

GOD, OUR SAVIOR AND OUR SUSTAINER

Introduction

- A. Text: **Eph. 1:15-23**.
- B. God wants us to know that *His power is able to save us*.
 - 1. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (**Rom. 1:16**).
 - 2. "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (**Rom. 5:10**).
- C. But the word "salvation" encompasses far more than the forgiveness of our past sins.
 - 1. God's power is capable of helping us in *whatever way* we need to be "saved" (rescued, delivered).
 - 2. This begins with the forgiveness of our past sins, of course — but it goes on to deal with *all the other problems that are consequences of sin in the world*.
- D. In the past, God has *demonstrated the power* with which He is willing to help us - **Rom. 8:31,32**.
- E. So how is what God *has* done in Jesus Christ connected to what He *will* do on our behalf?

I. GOD DID RAISE JESUS FROM THE DEAD

- A. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is the center of the gospel - **1 Cor. 15:3,4**.
- B. Ultimately, it was by the power of the resurrection that God demonstrated that Jesus was His Son - **Ac. 17:31; Rom. 1:4**.
- C. And ultimately, it is the resurrection of Christ upon which our faith in God's power rests - **1 Pt. 1:21**. Cf. **1 Cor. 15:14,17**.

II. GOD HAS SAVED US FROM OUR SINS

- A. Our justification from sin depends on Jesus, who was raised from the dead and seated at God's right hand to make intercession for us - **Rom. 8:33,34**.
- B. Baptism "saves" us "through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (**1 Pt. 3:21,22**).
- C. The faith that saves us when we are baptized is "faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (**Col. 2:12**).
- D. God has "made us alive together with Christ" (**Eph. 2:5,6**). Cf. **Rom. 6:4,5**.

III. GOD WILL SUSTAIN US THROUGH LIFE

- A. Having saved us from our past sins, God does not cease to help us - **Phil. 1:6**. Cf. **Eph. 3:20; 2 Pt. 1:3**.
- B. The resurrected Christ has overcome the world and is able to help us overcome whatever tribulation life in the world may involve - **Jn. 16:33**.

- C. There is literally nothing to fear when our trust is in a God who raises the dead - **2 Cor. 1:9,10**. Cf. **Hb. 2:14,15**.
- D. The message of Revelation is that it is possible to overcome through Christ - **Rev. 2:7**. Cf. **21:7**.

IV. GOD WILL RAISE US TO ETERNAL LIFE

- A. Looking beyond this life, our hope of an eternal "inheritance" is based on the resurrection of Christ from the dead - **1 Pt. 1:3-5**.
- B. The "second death" has no power over those who are in Christ - **Rev. 20:6**.
- C. Christ's resurrection is the "firstfruits" of our own - **1 Cor. 6:14; 15:20,23; Rev. 1:5**. Cf. **Jn. 5:24-30; Rom. 8:11**.

Conclusion

- A. God has "predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself" (**Eph. 1:5**). *But God does not adopt us as sons and then abandon us!*
- B. "A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing" (Martin Luther).
- C. "Now to Him who is *able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory* with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen" (**Jd. 24,25**).
- D. Knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection is *worth whatever sacrifice* may have to be made - **Phil. 3:8-11**.