

DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH NL | SUNDAY SERMON | 16 FEB 2025

THE GATEWAY INTO GOD'S GRACIOUS SALVATION

Bible Reading: 1 John 5:1-13

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” – 1 John 5:11,12. Our last message touched on the lostness of the natural man. All human efforts would fail to satisfy God's standard for holiness, without which man is doomed for ever. The consequences of ignoring your salvation or leaving it to chance are serious. God created you for His purpose; except you fulfil that purpose, you will be separated from Him for ever, which implies you will spend your eternity with the devil in unimaginable agony in hell. It is for this very reason that God calls everyone to repent and enter His gracious salvation (Acts 17:30,31).

THE UNIVERSAL GIFT OF GOD'S GLORIOUS SALVATION 1 John 5:1,9-11

Salvation from sin is a universal gift; whoever comes to God can receive it (John 3:16). There is no barrier of grace, race or place in society; it is for all. It is full; it is free. It is of greater value than gold or silver, yes, even greater than life itself. Lack of understanding and appreciation of this gift makes many to reject, despise or neglect it. Therefore, you need to know what salvation from sin entails. What are the main elements?

1. It is forgiveness (*remission*) of sin on the merit of our Substitute (Mat 20:28; Col 2:13,14; 1 John 2:12).
2. It is the gift of life eternal (*regeneration*) through the life-giving Spirit of God (Eph 2:1,4).
3. It removes the enmity between God and the sinner (*reconciliation*) through the atoning blood of our Substitute (Rom 5:10; Col 1:19-22).
4. It is cleansing from the contamination or pollution of sin, removal (*expiation*) of sin, which is an obstacle between man and God, to make him have fellowship with God (1 John 1:9).
5. It is cancellation of the consequences of sin (e.g. eternal perdition) on the merit of our Sin-bearer, Who satisfied or appeased the wrath of God (*propitiation*) against sin and the sinner (Rom 8:1).
6. It is removal of the condemnation or guilt of sin (*justification*), whereby we have peace with God and stand before Him as if we never sinned (Rom 5:1,2; Psa 32:5). The sinner is discharged and acquitted.
7. It is purging of the conscience or consciousness of sin through a perfect Sacrifice (Heb 9:9; 10:1,2,14).
8. It is change of position (*translation*) from the kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of God, to have the rights of the children of God (*adoption*) as members of His household (Eph 2:11-13,19-22).
9. It is the transfer or crediting (*imputation*) of God's righteousness to man (Rom 4:11; 2 Cor 5:21).
10. It is destruction of the power and recurrent dominion of sin through divine grace (Rom 6:14).

Salvation is great – the greatest miracle that can happen to anyone. It changes your life and eternal destiny. It makes you a new creature, a child of God, changing your nature of sin and Satan to a divine one.

THE UNIQUE GATEWAY INTO GOD'S GRACIOUS SALVATION 1 John 5:1,11-13

A gate serves two purposes – to let in and to shut out. Some people will be shut out of salvation while other will be let in. You are urged to enter in through the only gate (Mat 7:13,14; Luke 13:23,24). Only God could provide a means for salvation. Eternal life, with all its rights and privileges, is in Jesus (1 John 5:11). There is no other way (Acts 4:12). He who has the Son has eternal life; he who does not have Him does not have eternal life (1 John 5:12). But how do we receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ?

1. **Repentance toward God** (Acts 20:20,21a). Repentance consists in confessing sin and forsaking it (Pro 28:13). The sinner thinks of his way, understands that God is angry with him, judgment is impending and he can and must turn to God completely. Confession is like vomiting the sin, never to return to it. Repentance paves way to saving faith. Without repentance, faith in Christ has no meaning or basis.
2. **Faith toward Jesus Christ the Saviour** (Acts 20:20,21b). Having repented, salvation will come only by faith (Eph 2:8,9). The sinner believes that Jesus died for his sins, was buried and that He rose again for his justification (1 Cor 15:1-4; Rom 4:23-25). He must believe that Jesus can and will save him and keep him saved. This is the faith that makes him call on the name of the Lord for deliverance from sin; the word of God assures him he will be saved (Rom 10:6-17).

God's glorious salvation is for you too. If you believe on Jesus Christ today, the miracle of salvation will happen. The old will pass away and you will become a new creature. A new chapter will open in your life!