

Salvation belongs to the Lord. Ps 3:8

What is salvation? (wait for student response)

Do you have salvation?

Who does salvation belong to... you?

Is it something God gives you and then you can walk off with it and not need God anymore... like if Mom gave you \$5. You have it; you don't need me to keep having it, and you can go do with it what you want. Is salvation like that?

The Bible says that salvation belongs to the Lord. If salvation belongs to Him, how can we have it? Can we have it? What does it mean to have something that belongs to somebody else?

If Salvation belongs to God, and we have God (in our hearts), then we have God and we have salvation. But if we do not have Him, then we cannot have salvation.

There is another verse I want to share. 1 John 5:12 He who is having the Son is having Life. He who is not having the Son is not having Life. It is only when we are abiding and knowing Him that we are experiencing Him and His Life and His salvation. It's not like a one-time gift that we walk off with. We don't beg God for salvation, then walk off and have it, like you might beg your Dad for his ipod and then go to your room to listen to it. Salvation is something you only have as you are having Him.

Think about a tree. Does a branch have life if it's broken off from the tree? Can it live on its own? No, a branch's *salvation* or life is only in being joined to the life of that tree.

Our house belongs to Daniel and Judith Brown. That is what it says on the title to our house. We have to pay taxes on it each year. It does not say Hannah or Noah Brown. You do not own the house. But, if your friends ask to come to your house, which house do you bring them to? Our house is your house because you are in relationship with us as our children. God's house- His Son, His salvation- is ours because we are in relationship with Him as our Father.

Salvation belongs to the Lord... and Salvation **IS** the Lord. Did you know that the name Jesus means *salvation*? The Bible says in Acts 4:12, "... for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must

be saved.” Even His name is salvation. How could we ever have salvation except by having Him?

Why is this important? Sometimes people say that they believe in Jesus and maybe even ask for His Life in their hearts. And then maybe they kind of forget about Him. They believe since they one time asked God to save them, that they are *saved*. But do you think they are *knowing* their salvation? Maybe they didn’t even know that they were supposed to *know* their salvation. What if some distant relative who lived in Ireland died and somehow you inherited their home. How great is it if you don’t even know what the place looks like? If you have never crossed the ocean to see this place that is now yours, how excited can you be about it? You can’t really appreciate something you’ve never seen or known. Now, how do you think you might feel if you traveled to see this place and it was an amazing castle with many rooms, too many to even explore in a day. The land was 300 acres with a river and hills and beautiful views. Each day you discover a new treasure hidden in a room, or a beautiful painting on a wall, or another building beyond the forest. Do you think you would value your inheritance more if you actually were getting to know it?

Well, we have a *delightful inheritance*. And that doesn’t mean we have to die to know it. Christ died and He has brought us into Himself, into Salvation, and He is an endless treasure. There is purpose in salvation- it is not just some *thing* God has done for us or given to us, apart from Himself. **It is Himself.** That relationship that we now have with God goes so far beyond asking for Him to forgive our sins and thanking Him for nice things that come our way. Don’t stop seeking the Lord, asking Him to show you more and more of Himself and His Great Salvation.

I want to make one more comparison that the scriptures make. John 6:53 says, “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.” Now, because of His death on the cross, we can take into ourselves, eat, of Him, of His Life. I’m not talking naturally, of course. Bread does not become His flesh. His natural flesh died; he is raised in spirit. But, in our hearts, we can commune with Him. So, I want to compare knowing Jesus to eating. Do you eat just once in your lifetime? Somebody might ask, “Are you saved?” meaning “Did you ask Jesus in your heart once?” But it’s important that we don’t just *eat of Him* once. We don’t just open the door of the house called salvation and stand in the entryway waiting to die to know the rest. No, we are continuing on to know the Lord. Eating

regularly. Drinking of Him regularly. Who had food this morning? So you're not hungry, right? How about thirsty? But didn't you drink already? Who wants to know Jesus? But didn't you already ask Him into your heart? Oh... you want **more** food, more to drink, more knowing of Him? Good!!

Look at this juice box. (You may pass out juice boxes to each child, without straws). There's no straw. What if I gave it to you but you never drank of it. How much good would it be? Do you know how it tastes? Does it make you not thirsty, having a juice box you can't actually drink? Are you enjoying it? Is it satisfying you? Of course not.

Some people *get saved* like it is a ticket to heaven that they hold onto until they die and then they get to go to heaven. But they never get to know the salvation they have been given. That's like having a juice box but never drinking of it. What purpose is a drink if you are not drinking of it? What purpose is salvation if you are not knowing it, if you are not enjoying it and being satisfied by it?

(Pass out the straws). Now you have a straw to drink with. You can taste the juice you have been given. In the same way, Jesus has given us salvation, not as something separate from Himself, but something we can enjoy in the knowing of Him. He never gives us a juice box without a straw. Whatever He gives, it is always with Himself as the way (or the straw) to enjoy it by. He does not give us *things* like good behavior, patience, etc, for us to take and then go and live in separation from Him.