

Weekly Devotional

July 23, 2007

Free Salvation

“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24).

G. Campbell Morgan told of witnessing to a coal miner who could not grasp the concept of free salvation. The miner kept arguing that he had to pay something. The minister asked him, “How did you get down into the mine this morning?” The man answered, “I got on the elevator and it took me down.” “You mean it didn’t cost you anything?” questioned Morgan. Seeing the truth, the miner responded, “No, it didn’t cost me anything; the company paid for it.”

The message of free salvation is that salvation doesn’t cost us anything; the Lord Jesus has already paid for it. Jesus Himself claimed that’s why He came to this earth. He explained to His disciples, “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). To use the words of the songwriter, “Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe.”

This principle was typified (pictured) throughout the Old Testament. God accepted sacrificial animals in the place of those who were condemned by their wrongs. Because of these offerings, atonement was made and their sins were not held against them for another year. But now the Apostle Paul tells us that the fulfillment of the type, the Lord Jesus Christ, has come and free salvation is a reality in Him.

Free salvation involves the marvel of divine redemption! The word redemption indicates “to release by the payment of a price.” In Bible times, it was used in relationship to the freeing of slaves or property. Of course, here the word is used with spiritual implications. This is “the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Jesus died to pay for our release from sin. Therefore, not only is this salvation free or without cost to us, but we are set free through His redemptive work on the cross.

Free salvation involves the miracle of divine grace! The term grace is synonymous with “favor, or loving kindness.” Not only have we been “bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:20), the offering of Christ, but we have been sought by God’s free grace. Without question, divine loving kindness was revealed in Jesus’ death. Moreover, when we could not come to God, in the person of the Holy Spirit He came to us and saved us “by His grace.”

Free salvation involves the mystery of divine justification! The phrase “Being justified” means that we have been “rendered or declared righteous.” What a mystery! Redemption took care of the sin question; grace took care of the heart problem; justification took care of the throne issues. As His justified children, we are accepted before the throne. Through Christ, sinners like us can be comfortable in the presence of God! May we rejoice in and testify of this Free Salvation!