**God and His Salvation are Near!**

**Isaiah 46:13** – “**I bring near my righteousness**; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and **I will place salvation in Zion** for Israel my glory.”

**Isaiah 55:6-7** – “(6) **Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near**: (7) Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

**First:** **God is the Initiator of Salvation – I bring near MY righteousness** (**Isaiah 46:13**)

**A. Salvation may be defined as God bringing His righteousness to sinners as opposed to sinners bringing their righteousness to God.**

**Adam (His fig leaves will not do)** -- **Genesis 3:7-9** – “(7) And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. (8) And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. (9) And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, **Where art thou?”**

**Israel in Egypt (Nothing to recommend them to God)** – **Deuteronomy 7:7-8** – “(7) The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: (8) But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

**Saul of Tarsus (on the road to Damascus) His self-righteousness will not do** – **I Timothy 1:12-15** – “(12) And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; (13) Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. (14) And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. (15) This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

**Every Sinner (There is none righteous no not one!)** -- **Romans 3:10** – “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one”

**B. God must bring His salvation near because sinners do not and will not seek Him until He first calls them to Himself.**

**Romans 3:10-12** – “(10) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. (12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

**John 6: 44** – “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

**Second: God Brings Himself Near to Sinners in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**A. Jesus Christ (God made known in the flesh) left glory to come to earth**.

**John 3:13** -- “And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but **he that came down from heaven**, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”

**John 6:38** – “**For I came down from heaven**, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”

**John 6:51** – “**I am the living bread which came down from heaven** …”

**Philippians 2:5-11** – “(5) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

**B. Our Lord Jesus Christ was given!**

**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.”

**John 4:34** – “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do **the will of him that sent me**, and to finish his work.”

**C. Jesus Christ came unto his own and to others**.

**John 1:10-11** – “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. **He came unto his own**, and his own received him not.”

**John 4:45** – “Then **when he was come into Galilee**, the Galileans received him …”

He came to me – He came to you – He has come here today! Has He come for you?

**D. Jesus Christ comes to where sinners are.**

**John 4:3-7** – “(3) He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. (4) And he must needs go through Samaria. (5) Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. (6) Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. (7) There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water …”

**John 5:1 & 5** – “(1) After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem … (5) And a certain man was there …”

**The Gulf that separated me from Christ my Lord**

**Was so vast, the crossing I could never ford;**

**From where I was to His demands,**

**It seemed so far,**

**I cried dear Lord I cannot come to where you are**

**He came to me -- He came to me**

**I could not come to where he was**

**He came to me**

**Third: When God Draws Near - Sinners Must Seek Him!**

**A. Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near (Isaiah 55:6)**

The word **Seek** may be defined as: (1) to seek with the intent to enquire of, (2) to carefully seek, (3) to seek God in prayer and worship, and (4) to ask for, to follow after.

The word **Call** may be defined as: (1) to call upon God, (2) to call out to God, (3) to cry out, and (4) to cry for help.

**B. In seeking God and calling upon Him, the sinner must Repent** -- “…Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts…” (**Isaiah 55:7**)

**Let the wicked forsake** - The word **forsake** may be defined as: (1) to leave or forsake – (2) to continually depart from (3) to leave behind, and let alone. It also involves the idea of repairing or restoring.

**Let the wicked forsake his way** – The word way may be defined as: (1) the road upon which we travel, (2) the way or path upon which we travel, (3) our journey, (4) our direction, (5) our course of life.

Let the wicked forsake … his **thoughts** - the word thoughts may be defined as: (1) our thoughts or way of thinking, (2) our purposes or plans (when those purposes and plans involve the transgression of God’s Law or will)

**C. In seeking God and calling upon Him, the sinner must return to the Lord** – “… and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” (**Isaiah 55:7**)

**Note**: Returning to the Lord includes in it the desire to go back to and **to continually go back to**. It is not a one-time returning to the Lord, but a continual returning to the Lord.

When sinners **return** to the Lord – their heart is involved – They desire to return to the God who is able to save them from their sins.

When sinners **return** to the Lord – they do so trusting that He will receive them – Mercy is involved - Faith is involved.

**Fourth: When God Comes Near, He Hides Those Who Seek Him From His Judgment.**

**Zephaniah 2:3** – “**Seek ye the LORD**, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; **seek righteousness**, seek meekness: **it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger**.”

**A. God Hides His People From Judgment And Trouble.**

**On the day God brought Judgment upon the whole earth, He hid Noah in an Ark**.

**Genesis 7:15-16** – “(15) And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. (16) And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: **and the LORD shut him in**.”

**On the night God brought Judgment upon Egypt, He hid Israel behind blood stained doors**.

**Exodus 12:12-13** – “(12) For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt **I will execute judgment: I am the LORD**. (13) And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

**B. God is Our Hiding Place During Times of Trouble.**

**Psalm 32:7** – “**Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble**; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.”

**Psalm 57:1** – “Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: **yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast**.”

**C. He Hides All His Children In His Only Begotten Son – Jesus Christ.**

**Colossians 3:2-4** – “(2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For ye are dead, and **your life is hid with Christ in God**. (4) When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

**Philippians 3:7-9** – “(7) But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, (9) **And be found in him**, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith”