

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR US TO MAKE SURE TO WHAT KIND OF
PEOPLE WE BELONG IN ORDER TO RECEIVE SALVATION

ISSUE

We must be included among those who will be saved so that our calling in the Church will not be wasted.

OBJECTIVES

1. Warn the brethren that as we journey in this world, we must be very careful so we will not waste our right to salvation.
2. Clarify who are the ones who are certain of salvation and those who are in danger of not being saved.
3. Encourage the listeners to place their trust in heavenly things and not to allow themselves to be distracted by earthly things.
4. Make the brethren understand that we should not lose hope no matter how many and difficult the problems are because God will help us.

EXORDIUM

When we chose and decided to join the Church Of Christ, we firmly believed that what we chose are the true service of God and salvation. Solid is our faith that among numerous religions established in the world today, we are the only ones redeemed with the blood of Christ. Through His blood, we were cleansed from our sins and as a result we received the firm hope of attaining the promised salvation. Thus, for each of us, nothing can equal or compare with our membership in the Church Of Christ.

We should never allow ourselves to waste our divine calling and election. The hope that we have right now must not remain just a hope; instead, it must be fulfilled. That is why all of us must be certain of salvation.

INTRODUCTION:

WHAT MUST WE BE CERTAIN OF SO WE CAN RECEIVE THE
PROMISED SALVATION?

1. *Will be able to enter God's rest or not?..... Heb. 4:1 ETRV*

¹ And we still have that promise God gave those people. That promise is that we can enter and have God's rest. So we should be very careful, so that none of you fail to get that promise.

(Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version. Fort Worth, Texas: World Bible Translation Center, Inc., 1999)

! The Bible says that as "we still have that promise God gave ... that we can enter and have God's rest," we should be very careful. Why should we be that careful? Because some of us may fail to receive that promised salvation. So, while we have not yet received salvation, because it is still a promise, we should always remember that there is a danger for us to lose it if we will not be careful.

Q. What is God's rest that we must reach, which is why we are exhorted to be very careful?

2. *The rest that is being referred to..... Rev. 21:1-4 NIV*

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

(The Holy Bible: New International Version. Colorado Springs, Colorado: International Bible Society, 1984)

- ! The rest that is being referred to is receiving and enjoying the kind of life with God in the Holy City. Why is the true rest found there? Because the kind of life there is perfect; there are no more crying, suffering, pain, and even death because all the things that cause people such afflictions will pass away. To whom is the Holy City promised? To the people who belong to God's nation. (We already had many studies in our previous worship services, and it has been proven to us that the Church Of Christ is God's nation in these last days, and it is His last work of salvation until Judgment Day.)
- ! As God's chosen people, we have the right and hope to enter and dwell in the Holy City. However ...

I. ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, WHO WILL SURELY BE ABLE TO ENTER THE PLACE OF REST PROMISED BY GOD?

1. *The one who is certain to enter..... Rev. 14:12-13 NIV*

12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. ¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

! God's chosen ones who patiently endured are certain of dwelling in the Holy City. So, if we want to rest there with God, we need to be steadfast in our divine election. We are proud of our holy calling and not ashamed of it. And so, we are determined to fight for it despite the difficulties and hindrances.

! However, who among God's chosen people will be able to endure? Those who obey God's commands and remain faithful to Christ. They are the ones who will never betray and will never turn their backs from serving God until death. What is the testimony of the Bible if we are able to do that? We will be among those who will be blessed because we are included among those who will enjoy rest from the labors we carried out in serving God.

Q. Who among God's chosen people will be able to remain obeying?

A. *Those who did not lose confidence Heb. 10:32-33 ESV & 35-39 GW*

³² ^{ESV} But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ ^{ESV} sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated.

(The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. China: Bible Societies, 2001)

³⁵ ^{GW} So don't lose your confidence. It will bring you a great reward. ³⁶ ^{GW} **You need endurance so that after you have done what God wants you to do, you can receive what he has promised.** ³⁷ ^{GW} "Yet, the one who is coming will come soon. He will not delay. ³⁸ ^{GW} The person who has God's approval will live by faith. But if he turns back, I will not be pleased with him." ³⁹ ^{GW} We don't belong with those who turn back and are destroyed. Instead, we belong with those who have faith and are saved.

(GOD'S WORD Translation. Holiday, Florida: Green Key Books, 2006)

! According to the Bible, those who serve who will receive the reward are those who learn to endure and do not lose confidence even if they go through many sufferings. Will the sufferings we experience still last long? No, because the Bible says that the one who is coming (Christ) will come soon and God will not delay Christ's return. So, what does God expect from us because we are already very close to the end? Let us live by faith. Why? Because the one who lives by faith or the one who truly believes will be saved. **What will never be done by one who truly believes? To turn his back from his membership in the Church Of Christ or to betray God.**

Q. What if there are among us who do not persevere, or lose heart easily, and do not remain in obedience but in disobedience? Can they truly hope to dwell in the Holy City?

2. *Those who will surely not enter* *Heb. 3:18-19 CEV*

¹⁸ And who did God say would never enter his place of rest? Weren't they the ones that disobeyed him? ¹⁹ We see that those people did not enter the place of rest because they did not have faith.

(The Holy Bible: Contemporary English Version. Broadway, New York: American Bible Society, 1995)

! The disobedient will not be able to enter the place of rest that God promised. For God, what do those who disobey actually prove? According to the Bible, "We see that those people did not enter the place of rest because they did not have faith."

Q. Who is an example of a disobedient person?

A. *The unrighteous people* *I Cor. 6:9-10 AMP*

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous and the wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived (misled): neither the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality, ¹⁰ Nor cheats (swindlers and thieves), nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners and robbers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God.

