

What Are We Saved From and To?

by Pastor Frank Wm. Nagy

The Body of Christ, as a Whole, Has Lost Its Vision.

The Body of Christ, as a whole, has lost its vision. Today, I'm going to spend some time, attempting to restore its sight to any, who will hear and then see.

You respond: "How can you say we have lost our vision? We see Jesus pretty well."

No, you don't, or you wouldn't insist on wanting to fly away to heaven, while leaving your work undone here on earth. If you knew Jesus better, you would be out on the streets and in the by-ways working alongside him. You'd know what you had been saved from, and how much you had been saved to, here and now in this earth, even without considering an eternity of heavenly existence.

The Church doesn't know what it has been saved from or saved to well enough.

That being the case, we can hardly fault the non-Christian for not wishing to take up with us.

Non-Christian youth, in particular, think they are going to live for a long, long time. Most anyone in their right mind doesn't figure on checking out today or tomorrow. The "Big Dirt Nap" is a long ways off in most people's minds. The non-Christian gambler takes those odds, counts the cost of his joys and decides. He will live like the devil for a great number more years. He figures when his taste for those things wanes, he will have plenty of time to get pious. Then, he will think about buying "fire insurance" against hell.

Do we know a good answer to those who state such a position? Or do we only fall back to our Bible quotes, saying "no one is promised tomorrow"? When the Bible says, "Today is the day of salvation," it's not a promise empty of immediate benefits, only holding out hope for the future. If all God has is a great retirement plan one can buy into at the last minute why aren't we waiting until we are old and gray? What is the reason of the hope within you, other than "pie in the sky when you die"?

What trouble have we missed out on today that the unsaved would like to escape today? What good do we have that they wouldn't want to wait another day to experience? What evil looms for them that is history for us? What blessing is God pouring out on us today He wouldn't have had we not been born-again?

We need to recall and tell what God has done and is doing for us. What are we saved from and to?

WHAT ARE WE SAVED FROM ?

We are saved from a number of things other than hell. For some this will be a reminder, for others, they probably haven't heard anything, but hell is to be avoided by the Christian. This message is for us, who have embraced Jesus and for any who have yet to do so.

We are saved from terrors of darkness, slavery to hard taskmasters that refuse to let us be free, from being robbed at every turn and from living on death-row, where we see every good thing we attempt to have and to hold being regularly destroyed.

Darkness

Proverbs 4:19 The way of the wicked is as darkness. They do not know at what they stumble.

John 11:9 Jesus answered, "A man walking in the night stumbles, because there is no light in him."

The Egyptians of old were plagued by a darkness that could be felt.

Today's world knows such a darkness and those of the world are deathly afraid of it. There are many, who will not go out at night for fear of what's out there. Are they being paranoid? No. There is much out there to be much afraid of.

Job 24:14 The murderer, rising with the light, kills the poor and needy, and in the night acts as a thief. 15 The eye also of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, "No eye shall see me," as he disguises his face. 16 In the dark they dig through houses, which they had marked for themselves in the daytime.

They have no promise of the Lord's protection from evil in their going out and coming in.

Job 24:13 They are of those, who rebel against the light. They do not know the ways of, nor live in the paths of light. 16 ...They do not know the light. 17 Morning to them is the shadow of death. If one really knew them, we would see they are in the terrors of the shadow of death.

Slavery

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 And the slave does not stay living in the house forever...."

The non-Christian knows of he is a slave. He knows the good he would do he cannot do and the evil he would not do is what he continually does. The man on the street knows he is addicted to sex and to smoking, alcohol and often also to drugs. He knows in his heart how these things are hurtful, if not killing him. He doesn't expect to live forever the way he chokes at each of those coffin nails.

The way he spins out of control under the effects of booze and his experience of the day after shows him his time in this house is not really “the high life.”

