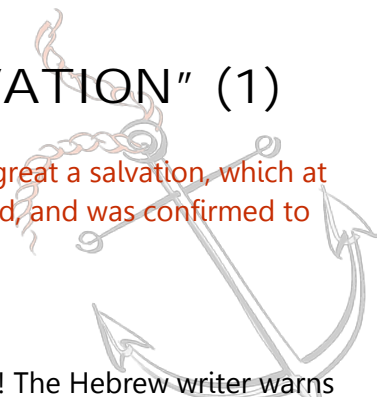




"SO GREAT A SALVATION" (1)

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him" (Heb. 2:3).



THERE is something for which we are to find in this life—salvation! The Hebrew writer warns against neglect of this duty and the dire consequence of losing this salvation by neglect. Paul wrote, "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him" (1 Thess. 5:9, 10). There is a salvation which we are appointed to obtain, and it is through our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostles were clear that there is salvation in no other, "...for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

In this we will anchor in one reason why our salvation is great and will further add to these reasons in the articles that follow.

1. **Salvation is great because of who called it great—the Holy Spirit!** Since the apostles and prophets were inspired by the Holy Spirit, when they wrote something down, it was God saying it (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 1 Pet. 1:20, 21; Eph. 3:1–5; etc.). That God would label salvation as "great" should arrest our attention to find out why. He does not exaggerate or lie.

What is esteemed by God will be esteemed by those who love God. What is hated by God will likewise be hated by those who want to please Him (Ps. 119:104). Those, however, who seek to justify themselves will despise what God loves, and God will despise what they love.

"And He said to them, 'You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God'" (Lk. 16:15).

The very sending of Jesus displays the above fact. Jesus was despised and rejected by those who hated Him while pretending to be righteous. The very stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone (Lk. 20:17). Even when Jesus taught parables or prophetic statements like this, His opponents became so incensed to seek to destroy Him as is seen in Luke 20:19, 20.

"And the chief priests and the scribes that very hour sought to lay hands on Him, but they feared the people—for they knew He had spoken this parable against them. So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor."

What they rejected, God loved; and vice versa. "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18). We will anchor in other aspects of this great salvation in the next article.

