

Rom. 14:19
"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."

John 8:32
"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

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HONORING OUR FATHER

by Jim Stauffer

There is a simple statement in the Law given to Moses, "*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.* (Exodus 20:12) Throughout Scripture there are reminders of our role and responsibility of revering the service given to us by our parents. Moses told the parents to teach their children the story of Israel's deliverance and the accompanying commandments God gave them to keep. Parents who did so then and who do the same concerning our covenant with God today provide the greatest service available to their children.

Our parents guided us spiritually and cared for our physical needs when we did not know the way and were incapable of providing that for ourselves. As a result, Paul tells Timothy to teach the brethren to honor their widowed mothers and grandmothers as a return for such care provided.

It is this gratitude that often does and certainly should lead us to honor our Father in heaven as He has provided for us those things we cannot do for ourselves. He first created a world capable of supporting the life He would give us. He then gave us life, creating us in His very image. His omniscience enabled Him to know we would sin and find ourselves in need of redemption and therefore plan before the creation itself to do that very thing.

We are told this all came about because of His love for us, His creation. *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (Ephesians 2:4-5)* He sent Jesus to die for a world composed of those He created who had rejected Him in their sin. "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in*

Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

I fear we have heard this verse so often we do not even listen to it anymore. How great is the love He had for us all to send His only begotten Son to suffer and die for us (Romans 5:6-10).

We now find ourselves in the position of showing our gratitude for the salvation from our own sin, the redemption from the reign of the tempter (Colossians 1:13,14).

In order to honor Christ our King and God our Father, we must demonstrate a loyalty of returning to them the adoration they showed us when we were in a position of weakness and inability to save ourselves. One way we do this is by worshiping God as instructed. We need to honor the assembly designed for worship and offerings of adoration to God and Christ (Hebrews 10:24,25). We need to sing songs of praise with our brethren (Ephesians 5:19). We need to join our brethren in memorializing the death of Christ each first day of the week (Acts 20:7). We need to give upon the first day of the week as we have been prospered by the Lord (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). We need to preach the word and hear it preached as a part of the pillar and ground of the truth (2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; 1 Timothy 3:15). And we need to lift up our hands in prayer to God for all things good and proper (1 Timothy 2:1-8). Further, they have asked us to show the same love toward others as they have shown to us by carrying the message of salvation to any and all we have opportunity (Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 16:15,16 cf. Acts 8:4).

Now I am sure many who will read these words have either lost their parents from this life already or are at the point where that is soon to happen. Just consider this contrast. Our parents cared for both our physical needs and spiritual guidance while we were under

their care. But even with the great love they had for us they could not save either themselves or us from our sins. God and Christ have done that. We all know how much we love and have shown our love for our earthly parents. We would be ashamed of any and all who did not.

Now contrast that with the love you should have for God and Christ, Who have done for you what no one else could, and ask yourself if you are honoring your Father.

When we fail to assemble with the saints in worship, declaring our reverence for Him, we are failing to requite Him as surely as we would be if we neglected our parents in their advancing years when they needed our help to sustain earthly life. Consider how God in heaven, your Father feels when you decide something is more important than He.

DO YOU FEEL SAVED?

by Wayne Greeson

Are you saved? How do you know you are saved? “I know I am saved because I feel it in my heart,” many often say. But are the feelings of your heart the proper standard to determine your salvation? We do not use this standard in other matters. No one says of his bank statement, “I know it is right because I feel it in my heart,” while they ignore to properly add and subtract from their balance. No carpenter says, “I know the board is 10 feet long because I feel it in my heart”. He checks the board with the proper standard, the measuring tape! But, when it comes to a matter far more important than bank balances and board lengths “salvation,” many are willing to trust their eternal welfare to their feelings.

Can you trust the feelings of your heart to tell you whether or not you are saved? The Bible says “No!” *“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool” (Prov. 28:26)*, for *“the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23)*. *“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Prov. 14:12)*. Feelings are subjective, they change from person to person and even within the same person. Truth is objective, it remains fixed and does not change, regardless of the person or the year.

The way you feel about salvation does not change

God’s truth concerning it, just as the way you feel about math, does not change the truth of it. Whether or not you are saved is an objective fact, not subject to the whims of how you feel from moment to moment. So how can they know they are saved? The Scripture says, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding” (Prov. 3:5)*.

You do not have to rely upon your own faulty and deceptive feelings concerning your salvation. The Lord has given *“the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation” (2 Tim. 3:15)*. The knowledge and confidence of salvation can only come from the objective standard of God’s Word. God will judge you by His Word, not by how you feel. Jesus proclaimed, *“the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48)*. What is your salvation based upon? Many people feel in their heart they are saved because they have “simply believed” in Jesus. While salvation certainly requires faith in Jesus, faith alone does not and cannot save according to God’s Word. James wrote, *“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (Jas. 2:24)*.