Paul asked, “Don’t you know you become slaves to whomever or whatever you obey? (Romans 6:16)

Robbery, Death and Destruction

John 10:10 [Satan] the thief comes only to steal, to kill and to destroy....

The non-Christian sees himself and his compatriots being ripped off every day. They know their end is death and destruction, but they see no other way.

How can they turn to God? The idea of facing God scares them to death. As far as they can see, God is part of their problem. They know all too well how they have “sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

John 3:36 He... does not see life. He already feels the anger of God weighing down upon him.

Deut 28:28 The LORD shall strike you with madness, blindness, and astonishment of heart. 29 You shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness. You shall not prosper in your ways. You shall be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save you.

30 You shall betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her.

You shall build a house and not live in it.

You shall plant a vineyard, and shall not gather the grapes of it.

31 Your ox shall be slain before your eyes, and you shall not eat thereof.

Your ass shall be violently taken and shall not be restored.

Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have none to rescue them.

32 Your sons and daughters shall be given to another people.

Your eyes shall fail with longing looking for them.

There shall be no might in your hand.

33 A nation you do not know shall eat up the fruit of your land, and all your labors.

You shall only be oppressed and crushed.

Isa 59:2 Your iniquities have separated you and your God. Your sins have hid his face from you, so he will not hear. *

* See Isaiah 59:7-15:

Their feet run to evil. They make haste to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity. Wasting and destruction are in their paths. 8 The way

of peace they do not know. There is no judgment in the ways they go. They have made them crooked paths. Whoever goes their way shall not know peace. 9 Judgment is far from us, neither does justice overtake us. We wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. 10 We grope for the wall like the blind. We grope, as if we had no eyes. We stumble at noon day as in the night. We are in desolate places like dead men.11 We all roar like bears, and mourn like doves. We look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.12 Our transgressions are multiplied before you. Our sins testify against us. For our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them; 13 in transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering words of falsehood spoken from the heart.14 Judgment is turned back, and justice stands afar off. Truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. 15 Yes, truth fails. He who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.

John 15:5 "...Without me you can do nothing. 6 If one does not live in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered. Men gather those branches to cast them into the fire. They are burned."

SAVED TO WHAT?

We are saved to a great number of things other than just to heaven when we die. We really need to know what God has given us so we can enjoy those things now on earth, or we are likely to fall back into fear at Satan's lies that we can't have what is rightfully ours in Christ!

What are we saved to? We have been saved to a life of freedom, divine health, light, and peace, to fruitful living, to a long list of physical and spiritual blessings on earth and to ever-lasting life with God.

Freedom

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 The slave does not stay living in the house forever..."

But... but the good news is: "...the Son stays forever. 36 If the Son makes you free, you shall really be free."

Heb 2:14 ...Through death [Jesus] destroyed him, who had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 to deliver them, who through fear of death, were all their life subject to bondage.

We all feared death and were slaves to Satan for fear. Jesus saves us from “the Living Death,” which made us afraid to live. Disease of all types came from sin’s slavery and separation from God. As death is destroyed for those in Christ, so we learn the good God has for us on this earth. We have the power to stop sinning and begin capturing all the benefits of this great life.

Rom 6:16 Do you not know you become slaves of whomever or whatever you obey? You are servants, whatever you obey; whether of sin to death, or of obedience unto righteousness.

17 But, thanks be to God, though you were the servants of sin, you have obeyed from the heart that doctrine which was delivered you. **18** Being then made free from sin, you became the servants of righteousness.

Health

John 5:6 Jesus asked the man, “Will you be made whole?...” **8** Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed, and walk.” **9** Immediately, the man was made whole, took up his bed and walked....

Most of us are aware we are not whole. But now, as God saves us, we can come into divine health, if we will have it.

Exod 15:26 “If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD your God, and will do what is right in his sight, and will give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon you, which I brought upon the Egyptians. I am the LORD who heals you.”

