



Anchor Of The Soul
P.O. Box 401
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

January 2007

Salvation In Christ

by Casey Head

As we look at the many religions of the world today, and as we consider the questions that people often ask about salvation, it is necessary to show that Christ is the only means by which we can be saved. If a person is not in Christ, then they are lost.

Jesus tells us in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, *but by Me.*" The only way for a person to reach the heavenly Father, the great I AM, is through Jesus Christ. We cannot get around Christ as if He is some obstruction in the road. He is the bridge that connects the blessings of God to sinful man (Eph. 1:3; 1 Tim. 2:4-5). Furthermore, Peter preached to the counsel in Acts 4:12, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" Finally, in Romans 3:24, after saying that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, Paul says, "Being justified freely by His grace through the *redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*" Where can we find salvation and redemption? In Christ alone!

If salvation is in Christ alone, as stated above in so many different ways, then can a person be saved outside of Christ? The answer is simple- they cannot! This means that we cannot be saved by Buddha or Muhammad or any other religious conviction. Confucianism and Hinduism will not provide us with eternal life, nor will witchcraft or Catholicism lead us away from the eternal consequences of sin.

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"BACK TO THE BIBLE."**

Lion Cubs Sometimes Go Hungry

by Byron Smith

Psalm 34 speaks clearly of God's care for those who trust and seek after Him. Note especially verse 10: "The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing." Zoologists have observed what the sweet Psalmist noted so long ago- that lion cubs are prone to suffer hunger. It is known that in a pride of lions the lioness does most of the hunting. The male lions often show up after the prey has been taken to enjoy the feast provided. They feed first, sometimes leaving little for the rest of the group. Cubs are not good at competing for food and often go hungry, sometimes even dying of starvation. In this connection we emphasize the contrast that is being drawn. While lion cubs sometimes go hungry, "those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing." This is a pleasant assurance for God's people who live in an uncertain world.

Will I have food to eat? What about clothes to wear? Will I have a roof over my head to shelter me from the storms? These are legitimate questions for the unredeemed, yet God's people do not need to worry, for "no good thing will be withheld from those who walk uprightly" (Ps. 84:11). How satisfying is it to be a child of God! He is both capable and willing to provide our every need. Yes, God's people have to do their part. They must work with their hands what is good (1 Thess. 4:11; Eph. 4:28; cf. II Thess. 3:10). They must provide for their own (1 Tim. 5:8). They must be trustworthy stewards of the good blessings that God gives (Lk. 16:1-13). Yet, their efforts to do so will not be futile. They will prove successful in sustaining the necessities of life.

Christians have a wonderful peace within, because of the spiritual relationship they have with God and because of the aforementioned assurance pertaining to this physical life. Sure, the spiritual relationship with God carries much more weight, but we do not need to deny the comfort we can enjoy by simply knowing that God will take good care of His children. Isn't this more incentive to serve God?

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Test Your Bible Knowledge

What Is The Correct Answer?? (answers below)

1. Where did Jesus work his first miracle?
2. What was the name of the angel who argued with the devil about the body of Moses?
3. Where did Abraham take Isaac to be sacrificed?
4. Who was the commander of Saul's army?
5. In what city were the disciples first called Christians?

Name That Bible Character: (answer below)

6. This man was appointed as Moses' spokesmen. He also became the first High Priest for the nation of Israel.
7. This woman was the daughter of King Saul, and she became the wife of David, Saul's enemy.

Challenge Question: (answer in next issue)

8. According to Jesus, when would the kingdom be established? In what generation?

Bible Fact:

Most people assume that the forbidden fruit of the garden of Eden was an apple, but the Bible actually does not specify what Adam and Eve ate (Gen. 3:3, 6).

Answers:

1. Cana (Jn. 2:1-11)
2. Michael (Jd. 9)
3. Moriah (Gen. 22:2)
4. Abner (1 Sam. 14:50)
5. Antioch (Acts 11:26)
6. Aaron (Ex. 4:14)
7. Michael (1 Sam. 18:17-21)

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Daily Bible Reading Schedule- January 2006

<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	Gen. 1-2	Matt. 1-2
2	Gen. 3-4	Matt. 3-4
3	Gen. 5-6	Matt. 5-6
4	Gen. 7-8	Matt. 7-8
5	Gen. 9-10	Matt. 9-10
6	Gen. 11-12	Matt. 11-12
7	Gen. 13-14	Matt. 13-14
8	Gen. 15-16	Matt. 15-16
9	Gen. 17-18	Matt. 17-18
10	Gen. 19-20	Matt. 19-20
11	Gen. 21-22	Matt. 21-22
12	Gen. 23-24	Matt. 23-24
13	Gen. 25-26	Matt. 25-26
14	Gen. 27-28	Matt. 27-28
15	Gen. 29-30	Acts 1-2
16	Gen. 31-32	Acts 3-4
17	Gen. 33-34	Acts 5-6
18	Gen. 35-36	Acts 7-8
19	Gen. 37-38	Acts 9-10
20	Gen. 39-40	Acts 11-12
21	Gen. 41-42	Acts 13-14
22	Gen. 43-44	Acts 15-16
23	Gen. 45-46	Acts 17-18
24	Gen. 47-48	Acts 19-20
25	Gen. 49-50	Acts 21-22
25	Ex. 1-2	Acts 23-24
27	Ex. 3-4	Acts 25-26
28	Ex. 5-6	Acts 27-28
29	Ex. 7-8	Mk. 1-2
30	Ex. 9-10	Mk. 3-4
31	Ex. 11-12	Mk. 5-6

Do You Know My Jesus?

by Andy Mitchell

We sing a song, “Do you know my Jesus?” How would you answer that question? Most would probably say, “yes,” and not think much about it. But I’m asking you to give it a little more consideration.

