

# Salvation Present

Joseph Carty / General

The Seven S's of Adventism / Justification; Salvation; God: Grace; Faith / Romans 1:16–17  
How is Jesus ever going to save me? I understand the basic concepts of salvation but I feel like a spiritual failure. Can God still use me? If you relate to any of these ideas, you won't want to miss this sermon.

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## Kneeling Prayer

California Gold Fever

Sent for family

Pacific Steamer

Fire

Boats

Pleaded

"if you live to see your father, tell him that I died in your place."

## Series

- 7 S's
- Salvation

## Last Week Review

- Origin of evil
- Free will
- Bad things happen
- reign of terror
- the day Jesus died

## We saw

- God is love
- God is good
- God is sacrificial

## Question remains

- How can God save me???

## Broken Theology

Door knocking

If Jesus came today...  
Would you be saved?

90% say yes...

Why?

Because I'm pretty good person...

Problem:

- Bible teaches:

**Isaiah 64:6 ESV**

We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

According to passage

- We are unclean
- most righteous deeds
  - = menstrual rags

Sooo...

- will my righteousness do it?

**NO!**

- If it is about
  - being good enough
- Then I'm
  - my own savior.
- You cannot save yourself!

**Romans 3:23 ESV**

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- Is anyone “good enough?”
  - NO!!!

| Path to death!!!

| Rain storm

| Bridge Out.

- So how can I be saved?

**Romans 6:23 ESV**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- What did your sin
  - earn you?
- Salvation?
  - No
  - Death!
- How will we ever be saved?

**“free gift of God...”**

| 9 yr old

| SS class

| What did you learn?

| Moses rescue mission

| Red Sea

| Pontoon Bridge

| bombed bridge

| Really???

| No, but

| you wouldn't believe real story.

- But wait
  - more complex
  - what about righteousness?

# Faith or Works?

- Confusing question
- Some verses say
  - one thing...

## **Ephesians 2:8–9 ESV**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Grace not works.
- Others suggest another...

## **Revelation 22:12 NKJV**

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

- Judged base on works.
- Which is it?
  - faith?
  - works?

## **James 2:14 ESV**

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

- proverbial question

## **James 2:15–17 ESV**

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- Illustration
  - Abortion

- They say it

- but don't live it.

#### James 2:18–19 ESV

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

- Definition of faith
  - belief in existence of God
- Satan believes that.
- Real definition of faith??

## Will the Real Faith Please Stand Up?

- Counterfeit faith!
  - Satan's plan.

#### James 2:20–23 ESV

Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

- What is faith?
  - choosing to live
    - God's plan
    - by faith....

#### • Abraham's Example

- But wait...
  - I fail!
- Back to question:

# How can I be good enough?

- Paul describes this experience:

## **Romans 7:15 HCSB**

For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not practice what I want to do, but I do what I hate.

- continuing

## **Romans 7:18–19 HCSB**

For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it. For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do.

- What is going on.
- More I want Christ
  - more temptation!
- Great Battle

## **Romans 7:21–24 HCSB**

So I discover this principle: When I want to do what is good, evil is with me. For in my inner self I joyfully agree with God's law. But I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this dying body?

- Partly controlled
  - by evil in me.
- Fighting to make
  - right choices.
- Fighting a fight
  - I can't win.
- Power not
  - within me
  - for righteousness.

- What is the solution?

## Surrender

- We don't have power.
  - True.
- But someone does.

**Philippians 4:13 ESV**

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

- Through Christ
  - abide in Christ.
- How?
- Constant Battle
  - Surrender.

**Galatians 2:20 ESV**

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Combination
  - faith
  - works

### Membership Exam

"Well, are you still a sinner?"

"To tell you the truth, I feel I'm a greater sinner than ever."

"Then what real change have you experienced?"

"I don't quite know how to explain it," she said, "except I used to be a sinner running after sin, but now that I am saved. I'm a sinner running from sin!"

You're In!

## Summary

How can God save a wretch like me?

- No because
  - “I’m pretty good.”
- Through Faith
- By Surrender

## Next Week

- Today Primarily
  - justification
  - surrender
- Next week,
  - Sanctification
    - Role in Salvation
    - Role in GC
    - Experiencing it.

## Appeal

- Abide
- Surrender
- Experience
- Spend Time