

GOD'S SALVATION

Psalm 119:169-175

INTRODUCTION

- A. Computers for Dummies.
 - 1. How many have ever purchased one?
 - 2. We like answers which are easy to understand.
 - 3. Don't give me a manual that is 100 pages when a manual 5 pages will do.
- B. We may find the same thinking in our spiritual lives.
 - 1. I want to find the answer in one place – no searching through the whole Bible to get the answer I'm looking for! I.e., 10 Commandments.
 - 2. We have shortened the “major” principles into “easy-to-learn” lists and songs.
 - a. 5 Steps of salvation – hear, believe, repent, confess, baptized.
 - b. 5 Parts of worship – pray, preach, sing, Lord Supper, giving.
 - c. Books of the Bible, twelve apostles, etc.

I. SEEKING AFTER GOD. Vss. 169, 170, 174

- A. The heart “longs for salvation” – “cries for deliverance”.
 - 1. David, Psalm 40:1-2
 - 2. Jonah 2:2
 - 3. Habakkuk 1:2a
 - 4. No different today.
 - a. We hear the cries of despair and loss.
 - b. People wanting the answer to “why”.
- B. But we must seek the answer.
 - 1. Jeremiah 29:13
 - 2. Hebrews 11:6

II. OUR CHOICE. Vs. 173

- A. To Follow or Not to Follow.
 - 1. The Lord taught two ways: narrow and wide gate.
 - 2. We will choose to either follow Christ – or walk away.
- B. A Life of Sustained Devotion.
 - 1. “I have chosen Your precepts.”
 - 2. The crises in our life is over when we make the choice.
 - a. Luke 9:23.
 - b. Galatians 2:20
 - 3. Once we begin that committed life, we cry out for God's direction and help.
 - 4. But it has to be on the Lord's terms – not ours.

III. OUR STUDY OF GOD'S WORD. Vss. 174, 175

- A. Knowing God's Will.
 - 1. When we commit our ways to the Lord, we want to know His way.
 - 2. “*Thy Word is a lamp to my feet...*” Psalm 119:105
 - 3. “*Thy Word I have hid in my heart...*” Psalm 119:11
 - 4. The more we read and study, the greater our faith becomes in the Lord.

- a. Romans 10:17, "*Faith comes from hearing...*"
 - b. 2 Timothy 2:15, "*Study to show thyself approved...*"
- 5. Olympic athletes did not just become great athletes.
 - a. It demands trial and error, strict regimen of practice and exercise.
 - b. They didn't just "happen" to become great.

IV. OUR SERVICE OF SPEECH AND SONG. Vss. 171, 172, 175

- A. Once We Know – We Must Share.
 - 1. As we recognize the greatness and excellency of Divine truth, we can't help but proclaim to all who will hear.
 - 2. Jeremiah 20:9
 - 3. We proclaim in prayer, song and the life we live.
 - a. 1 Peter 2:9, "*...proclaim His excellencies...*"
 - b. Colossians 3:16

V. OUR CONFESSION OF PARTIAL FAILURE. Vs. 176

- A. We do stumble in our walk with God.
 - 1. This is not an "if", but a definite, 1 John 1:8
 - 2. When we sin, it is necessary for us to accept our faults and confess them before the Lord. 1 John 1:9
- B. "*I have gone astray like a lost sheep;...*"
 - 1. Once a sheep strays, and it has lost the flock, wanders aimlessly – its return is utterly hopeless.
 - 2. When called, it will not turn to the sound, but continue the same direction.
 - 3. Till they are out of hearing. (Adam Clarke)
- C. Psalm 119.
 - 1. The psalmist began this psalm with, "*Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.*"
 - 2. He concludes, "*I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant.*"
 - 3. Once enjoying the blessings of walking in the way, longs to return, even after straying.
 - 4. The parable of the lost sheep, Matthew 18:12-14.
 - 5. Jesus, the loving Shepherd, calls for us today.