

Campbell Chapel Free Will Baptist Church

So Great Salvation

Eddie Neel



2010

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Revival

Hebrews 2

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him ;

First of all this evening we need to just make it as clear and plain as we can that there is a hell that we need to be spared from. There is a heaven that we are able to gain through Christ Jesus. We need to understand tonight that if we do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, covered in the blood of Calvary, we have no hope in a place called heaven.

He said here, "How shall we escape..." I am glad that I do not have to worry about going to hell. —Amen. Jesus Christ took care of that on Calvary. I accepted His perfect plan of Salvation and praise God; that is taken care of. That is such a blessing to have that peace of God that rest and not have to worry about that. There are so many people that are living a life with fear tonight that if they die, they might be...bound to an eternal lake of fire. If you do not know Jesus, that is a real need that you have in your life. You should be scared. You should have fear. We cannot escape the pits of hell if we neglect so great a Salvation.

This word "neglect," so many times we speak about rejecting the Lord. Listen. People go through their life not so much rejecting the Lord, but "neglecting" to receive Him and they continue to put it off, and put it off, and put it off. They procrastinate, they neglect to receive that gift, and eventually they end up rejecting Him because of that neglect.

One of the greatest tricks of the devil is "Just wait until tomorrow. Just wait till next week." He has been [playing] that all along. He will say, "You might need to be saved one day, but there is no hurry. There is no rush. Just put it off another day." Can I tell you that people have died this very day, this very moment, since we have been in this service have died and neglected to accept the Lord as their Savior and found their self eternally damned to lake of fire. What a terrible it would be to put Him just one day too late, just one day too late and you spend the rest of eternity paying for it in the pits of hell.

Listen folks. God loves you enough; He loves everyone enough. He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

So many people are neglecting to come to Jesus. They are careless about it. They disregard the fact that they have a need. You have a need tonight if you do not know Jesus and the pardon remission of sin. You have a great need that money cannot buy that wealth, health, good favor, political gain, social status, good works, baptism or anything outside of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can take care of. People try to fix their need with so many things and they find that there is not a cure outside of Jesus.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

The brother just read it over here. We need to understand that there is a narrow way, that is the way that leads to life everlasting. There is a broad way, that is the way that leads to destruction. We need to understand that there is a great salvation that everyone stands in need of. Praise God! I am glad that He came looking for me. I was not looking for Him and neither are you. Can I remind you this evening of something a lot of people get confused with but you cannot get saved just anytime you want to. You cannot just wake up one day and say, "I think I will be saved today."

Get this.

Unless the Holy Spirit of God is convicting you, telling you of your need of Salvation, calling you out of that place—that terrible place—convicting your heart, and letting you realize that you are separated from Him; you have no hope in eternal life. It is dangerous grounds to be living under the chastising hand of God, the convicting hand of God and to continue to put Him off, put Him off, and put Him off. He is only commanded to come to us one time, to ask us, and to present salvation to us. However, He comes to us so much more than that. He calls. He pleads. He asks. He knocks. He just continues to work on our hearts. We ought to be thankful for that time when He convicted our heart, let us realize the state that we are in, and let us know that there is a better way. We need to understand some things about this salvation. Oh! So great a Salvation!

I want to let you know first of all this evening that I cannot put into words the feeling that is in my heart about Salvation. I want to try my very best tonight to present a picture to you and let you realize what Jesus means to me and what Salvation means to me. Listen. I just do not have the words to put into the feelings that I have. So many times, you just get so stirred up and worked up. You just love the Lord so much; you just do not even know what to say do you. You have so much emotions. Everybody has emotions. You can say that you do not have emotions, but if I take your kid and start slapping him around; you are going to have emotions. Are you not? Everybody has emotions. They just come out in different ways. Some people cry. Some people shout. Some people are loud. Some people are quiet. Some people just sit there (*he was sort of doing a whining gibberish*). Everybody is different. However, everybody has emotions. How are you going to express your feelings for the Lord?

He has been so good to us. He loved us enough to die for us. So many times, we use those words so loosely. We just spew them out there and say, "He loved us." He loved us with a love that is incomprehensible. He loved us with an agape love. He loved us with an unconditional love. The love of God is greater ...than any tongue can tell. We could not pen it down if we had all the ink in the world

and all the time to write of the love of God. The love that He had for not only me but for everyone. Think about it.

