

Salvation Made Simple **1 Timothy 1:8-16**

Introduction:

1. There is not a more important issue on this earth than the destiny of your eternal soul. Jesus said this: *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lost his own soul?”* **Mark 8:36**
2. Thankfully, for something as important as this, God has not left us in the dark. God doesn't want us to “hope” that we go to heaven. He wants us to know!
1 John 5:13
 - Jesus taught that a person either has everlasting life, or the wrath of God is abiding on him. This is a serious issue. John 3:36
3. I love passages like the one before us this morning. God explains things so that a child could understand it. He makes it simple. If salvation from our sin was a complicated, difficult thing, most of us would miss it. Thankfully it is not.
4. Notice several key principles in our text.

First, salvation cannot be attained through self-effort.

1. Why did God give His law to mankind? God gave His law to reveal our sin and disobedience. If we always did right, we wouldn't need a law (vs. 9). If you look at verses 9-10, do you think **you** may be on that list somewhere?
 - Disobedient – Have you ever disobeyed God or failed to do what you knew was right?
 - Ungodly – Have you always acted just like God in every way?
 - Unholy – Have you ever taken God's name and used it as a curse word?
 - Profane – Have you ever used profanity?
 - Whoremongers – Did you ever partake in sexual sin in thought or deed?
 - Liars – Did you ever tell a lie, or make a promise and not keep it?
2. Let's be honest. We are all on that list, aren't we? Paul knew he was. vs. 13
3. God's law reveals to us (in black and white) how we have walked contrary to God's ways. It reveals to us the truth of Romans 3:10, 23. Verse 9 says that the law was made for the *“ungodly and for sinners.”* We are all sinners.
4. There were those in Ephesus that were teaching people that justification before God came through keeping the law. They were misusing God's law (vs. 7-8). The law was never meant to justify a man before God. It reveals our guilt before God.
5. The law simply reveals to us that we have all come up short of God's standard of righteousness, and that we cannot be saved by our own works. Galatians 2:16
6. We are all in the same boat. We are sinners in need of salvation.

Second, salvation has been provided through a Savior.

1. If I cannot attain salvation through my own self-effort, then I obviously need help outside of myself. Without it, I am doomed. The law can't help me. The law is good, but it only condemns me and reveals my sin and my guilt.

2. Thankfully, God has graciously provided a way out from the penalty that we deserve for our sin. What is God's means of provision? Look at verse 15.
3. This verse very succinctly states why Jesus Christ came into this world. He was on a mission. His purpose was to provide a way for sinners to be saved and forgiven.
4. How did He do this? He paid the penalty of our sin **for us**. 2:6; cf. Romans 5:6, 8
 - You may be asking yourself, "You mean Jesus Christ died for **my** sin?" I can without reservation tell you, "Yes, He died for **your** sin." 2 Corinthians 5:15
5. Now do you see the purpose of God's law? It reveals our sin in hopes of driving us to God's answer for sin – Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:24
6. Salvation from sin is rooted in God's grace (vs. 13-14), not man's works. Religion always gets that turned around. So many false religions keep their followers in bondage by placing the yoke of the law around their necks. They are "*teachers of the law.*" vs. 6-7
 - They say, "You have to do this or that, keep our rules, follow our religious rituals, etc., if you want to be saved and go to heaven."
7. If a person can be justified before God through the keeping of some outward law, then Christ died in vain (Galatians 2:21). It was totally unnecessary.
8. You cannot earn God's grace! God's grace, love, mercy, and forgiveness are revealed in one place. Look at verse 14. What are the last three words? "... *in Christ Jesus.*" This is where salvation is found, period! Acts 4:12

Third, salvation is secured by simple faith.

1. The payment for our sin has been paid in full by Jesus Christ. Salvation from the wrath of God and the penalty of sin can only be found in the person of Jesus Christ.
2. Paul was a Christ-rejecting, blaspheming, violent man (vs. 13). But a day came on the road to Damascus when Christ revealed Himself to Paul. Paul made a choice to call Jesus "*Lord,*" and to believe in his heart that Christ had died and risen from the dead.
3. Immediately, Paul was saved, forgiven, and was made a new man. Every blaspheming word, every violent act, every act of sin was forgiven!
4. But here is the good news: this offer of grace and forgiveness wasn't just for him.
5. Let's read verse 16. Paul was a pattern – an example for us today if we want grace and forgiveness. How do we get it? The same way he did. Simply believe on Jesus Christ.
 - Faith is the only response that grace will accept. Galatians 3:22, 24, 26
5. When you choose to place your faith and trust in Christ, God gives you life everlasting. God will not force this gift upon you. He offers it to you in love, and it is your choice to either accept it or reject it.
6. Christ is the Savior of all men. He is extending the rope of salvation to every man and woman. But His payment for our sin is only effectual if we believe it and trust in Him.
 - "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.*" **Acts 16:31**

In Conclusion:

1. Now do you see why I titled this, “Salvation Made Simple”?
 - Salvation cannot be attained by self-effort. You cannot work for it!
 - Salvation has been provided through a Savior. God brought deliverance outside of ourselves!
 - Salvation is secured by simple faith. You simply believe on God’s answer for your sin – Jesus Christ. Believe that what He did is enough.
2. This is what Paul called “the glorious gospel of the blessed God.” It is blessed!
vs. 11