

Message of the Week 5-26-2024

Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16

Text: Romans 1:16

Title: **The Power of Salvation and the Glorious First Resurrection (Rapture) for Those Who Believe in the Gospel of Christ**

The fact that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation for all believers means that we cannot be saved unless we believe in the gospel of Christ. The meaning of the word salvation cannot be understood through worldly education. Ever since Satan the Devil brought sin into the world six thousand years ago, he has been deceiving people so that they may not realize that they must believe the gospel of Christ and be saved.

Satan the Devil is deceiving people not to realize why man must die and after that there will be judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

But God says that all people must be saved from sin, death, and curses. The incarnated God, Jesus told the hypocrites who refused to admit that all people are born with all sorts of sins in their hearts because of Adam's sin:

" That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,²² Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:²³ All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."(Mark 7:20-23)

To know that all these evil sins are deeply rooted in the heart of man is to be revealed when we listen to Jesus. This is the power of God's Word:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."(Hebrews 4:12)

Therefore, if anyone does not realize this fact, he will not know that he was born a sinner, and he will have no choice but to live in sin whenever such sins appear in the world. Therefore, after the death of the flesh after living this kind of life, you must be judged. In the end, does judgment mean entering the kingdom of God?

Otherwise, you will be judged whether you will go to hell where the devil goes. The Bible says, "**The wages of sin is death** (Romans 6:23), and "**For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**" (Romans 3:23).

However, the Bible says that those who believe in the gospel of Christ can receive God's power to save from sin and death and attain to the glory of God. The Apostle Paul testified of the gospel of Christ:

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:"(1 Corinthians 15:1-5)

Those who have heard the gospel of Christ and believed it must hold fast to this gospel and not believe it in vain. Also, "**according to the scriptures**" means that we must believe the gospel of Christ because it is written in the Bible. The phrase "**for our sins**" means that we must firmly believe that "**for my sins**" and never forget, and that we must always walk in faith without doubting in our hearts until the end.

If so, we need to meditate deeply on whether holding fast to the gospel of Christ and not believing in vain will reveal the power of God so that we can be saved forever from sin, death, and curses. This is because the gospel of Christ contains the precious blood shed by Christ Jesus. On the power of Christ's Blood:

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;" (Ephesians 1:7)... In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" (Col. 1; 14)... And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. "(Col. 1:20)... For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of

the flesh:¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:13-14)

The Bible testifies that those who believe the gospel of Christ and are saved and receive eternal life will be blessed to share in Christ's resurrection:

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.²⁴ Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power."(1 Corinthians 15:19-24)

"How are the dead raised, and in what body do they come? And to those who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead, the Bible says:

"Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:³⁷ And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:³⁸ But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body."(1 Corinthians 15:36-38)

In the same way, if a man cannot be resurrected after being buried in the ground and rotting like a seed, it would be just as miserable. But the Bible says otherwise:

" So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:⁴³ It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."(1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

The Bible testifies that the body of the Christian, who believed the Gospel of Christ and was forgiven of all sins through the Blood of Christ, died and was resurrected by the power of the Holy Spirit and put on a spiritual body, and was manifested in the glorious body of Christ:

"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.⁴⁶ Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.⁴⁷ The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.⁴⁸ As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."(1 Corinthians 15:45-49)

The Apostle John testified that the Christians would be transformed into Christlike likeness at the resurrection and rapture:

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."(1 John 3:2-3)

The Bible says that Christians who are born again of the Holy Spirit will have the hope of putting on the image of Christ, which is the image of heaven, but the glory will be different:

"All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.⁴⁰ There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead."(1 Corinthians 15:39-42a).

The prophet Daniel prophesied that Christians would shine like the stars in heaven forever:

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."(Daniel 12:3) Amen! Hallelujah!