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him ;

Let us look at this and think about why is it so great a salvation. I think first and foremost this evening that it is so great because of the price that was paid for it. The salvation that we have been freely given cost our Savior His life. Do you realize that from eternity past and all the way up to the day that Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary; there had never been one second of separation between God the Father and God the Son. However, when Jesus Christ put on your sin and put on my sin, God the Father had to turn His back away from His Son. He could not look upon His Son. He said, "My Father, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Listen. He said, "It is finished."

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

The relationship was restored once again. Jesus Christ paid the price and He paid the ultimate price. He told us in 1 Peter:

1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

It took the best that heaven had to come down to this place to suffice the demands that God had on His people. He said, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus, our Lord."

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

There are three words that I want you to realize this evening. The first word is **justice**. Justice is getting what we deserve. The next word that I want you to understand tonight is **mercy**. Mercy is not getting what we do deserve. We ought to deserve the pits of hell, but by the mercy of God, we are spared from the pits of hell. The third word that I want you to understand tonight is a word that we call **grace**. Grace is getting what we do not deserve. Isn't that good. We deserve the pits of hell and by His mercy, He spared us... We do not deserve heaven, but by His grace, we are granted it freely by the blood of Jesus Christ. Why is this Salvation so great? Why is this so awesome? I think I told you the first time I preached here that we ought to reserve the word awesome for God and God alone. There is nothing

else in this world that is awesome. God is awesome! --Amen! He is the only one who is able to save. There is no other name given among men and women ...by we must saved.

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.

Buddha, Mohammad...and all those other deceivers are in the grave tonight. Praise God! Jesus Christ went to the grave. He rose the third day. He is sitting at the Father's right hand, interceding for you and me. Praise God, one glorious day He is going to return, He is going to call His church home. We are going to spend all of eternity with Him forevermore. Praise the Lamb who is worthy to be praised. Can I tell you tonight that this salvation is so glorious, it is so great, it so awesome, it is so great a salvation because of the price that was paid for it? He said:

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

It only took one time on Calvary for the redemption of all mankind. His blood, His price was paid, His ransom was given. He lay down His life and it did not have to be done again. The perfect plan of salvation was completed on Calvary and he said:

13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

It is talking about in the Old Testament there was a day of atonement when the high priest—him and him alone—would take the blood of a spotless, perfect, clean lamb. They would shed that blood. They would take that behind the veil, into the holy of holies, one time a year, offer up that sacrifice, for the sins of the nation of Israel. God would accept that sacrifice. He said, "Take this blood now. Apply it to the doorpost. Apply it to the rails. Apply it to the threshold. The death angel will come along and if I see the blood, I will pass over you. That sacrifice was only good for one year. They had to continually go time and time again. It could never take away their sins.

However, one day the perfect lamb, the lamb of lambs, the Lamb of God went to Calvary, laid down his life. They shed His blood. He took that blood and presented it to the holy of holies in heaven himself ...upon the mercy seat of God. God looked upon the blood and said, "I am pleased with this sacrifice.

Salvation is so great tonight because of the price that was paid for it. Friend, we take it so lightly so many times, of what Jesus did for us. We try to praise Him. We try to sing songs. We try to testify. We try to preach. We try to live a life, but we just cannot ever express it of how great that salvation really is. So many times, we want to persuade people of salvation as fire insurance. Get saved. You do not have

to go to hell. Can I tell you tonight that being saved is so much more than not having to go to hell? I am glad that we do not have to go there. Do not get me wrong. However, it is so much more than that. It is a relationship with Jesus Christ. I do not know about you folks, but at times in my life where I have been just all the way to the end and I thought I could not go no more. I cannot do it. I cannot press on. I just want to quit. I just want to give in but praise God; He takes us and picks us up. He carries us. He hugs us. He loves us. He says, "I love you. I love you. I love you." He wraps His arms around us and He hugs us real tight. Before long, we start feeling a lot better. Then we are able to walk on our own again. ...the Holy Spirit is on us. Praise God. Before long, we got our stuff, we got a little..., and we are praising God again. What in the world would we do in this life without Jesus? Where would we be tonight? We would be in jail, drunks, alcoholics, addicts or we would be dead; I do not know. Where would we be without Jesus? We just need to praise Him folks, for so great a salvation.

There was a price that was paid. Think about it tonight. As that blood ran down His body and God Almighty looked upon that blood and says, "I accept it." You really cannot understand the significance of the payment of the penalty that you and I owed. We owed a penalty that we did not have the resources to pay. All the good works, all the time that we can spend, time to keep the commandments, time to keep the law—we could not do any of it. We owed a payment and we owed a penalty that we had no way of paying.

