



# RIVERS of GRACE



THINGS NEW AND OLD FROM THE BIBLE

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## SALVATION OR PROBATION?

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**“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life”--Romans 5:10.**

God has not given us **Probation**, but **Salvation**. Our text as well as all the Scriptures give conclusive evidence of this fact. Nowhere is the believer put on Probation, but is given the gift of Salvation, because he is trusting in the all-sufficient work of Jesus Christ in atonement.

However, there are many today who would change this glorious Salvation into Probation and make it more dependent upon that which man does than upon the finished work of Jesus on Calvary.

Our text speaks of us first as enemies, then as reconciled to God, through Christ. 'Enemies' refers to us before salvation. Reconciled' refers to us after salvation.

As sinners and enemies the blood of Jesus was shed for us that God could have a just basis to forgive our sins, justify us and reconcile us to God.

But, as believers, we see that it is His life that keeps us. What we need to see as believers is that we have the life of Christ - the triumphant resurrected victorious life that can never be defeated. Paul expressed this same thought, **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"**-Galatians 2:20.

## CONFIDENCE

One of the greatest evils today among God's people is the lack of confidence in God and His salvation.

The general attitude of the majority is that their salvation depends upon themselves rather than upon God. Many who profess a know-so salvation by the blood of Christ, look with fear upon some future day when they will fail God, and they expect to be

grasped out of the Lord's hand and cast into hell. This type of person can never really say they are saved. In the strictest sense of the word, *a person is not saved who is in danger of being lost*. Some folk call Salvation Probation. They feel like they are on probation and if they make good, God will give them Salvation. But my Bible teaches me that God gives us Salvation as a free gift and tells me to make good, not to get it or to keep it, but because I HAVE it.

## UNBELIEF

I find many honest, sincere Christian people today that would not do an immoral act or harm a soul in this world, but they dishonor God by their unbelief. They don't take God at His word. Just when they need their Salvation the most they think they have lost it. How they can ever get any assurance or hope that God will give it back to them is more than I can tell.

I can't find any passage of Scripture in the Bible of any one who had an experience where God regenerated him twice. Surely God would not have left us without a sample in His Book if that was His way. There is no scriptural ground for such a theory. Folks who do not get this fact settled never get to the place where they go on to perfection. Every time they have a failure of any kind, they are back where they started in the beginning of their Christian experience.

## THE STARTING LINE

I want to say that the race is well nigh run, and many of us, because of rank unbelief in God's truth, are still at the starting line after years of Christian experience. We are not sure we have Salvation and if we are sure we have it there are a thousand fearful doubts that we may not be able to keep it.

If your Savior can't save you, I fear and I know you will never make the grade. Destruction is certain.

I have a Savior who **"saves to the uttermost all that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."**

We need to ponder more the assuring promises of God's word until our faith lays hold of them and makes them real to us. **"For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee"**-Hebrews 13:5b. Also He says, **"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish"**-John 10:38a. Again we read in John 3:16, **"....should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

Some folks are afraid that IF their people believe they are really saved, and consequently safe, because they are saved they will become loose and indifferent. But I want to say that faith in God's word never makes anyone loose. When we really see that Jesus loves us with all our failures and mistakes and isn't going to cast us away, we will be inspired to walk a little closer to Him in consequence. But on the other hand if I feel that He loves me as long as I manage to be perfect, and when I fail His love fails and He kicks me out to the ravages of the devil. My fear of Him as a judge may hold me for a while, but sooner or later my fear will fail, because I can't really have a devoted love for that cruel a Taskmaster.

If we can get even a little glimpse of His love, compassion and grace, this would cause and does cause us to give ourselves a willing sacrifice; a sweet smelling savor - not to get saved or to keep saved, but because we cannot resist His love. Paul writes, "**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service**" - Romans 12:1.

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
Once I was lost, but now am found  
'Was bound, but now I'm free.'