

# Great Questions in the New Testaments

**Studies 1 - 10**

***STUDENT MANUAL***

**Stephen Nemeth Lectures**

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# ***GREAT QUESTIONS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT***

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Studies 1 - 10

## ***Student Manual***

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**Stephen Nemeth Lectures**

# **“BELIEVE YE THAT I AM ABLE TO DO THIS?”**

## **STUDY 1**

**Scripture Portion: Matthew 9:28**

Of all the great questions asked in the New Testament, there is perhaps none greater than that asked by our Lord and recorded for us in -

### **Matthew 9:28 -**

This question introduces the theme of the first study of this series in which we shall think of some of the wonderful things that Christ is able to do in, for, with and through all who will put their trust in Him.

It would be well to read -

### **Matthew 9:27-30 -**

Picture the two blind men described there who followed Jesus asking Him to have mercy upon them.

The important thing for us to notice is that, after Jesus had asked these men whether they believed He was able to give them their sight, while He was performing the miracle He said to them -

### **Matthew 9:29 -**

We must not divorce this statement from our Lord's question, for the two must go together, for, while Christ is perfectly able to do certain things for us, our faith must be operative if we are to prove His ability in our own lives.

He is able to do certain wonderful things for you, but you must trust Him to do them. The measure of your trust will determine the measure of your experience of His ability.

This truth can be stated in the following way.

### **Matthew 9:28-29 -**

What, then, is the Lord able to do for us? Let us turn to a few scriptures in order to answer this question.

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**WE LEARN THAT HE IS ABLE TO SAVE US TO THE UTTERMOST.**

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**Hebrews 7:25 -**

We must trust Him to do this, for He will do it according to our faith. Nothing can alter the fact that -

**Hebrews 7:25 -**

Our actual experience of His saving ability depends upon our coming unto God by Him - in other words, upon our faith, our trust in Him alone for salvation. Can you truly say -

*“I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only Thee,  
Trusting Thee for full salvation  
Great and free.”*

Jesus Christ is the only Saviour.

**Acts 4:12 -**

But the great question is, is He *your* Saviour? More than this, how much *is* He your Saviour?

The important word in **Hebrews 7:25** is the word “uttermost”, which means completely, perfectly.

Some people are saved from the guilt and penalty of their sin but they are not saved from worry, fear and doubt.

Some are saved from hell, but not from an untamed tongue.

Some are saved from condemnation, but not from criticism.

The Lord Jesus is able to save us completely from sin, from self and from Satan.

We must trust Him to do it for it is according to our faith that we experience the power of His saving grace in our own lives.

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## 2. WE LEARN THAT HE IS ABLE TO SUCCOR US WHEN WE ARE TEMPTED.

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### Hebrews 2:18 -

We must trust Him to do this, for He will do it according to our faith.

The word *succor* means *to come to the help of*. The word *tempted* has special reference to temptation to sin. Temptation itself is not sin. We are all tempted. Even Jesus was tempted -

### Hebrews 4:15 -

It is only when we yield to the temptation that we fall into sin.

How can we resist and overcome temptation?

### Hebrews 2:18 -

gives us the answer to that question. We should link it up with -

### Hebrews 4:15 -

where we are told that the Lord Jesus, having traveled the pathway before us, is qualified to sympathize with us.

In addition, He is able to succor us when we are tempted. How thankful we should be that no temptation need be too great for us.

### 1 Corinthians 10:13 -

The Lord is able to deliver us every time we are tempted, but, in order to prove His delivering power, we must trust Him and rely upon Him.

It is according to our faith that we experience His delivering power in our own lives.

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## 3. WE LEARN THAT HE IS ABLE TO SUSTAIN US IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL.

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### 2 Corinthians 9:8 -

We must trust Him to do this, for He will do it according to our faith.

We can react in several different ways when we are pressed with adversity.

We can complain, grumble and “murmur”.

**1 Corinthians 10:10 -**

This never glorifies the Lord and can never help us or anybody else.

We can be filled with self-pity.

This simply means to feel very sorry for ourselves and want everybody else to feel sorry for us also. This does not glorify the Lord and can never help us or anybody else.

**c. *We can become bitter.***

We can even question the wisdom, the will and the ways of God. We can feel resentful that He should allow trials to fall upon us.

4. We can lose faith altogether.

We can ask the question, “Does God care?”

**e. *We can go “under”.***

We can be completely overwhelmed with the pressure of the trial that has fallen upon us.

But these reactions are not necessary. The Lord is well able to sustain us by, and with, His grace.

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10 -**

Compare with -

**Philippians 4:11-13 -**

The Lord Jesus is well able to sustain us in every time of trial and testing, but we must trust Him to do this.

It is according to our faith that we experience His sustaining grace in our own lives.

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4. WE LEARN THAT HE IS ABLE TO SUPPLY EVERY NEED IN ANSWER TO PRAYER.

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**Ephesians 3:20 -**

We must trust Him to do this, for He will do it according to our faith.

There is no doubt about His ability to hear and answer prayer, but the answer we receive is dependent upon our faith. He is able to do great and mighty things in answer to prayer.

**Jeremiah 33:3 -**

So let us ask Him to do these things, but, let us ask in faith.

**Mark 9:24 -**

**Mark 11:22-24 -**

How often we limit the Lord by our unbelief!

A modern rendering of part of **Ephesians 3:20** tells us that, when we pray, the Lord is able to do for us *“far more than we ever dare to ask or imagine”*.

Let us ask, therefore, and let us ask believingly. It is according to our faith that we shall experience His answers to our prayers in our own lives.

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5. WE LEARN THAT HE IS ABLE TO KEEP US UNTIL WE STAND GLORIFIED IN HIS PRESENCE.

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**Jude 24 -**

We must trust Him to do this. He will do it according to our faith.

How wonderful it is that He is able and willing and that He guarantees to keep a poor, unworthy sinner right to the journey’s end! He will do this because this is His intention and His will.

But, we only experience the assurance of our acceptance by Him and the assurance of His keeping power as we trust Him. Assurance comes to us on the ground of our faith in Him.

We shall get to heaven all right because of His faithfulness, but our enjoyment of the journey there and our confidence that we shall most certainly reach heaven depends upon our faith.

Paul had this confidence when he wrote -

**2 Timothy 1:12 -**

These are some of the things that Christ is able to do in, for, with and through all who put their trust in Him.

The Lord says to you, “Believest thou that I am able to do this?”

Do you reply, “Yes, Lord!”?

He then says to you, “According to your faith be it unto you.”



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# **“WHY COULD NOT WE CAST HIM OUT?”**

## **STUDY 2**

**Scripture Portion: Mark 9:28**

The incident in which this question occurs is not only recorded in **Mark 9:14-29**, the portion that we shall in particular study, but is also found in **Matthew 17:14-21** and **Luke 9:37-45**.

Read through these three accounts so that you have a complete picture of what happened. It was certainly a humiliating experience for the disciples. Crowds of people were following them and, when they were faced with the lunatic boy, they sought to deliver him from his demon-possession, but found that they were completely powerless.

Everybody witnessed their confusion and humiliation. It was quite natural that, after our Lord Himself had performed the miracle and set the boy free, they should come to Him and ask the question:

### **Mark 9:28 -**

Let us look a little more closely at this incident, at the disciples and at the question they asked. To begin with, notice -

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### **THE SITUATION THEY FACED.**

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It was a dreadful situation indeed for here was a boy who was a -

### **Matthew 17:15 -**

who was possessed by -

### **Matthew 17:18 -**

by -

### **Luke 9:39 -**

by -

### **Mark 9:17 -**

and -

**Mark 9:25 -**

The disciples faced a demon-possessed boy.

It was common in those days, as it may well be in these days, for people to become possessed by evil spirits.

There is a very real sense in which the situation that faced these disciples is the situation that is facing the Church today. Multitudes around us are gripped by sin and controlled by Satan.

This is not popular doctrine and is not universally accepted. This is made abundantly clear in -

**Ephesians 2:2-3 -**

that unregenerate men and women are living their lives under the domination of Satan. Every unsaved person is controlled by the spirit of evil, just as this boy was controlled by an evil spirit.

The boy's situation was tragic.