Light

John 11:9 Jesus answered... “If any man walk in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.” **John 8:12** Jesus spoke to them, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

Psa 89:15 Blessed is the people, who know the joyful sound. They shall walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.

Wonder why some Christians have such a sunny disposition? Wonder no more. This is just the natural consequence of walking in the Light of the Son.

Psa 121:7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil. He shall preserve your soul. **8** The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.

Peace

John 14: 27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you: not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Remember the peace movement? There wasn't a whole lot of peace in those people, even when they got what they wanted. God promises us peace like a river, peace now, in this life.

Rom 5:1 Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Phi 4:7 The peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Fruitful Living

John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I am come so they might have life, and live it to the full.”

When I became an active Christian, my week seemed two weeks long compared to the life I knew before, and when I was Baptized in the Spirit this abundant life doubled again.

Psa 103:2 Do not forget all the LORD's benefits. **3** It is He who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, **4** who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, **5** who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

John 15: 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who lives in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit... **7** If you live in me, and my words live in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you. **8** By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be my disciples.”

Earthly and Heavenly Blessings

John 14:13 “Whatever you shall ask in my name, I will do, so the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

Mark 10: 29 Jesus answered and said, “Truly I say to you, there is no man, who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, **30** but he shall receive a hundred-fold now in this time, houses, and brothers, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands...

with persecutions...
and in the world to come...
eternal life.”

Eternal Life

John 11:25 Jesus said, “I am the resurrection, and the life. He who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. 26 Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”

An Excellent Relationship with God

We have left the relationship with God to last, because it is not the first thing on the list of wants for most non-Christians. As Christians we know this as the most important, to be sought above all else.

The Psalmist knew this: in Psa 73:23, he said, “I am continually with You. You have held me by my right hand. 24 You shall guide me with your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven, but You? There is none on earth, I desire beside You.”

John 14:21 “He who has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is who loves me and he who loves me shall be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him....” 23 Jesus said, “If a man love me, he will keep my words and my Father will love him, and we will come make our home with him.”

John 15:9 “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Continue in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you shall live in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and live in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, so my joy will remain in you, and your joy may be full.”

In John, where we find these last two passages, we later hear Jesus call his disciples his friends:

John 15:12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you. 15 “Henceforth I do not call you servants, for the servant does not know what his lord does. I have called you friends, for all things I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

We are Jesus' friends and no longer merely his servants if we obey him. In coming to Christ we have also gained our brother. For God gives us the love we need to love others, as we should. Out of this comes peace with God and right relationships with those, who will respond to His ways of peace.

What Have We Clarified? What is God Saving Christians From and To Here on Earth?

What have we come to better understand about the new life God has for the one, who is saved?

Let's review what we are saved from and to:

We are saved from terrors of darkness that made our hearts fail for fear, slavery to hard taskmasters that would not let us go free, from robbery at every turn and from a bare, death-row existence with destruction of every good thing we tried to build and keep for ourselves.

We have been saved to a life of freedom, divine health, light and peace beyond understanding, to fruitful living, enjoying a long list of physical and spiritual blessings on earth, including right relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ and to ever-lasting life with God, our loving Savior.

The list we offer here of what we are saved from and to is far from complete. There is plenty more to come into, to fully experience all God has for us in the way of salvation on this earth. We echo Peter in saying God has provided "all things needed for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)."

If you didn't know what we have been saved from and to before, you now have a better idea. We hope you will tell your friends, who don't have a clue what they're missing.

Remind your Christian friends what Jesus has done for them. Stir yourself and them to worship the Lord for the great salvation He has already shown us on earth. Let's encourage ourselves to praise the Lord for He is good and his steadfast mercies endure forever.

Tell your non-Christian friends and acquaintances what God has in store for them, as quickly as they turn to him. What we have described here is available for them, as readily as it is for us. We want them to start enjoying the fruit of Christ's abundant life, here and now, as ones, who have come to know what we are saved from and to.