

2 Tim. 1:9-10 (LD 11) "From Where Comes Salvation?"

For the Children: Imagine there is a job that is just too difficult for you to do. Your bed has broken and you can't fix it. Your dad tells you not to worry, he'll fix it for you. But as he works, you stand by and try to help. You just get in the way. You run off to get the man next door to help. You just don't trust your father. How do you think your dad will feel about that? Well, it is much worse than that to act as if we can help Jesus save us; as if He needs help from other people; or as if we're not sure He can do what He has promised. **Questions:** How can we show that we trust the Lord Jesus to save us? What does "salvation" mean? How do we know that the Lord Jesus is the only One who can save us?

Introduction:

First Point: What We Have in the Lord Jesus

- 1) A Holy Calling: When v. 9 states that God has called us, it uses a tense that means "once-for-all." That calling stays with the believer into eternity. It is a "holy" calling – one that shows God's holiness and calls us to holiness.
- 2) A Guaranteed Salvation: "Jesus saves" is a well-known slogan, but it is much more than a slogan: it is an absolute guarantee, as indicated by another use of this "once-for-all" tense. That is exactly why the Father sent His Son into the world – to save sinners. It is why God ensured that His Son would be called "Jesus," meaning "salvation" (Mt. 1:21).
- 3) The Abolition of Death: That salvation involves the "abolition of death" – spiritual, eternal and even (eventually) physical death rendered inactive by Jesus' death and resurrection. Another "once-for-all" tense is used of this.
- 4) Life and Immortality: The other side of this coin is that Jesus' death and resurrection brought to light life and immortality. The latter word means "incorruption" – Jesus' life means that all who are united with Him will be brought to a state where they cannot even decay. The bringing to light of these things is also "once-for-all."

Second Point: The Basis for What We Have in Him

- 1) A Prior Calling: God's calling is "from all eternity." It is given "once-for-all." It does not depend on our works. The word "granted" is passive – we do not do it, God does.
- 2) God's Gracious Purpose: This gift is of "grace" – an undeserved favour/gift. We are NOT saved according to our own works, but according to God's purpose and grace, gifted in Christ. This was granted as a "once-for-all" gift, not earned by our ongoing activities.
- 3) Christ's Work: It is God who has called and saved us – in Christ Jesus - not we ourselves.
- 4) Trust This Basis: We often struggle to trust this basis alone. We are tempted to give more weight to our good works; some look to those they see as more holy to add merit to them; other take recourse to rituals as if that will increase their favour with God. On the other hand, some struggle to accept that Jesus is powerful enough to overcome their sins. Looking for merit outside of Christ is futile. It casts doubt on our belief in Him. It also implies that His saving work is somehow incomplete – a serious accusation against Him.

Conclusion: