

Convent Avenue Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study 3/10/10
Pastor Jesse Williams

The Articles of Faith; What we believe...

Article VI. The Freeness Of Salvation

John 3:14-18, Romans 10:8-13, Galatians 3:26-29, 1 Timothy 1:9-16

Salvation is free! However, as we have learned in the doctrine of the way of salvation, just because it is free does not mean it is *cheap*! Salvation is a free gift from God that God extends as an invitation to all humanity. Scripture teaches that it is God's desire that all humanity would be saved, and God has provided the means for it. Indeed, God's way of salvation through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection is God's once and for all solution to the sin problem that affected humanity in the fall. Ever since sin entered into the world, God has been on a mission to reconcile humanity back to Himself. In Jesus Christ, God did for us what we could have never done for ourselves. Salvation is a precious gift from God that cost Jesus much suffering, pain and eventually death, so it came at price!

From a human perspective then, one would think that something so precious would cost you something in order to get it. In our consumer-driven society of today, anything that is valuable has a price tag attached to it, generally one that involves money. But God does not operate according to the world's system of commerce, transactions and capitalism. God is never motivated by greed or the desire to acquire more wealth. God owns everything already anyway! God is motivated by His love for us and all of creation, so He gives us salvation freely and invites us to accept it by faith. To try to attach some dollar amount to the value of salvation would be absurd, salvation is truly priceless! The good news of the Gospel is that in Jesus Christ salvation is free to ALL and available to ALL. We see this in the bible's use of the word "whosoever" in relation to salvation. Additionally, we note the following;

1) God is not discriminatory with Salvation.

God's salvation is for all people. He does not allow many of the human issues that divide us from one another dictate whether or not He will save someone. Racism, sexism, ageism, etc... and all of the other "isms" that are so prevalent in our society do not deter God from loving or saving anyone.

2) If people are not saved, it's because they reject God voluntarily.

Since God made us with free will and a mind to make choices, it is possible to reject God's gospel even though it hurts the heart of God. Just like sin is a choice, love must also be a choice. God loved us so much that He gave us free will so that we can voluntarily choose to love Him and serve Him. With that free will, God knows that there is the possibility of rejection as well, but the risk is worth it to God because God is motivated by love. If we were forced to accept the Gospel, it wouldn't be true love or obedience.

3) God can even save "the worst sinner on earth".

While we should not judge others, we must also remember that God's salvation through Jesus Christ can even save those whom we may consider to be the "*worst sinners*"! There is nobody that God cannot save or does not want to save. Even those we think don't deserve it! Paul was a perfect example of this, as he confessed himself in his writing.