If you are here tonight, you do not know Jesus, and you are lost; listen friend, you still owe God a payment. That payment is death. He said if you would accept His Son, Jesus, and would be washed in the blood of Calvary that He would wipe the slate clean. Think about it tonight. We cannot pay it. We cannot earn it. We cannot do anything but bow to Jesus and say, "I am not worthy. I am unworthy to have it. I am a sinner. I need your salvation. I need your ransom. Oh! I need you, Jesus!"

It is not complicated folks. All we have to do is say, "I am a sinner. Save me." He will do the rest. We want to call people up and say "A-B-C. Do this and do that." No. Realize you are lost. Accept Christ Jesus and praise God; you are saved. —Amen I think that this salvation is so great not only because of the price that was paid for it, but I also think of the availability to all men. It is so great because it reaches to the lowest sinner. Isn't that good?

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

That is a "know-so" salvation. It is not a hope so, might, was, or I don't know. He said "...thou shalt be saved."

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Realize that we are lost. Realize that we have no hope. Realize that Christ paid it all on Calvary. Realize that and accept His plan, believe in my heart, confess it with my mouth and it is settled. Then sing the song "The Old Account Was Settled Long Ago." It is taken care of.

Romans 10: 11 For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

We have the best thing that heaven could offer and that is better than anything this world could ever have. We are saved, folks. We are on our way to heaven. We have a reason to shout. We have a reason to be happy. We have a reason to be different. The price was paid at Calvary. It is available for all men. We ought to be different. We are not going the way the world is. We are not going to hell anymore and we ought to start living like it. --Amen

Romans 10: 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

I might be as broke as Job's turkey down here, but I am a multi-millionaire and I have a great big palace over there that is just sitting there waiting for me and I am going to move in one day. All the stuff that everybody is hoarding up for themselves, we are going to walk it one day. This world has nothing for us. We have all we need in Christ Jesus. I am rich tonight. Not by my bank account, but in Jesus Christ; I am rich. I have blessings just pouring out everywhere I look... Sure, times get tough. Sure, money gets short. Sure, times are hard, but I am still saved. I am still on my way to heaven. I am still a child of the king. Praise God! --Amen

Wake up a little bit tonight.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

It reaches down to the lowest sinner. "For whosoever..." I love that. Are you glad that you did not have to be rich, you did not have to be a certain intellect, or a certain education? Most of us would never get in. You say, "Preach about yourself, preacher." That is all right. I would not make it. However, praise God, it does not matter about my race, religion, social standing; it matters only by accepting the precious blood of Jesus Christ and be washed in the blood.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

There has never been a person who has been under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit realized they were sinners, realized that Christ that is able to save them; called out to God and He said, "No. Can't do it." If He is calling you, the Spirit is convicting you, and you realize you are lost; you can be saved. His line is never busy as long as He is dealing with you.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

So great a salvation

John told us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. Maybe I should not but I am going to. I am a little analytical—if you will. I have a wild imagination sometimes. When I am reading the Word of God, sometimes it just jumps right out at you. Have you ever had that? The Word is just like flesh and beaming lights. Call me crazy if you want to. However, it is just like it is jumping out of there. I have read this verse and read this verse. This week a little word jumped out of the page on me. I just had to shout and just had to praise God. It is a little word “so.” He said, “For God ‘so’ loved...” I thought—well, I wonder what kind of love that is. He did not just love us, but He “so” loved us. It is not just salvation. It is “so great a salvation.” It is above and beyond anything that our minds can comprehend. You kind of looked at me like I am crazy. You will get it one day and you will ...for it right now. One day you will be going down the road and you will just have to shout and say, “For God ‘so’ loved the world...” That was I. —Amen That was you. Get it down on a personal level. “For God ‘so’ loved (Eddie).” Oh! That ought to do something to us. Think about it tonight. He loves you. He died for you. God commendeth His love towards us that while we were yet sinners, Christ Jesus died for us.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

He died for me. I did not do anything to deserve it. I am a totally rotten, filthy sinner. He knows that. He knows you too. The Psalmist said, “Even though He knows me, He still loves me.” He loves us. I just do not think that people are really comprehending how much God really loves them. God loved you enough to send His Son to die for you.

I do not get emotional very often. ...just give me a minute.

