

# Jesus the Saviour

*by Bishop J.C. Ryle*

For whom was all that suffering undergone, which Jesus endured at Calvary? For whom were those hands and feet nailed to the cross? For whom was that side pierced with the spear? For whom did that precious blood flow so freely down? Wherefore was all this done? It was done for you! It was done for the sinful - for the ungodly! It was done freely, voluntarily - not by compulsion - out of love to sinners, and to make atonement for sin. Surely, then, as Christ died for the ungodly, I have a right to proclaim that any one may be saved.

Furthermore, anyone may be saved because Christ still lives. That same Jesus who once died for sinners, still lives at the right hand of God, to carry on the work of salvation which He came down from heaven to perform. He lives to receive all who come unto God by Him, and to give them power to become the sons of God. He lives to hear the confession of every heavy-laden conscience, and to grant, as an almighty High Priest, perfect absolution.

He lives to be the one Mediator between God and man, the unwearied Intercessor, the kind Shepherd, the elder Brother, the prevailing Advocate, the never-failing Priest and Friend of all who come to God by Him. He lives to be wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption to all His people - to keep them in life, to support them in death, and bring them finally to eternal glory.

For whom is Jesus sitting at God's right hand? It is for the sons of men. High in heaven, and surrounded by unspeakable glory, He still cares for that mighty work which He undertook when He was born in the manger of Bethlehem. He is not one whit altered. He is always in one mind. He is the same as He was when He walked the shores of the sea of Galilee.

He is the same as He was when He pardoned Saul the Pharisee, and sent him forth to preach the faith he had once destroyed. He is the same as He was when He received Mary Magdalene - called Matthew the publican - brought Zacchaeus down from the tree, and made them examples of what His grace could do. And He is not changed. He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Surely I have a right to say that anyone may be saved, since Jesus lives.

"Come unto Me," says the Saviour, "all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" - "He that believeth on the Son shall not perish, but have eternal life" - "He that believeth on Him is not condemned." - "He that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." "Everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him may have everlasting life."

To be saved, is to be delivered in this present life from the guilt of sin, by faith in Jesus Christ, the Saviour. It is to be pardoned, justified, and freed from every charge of sin, by faith in Christ's blood and mediation. Whosoever with his heart believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, is a saved soul. He shall not perish. He shall have eternal life. This is the first part of salvation, and the root of all the rest. But this is not all.

To be saved, is to be delivered in this present life from the power of sin, by being born again, and sanctified by Christ's Spirit. It is to be freed from the hateful dominion of sin, the world, and the devil, by having a new nature put in us by the Holy Ghost. Whosoever is thus renewed in the spirit of his mind, is a saved soul. He shall not perish. He shall enter into the glorious kingdom of God. This is the second part of salvation. But this is not all.

To be saved, is to be delivered in the day of judgement, from all the awful consequences of sin. It is to be declared blameless, spotless, faultless, and complete in Christ, while others are found guilty, and condemned forever. It is to bear those comfortable words - "Come, ye blessed!" while others are bearing those fearful words - "Depart, ye cursed!"

It is to be owned and confessed by Christ, as one of His dear children and servants, while others are disowned and cast off for ever. It is to be pronounced free from the portion of the wicked - the worm that never dies - the fire that is not quenched - the weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth, that never ends.

It is to receive the reward prepared for the righteous, in the day of Christ's second coming - the glorious body - the kingdom that is incorruptible - the crown that fadeth not away - and the joy that is for evermore. This is complete salvation. This is the "redemption" for which true Christians are bid to look and long.

Faith, or simple trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, is the only thing required in order that you and I may have our sins forgiven. That we come by faith to Jesus as sinners with our sins, - trust in Him, - rest on Him, - lean on Him, - confide in Him, - commit our souls to Him, - and forsaking all other hope, cleave only to Him, - this is all and everything that God asks for. Let a man only do this, and he shall be saved. His iniquities shall be found completely pardoned, and his transgressions entirely taken away.

### **INVITATION**

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