Compare -

**Mark 9:18 -**

**Mark 9:20-22 -**

But this is a picture of the kind of situation that faces the Church today. What can be done about it? What did the disciples do about it?

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## **2. THE FAILURE THEY EXPERIENCED.**

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The disciples sought the healing of this boy, but they failed completely. It was a tragic failure. The words to notice and underline in -

**Luke 9:40 -**

are, "they could not".

This simply means that they were helpless and powerless. This was all the more tragic because the Lord had expressly given these disciples the power to work miracles. They had exercised this power successfully.

Compare -

**Matthew 10:1 -**

**Matthew 10:8 -**

**Luke 10:17 -**

Now they were powerless.

Here again we have a picture of the situation in the Church today. All around us there are needy souls and we, as the Lord's representatives to whom the Lord has given the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, are powerless.

**Acts 1:8 -**

We see few conversions and little evidence of the mighty power of God working through the ministry of the Word and through the local assemblies of God's people. We have elaborate organization, we have a multiplication of meetings, we have all kinds of modern machinery and methods, and we even have the money, but instead of an abundance of spiritual life and energy, we are increasingly conscious of weakness, while all around us the need of men and women is desperate.

On every hand there is great spiritual ignorance, an increasing moral drift, drug addiction, sex perversion, a great increase in crime, and unchecked blasphemy in literature, on the radio, on television.

The tragedy is that the Church is failing to check these evil trends. The crowd says, "They could not....."

It is a public failure, just as it was for the disciples. It is a humiliating experience for us. The Church of God in a devil-possessed world seems powerless to cast out the devils of unbelief, of immorality, sex perversion, increasing divorce and the mounting tide of evil.

The question is: "Why?"

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### 3. THE QUESTION THEY ASKED.

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This is brought before us in -

**Mark 9:28 -**

It is interesting to notice that the disciples asked this question of the Lord privately, when they were alone with Him in the house. This indicates something of the shame, the humiliation and disappointment they felt.

What a good thing it is if we can find grace to ask this question! How necessary it is when we fail, to ask - "What has gone wrong?" It is important to ask why the Church is powerless.

It is vital to make a right diagnosis of the present situation. We must find out the cause of our failure. We do this when we come to the Lord Himself in humility, in confession and ask Him - "Why could not we cast him out?"

Let us go to the Lord and ask Him and see what He has to say about it.

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## **4. THE ANSWER THEY RECEIVED.**

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**Mark 9:29 -**

It is important to link with this something that is particularly emphasized in -

**Matthew 17:20 -**

*There were three reasons for their failure.*

There was lack of FAITH.

**Matthew 17:20 -**

The disciples had not the faith to believe that the Lord could operate through them and grant His deliverance in this needy case.

Frequently we fail for the same reason. We ask the question -

**Psalms 78:19 -**

We doubt the ability of the Lord to put forth His power. We are filled with unbelief.

Compare -

**Matthew 13:58 -**

**Matthew 17:19-20 -**

***b. There was a lack of PRAYER.***

**Mark 9:29 -**

There are certain 'kinds' of situations that require special, urgent and persistent prayer. If there is a deficiency of prayer, there will be a deficiency of power. Evidently the disciples had not prayed enough, consequently, they were powerless.

How challenging this is when our own ministry is so often powerless and fruitless!

5. There was lack of FASTING.

**Mark 9:29 -**

Fasting denotes such an intensity of desire and purpose that we are ready to put by even legitimate things in order that we may seek the face of God and secure His blessing.

It may mean denying ourselves secular and secondary things for a time in order that spiritual power may be released and that souls who are in bondage may be delivered.

Compare -

**Exodus 19:14-15 -**

**2 Samuel 12:16-17 -**

**Esther 4:16 -**

**Jonah 3:7-8 -**

**John 7:53 -**

**John 8:1 -**

**1 Corinthians 7:5 -**

How far are we willing to make voluntary denial of things that ordinarily are, in themselves, quite lawful and legitimate, in order that the face of God may be sought in earnest and persistent prayer and that souls may be delivered from terrible bondage?

Faith, prayer and fasting will achieve victory even under the desperate conditions with which we are faced today.

But let us conclude our study on a note of victory.

Let us witness the putting forth of the power of God through the gracious ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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5. THE MIRACLE THEY WITNESSED.

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**Mark 9:25-27 -**

If the disciples had been in touch with the Lord by faith, by prayer and by fasting, He would have performed this miracle through them. It is His power that is at work anyway, for He does not delegate His power.

Please conclude this study by prayerfully reading -

**Mark 16:17-20 -**

Particularly, notice **verses 19 and 20.**

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# ***“ARE THERE FEW THAT BE SAVED?”***

## **STUDY 3**

**Scripture Portion: Luke 13:23**

This solemn and searching question belongs to a group of three questions found in the New Testament which has to do with the matter of salvation.

The first of these is in -

**Matthew 19:25 -**

The second is in -

**Luke 13:23 -**

The third is in -

**Acts 16:30 -**

Possibly you have found yourself asking the second of these questions which forms the theme of this present study. How true it is that the great majority of people seem to have little time for God or for the things of God! It is only the few who love Him and who are prepared to declare their love for Him and to live for Him in a way that is well-pleasing in His sight.

Our Lord Himself gave a very solemn answer to this question.

**Luke 13:23-30 -**

His immediate answer to the question, “Are there few that be saved?” was to say that only a few will be saved.

**Matthew 7:13-14 -**

**Matthew 22:14 -**

**1 Peter 3:20 -**

But, when you have done this, be sure to look at -

**Luke 13:29 -**

and compare with -

**Revelation 7:9 -**

How grateful we should feel if we are among those who belong to the Lord and who have been truly saved by His grace!

Consider now the following five clear propositions that emerge from the question, “Are there few that be saved?” “What saith the scriptures?”

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**1. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT ALL MAY BE SAVED.**

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The Bible surely teaches this. God has provided salvation. He offers salvation to all who will come to Him in repentance and faith and accept His salvation. When the Lord Jesus died upon Calvary’s cross, He died to make salvation available to all.

**Isaiah 53:6 -**

While it is certainly true that there is a very precious sense in which He died only for those who are His own and who have responded to the overtures of His grace, it is, nevertheless, also true that, by His death, He made salvation available to all.

Read the following references and see what they say about this.

**Isaiah 45:22 -**

**John 3:16 -**

**John 10:9 -**

**Romans 1:16 -**

**Romans 10:12-13 -**

**1 Timothy 2:4 -**

**Revelation 22:17 -**

It is quite clear that all may be saved!

But notice now the second proposition.

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**2. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT ALL WILL NOT BE SAVED.**

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This is the solemn teaching of God's Word.

The Bible does not teach the doctrine of universalism - that is to say, it does not teach that ultimately all men will be saved. There are those who teach this today.

They tell us that the sinner and the saint, the man who has no thought for God or love for God and the Christian, that all will be gathered into God's kingdom.

This is not scriptural. The Bible does not teach this. Read carefully the following scriptures.

**Luke 13:24 -**

**Luke 13:25 -**

**Luke 13:27 -**

**Luke 13:28 -**

Surely this makes it very clear that all will not be saved.

Compare -

**Matthew 13:29 -**

**John 3:18 -**

**John 3:36 -**

**Hebrews 2:3 -**

**1 Peter 4:17 -**

Thank God, all may be saved, but the solemn fact of the matter is that all will not be saved.

This leads us to a third proposition.

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3. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT SOME WILL BE SAVED WHOM WE DID NOT EXPECT TO BE SAVED.

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We can be quite sure about the important truth stated in -

**Genesis 18:25 -**

and that F. W. Faber was right when he wrote -

*“There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There’s a kindness in His justice,  
Which is more than liberty.*

*“For the love of God is broader  
Than the measures of man’s mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.”*

Where is the scriptural authority for this? Surely we have it in -

**Luke 13:30 -**

Consider also the following -

It was a tremendous surprise to the onlookers when a very sinful woman anointed the feet of Jesus. They thought she could not be saved, but she was saved.

Read **Luke 7:36-50**. Particularly notice -

**Luke 7:39 -**

**Luke 7:50 -**

It was a tremendous surprise to the Pharisee to be rejected by God although he was such a “good” man, and to find that the publican, who was such a sinner, was accepted by God.