I’m sure you may know “of” Jesus, but do you really *know* Jesus? Jesus had questioned even one of His own disciples, saying, “Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip?” (Jn. 14:9) If Jesus questioned Philip in this manner, then is it too much out of the way for us to question whether we truly know and understand Jesus?

There are even couples who have been married for years, and yet it is amazing how much they still do not know about their spouses...or should I say, they refuse to know and learn about them? On one occasion, God said of His own people, “They refuse to know me.” (Jer. 9:6)

Is it possible that you really don’t know Jesus as well as you think you do? Create in your heart a new curiosity for Christ, and imitate the small Zacchaeus who “sought to see Jesus who He was.” (Lk. 19:3)

It is beyond the scope of this short article to tell all you need to know “about” Jesus, but I hope I can lead you in the right direction toward a better understanding of Him. Let your desire be as those Greeks who came to Philip, saying, “Sir, we would see Jesus.” (Jn. 12:21)

It is my prayer for you as Paul prayed for the Ephesians, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” (Eph. 3:17-19)

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The Tongue- A World Of Iniquity

by Casey Head

The tongue is the cause of so many conflicts and problems among Christians. If more Christians were concerned about their speech and language, then perhaps there would not be so many problems in the church today.

We are told in James 3:5-6, “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.” Clearly, the tongue is a very present danger for the people of God. Even though it is such a small part of our physical body, we can use it to destroy ourselves, other people, and even to blaspheme the Almighty God. With these few points in mind, let us establish how the tongue IS to be used.

One passage alone, I believe, can sufficiently answer this question. In Ephesians 4:29, Paul says, “Let NO corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Rather than using our tongue to hurt and offend others, we should use it to encourage and build others up. As seen in verses 31-32, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Do you see the point? Our speech is a reflection of our attitude and spirit. If a person can learn to develop the right attitude, then their speech will improve tenfold.

Christians need to learn to think before they speak; to consider the feelings of others before they say something that they will later regret. God tells us in Proverbs 29:20, “Seeth thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him.” Let us guard our tongue, and use it only for edification!

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LIGHTNING LESSON

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:7, "Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded." Apparently, there were members of the Corinthian church who were suing their brethren in Christ, and the apostle rebuked them for it! Here's the question- are you willing to be inconvenienced? Are you willing to be defrauded by other Christians? Perhaps we ought to be less attached to material possessions...and to pride, and more attached to the concept of selfless and humble service to others. If that involves letting others "unjustly" win, so be it!

Dear Reader,

This is the first issue of "Anchor Of The Soul," a monthly newsletter distributed by the Spruce Pine church of Christ. We thank you so very much for taking the time to browse this publication, and we hope that you have been encouraged by it.

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-Casey Head

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“Attack” Is All I Know

by Sonny Smith

In the Civil War, during one of the battles at Shiloh, a young boy who was serving as the drummer for a northern regiment was ordered to beat “attack.” Responding to the order, the troops stormed up the hill. After being met with fierce enemy fire, they came to a halt. The captain called to the lad to beat “retreat.” The boy drummed again, but again he beat “attack.” The officer shouted “I said retreat!” Tears came to the boys’ eyes. “Captain,” he answered. “Attack is all I know. They never taught me to beat retreat.” Upon hearing the signal to “attack,” the soldiers pushed forward, and to their own surprise, took the hill.

When one becomes a Christian, he is enlisting in the army of God, and is ordered to push forward, fighting the forces of immorality, false doctrines and all forms of evil. “Retreat” is not an option for a soldier of Christ. This great army of God is an offensive one and must take the battle to the enemy. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:11, “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

There is no reason to “retreat.” We have the greatest King and Commander-In-Chief, the One who created all things and is able to subdue all things unto Himself. Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God is the captain of our salvation. (Heb. 2:10)

The powerful weapons that exist today in the arsenals of our countries pale in comparison to the weapon God has provided- the word of God, which is “quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged 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.” (Heb. 4:12) As stated in II Corinthians 10:4-5, “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Let us put on the whole armor of God and decide to earnestly contend for the faith.

The Lord commanded the new leader of Israel in Joshua 1:9, “Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee...”

Some Carry The Potatoes

Matthew 11:28-30

A poor man plodded along toward home in an Irish town carrying a huge bag of potatoes. A horse and wagon carrying a stranger came along, and the stranger stopped the wagon and invited the man on foot to climb inside. This the poor man did, but when he sat down in the wagon he held the bag of potatoes in his arms. And when it was suggested that he should set it down, he said very warmly: “Sure, I don’t like to trouble you too much. You’re giving me a ride. I’ll carry the potatoes.”

Sometimes we think we are doing the Lord a favor when we carry the burden. But the work is His, and the burden is His, and He asks us only to be faithful.

-Isaac Page

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