He loves us. I just thank Him tonight. We use that word so loosely today. Everybody says, “I love you. I love you. I love you.” The world does not know anything about love folks. If you are here and lost, you have not experienced love. The only love that we know is the love of God. We love Him because He first loved us. The only love that we have ever experienced is the love of Christ. He bestows that love inside of us.

John 3

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

People ask the question so often. “Why do good people go to hell? Why does anybody have to go to hell?” Right here is the answer.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The unbelief is what is sending you to hell. The neglect, the putting off and the eventual rejection of Jesus Christ is what ultimately sends us to the pits of hell. Folks, God does not want that for anybody. He wants to save every last individual. However, He is not going to force himself on you. He is a *gentleman*. He loves you, but He gives you a free choice whether or not you are going to accept Him or reject Him. I told you so many times, we paint a picture “Get saved. You won’t have to go to hell.” I want you to understand that tonight. I want to dig just a little bit deeper than that. Being saved is way more than fire insurance.

Another point I want to make tonight about this so great salvation and there is so much we could talk about. Think about the price that was paid. Think about how it is available to everyone. Think about it tonight. I also want to think about everything it includes. Do you ever think about the package that you get? Think about it now. He spared us from the pits of hell.

Is everybody awake? Wake up. Listen. Are you glad you are saved? Did you get something when you got saved? –Amen You got it. Didn’t you? I thought I was off the beaten path there for a minute. We got something when we got saved. He spared us from the pits of hell. He reconciled us to God Almighty. He made us to become one with God. He put inside of us the righteousness of Jesus Christ. He indwelt us with His Holy Spirit. He sanctified us. He justified us. One day He is going to glorify us. Praise God! He conforms us everyday into His image. He prepared a place for us that one day He is going to come, get us, and take us there. He gives us peace that passeth all understanding.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

He gives us a love that we never knew about. He gives us joy unspeakable and full of glory. He gives us an opportunity to talk to Him in prayer. He is our intercessor. He is our prophet. He is our priest. He is our soon coming king. He is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He is the rose of Sharon. Praise God! He is above all that we can ask or think. He is the daystar. ...He saved us and set us apart. He set His spirit inside of us. He loves enough to convict us. He chastises us. He walks with us every day of our life. He said He will go with us all the way. He will never leave nor forsake us. He blesses us abundantly. He gives us food every day. He gives us clothes on our back and shoes on our feet and blessings that we can thank Him for. He lifts us up out of bed every morning. He gives us a hope of eternal life, a steadfast hope. He gives us all these things and so much more.

One day He is coming back to get us. We are able to spend the rest of eternity in heaven with Him. We did not even scratch the surface. Think about it. Everything that is included in salvation. I did not have to pay anything for it. However, there was a price that was paid. Friend, it is available to everyone. It contains so much more than just sparing us from the pits of hell. I had said so many times that even—get a hold of this—that even if there was not a heaven beyond this life, but I believe with all my heart that there is. Even if there were not, I would still serve Him. I would still walk with Him. I have never been sorry that I accepted Him.

He does so much for me. He does so much for you. We need to concentrate just for a minute of that so great salvation. Have you experienced that so great salvation? He loves you, friend. He “so” loved you that He sent His only Son. Jesus Christ stretched out His arms and said, “I love you.”

We tell people all the time that we love them. Do we really show it? Can I tell you tonight that Jesus Christ not only told us that He loved us, but also He showed us that He loved us and He proved that He loved us. Does He not every single day of our lives prove over and over...again how much He loves us, how much He cares for us, how much He willingly sacrificially lay down His life for us. Praise God! He is going to take good care of us until He gets us home. He spared us from the pits of hell. He allows us a place called heaven. He allows us to be called the sons of God.

1John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Just get a hold of that a second. “Behold, what manner of love...” He “so” loved us. It is so great salvation. He said, “...therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

I ask you this evening, “Do you know Him?” Is it wonderful to know Him?

Paul said, “...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection...”

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

We have experienced that power. He lives inside of us. We need to share that love with other people. How about you tonight? Do you know Him? So Great a Salvation.

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him ;

If we keep putting off, if we wait until tomorrow, if we have no care; how are we going to escape? There is no other way of escape but so great a salvation.

Do you know Him tonight? Do not put it off one more day. Do not put it off one more hour. Is He calling on you tonight? Has He reached out His arms and said, “I love you. I love you. I died for you. I want you to have eternal life in a place called heaven.” He does not want you to die and go to hell but you will if you continue to neglect so great a salvation and reject Jesus Christ.

Come—