Read **Luke 18:9-14**. Particularly notice -

**Luke 18:14 -**

- c. *It was a tremendous surprise to the people when Zacchaeus, whom they knew to be “a sinner”, was saved by the Lord Jesus. But, he was saved.*

Read **Luke 19:1-10**. Particularly notice -

**Luke 19:1** -

**Luke 19:7** -

**Luke 19:9** -

4. It was a tremendous surprise when the law-breaker who was dying on the cross beside the Lord Jesus, was saved and sent to paradise with the Lord Himself. But it all happened.

Read **Luke 23:39-43**. Particularly notice -

**Luke 23:42-43** -

- e. *It was a tremendous surprise to the disciples when Jesus preached the gospel and revealed Himself to a Gentile woman who was a great sinner. But He did, and she was saved.*

Read **John 4:4-30**. Particularly notice -

**John 4:27** *-And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?*

6. It was a tremendous surprise to Ananias when the Lord revealed Himself to Saul of Tarsus and saved him. But He did!

Read **Acts 9:1-19**.

- g. *It was a tremendous surprise to the apostle Paul that the Lord had saved him at all. He never got over it.*

**1 Timothy 1:12-16** -

We shall get some surprises when we get to heaven, for we shall meet some people there whom we did not expect would be there.

This leads us to a fourth proposition.

Not only will some be saved whom we did not expect to be saved, but -

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4. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT OTHERS WILL NOT BE SAVED WHO EXPECTED TO BE SAVED.

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**Luke 13:25-27 -**

makes this fact quite clear. These are the words of the Lord Jesus Himself!

The reference is to those who profess to know the Lord Jesus Christ but who do not, in fact, know Him at all.

How many people there are like this! They expect to be saved because they go to church, or because they have been confirmed, or baptized, or because they say their prayers, or because they are charitable, or because they sing in the choir, or attend communion once a year! They do not know the truth of -

**Romans 3:20 -**

**Ephesians 2:8-10 -**

**Titus 3:5 -**

How tragic it is to expect to be saved, to think that you are saved and, in the end, to find that you are not saved! There will be many like this in “that day” -

**2 Timothy 3:5 -**

**Titus 1:16 -**

All this naturally leads to one last proposition.

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5. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT NO ONE WILL BE SAVED EXCEPT IN GOD’S WAY.

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God’s way of salvation is by repentance and faith. To understand the meaning of this, you should look up -

**Isaiah 55:6-7 -**

**Acts 16:30-31 -**

Jesus is the only Saviour -

**John 14:6 -**

He is a present Saviour -

**2 Corinthians 6:2 -**

He is a complete Saviour -

**Hebrews 7:25 -**

He will save you -

**Romans 10:13 -**

***NOTES***

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# **“WHAT WILT THOU THAT I SHALL DO UNTO THEE?”**

## **STUDY 4**

**Scripture Portion: Luke 18:41**

### **Luke 18:35-43 -**

Here is the record of one of our Lord’s gracious acts of mercy. The key words of this study are in -

### **Luke 18:41 -**

The NEB renders this *“What do you want Me to do for you?”*

How personal is this question! “Me.....you?”. How practical is this question!

Our Lord wanted to know what Bartimaeus wanted Him to “do” for him.

It is also a powerful question, when we remember the One who asked it. Notice the importance of the little pronoun “Me”.

This incident shows us how very wonderful is the Lord Jesus. Here was a blind man who sat by the wayside begging. He heard that Jesus was to pass by. He cried out and asked for His help. He was rebuked for causing a disturbance, but, when he overcame that barrier and had been brought to Jesus, this great question was asked, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

There was only one thing the man wanted - it was his sight, and the Lord graciously gave him his sight.

Then Bartimaeus followed Jesus -

### **Luke 18:43 -**

All the people beholding this great miracle -

### **Luke 18:43 -**

Perhaps we are inclined to be less impressed with this incident because it records something that happened over 1900 years ago. But surely the value of these words for ourselves depends upon the fact that Christ is alive today and that He is just the same today.

Compare -

**Hebrews 7:25 -**

**Hebrews 13:8 -**

Jesus is alive and He still comes to us and asks, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

If we analyze this question and offer of our Lord, we at once notice that it contains three propositions.

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1. THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS WE NEED TO HAVE DONE FOR US THAT WE ARE QUITE INCAPABLE OF DOING FOR OURSELVES.

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Think of Bartimaeus as an example of this. He was blind. There was absolutely nothing he could do about it. He had this one tremendous need and he could do nothing to meet this need.

The same is true of ourselves. We are in exactly the same predicament. There are some things that we can do for ourselves. We can educate ourselves. We can see to it that we are good citizens. We can set out to be successful. But, we have deep spiritual needs and there is nothing that we can do to meet them.

The answer to these needs is not in ourselves at all.

For example, we need to have our sins forgiven. We need to be cleansed from the foulness and pollution of sin. We need to be brought into a condition of peace with God and to experience the peace of God which passes all understanding.

We need day-by-day victory over sin. Every day of our lives we need guidance. We need comfort and we need assurance concerning God's love and concerning our future and our eternal destiny.

Can we give any of these things to ourselves?

The answer is - no! We cannot do this any more than Bartimaeus could open his blind eyes. So this is our first proposition.

This leads us to a second proposition.

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2. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS WELL ABLE AND IS PERFECTLY WILLING TO DO THESE THINGS FOR US, TO MEET THESE GREAT NEEDS THAT WE ARE QUITE INCAPABLE OF MEETING.

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In other words, what we cannot do for ourselves, and what no man is able to do for us,

the Lord *is* able to do. More than this, He is willing to do it.

Indeed, as we read through the gospel records, we are impressed not only with our Lord's ability to help those who need help and His willingness to help those who need help, but we are impressed with the fact that He longs to give the help that is needed.

This is strikingly illustrated in the case of Bartimaeus who could not open his own eyes. But Jesus was able to open his eyes. He was willing to open his eyes. He offered to open his eyes. He longed to open his eyes and He actually did open his eyes.

In this respect, of course, the Lord Jesus Christ is unique. Nobody else in the whole universe can stand before us and say to us, "What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?" and in saying that, be able, willing and ready to meet their need.

For example, who else can forgive sin? Do you know anyone, anywhere, who can forgive sin as Jesus can? After all, He is the One whom we have offended by our sin. On that ground alone, He must be the One to forgive us.

Or, who can cleanse us from sin's filth and pollution? Do you know anyone who can do it other than Jesus? Who can give us peace, restore peace with God and give us peace in our hearts? Who can lead us into a life of victory over sin, but Jesus?

Is there anyone who can guide us as He can? When we are in trouble, where can we find comfort compared with the comfort He gives? He alone is the One who gives assurance concerning this life and the life to come.

All these needs are met only in Jesus Christ our Lord, and, thank God, He is not only able but He is willing and longing to meet these needs for us.

This, then, is our second proposition.

It leads us to consider one final proposition.

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**3. WHETHER OR NOT OUR NEED IS MET DEPENDS UPON ONE THING: IT DEPENDS UPON OUR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE WHAT THE LORD OFFERS TO US.**

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He is able to help us. He is willing to help us, but we have to receive what He gives. We have to receive it by faith. Now, Bartimaeus had to do this. Read again -

**Luke 18:41-43 -**

See this very graphically and clearly illustrated.

Take the question home to yourself in -

**Luke 18:41 -**

What do you need? If you will mention your need to Him, you may receive from Him that which He offers to meet your need. You may do this by faith.

For example:

**Do you need forgiveness?**

Then, ask Him for forgiveness. He will say to you -

**Matthew 9:2 -**

Do you need cleansing?

Then, ask Him for cleansing. He will say to you -

**Mark 1:41 -**

Do you need peace?

Then, ask Him for peace. He will say to you -

**John 14:27 -**

*d. Do you need victory?*

Then, ask Him for victory. He will say to you -

**John 8:11 -**

7. Do you need guidance?

Then, ask Him for guidance. He will say to you -

**Psalm 32:8 -**

*f. Do you need comfort?*

Then, ask Him for comfort. He will say to you -

**Matthew 14:27 -**

*g. Do you need assurance?*

Then, ask Him for assurance. He will say to you -

**Isaiah 43:1 -**

The Lord Jesus waits to meet your need now with His great sufficiency, but you must come to Him and tell Him of your need and receive what He offers.

