

**Text: various, start 6.19**

One of the things we are constantly wrestling with in Hebrews is the meaning of the warning passages and whether they suggest someone can lose or repudiate their salvation.

When we began the warning section in chapter 6, I preached a message called “The Permanence of Salvation.” (Nov 5, 2023)

The passages I referred to were almost all outside of Hebrews.

Today, I want to return to the theme, but this time looking entirely *inside* Hebrews. I’ve called this message:

### *The Hebrews Doctrine of Eternal Salvation*

God gave us a tremendous gift in giving us salvation.

To begin our message, I thought I would run a quick Google search on “the greatest gift of all time.”

The first hit on my search was a blog called, “Shari’s Berries” with the title, “10 Greatest Gifts in History”

You can go look it up, I’ll just list the ten gifts:

1. The Statue of Liberty: given by France to the USA, July 4, 1884
2. The Rose Trellis egg, a jewel encrusted Fabergé egg with an enclosed diamond necklace and a picture of a little boy, the son of Tsar Nicholas, given to his wife, the Tsarina Alexandra
3. Joe Dimaggio’s Red roses, a gift to Marilyn Munroe (his ex-wife) after her passing, 6 red roses to be delivered to her grave on her birthday “forever” (which ended in 1982)
4. Taj Mahal, given by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan to the memory of his late wife in 1631
5. Hanno the (literal) white elephant, from the king of Portugal to the Pope in 1514
6. The Orlov diamond, weighing 200 carats, given by count Orlov to Catherine the Great of Russia (trying to win her affection) in the 1700s (she kept the diamond but ditched him)
7. Tangier, Morocco and Bombay given to King Charles II of England as a pre-wedding gift from his future mother-in-law (he was 10, the girl was 2) in 1640

8. Hanging Gardens of Babylon given by Nebuchadnezzar to his wife (maybe ... we aren't sure they existed)
9. A winning lottery ticket: a NY city policeman offered his waitress a choice of a tip or half his winnings on the lottery... sure enough he won 6 million and gave her half (we do NOT endorse gambling!)
10. A bowling alley for President Truman, given by supporters from Missouri and built in the White House — it's still there, but Truman didn't use it much

I'm guessing that you aren't all that impressed with some of these gifts. There are probably others in history that top them, but some of these are quite spectacular, in human terms.

We are talking, though, about the gift of salvation. I immediately think of these famous verses in the Bible.

Jn 3.16 ¶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Rm 6.23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Before we get into the message, though, I'd like to remind you of this verse, from our passage last week:

Heb 6.19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,

That hope also describes our salvation, and it is a great gift.

**Proposition:** The author of Hebrews affirms the Bible doctrine of eternal salvation. We should hold fast to it as well.

## I. The greatness of eternal salvation

- A. Accomplished by the Lord Jesus, now seated in the heavens at the right hand (Heb 1.3-4)

Heb 1.3-4 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

1. The full course of his ministry encompassed in these verses
  - a. His relation to the Father: exact representation
  - b. His relation to creation: upholds all things
  - c. His relation to sinners: made purification of sins
  - d. His relation to saints: sat down at the right hand
  - e. His relation to angels: having become/has inherited

He was great before, he is magnified higher after the ascension

2. He sent angels to those who inherit salvation (1.14)

Heb 1.14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

## B. How great is that salvation?

1. It is called the “so great salvation” in the first warning passage (2.3)

Heb 2.3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

- a. “so great” is a superlative; *i.e.* “greatest”
- b. Even the largest ships (the “so great ships”) are driven by a small rudder (Jas 3.4)
- c. Paul speaks of deliverance from “so great a power of death” (2 Co 1.10) — nearly died
- d. In the final days, the earth will suffer “so great” an earthquake “such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth” (Rev 16.18)

e. And here, the “so great” salvation we must not neglect

## 2. The “so great” salvation is “eternal salvation” (5.9)

Heb 5.9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

a. Can refer to something of “long ages” in the past (Rm 16.25)

b. Can refer to something without beginning or end

1) God (Rm 16.26)

2) Spirit (Heb 9.14)

c. Can refer to something with no end — as here, and everywhere where the NT talks about eternal life

## 3. Produces marks of eternity in those who receive it (6.9)

Heb 6.9 ¶ But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way.

a. The things in the life of the believer accompany the salvation he is speaking of

1) Accomplished by Jesus

2) So great: superior to all things

3) Eternal: never ending

b. The so great, never ending marks of Jesus are evident in the believing life

In the movie *Sheffey*, about the life of a remarkable circuit riding preacher, the story concludes with a young man coming to visit Sheffey.

- Young man had set fire to a camp meeting building where Sheffey had much success in ministry
- Sheffey’s wife died of heart failure on the same day
- The young man had come some years later, in repentance and begging forgiveness

Sheffey's reaction: "That's the sweet Holy Spirit in you."

... marks of Jesus, the so great, eternal salvation produces better things in you

## II. The power behind eternal salvation

### A. Able to save forever those who draw near (7.25)

Heb 7.25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

1. First, those who have drawn near (in salvation) are saved forever
2. Power: He always lives to make intercession for them

You may fail him, you have failed him, but if you have drawn near, he saves you forever because he lives forever

### B. Able to cleanse your conscience from dead works and serve the living God (9.13-14)

Heb 9.13-14 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1. The OT system cleansed the unclean flesh in the OT economy
2. The NT system cleanses the believer's conscience in the NT economy
  - a. You have drawn near to Christ, who cleanses you through the eternal Spirit
  - b. You are able to "rise from the dead" and serve the living God with a clear conscience

The person who is living in fear has a defiled conscience, if he is a believer he needs to realize his conscience is cleansed

Symbol of baptism: "buried with him in baptism, raised to newness of life"

### III. The will that ensures eternal salvation

#### A. The will of God: I will remember their sins no more

Heb 8.12 “For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”

#### B. The will of God: sanctified through Christ “once for all”

Heb 10.10-18 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. <sup>11</sup> ¶ Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; <sup>12</sup> but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time onward until his enemies be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. <sup>15</sup> And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, <sup>16</sup> “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them,” *He then says,* <sup>17</sup> “And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” <sup>18</sup> Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin.

1. There are no more sacrifices for our sins, one sacrifice for all sins
2. The one offering *perfected for all time* those who are sanctified
3. The Holy Spirit testifies to us: You are mine, I remember your sins no more

#### Conclusion:

**Proposition:** The author of Hebrews affirms the Bible doctrine of eternal salvation. We should hold fast to it as well.

We do find the warning passages, but we should also find the assurance of eternal salvation if we believe.

Now, what about you?

Are you a believer?