(The Holy Bible: Amplified Version. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1987)

! The disobedient are those who are unrighteous or those who lead impure lives, for example, idolaters, adulterers, those who participate in homosexuality, thieves, greedy individuals, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers, and the like. What is the strict instruction to us so that we will not be like them? We must not be deceived or misled to fall into committing such wrongdoings because God has already decided what to do to such people; they will not inherit or be able to rest in His kingdom, which means that they will not be saved. We should uphold the campaign of the Church Administration that we intensively renew our life.

Q. What else did Christ strongly remind the people who followed Him?

A. *When the plow is held* *Luke 9:62*

⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

(Holy Bible: New King James Version. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982)

! According to Christ, when we put our hand to the plow, we must no longer look back. Why? Because we may not inherit the kingdom of God.

! For a farmer, a plow is used in planting. For us, members of the true Church, our duties are worshiping, helping in the propagation of the gospel, wholeheartedly giving our offerings, completely obeying and uniting with the Administration of the Church, among others. What is the evil if we forsake those duties? We will not be fit for the kingdom of God.

! And so, we must understand that the call of the Church Administration for us to intensively uphold our spiritual fervor in serving God is a way for us to ensure our salvation.

! It is very important for us to be sure now with whom we are included: with the people who, at any moment Judgment Day comes, are very much certain to enter the kingdom of God because they are members of the Church Of Christ who are zealous in their services, or with the people who are already given the chance to be saved yet are wasting it? Let us decide wisely; let us make sure we are included among those who will be saved.

II. WHAT DO THE APOSTLES TEACH US SO THAT THE SALVATION THAT GOD PROMISED WILL NOT BE WASTED?

1. *What must always be thought about..... Col. 3:2 NLV*

² Keep your minds thinking about things in heaven. Do not think about things on the earth.

(The Holy Bible: New Life Version. Uhrichsville, Ohio: Barbour Publishing, Inc., 2003)

! How can we be among those who will be saved? We should keep our minds thinking about the things in heaven. What should we not allow to distract us? The things of this earth only.

Q. Why should we always think about the things in heaven?

2. *What can we compare?..... Matt. 16:26 TLB*

²⁶ What profit is there if you gain the whole world-and lose eternal life? What can be compared with the value of eternal life?

(The Living Bible: Paraphrased. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, 1971)

! According to our Lord Jesus Christ, nothing can be compared with the value of eternal life in heaven. Because of this, what is the Lord Jesus' challenge to those who spend almost all of their time in earthly things? "What profit is there if you gain the whole world and lose eternal life?" It is not wrong for us to attend to and value the things in this life; however, what we should take care all the more of is making sure of our salvation. It was already discussed who among God's chosen people are certain of salvation: those who are firm in the faith, serve God, lead a righteous way of life, persevere, and do not lose confidence or hope.

III. WHY IS IT THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS WE SHOULD NOT DESPAIR NOR LOSE HOPE?

1. *The Lord will be the One to help..... Isa. 50:7 CCB*

⁷ I have not despaired, for the Lord Yahweh comes to my help. So, like a flint I set my face, knowing that I will not be disgraced.

(Christian Community Bible. Quezon City, Philippines: Claretian Publications, 2000)

! We should not lose hope because the Lord will be the One to help us. So, let us trust God; we must not doubt what He can do. God will not forsake us because what He wants is for us to receive salvation and not to be disappointed on Judgment Day.

Q. If we remain obedient, what can we certainly expect should we experience hardship?

A. *Answers who cries for help Ps. 22:24 & 23(a) NIV*

²⁴ For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! ...

! It was the experience of the early servants of God that when they went through sufferings, God did not turn away from them; rather, He listened to their cry for help. But, who among those who cry for help will surely be answered? Those who have reverent fear and honor and praise God. To whom also should fear, honor, and praise be found? To one's descendants or the family members. So, what should parents make sure of? That none of their family members will turn away from God and forsake worshiping and serving Him.

Q. What is the exhortation of the early servants of God to us, given that they could attest to what God can do?

A. *Hope and praise*..... *Ps. 42:11 TLB*

¹¹ But, O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act! For I know that I shall again have plenty of reason to praise him for all that he will do. He is my help! He is my God!

! We should not be upset and all the more not to be discouraged. Why? Because God will help us, and we can expect Him to act for our sake, which is why we have plenty of reasons to praise and thank Him. That is the experience of the early servants of God and that is also the experience of many of us members of the Church Of Christ now. With the help and guidance of God, we have been able to overcome many difficult trials.

Q. What does God continue to promise to us, which we should hold on to and firmly believe in as we strive to make certain of our salvation?

2. *God's promise to us*..... *Isa. 58:11 CEV*

¹¹ The LORD will always guide you and provide good things to eat when you are in the desert. He will make you healthy. You will be like a garden that has plenty of water or like a stream that never runs dry.

! God promises to continually guide us. He also promises that He will provide the good things that we need. How is the life of those under the guidance and help of God described? They are like a garden that has plenty of water or like a stream that never runs dry.

CONCLUSION

If we fail to reach God's kingdom, we can never reason out that it is because we encountered obstacles, failures, and difficult problems. We cannot use those as excuses because God firmly promises not to forsake us if we remain loyal to Him, obedient to His commands, and trusting and believing in the great things that He can do to our lives. So, as we wait the great day of our salvation, what we must do is to all the more love and uphold our membership in the Church Of Christ and strive to be included among those who are certain of receiving the eternal life.

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