Every blessing is resident in Him.

**Ephesians 1:3 -**

All that you need is fully met in Him.

As He says to you now, “What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?”, will you give Him the answer to that question. Will you receive what He offers you?

If you will, you will find yourself -

**Luke 18:43 -**

Other people, when they see what has happened to you, will give -

**Luke 18:43 -**

***NOTES***

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# **“WHO IS THIS SON OF MAN?”**

## **STUDY 5**

**Scripture Portion: John 12:34**

In the Bible many names and titles are given to our Lord.

See how the patriarch Job speaks of Him in -

**Job 19:25 -**

See how the prophet Isaiah speaks of Him in -

**Isaiah 9:6 -**

See how the prophet Haggai speaks of Him in -

**Haggai 2:7 -**

See how John the Baptist describes Him in -

**John 1:29 -**

See how the apostle John speaks of Him in -

**Revelation 5:5 -**

All these names are highly significant for they reveal the many-sided aspects of our Lord's glorious Person and of His work on our behalf.

But what was our Lord's favorite name for Himself?

It was “the Son of Man”. This title occurs about 80 times in the four gospels.

It reveals Him as the perfect Man, as “the (not a) Son of Man”, thus emphasizing His perfect humanity.

It also reveals Him as very God, because this Son of Man did, and does, things that only God could, and can, do.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the God-man - not the man who became God, but God who, in the mystery and miracle of the incarnation, became man.

“Who is this Son of Man?” Who is He?

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**HE IS THE SON OF GOD, THE LORD OF THE CHURCH.**

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**Matthew 16:13-18 -**

These verses tell who Jesus Christ is. Peter made this confession, not as the result of his own thinking or out of his own heart, but, as this great truth was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit, that Jesus, the Son of Man, is the Son of the living God.

Jesus acknowledged that fact. He went on to say that it was to be upon Himself that His Church was to be founded; that the powers of hell would be arraigned against the Church but they would not prevail against it.

**1 Corinthians 3:11 -**

There is tremendous encouragement here for us as Christians. We look around and see the Church today, so impotent, so full of failure and we wonder what is going to happen.

What *is* going to happen?

Let us remember and rejoice in the fact that the Son of Man, who is the eternal Son of God, is the Builder of the Church, the Lord of the Church and He has guaranteed the security of the Church.

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**HE IS THE ONE WHO CAME TO EARTH TO SET US FREE.**

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**Mark 10:45 -**

The idea contained in the word “ransom” is that of redemption. Our Lord’s primary purpose in coming from heaven to earth was to redeem us.

**Galatians 4:5 -**

This means He came to set us free. He did not come primarily to reform society, to die as a martyr, to give a code for living, to be a hero and a pattern for His people, but He came to die, to shed His blood for our redemption, to set us free.

**1 Peter 1:18-19 -**



He came to set us free from sin -

**Matthew 1:21 -**

from self -

**Romans 6:14 -**

and from Satan -

**1 John 3:8 -**

So, here is a question: Has He set you free?

Are you proving the liberating power of the Son of Man, setting you free from sin, self and Satan?

**John 8:36 -**

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### **3. HE IS THE SEEKING SAVIOUR.**

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**Luke 19:10 -**

Here again we see what was the great objective of our Lord's coming over 1900 years ago. We also see what He is doing today.

What is He doing? What is the divine activity?

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, the Son of God, is seeking to save the lost.

We have a glorious illustration of this in **Luke 15:3-24**. It is important to notice that it is the Lord who is seeking man, not man who is seeking the Lord. He always takes the initiative. We have an illustration of this in **Luke 19:1-9** (which verses precede the verse we are considering).

It is true that we are told that Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus -

**Luke 19:3 -**

but, presumably this was the seeking of curiosity. The great thing to notice is that it was the Lord Who was seeking Zacchaeus -

**Luke 19:5-6 -**

What a wonderful activity this is - to think that the Son of Man, the Lord of glory, is

seeking sinners to save them!

Are you still lost, or have you been found of Him?

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#### 4. HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO IS QUALIFIED TO FORGIVE SINS.

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##### **Mark 2:10 -**

In this fascinating incident where four men brought their friend to Christ and could not enter in through the door because of the crowd so let him down through the roof, the first words that Jesus spoke to the sick man in this incident were -

##### **Mark 2:5 -**

The scribes, who were sitting there said -

##### **Mark 2:7 -**

Of course, the scribes were quite right in saying this. The trouble was that they did not recognize Jesus as the Son of God. So, in order to prove to them that He *did* have the power to forgive the man's sins, He performed a miracle in the man's body.

So Jesus alone has the power, the authority, to forgive sins. He alone can forgive sins because He alone has died to make propitiation for our sins.

##### **1 John 2:2 -**

Compare -

##### **Acts 13:38-39 -**

##### **1 John 1:9 -**

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#### 5. HE IS THE EXALTED AND GLORIFIED LORD.

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##### **Acts 7:54-56 -**

In this chapter we have the record of Stephen's great defense before the authorities.

The result of all that Stephen said is given to us in -

**Acts 7:54 -**

But what did Stephen do?

We are told -

**Acts 7:55-56 -**

“Who is this Son of Man?” -

**Philippians 2:5-11 -**

and compare with -

**Hebrews 1:1-3 -**

**Hebrews 2:9 -**

He is the Lord of glory, exalted and seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Are you identified with Him?

If so, surely you are very glad that you are a Christian!

How great He is!

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**6. HE IS THE ONE WHO WILL SOON RETURN IN POWER AND GLORY.**

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**Matthew 24:27 -**

**Matthew 24:30 -**

**Matthew 24:37 -**

**Matthew 24:44 -**

The whole burden of **Matthew, chapter 24**, is the Second Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ. In these verses (and other scriptures as well), He is referred to as “the Son of Man”.

This old world, in which He was rejected and crucified, has not seen the end of Him. Soon He will return and He will return in glory and in power.

The great question that we have to answer is this: Are we ready for His return? See the warning in -

**Matthew 24:44 -**

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## **7. HE IS THE JUDGE OF ALL MANKIND.**

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**John 5:25-27 -**

These are solemn verses. They should be read in conjunction with -

**Acts 17:31 -**

**Hebrews 9:27 -**

There are two judgments that concern us.

1. The Judgment of the Great White Throne.

This is referred to in -

**Revelation 20:11-12 -**

**Revelation 20:15 -**

Every unsaved person will be present. No Christian will be there, for the whole question of the Christian's judgment has been settled once and for all by the Lord Jesus Himself.

**John 5:24 -**

2. The Judgment Seat of Christ.

This is referred to in -

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15 -**

**2 Corinthians 5:10 -**

Every Christian will be present at the Judgment Seat of Christ, to be rewarded or to suffer loss, according to the life he has lived on the earth.

“Who is this Son of Man?”

He is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Lord of the Church.

He is the One who came from heaven to earth to set us free.

He is the seeking Saviour.

He is the only One who is qualified to forgive our sin.

He is the exalted and glorified Lord.

He is the One who is shortly coming again and to whom God has given all authority to be Judge of all mankind.

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# ***“LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?”***

## **STUDY 6**

**Scripture Portion: Acts 9:6**

One of the most wonderful truths revealed in the Bible is the truth that God has a perfect plan for the life of every one of His children.

Just as an architect prepares an accurate and detailed drawing for each new building that is erected under his guidance and instruction, so God, our gracious and our loving heavenly Father, has a perfect, a detailed and an accurate plan for the life of every Christian.

This truth is emphasized and illustrated over and over again in the Word of God.

But nowhere is it more clearly brought before us than in the brief conversation that took place on the Damascus road when the Lord apprehended Saul of Tarsus.

At the very moment of his meeting with the risen Saviour, Saul asked the question -

**Acts 9:6 -**

Did Saul’s conversion just “happen by chance”, or was it according to a divine plan and purpose?

The answer is given in -

**Acts 9:15 -**

It all took place “according to plan” - God’s plan.

And God has a plan for your life and for mine.

The most important question we can ask, therefore, is - “How may we know that plan?”

First, let us emphasize this fact that -



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**GOD HAS A PLAN FOR THE LIFE OF EVERY ONE OF HIS CHILDREN.**

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When we pause and think about this, it seems almost too wonderful to be true, but consider the following strong reasons for believing that it is true.

