

God Is Able ... To Save!

Hebrews 7:25

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

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Introduction:

- I. On Nov 21, 1980 more than eighty people burned to death in the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. The television cameras showed people stranded on the balconies crying out in terror. Some made their way to the roof for safety but later even flames engulfed them there. This catastrophe was not due to the incompetence of fire fighters. They had been well trained, arrived quickly, and they did everything they could to rescue those perishing. The problem stemmed from the shortness of the firemen's ladders. Because of short ladders, the water hoses were unable to spray water above the eighth floor. As a result the fire fighters were unable to save.
- II. One of the greatest lessons of the Bible is that God is able to save lost souls (Isaiah 1:18; 55:3,7; Psalms 34:18; 103:10-13). Hebrews 7:25 affirms God's ability to rescue anyone from the dreadful doom of sin.
- III. This text affirms what many deny they think God's salvation is impossible for them.
 1. Caught in sin they have no hope (Ephesians 2:12).
 2. They admit their lost state, empty life, and hopelessness. But they think God is unable to save someone as "sinful" as they are (Luke 18:13b).
 3. Yet to those who think they are beyond hope and will never be blessed by God, the Bible extends a wonderful invitation – God is ABLE! You can find hope; your emptiness can be filled!
 4. If you feel discouraged about God's ability to meet your soul's greatest need look carefully at this passage!

Body:

A. FIND HOPE – the length of Christ's salvation!

1. "Uttermost" or "Forever" is literally "completely." It refers to the scope of Christ's salvation. Christ is able to save anyone! He saves completely all who will obey His commands!
2. His power is able to save murderers, rapists, wife beaters, child molesters, and anyone else who is in sin's power.
3. Here is hope for the hopeless Christ offers you complete deliverance; total freedom from sin's condemnation!
4. Sin makes us offensive to God, but Christ cleanses us completely so we are no longer offensive to God (Habakkuk 1:13; Isaiah 1:18). What a blessed thought!
5. Many illustrate this complete salvation:
 - a. Manasseh (2 Kings 24:3,4; 2 Chronicles 33:1-13)
 - b. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9)

- c. Corinthian Church (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- d. Apostle Paul (1 Timothy 1:12-15)
- 6. Jesus has proven for centuries that He is able to save to the uttermost!
- 7. God is able to save completely – you do not need to settle for an incomplete salvation!

B. FIND DIRECTION – The limitation of Christ's salvation.

1. Although Christ's salvation is offered to all, all will not be saved (Matthew 7:13-14).
2. Only those who "draw near to God" will be saved. Sincerity is not enough; neither is a good moral life sufficient! (Acts 10:1-2; 11:14). We must follow God's directions!
3. This drawing near to God implies:
 - a. We are not near to Him (Isaiah 53:6).
 - b. We are willing to admit we have disobeyed God and recognize that only God has the answer (Acts 16:30).
 - c. We are willing to repent, change our lives, and follow God's will (Acts 22:10).
 - d. We seek to resolve the sin problem in our lives (Isaiah 59:2; Acts 22:16).
 - e. We are willing to identify with the group (church) that is the one, true Body of Christ (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:4).
4. Another limitation – this drawing near must be "through Him." Only in following Christ is one able to draw near to God (John 14:6).
 - a. You cannot draw near via priest, church, or money. It must be through faith in Christ and this is found only in the Bible (John 17:17; 1 Timothy 2:4).
 - b. Profound implications:
 - 1) If there is more than one way, then Jesus is untruthful! It must be His way or nothing!
 - 2) If Christ's way is the only way, then other religious groups will not be saved. No matter how sincere they are, they will be lost!
 - 3) If Christ's way is the only way, then all churches that do not follow His revealed will cannot bring one to salvation (Matthew 7:21-23).

C. FIND SECURITY – The love of Christ's salvation.

1. The restrictions preventing so many from finding salvation seem terrible until they are surrounded by a divine love (John 3:16). God can enforce the restrictions because He has shown us His love.
2. Christ is able to save the most notorious sinner for He is willing to "make intercession" for them. He is willing to approach God the Father and plead for us (1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1).
3. Through Christ we are able to pray to God and find help (Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Peter 2:5).
4. Peter illustrates this security (Luke 22:31,32). In heaven Jesus continues this intercession for all those who are God's children.

Conclusion:

- I. What a wonderful text! All power is Christ's and He has abundantly provided a plan that offers salvation to everyone.
 1. It was not an easy accomplishment, but He succeeded (Psalm 89:19).
 2. It was the only plan that offered hope and salvation (Hebrews 7:26-27).
 3. It is only reasonable to ask Christ what He wants us to do to find this salvation and then eagerly obey His commands.

- II. God is able to save completely! One may be saved from a fire yet be burned and scarred; saved from death on the battlefield yet lose a leg or arm. However Jesus Christ saves completely! He fully restores purity, beauty, joy, and hope to our souls. He saves completely as we become "new creations" (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 1. Some do not enjoy this "renewed" life. They are religious but they have not been saved completely. They struggle with guilt because sin has not been remedied. They do not enjoy a complete salvation and need to obey fully!
 2. Some do not enjoy the hope of salvation because they are not dedicated. They try to live worldly and godly. They need to repent and rededicate their lives to God (Hebrews 3:12-14; 12:1).

- III. Trust and obey God because He is able to save completely!
Hope – Direction – Security!