonight, you are either saved or you are lost.
6. Sometimes we use the word “saved” in different ways. For example, we might refer to a man who was drowning in the ocean and say, “He was saved! The lifeguard saved him!”
7. But in the context in which the word is used in our text tonight, being saved means being saved from eternal punishment in hell.
8. “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”
9. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
10. The provision for being saved is made through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (cf. I Cor. 15:1-4).

I. THE NEED TO BE SAVED

1. Isaiah 53:6 says, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
2. Some people think being saved is being baptized. But the Bible does not teach that. You can be baptized and still need to be saved.
3. Some people think being saved is joining a church. But the Bible does not teach that. You can be a church member and still need to be saved.
4. Some people think being saved is doing good works. But the Bible does not teach that. You can do good works and still need to be saved.
5. Salvation has to be God’s way or it is not genuine salvation.
6. Romans 3:10 says, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.”

7. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”
8. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death.” This is more than physical death. It is spiritual death. It is what the Bible calls “the second death.”
9. The second death means eternal punishment in the lake of fire.
10. The second death is referred to four times in the book of Revelation (2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8).
11. Revelation 21:8 says, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

II. THE MEANING OF BEING SAVED

1. Being saved means you are forgiven. When we violate God’s law, it is a sin and it is recorded in God’s record.
2. The Bible says, “Be sure your sin will find you out” (Num. 32:23).
3. I heard about some thieves who broke into a home and stole a television and some jewelry and other things. As they were making their getaway, they backed into a big snow bank.
4. When they did backed into the snow, their license plate left an imprint in the snow bank. When the police arrived they saw the imprint and were able to quickly arrest the thieves.
5. “Be sure your sin will find you out” (Num. 32:23).
6. But when you come to God to be saved, your sin record is erased and wiped clean. You no longer owe a debt for the wrong you did. When you come to Christ for His salvation, you get pardon from sin and complete forgiveness.
7. But you have to ask Jesus in order to receive it. I heard an old story about a prisoner who was offered a pardon. The governor wanted to go and give it to him personally. But when the governor arrived, no one told the prisoner it was the governor. The prisoner did not realize who the man was and so he started railing on him. He told him to get away. So the governor turned back with the pardon still in his pocket.
8. Being saved means you are forgiven, and being saved means you are justified. This means that when God forgives us, He puts us in a position as if we had never sinned. It doesn’t mean that we didn’t sin, but God looks at it as if we hadn’t sinned. God declares us innocent.
9. Based on the provision that Christ made when He died on the cross for our sins, the guilty are justified.

10. Being saved means you are forgiven, and being saved means you are justified, and being saved means you have eternal life (John 3:16).
11. John Newton lived and died over 200 years ago. He was a captain of a slave ship, and by his own admission “a debauched sailor.” He was living a wicked life, far from God.
12. But he repented of his sin and was gloriously saved. He became a great preacher and wrote many hymns. His most famous is “Amazing Grace.”
13. *Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*
14. One stanza goes like this:
*When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.*
15. Just think – 10,000 years and that’s just the beginning. Think of the biggest number you can imagine (think of the national debt!) and then just keep adding on zeros.

III. HOW TO BE SAVED

1. First, you have to acknowledge that you are a sinner. Some people refuse to do that. They are too proud to come to Jesus.
2. Second, you have to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9; cf. John 3:16).
3. Thirdly, you have to come to Jesus. We will give you an opportunity to do that in a few minutes. Walking down the aisle does not save you. Believing in Jesus saves you. This means to trust Him.
4. *Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you,
He will save you now.*
5. Acts 20:21 says, “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Repentance means to change your mind about God.
6. The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30).

7. They replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31).
8. The Philippian jailer repented; he believed; and he was saved.

CONCLUSION:

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Rom. 10:9).