It is reasonable to expect it.

God is a God of order and of method. If we are building a house or making a dress, we work according to a plan or a design. Is it unreasonable to think that God, who is our Father, our Guide and our Lord, has a design for the pathway of those of us who are His children?

It is according to experience.

See what we read about Abraham in -

**Hebrews 11:8-10 -**

Moses in -

**Hebrews 11:24-27 -**

David in -

**1 Chronicles 17:7 -**

Isaiah in -

**Isaiah 6:8 -**

Jeremiah in -

**Jeremiah 1:5-8 -**

and Paul in -

**Acts 9:15 -**

These are only a few examples of God's plan and purpose in the lives of individuals.

God's Word teaches it.

One of the most wonderful statements in the New Testament is found in -

**Ephesians 2:10 -**

After reading this verse, read -

**Psalm 27:11 -**

**Psalm 37:23 -**

**Psalm 73:24 -**

**Psalm 143:8 -**

then compare with -

**Proverbs 3:6 -**

**Proverbs 15:9 -**

**Proverbs 16:3 -**

**Isaiah 30:21 -**

**James 1:5 -**

Could there be any doubt about the fact that the Lord has a plan and a purpose for the life of every one of His children?

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**GOD'S PLAN HAS THREE VERY IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS.**

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The scriptures tell us three facts about God's plan for our lives. These facts are stated very clearly indeed.

1. It is a personal plan.

Notice the personal pronouns in -

**Acts 9:4 -**

**Acts 9:6 -**

“Thou” and “me”.

There is no one else in the world like you. Therefore, God's plan for you is unique, personal - just for you! He has a purpose to fulfil in, and with, your life that cannot be fulfilled in, and with, the life of any other person.

Just pause and let this fact sink in!

2. It is a perfect plan.

### **Romans 12:1-2 -**

We are told that the will of God, or God's plan and purpose in the lives of His children, is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ponder these three words for they are full of a very wonderful significance.

- c. It is a practicable plan.*

In other words, it is workable and thoroughly related to everyday living and service.

It is not a plan that only sounds good and acceptable and perfect theoretically, it proves to *be* good and acceptable and perfect in actual, down-to-earth, day-by-day experience!

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## **3. OUR FIRST CONCERN SHOULD BE TO DISCOVER GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES.**

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This is obvious, but it is sadly true that some Christians fail to discover God's plan for their lives. In consequence, their days, weeks, months and years are filled with disappointment, defeat, frustration and failure.

How very wonderful it is to feel that we are achieving something really worthwhile, and to know that we are doing it, not for ourselves, but for, and in accordance with, the will of our loving heavenly Father!

Every unconverted person is living a self-planned life, as was Saul up until the time of his conversion.

### **Acts 9:5 -**

But it is also sadly true that many Christians plan their own lives. We make decisions and choices which afterwards prove to be wrong.

Compare -

### **John 21:3 -**

There is nothing greater or more comforting than to know that we are in the centre of God's will. Every one of us can know just that.

But notice the next point.

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**4. WE ENTER GOD'S PLAN WHEN WE ACCEPT CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR.**

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Saul entered the plan of God when he said -

**Acts 9:6 -**

The Lord Jesus revealed Himself to Saul, saying -

**Acts 9:6 -**

"I am Jesus....." - i.e. Saviour.

This is not to say that God was not interested in Saul and watching over him prior to his conversion, but His purpose for this man was an eternal purpose.

It is true to say that Saul only entered into the plan of God when he bowed at the feet of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus and accepted Him as his Saviour and acknowledged Him as his Lord.

Have you come to this point in your Christian experience? If so, notice the next thing.

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**5. WE CONTINUE IN GOD'S PLAN BY DAILY OBEDIENCE TO HIS REVEALED WILL.**

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He has the whole plan of our lives in front of Him, but He only reveals it a bit at a time. He reveals the plan progressively, step by step.

**Psalm 37:23 -**

Compare with -

**Isaiah 46:9-10 -**

The human condition that has to be met if we are to know God's will increasingly and if we are to move along the line of God's will constantly, is complete submission to Him and a strong desire to obey Him.

All this is indicated in Saul's great question -

**Acts 9:6 -**

This enquiry as to what God's will is, with a view to discovering it and doing it, involves four things.

1. Communion with Him in prayer.

A suitable prayer is recorded in -

**Psalm 27:11 -**

It is when we know what it is to go regularly into the secret place that the Lord graciously reveals His plan to us step by step.

***b. Studying and searching His Word.***

How wonderfully all the saints of God have been led as they have read and submitted their lives to the commands and the guidance of the Word of God!

**Psalm 119:105 -**

3. Prompt and unquestioning obedience.

God reveals His will to us when we obey Him.

**1 Samuel 15:22 -**

A very good key verse to underline is -

**John 2:5 -** *His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*

4. Complete and implicit trust.

Rarely can we trace God's working in our lives for we are living -

**2 Corinthians 5:7 -**

This means that we have to trust Him. The Lord spoke of Saul as -

**Acts 9:15 -**

Saul had to trust the Lord in all that He permitted in his life in the way of sufferings, privations, stonings, imprisonments, etc.

**2 Corinthians 11:24-28 -**

God's plan includes His permission of life's testings and trials.

**1 Peter 4:12-13 -**

**1 Peter 4:19 -**

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## **6. GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIVES IS AN ETERNAL ONE.**

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Perhaps you have arrived at this last point in our study and you are saying, "What a thrilling theme for young people who have the whole of their lives before them!"

But - it is a thrilling theme also for the most aged Christian, for all who belong to the Lord have a glorious eternity before them.

God's plan has an earthly part and a heavenly part. The earthly part is like the foundation of a building and the heavenly part can be likened to the structure of the building.

We are apt to have a very limited conception of God's plan.

A Christian dies at the age of 30 or 40 and we say, "What a tragedy!" So it is, from earth's limited view point. But God's loving plan for His children is an eternal plan.

As you conclude this study, look up -

**1 John 2:17 -**

and compare with -

**2 Timothy 4:7-8 -**

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# **“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”**

## **STUDY 7**

**Scripture Portion: Acts 16:30**

In approaching this study it will be well worthwhile to read **Acts 16:14-34** which records three conversion stories:

*First, that of Lydia -*

**Acts. 16:14-15 -**

*Second, that of a certain damsel -*

**Acts 16:16-18 -**

*Third, that of the jailor of the prison at Philippi -*

**Acts 16:25-34 -**

If we view these three cases of conversion as they are presented to us in this chapter, we learn that the gospel is relevant to, and adequate for, all kinds and conditions of people.

Lydia was quite different from the damsel. These two ladies were totally different from the jailor, yet, the gospel met the needs of each.

**Romans 10:12-14 -**

We also learn that the Lord's methods in seeking and saving men and women vary according to the persons concerned.

Lydia, presumably, was an educated woman and her conversion was a quiet one.

The jailor, on the other hand, was a pretty tough man. He was converted rather noisily!

The damsel had a great struggle before she came through into the experience of salvation.

To gain the full significance of the tremendous question asked by the jailor -

**Acts. 16:30 -**

It will help to notice the three stages in the process of his entrance into the Christian life.

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### **1. THE JAILOR'S CONVICTION.**

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Nobody ever turns to the Lord for salvation until he first feels his need to be saved. This is the reason why many people do not come to Christ. They do not feel their need of Him. After all, we only go to a doctor when we feel ill.

Certain things happened to make this man feel his need of the Saviour. These “happenings” produced within him a deep sense of conviction.

The praises of Paul and Silas convinced the jailor of the reality of divine things.

**Acts 16:25 -**

Although Paul and Silas were suffering such hardship physically and mentally - compare with -

**Acts 16:22-24 -**

Yet they were praising God and praying to Him. The fact of the two men praising the Lord in the midst of their trials, influenced the jailor very greatly.

When Christians react to suffering in the right way, the unconverted are greatly influenced.

**Philippians 1:12 -**

The earthquake and the fear that this brought upon the jailor, caused him to think about God and about his spiritual need.

**Acts 16:26-27 -**

Here was a careless, thoughtless, irreligious man. Suddenly, he was shaken by an earthquake and faced with imminent death. All this awoke him to his need. He was facing eternity and he was unprepared to die.