Other people have prayed and “asked Jesus to come into their heart” and now they feel they are saved. But nowhere does the Bible teach one must simply pray to Jesus in order to be saved. God’s Word teaches to be saved you must: hear the gospel (**Rom. 10:17**); believe Jesus is the Son of God (**Mk. 16:16**); repent of your sins (**Acts 2:38**); confess Jesus (**Rom. 10:9; Acts 8:36-38**) and be baptized for the remission of your sins (**Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16**). Those who obey God’s Word do not have to guess whether or not they are saved based upon the feelings of their heart. They know they are saved because their salvation is based on the unchanging Truth of God’s Word.

SALVATION COMES TO THOSE WHO FEAR GOD

“Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land” (Psalm 85:9). Most commentaries locate the eighty-fifth Psalm in the period after Babylonian captivity—post-exilic. The Lord favored the land by bringing back His people, restoring them to Jerusalem, setting them once again on their journey as the faithful remnant through whom the

Messiah would come. God's wrath was on fierce display when Nebuchadnezzar marched into Palestine to cart off the best and brightest of Israel's young princes. The razing of the temple (586BC) was the final, ultimate blow, crippling God's people; their once proud monument to monotheism had given way to the pagan excesses of a licentious people. The Babylonians had no regard for Jehovah or for the His symbols of worship. But now, through God's forgiveness, His people were home.

It was appropriate for God's people to cry out, as they sought God's grace and mercy. Yes, they had been forgiven. Yes, they had returned home. But a healthy remembrance of where they had been and what had caused their misfortune, would indelibly impress upon their hearts the constant need to seek, beg, plead, and to give thanks for all that God is and for all He had done for them. If they were to continue to survive it would only be with God's help. Such help they had conveniently forgotten, to their detriment and ruin. They now longed for the renewal of God's love. They needed to listen to what He said. True saints of God refuse to embrace their former folly.

Salvation comes to those who fear God. The salvation of the Lord is for all, potentially. Yet, salvation does not come to all because not all will fear Him. Instead of fear, many persist in folly. Love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace combine to produce restoration. The ultimate end is God's glory, not our wellbeing. Yes, we are nothing without Him. Yes, we identify with the "reward" aspect of serving God. But finally, it is all about God.

That seems to be the essential problem of faithfulness. In our perverted minds, we think it is about us, always about us. We get caught up in the splendor of our lives. Our successes, education, accolades, popularity, and busyness seem to be working for us. All is well. Yes, we want to enjoy the blessings of God, but only when we find it a convenient season to do so. Opportunities to study, worship, and serve are neglected, often with no compunction of conscience. It is only when our land and our blessings are threatened that we turn to God. A sick child, a wayward spouse, a lost job— any adversity will drive us to God. But it may be that we have neglected God for such a long time, that we find ourselves in the land of Babylon; we don't even know the way home.

Randy Harshbarger

Improve Your Life

Turn off the TV for an hour and read your Bible. The Psalmist said of the blessed man, *"His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night"* (Psalm 1:2).

Put down the phone and pray.

I never cease to be amazed at how much time some people spend on their cell phones. Is all that talking, texting, and browsing really necessary or profitable? *"Pray without ceasing"* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). *"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much"* (James 5:16).

Get out of bed a little earlier and come to Bible study.

"As the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed" (Proverbs 26:14). *"He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple"* (Isaiah 50:4).

Cut down your credit card purchases and give.

Give to the poor. Increase your contribution at church. *"One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed"* (Proverbs 19:17). *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35).

Change the conversation from sports, weather, and politics to spiritual things.

Do that at home. *"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up"* (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Do that at work, too. *"He who wins souls is wise"* (Proverbs 11:30).

A few simple changes can make a big difference!

by Frank Himmel

Are you interested in studying the Bible? Maybe there are things in life you feel you do not have answers for and have not been able to find satisfaction in the usual places people in society seek.

If you believe in Jesus or even if you are interested in investigating what He has offered for our comfort and relief of the problems we have in our daily lives, contact me at :

913-620-0563 or jim.stauffer71@gmail.com

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

- Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
- Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
- Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
- Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

OUR ADDRESS IS:

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Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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Bible Classes: Sunday Morning
Prayer - Ron Peck

Wednesday Evening - **Minor Prophets - Jim Stauffer**

Sunday Sermon: **Why Would I Seek the Lost**



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- ▶ **Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17
- ▶ **Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6
- ▶ **Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30
- ▶ **Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10
- ▶ **Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38
- ▶ **Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10