There are some people today who need an ‘earthquake’ before they will feel their need of the Saviour.

Oftentimes, the Lord graciously permits an ‘earthquake’ to shake them out of their complacency and to cause them to feel how desperately they need to be saved.

The attitude of Paul and Silas after the earthquake convinced the jailor that these men were real Christians.

We are told in -

**Acts 16:27-28 -**

that the jailor expected that Paul and Silas and the other prisoners would have fled.

In actual fact, Paul and Silas, at any rate, were still there waiting to be of service to this man and to lead him into the kingdom.

Here were prisoners actually helping their own jailor!

Here were good men, indeed!

Thus we see the jailor was brought under a deep sense of conviction of his need of salvation.

This was so great that it caused him to cry out in anguish -

**Acts 16:30 -**

Do you feel any such need?

If you are not a Christian, you are lost -

**Luke 19:10 -**

dead -

**Ephesians 2:1 -**

and the wrath of God abides upon you -

**John 3:36 -**

Now notice, the jailor was not only convicted of his need of a Saviour; that was only the first step.

He was also gloriously converted.

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## 2. THE JAILOR'S CONVERSION.

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What exactly do we mean by conversion?

We only have to look at this man for the answer to that question. He was completely transformed, simply by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ -

### **Acts 16:31 -**

He had been lost, he was fearful, he was on the point of committing suicide, then suddenly he was saved, rejoicing in the Lord, praising God for His goodness and confessing the Lord by baptism.

Notice three things about this man's conversion.

1. His conversion was a radical experience.

Every real conversion results in a complete change of life.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 -**

The man became so altered and so one with Paul and Silas, that he -

### **Acts 16:33 -**

This surely was an evidence of a radical work of grace.

2. His conversion was a sudden experience.

If you are reading this Bible study now and you have not been converted, then you may be converted at this very moment if you will put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

The way is to -

### **Acts 16:31 -**

The way to be saved is simple and straightforward.

### **Romans 10:13 -**

3. The jailor's conversion was a scriptural conversion.

There is only one way to be converted and that is the Bible way. What is the Bible way?

It is all summed up in -

**Acts 16:31 -**

This verse in the NEB reads “*Put your trust in the Lord Jesus and you’ll be saved*”.

Why do we need to put our trust in Jesus? Because He is the *only* Saviour.

**Isaiah 45:22 -**

**John 14:6 -**

**Acts 4:12 -**

What could be plainer than this?

The jailor was brought under deep conviction. This led him to seek the Lord and to ask the question, “What must I do to be saved?”, then to put his whole trust in Christ as his Saviour. He was now converted.

But, was that all? No!

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**3. THE JAILOR’S CONFESSION.**

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Please notice -

**Acts 16:32 -**

Paul and Silas engaged in a teaching evangelism. This is urgently needed today. It is not enough to tell people that they must come to Jesus and believe on Him. Simple and solid instruction must be given.

This evidently happened in the case of the jailor. After he has received instruction from God’s servants, he was led at once, even at midnight, to confess his Lord.

There are three ways in which he confessed that he was now a Christian.

1. He confessed by word of mouth.

This is implied in -

**Acts 16:33-34 -**

Compare with -

**Matthew 10:32-33 -**

**Romans 10:9-10 -**

*b. He confessed by obedience in baptism.*

**Acts. 16:33 -**

There was no waiting. There were no excuses. Evidently Paul had spoken to the jailor about -

**Matthew 28:19 -**

and had told him that this was the Lord's way for every believer.

3. He confessed by enjoying fellowship with other Christians.

**Acts 16:34 -**

He gathered his loved ones together so that they also might share in the blessing that he had received.

A real Christian confesses Christ by joining with other Christians in fellowship, in worship and in service.

How do you fit into this picture?

Have you been deeply convicted and convinced of your need of a Saviour and that Christ is the Saviour you need? Have you been converted?

Have you definitely put your trust in Christ as your own personal Saviour? Have you confessed Him by word of mouth, by baptism and by uniting in fellowship with other Christians?

*O happy day that fixed my choice  
On Thee, my Saviour and my God!  
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,  
And tell its raptures all abroad*

*'Tis done: the great transaction's done;  
I am my Lord's, and He is mine;  
He drew me and I followed on,  
Charmed to confess the voice divine.*

*Now rest, my long-divided heart;*

*Fixed on this blissful center, rest;  
Nor ever from my Lord depart,  
With Him of every good possessed.*

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# **“IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?”**

## **STUDY 8**

Scripture Portion: Romans 8 :31

**Romans 8** contains a wealth of spiritual truth. In it, the apostle Paul dwells with great emphasis upon what God is to His people and what He has done for His people.

Then, he suddenly breaks forth with the question -

**Romans 8:31 -**

It is important to notice that the word *if*, which Paul uses, does not denote doubt but is a conclusion, a consequence or an affirmation signifying *since*.

The argument is this: God is so evidently *for* us that nothing or no one can successfully be against us.

There are plenty of opposing forces against the Christian, but there is nothing that can successfully overthrow him.

Compare -

**Isaiah 54:17 -**

**Jeremiah 1:19 -**

**1 John 4:4 -**

Then read -

**Psalm 118:6 -**

What are some of the things that are against us as Christians? Take your Bible and underline these words -

**Condemnation.**

**Romans 8:1 -**

This is our state apart from grace.

**Sin.**



**Romans 8:2 -**

We are all sinners.

**Flesh.**

**Romans 8:8 -**

This refers to the self-life.

**Sufferings.**

**Romans 8:18 -**

Not one of us is exempt from these.

**Corruption.**

**Romans 8:21 -**

We are dying all the time.

**Pain.**

**Romans 8:22 -**

We all know what this means.

**Infirmity.**

**Romans 8:26 -**

This means weakness.

Now, over all these we can write the words 'the devil' for he is against us all the time.

**1 Peter 5:8 -**

But, if all these things are against us, and the devil himself is against us, since -

**Romans 8:31 -**

What then are the evidences that Paul gives us that “God is for us”?

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**WE KNOW THAT GOD IS *FOR* US BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN US HIS SON.**

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This is brought before us in -

**Romans 8:3 -**

**Romans 8:32 -**

What more could God do than send His own Son into this world to be our Saviour? Surely this is sufficient proof that He loves us.

**John 3:16 -**

Notice that in **verse 32** we are told, not only that God did not withhold His own Son, but that He delivered Him up for us all.

Here, undoubtedly, is a reference to the purpose for which Christ came into the world, which was to become a sacrifice for our sins and to offer Himself upon the cross of Calvary.

Compare -

**John 1:29 -**

**2 Corinthians 5:21 -**

**1 Peter 2:24 -**

We are also told in **verse 32** that, with the gift of His Son, God guarantees also to give us ‘all things’ - that is, all that we need for time and eternity.

This is the first great evidence that He is for us.

---

## **2. WE KNOW THAT GOD IS *FOR* US BECAUSE HE HAS ONCE AND FOR ALL SETTLED THE QUESTION OF OUR SIN.**

---

This is brought before us in -

**Romans 8:1-3 -**

**Romans 8:33-34 -**

We are told that, through the gift, the sacrifice, the resurrection and the present intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ, the whole question of our sin has been settled once and for all by Him.

Apart from Him, we were condemned -

**John 3:18 -**

But now, because He has died as our Sinbearer, Saviour and Substitute, we are no longer under condemnation -

**John 5:24 -**

What can charge us or condemn us?

The devil, of course, will try to do so, but, what is our answer to him and to all our own sinfulness and unworthiness?

The answer is in -

**Romans 8:33-34 -**

Because the Lord Jesus has died and risen and is exalted at the right hand of God the Father, there to make intercession for us, God has justified us once and for all.

This is the second great evidence that He is for us.

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3. WE KNOW THAT GOD IS *FOR* US BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN US HIS SPIRIT.

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The person of the Holy Spirit is mentioned twenty times in this chapter. Let us notice a few of the references to the fact of God having given us His Spirit and to His purpose in doing so.

He has come to indwell us.

This is true of every child of God

**Romans 8:9 -**

He indwells us to impart life.

**Romans 8:10 -**

**2 Peter 1:4 -**

*c. His indwelling guarantees our resurrection.*

**Romans 8:11 -**

**Romans 8:23 -**

4. He is in us to emancipate us.

**Romans 8:2 -**

**Romans 8:13 -**

*e. He is our ever-present Guide.*

He leads us according to the will of God.

**Romans 8:14 -**

6. He gives us assurance that we really are the Lord's.

**Romans 8:16 -**

*g. He dwells within us to be our Helper.*

**Romans 8:26 -**

Here is our third sure evidence that God is for us - the fact that He has given us His Holy Spirit to exercise these gracious ministries in us and through us.

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**4. WE KNOW THAT GOD IS *FOR* US BECAUSE HE HAS ADOPTED US INTO HIS FAMILY AND HAS MADE US JOINT-HEIRS WITH HIS SON.**

---

This is brought before us in -

**Romans 8:14-17 -**

The word 'adoption' means 'placing as a son'. This is exactly what God has done. It is a stupendous thought, but it is nevertheless true. Although we are so unworthy in ourselves, God has brought us into His family circle.

He is now our heavenly Father and we are able to look up into His face and say to Him, "Abba, Father", which is the child's first cry of recognition and relationship.

But, more than all this, we are not only children but we are actually heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.

Here is our fourth evidence that God is for us.

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**5. WE KNOW THAT GOD IS *FOR* US BECAUSE HE HAS PROMISED THAT ALL THINGS WILL WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR GOOD.**

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**Romans 8:28 -**

What a great thing it is to know this and to be absolutely sure about it!

It does not always seem to us that things are working together for good, but God promises that it is so and that it will be so. Many things are against us, as we have already seen, but God causes even these things to work for our good.

This is the fifth evidence that God is for us.

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6. WE KNOW THAT GOD IS *FOR* US BECAUSE OF THE DECLARED PURPOSE OF HIS GRACE.

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**Romans 8:29-30 -**

These verses contain five unbroken and unbreakable links in the golden chain of God's marvelous purpose for every one of His children.

Here they are.

1. Foreknowledge.

Compare -

**2 Timothy 2:19 -**

**1 Peter 1:2 -**

2. Predestination.

Compare -

**2 Corinthians 3:18 -**

**1 John 3:2 -**

3. Called.

Compare -

**John 6:37-39 -**

**1 Corinthians 1:2 -**

4. Justified.

Compare -

**Romans 3:26 -**

**Romans 5:1 -**

5. Glorified.

Compare -

**John 17:20-26 -**

**Romans 8:17 -**

As we gaze at the scope of God's great redemptive purpose for His children, we declare, "Surely, God *is* for us!"

This is the sixth evidence that HE is for us!

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7. WE KNOW THAT GOD IS *FOR* US BECAUSE HE HAS GUARANTEED OUR ETERNAL SECURITY.

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**Romans 8:35-39 -**

These verses make a triumphant conclusion to this great chapter. They include the final evidence that God is for us, now and for ever. Nothing in time or in eternity, in heaven or on earth, not force of evil, no demon from hell, *absolutely* nothing - will ever separate us from the Lord and from His love for us.

Surely this guarantee is evidence enough that God is for us.

Yes, God is for us, but there is one question that must be asked, "Are we for Him?" Are you? Are you on the Lord's side?

If so, you can banish your fears and doubts and be happy in the assurance that all is well and you can say, since -

**Romans 8:31 -**

## ***NOTES***

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***“YE DID RUN WELL: WHO DID  
HINDER YOU?”***

**STUDY 9**

**Scripture Portion: Galatians 5:7**

**Galatians 5:7 -**

It is a very wonderful thing when anyone is truly converted. A truly converted person is born again -

**1 Peter 1:23 -**

saved -

**Romans 10:9 -**

justified -

**Romans 5:1 -**

and made a partaker of the divine nature -

**2 Peter 1:4 -**

Do you recall the day of your conversion? If you do not remember the day, are you sure that you have been converted?

How inexpressibly sad it is when one who has been truly converted turns back -

**Acts 7:39 -**

backslides -

**Proverbs 14:14 -**

becomes lukewarm -

**Revelation 3:16 -**

or loses his first love -

**Revelation 2:4 -**

What a tragedy this is - to be keen and out-and-out for Christ, a soulwinner and an earnest worker, and then to turn aside and to turn away from the Lord!

There were those in the Galatian Church who had this experience in A.D. 56 (when the apostle wrote his epistle).

They had been turned aside by false teachers who had sought, and succeeded, in getting them into bondage again to the Law.

See what the apostle says of them and to them in -

**Galatians 5:7 -**

The thought conveyed to us in this verse is that the Christian life is a race. Paul used this metaphor in -

**1 Corinthians 9:24 -**

Compare with -

**Hebrews 12:1-2 -**

Here in **Galatians 5:7**, we are told that we may be hindered in the race. Weymouth translates this verse as follows: "*Who has got in the way of your obeying?*" A literal translation might well be, "*Who has jostled you?*"

Consider some of the possible answers to this challenging question.

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WERE YOU HINDERED BY THE INCONSISTENCY OF PROFESSING  
CHRISTIANS?

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Then you need to take heed to -

**1 Peter 2:21 -**

Your trouble is that you have been looking to other Christians and following their example. Perhaps you have even put them on a pedestal. Then, when you discovered that they are not as perfect as you had thought, you have been disappointed and discouraged.

There is only One whom we can set up as our example - that is our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

**Hebrews 12:1-2 -**

It is most essential to look off - away from oneself, one's circumstances, and from other Christians, unto Jesus Himself. You will always be disappointed as you look at people. You will never be disappointed as you look at Him.

In Him, and in Him alone, we see absolute perfection.

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**2. WERE YOU HINDERED BY PERSECUTION,  
MISUNDERSTANDING OR OPPOSITION?**

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Then you need to take heed to -

**John 16:33 -**

Many a fellow or girl has accepted Christ in a meeting and has then gone home to face the misunderstanding and opposition of loved ones and friends.

The test has been so severe that, after a while, they have become discouraged and have "given everything up".

But, "it is hard to be a Christian". Our Lord expressly told us that it would be so.

**Matthew 5:11-12 -**

The Lord Jesus was threatened with stones -

**John 8:59 -**

They put a crown of thorns upon Him -

**John 19:16 -**

Is it not a great privilege to suffer with Him?

**Philippians 1:29 -**

and compare -

**Acts 5:41 -**

**2 Corinthians 11:23-30 -**

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3. WERE YOU HINDERED BY SOME SEVERE TRIAL OR SORROW?

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Then you need to take heed to -

**Hebrews 12:6 -**

Do you know the very first thing the Lord does when we tell Him that we are willing to be wholly His? He tests us out to see if we really mean it. All the way through our earthly pilgrimage He is chastening us.

But, be sure that you understand what this word “chastening” means. It means “child-training”.

He allows all sorts of testings and trials to beset us in order that we may be cast upon Him -

**Psalms 55:22 -**

that we may be refined -

**Malachi 3:3 -**

and that our faith may be deepened -

**1 Peter 1:7 -**

Have you ever noticed -

**Luke 7:23 -**

Be sure to read -

**Luke 7:19-22 -**

Compare with -

**1 Peter 2:8 -**

You will also find much help by meditating on -

**Deuteronomy 8:1-5 -**

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#### 4. WHERE YOU HINDERED BY THE PULL OF THE WORLD?

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Then you need to take heed to -

**1 John 2:15 -**

It is not possible to love the Lord Jesus and to love the world at the same time.

**Matthew 6:24 -**

That was the trouble with Demas -

**2 Timothy 4:10 -**

He was hindered by a love for the world.

This was also poor Peter's trouble which led to his sad threefold denial of the Lord.-

**Luke 22:54-62 -**

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#### 5. WERE YOU HINDERED BY NEGLECT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD?

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Then you need to take heed to -

**John 15:4 -**

To "abide" means to "stay put". How many Christians there are who, instead of abiding in Christ, have backslidden because they have neglected private prayer -

**Matthew 6:6 -**

They have neglected the devotional reading of God's Word -

**2 Timothy 3:15-17 -**

They have neglected the regular attendance at the house of God -

**Hebrews 10:25 -**

In consequence of all this neglect, they have not grown and progressed spiritually -

**2 Peter 3:18 -**

Do not be content to remain a spiritual baby, with all the marks and characteristics of immaturity about you!

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**6. WERE YOU HINDERED BY SOME WILFUL ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE?**

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Then you need to take heed to -

**Jeremiah 26:13 -**

It is of little use thinking about it, talking about it, or even praying about it unless you actually *amend your ways and obey the voice of the Lord*. In other words, there must be some drastic dealing with anything and everything that is wrong in the life.

Perhaps there is a wrong friendship -

**Amos 3:3 -**

an unequal yoke -

**2 Corinthians 6:14 -**

a secret sin -

**Joshua 7:18-23 -**

some impurity -

**Isaiah 52:11 -**

an unforgiving spirit -

**Matthew 18:21-22 -**

or an unfulfilled vow -

**Deuteronomy 23:21 -**

Read and compare -

**Proverbs 28:13 -**

**Psalms 66:18 -**

Notice the reference to obedience in -

**Galatians 5:7 -**

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## **WAS IT SOMETHING ELSE THAT HINDERED YOU?**

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Then you need to take heed to -

**Hebrews 12:25 -**

If you are willing and honest before the Lord, and you are desirous of coming back to Him, He will put His finger upon the hindering thing in your life. When He does so, be sure to obey the injunction in -

**John 2:5 -**

The only life that is glorifying to God, that is pleasing to others and that is really satisfying to ourselves is the life that is running well, the life that is lived in complete obedience to the truth - to the Lord Jesus Who is the Truth -

**John 14:6 -**

and to His Word, the Word of Truth -

**2 Timothy 2:15 -**



*“He who would valiant be  
‘Gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy  
Follow the Master.*

*There’s no discouragement  
Shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.” (John Bunyan)*

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**“HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE IF WE  
NEGLECT SO GREAT SALVATION?”**

**STUDY 10**

**Scripture Portion: Hebrews 2:3**

In the New Testament there are three unanswered questions -

**Mark 8:36 -**

**1 Peter 4:17 -**

and the question that forms the theme of this study which is found in -

**Hebrews 2:3 -**

and which is one of the most searching and solemn questions that has ever been asked.

It falls naturally into three divisions.

*First it speaks about A Great Provision that God has made for us all - “salvation”.*

*Then, it speaks about A Great Peril that faces each of us - the peril of “neglect”.*

*Finally, it speaks about A Great Problem - “if we neglect.....how shall we escape?”*

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**1. THE GREAT PROVISION.**

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What is the great provision that God has made for you, for me and for everybody?

The answer to this question can be given in one word “**Salvation**”.

Does it mean simply that, if we are saved, we shall go to heaven when we die, or does it mean being religious, going to church and saying our prayers?

We can illustrate the meaning of this word from the parable of the lost sheep in -

**Luke 15:3-7 -**

When the sheep was lost, it was away from the shepherd, unhappy, wandering, outside the fold and in danger. Then the shepherd sought and found the sheep, placed it upon his shoulder. Once again, the sheep was happy and safe.

This is a faint picture of the meaning of salvation. Salvation provides for the complete restoration of the sinner. It is the provision that God has made for bringing us back into fellowship with Himself and into the safety of the fold.

Is it any wonder, therefore, that the writer of **Hebrews** uses two qualifying words when speaking of salvation?

**First - He says it is a ‘great salvation’.**

More than that, he speaks of ‘so great salvation’. Why is this salvation so great? There are three reasons.

It is great because of the great love that provided it.

*“Oh, the love that drew salvation’s plan!  
Oh, the grace that bro’t it down to man!  
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span  
At Calvary!”*

When did salvation come down to man?

In time, and in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. This salvation is great because of the great love that prompted it and provided it. It is ‘so great’ -

**John 3:16 -**

Compare the word ‘so’ found there!

**b. *It is great because of the great price paid for it.***

Salvation cost God the best that He had. To provide salvation for you and for me, it cost Him the gift of His only begotten Son.

**1 John 4:9 -**

Creation cost God a word -

**Genesis 1:3 -**

He spake and it was done.

Redemption cost Him “the Word”. It cost Him the gift of the Saviour who went to the cross to die for us.

**John 1:1-2 -**

**John 1:14 -**

There are two verses which help us to understand something of the price the Lord Jesus paid for our salvation. They are -

**2 Corinthians 8:9 -**

**1 Peter 1:18-19 -**

3. It is great because of the great blessings included in it.

Salvation includes every blessing that we need, for salvation provides for our need completely in the gift of Christ Himself.

**Ephesians 1:3 -**

When we talk about being saved, we mean being forgiven -

**Acts 13:38-39 -**

being cleansed -

**1 John 1:7 -**

receiving eternal life -

**1 John 5:11-12 -**

having joy -

**1 Peter 1:8 -**

peace -

**Philippians 4:7 -**

grace -

**2 Corinthians 9:8 -**

and heaven as our home -

**John 14:1-3 -**

What great blessings these are and they are all included in our salvation! This is the provision that God has made for us.

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**2. THE GREAT PERIL.**

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What is the great peril that faces every man and every woman?

It is the peril of neglecting the salvation that God has so graciously and freely provided. There are three words which describe the attitude of every person to the gospel. We are each doing one of these three things with the salvation which is offered to us in Christ.

Think of these three words.

1. The first word is REJECT.

This refers to a conscious and a deliberate refusal to receive what is being offered to us. It is like saying, "I refuse". It is a very solemn thing to do this.

**John 5:40 -**

Compare -

**Acts 28:24 -**

2. The second word is ACCEPT.

To accept means to hear, to believe and to receive, to trust and be saved. When a gift is offered, we may reject it or accept it. Compare the gift in -

**John 3:16 -**

with the acceptance of the gift in -

**John 1:12 -**

- c. The third word is NEGLECT.*

This word refers to those people who do not deliberately reject, but, at the same time, they do not accept salvation.

They simply neglect what God has provided. There is a careless, passive attitude of neglect.

There are many people like this. They attend services and hear the gospel but they do nothing about it. They do not believe on the Lord Jesus -

**Acts 16:31 -**

They do not receive Him as their Saviour -

**John 1:12 -**

They do not come to Him -

**John 6:37 -**

They delay -

**Acts 24:25 -**

This is a very dangerous thing to do.

This is the dreadful peril that faces multitudes of people, the peril of neglect. It is very easy for any one of us to be absorbed with home or business, with making money, with our hobbies or pleasures and to neglect salvation.

Why is this such a great peril?

Because, in any realm of life, it is dangerous to neglect. It is dangerous to neglect our body and our health. If we neglect our business, we cannot possibly expect it to prosper.

If the housewife neglects the home, that will soon show itself and there will be disorder and discontent. We dare not neglect our children. The student dare not neglect his studies.

Somehow, though, people think it is different with the soul, with spiritual matters and with salvation. They think it is quite all right to neglect these! But is it?

The neglect of some things brings only temporal consequences. The neglect of the soul brings eternal consequences.

Are you neglecting the salvation of your soul?



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### 3. THE GREAT PROBLEM.

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If you neglect God's provision for your soul's salvation, how will you escape the consequences of such neglect?

This is the problem. Can you solve it?

It is a logical and a reasonable question that is asked here. If anyone neglects and refuses the only salvation that has been provided and that is available, how can they possibly be saved?

If there is only one way for a man to travel to heaven, and he rejects that one way, how can he possibly go to heaven? This is the problem, and what a problem it is.

It is a great problem because God cannot solve it. It is a great problem because you cannot solve it. It is a great problem because nobody, anywhere, can solve it.

How will you escape if you neglect God's salvation? How will you escape His wrath?

#### **John 3:36 -**

His condemnation?

#### **John 3:18 -**

His word of banishment?

#### **Matthew 26:41 -**

Two men were standing on the end of a pier. Suddenly a third man rushed past them and plunged into the water. The two men threw in a coil of rope. It fell right across the man in the water. They cried out, "Catch it and we will pull you in!"

The man looked at the rope and said, "It is very kind of you....." and went down and was drowned.

Is it possible that, although at such tremendous cost, God has made salvation available to you, and you are saying to Him, "It is very kind of You....." and that is all?

You are neglecting this great salvation?

You are just doing nothing about it?

If that is true, how will you escape.....?

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