

Restoration

by Martin Knapp

The sermon 'Restoration' by Martin Knapp explores God's love and the transformative power of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Scripture: 1 John 1:9

Topics: "Salvation Through Faith", "Repentance And Restoration"

Description

Martin Knapp preaches about the incredible love of God demonstrated through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, to save humanity from sin and eternal doom. He emphasizes the importance of repentance, confession of sins, faith, and receiving God's pardon and full salvation through Jesus. Knapp highlights the gifts bestowed by God, including His Son, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, conviction, the Church and Ministry, and victory over sin and the enemy.

Transcript

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." -- John iii, 16.

Is it not strange that men should be so foolish as to listen to Satan, and forsake the delights of the Paradise which God has planned for them, and with one accord rush down to the Land of Sin and embark upon its fatal Rivers? This seems too absurd to be true; yet, deceived by Satan, and won by his cunning wiles, they have done and are doing it.

When angels did a similar thing it seemed there was no salvation for them; but they were at once arrested and confined in "everlasting chains in outer darkness, awaiting the judgment of the last day."

But blessed, glorious, unspeakable "tidings of great joy, to us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!" "Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor," and suffered on the cross of Calvary that we might be rescued from Satan's power, Sin's River, and its awful doom.

Yes, thank God! a rescue expedition has been planned and sent forth from God the Father to save a lost world. What has been done?

The Father so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to save us. Jesus so loved the world that He freely came, and redeemed us by His own precious blood. The Holy Spirit so loved the world that He comes, unitedly with the Father and the Son, to press a campaign against sin and Satan's power, and

rescue all who will repent.

The following are some of the gifts which God bestows in our behalf:

His Son, who came from heaven, lived and suffered and died and rose again, and now intercedes at the right hand of the Father for us.

The Holy Spirit, who takes the things of God and makes them plain to man.

The Word of God. This Word exposes the awful conspiracy of the devil to wreck people in the Rivers of Sin, and, having put them to sleep upon its fatal floods, to rush them over the Falls of Eternal Despair to the dark dungeons of everlasting doom, where he plans to torment them forever. It tells all about the expedition from Heaven, headed by the Son of God, to defeat the devil and rescue all who will repent.

Conviction. Drugged by the devil and chloroformed by sin, spiritually weak and sick on account of the malaria that arises from the Swamps of Disobedience, the sinner would never awaken to a sense of his danger were it not for conviction, such as only the Holy Spirit can bring. He applies the Word of God, rouses the sinner from his slumber, and makes him feel the pangs of guilt because of the way he is destroying himself and treating God, until he can rest no more.

The Church and Ministry. Under the administration of the Holy Spirit Jesus organizes His Church, composed of rescued men and women, who, animated by the Spirit of their Savior, and mighty through His strength, co-operate with Him in the work of rescuing others. It is of them Jesus says, "As Thou didst send Me into the world, even so send I them into the world."

Repentance. Even after the victims of this River have been awakened they would not know how to repent nor feel like doing. So unless God should give them this gift; hence He bestows it. It moves them with all their might to turn away from sin with deep and godly sorrow, and cry to Him for help. They begin to hate the currents which are ever sweeping them downward, and, moved with fear, they stop their mad career, and escape from the death-trap into which Satan has decoyed them. Genuine repentance embraces restitution, if one has wronged another, to the full extent of his power to make that wrong right. If some one stole your knife, would you believe him really sorry if he refused to restore it, and kept right on stealing? If people keep on sinning, and refuse to make their wrongs right if it is in their power to do so, their repentance is 'a sham, and but sweeps them swifter toward eternal death. Real repentance means to give up, not only one sin, but all sin, with no thought of ever going back to it again.

Pardon. To all who truly repent, God offers blood-bought pardon. Jesus paid for it on Calvary, and it is free.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." -- 1 John I, 9.

Precious promise! Glorious privilege! Wonderful grace which thus forgives! This promise has been the plank over which multitudes have rushed from the Sin-boats of Damnation to the Life-boat of Salvation.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." -- Isa. lv, 7.

Confession of sin. If a little boy has wronged you, and will not "own up," you know by that he does not really repent of the wrong he has done you. The sinner, sinking in the Death-boat, must confess his sins to

others, wherein he has wronged them, and his sin to God, wherein he has wronged Him; and will do so, if his repentance is sincere.

"He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy." -- Prov. xxviii, 13.

Faith. To all who fully submit to God, repent and confess, God gives the faith to believe His Word, and the promise is the plank which reaches the Life-boat. Our feet represent our faith, and we must put both of them upon the plank, and thus escape for our lives.

Communion. Entering the Life-boat of Salvation the soul is welcomed by Jesus Himself, and communion is at once established between them—sweet, rich, and blessed. The bells of the Life-boat ring jubilantly with the praises of its passengers, and all Heaven is full of joy that another soul is rescued.

Freedom. The chains of evil habits which bound the prisoner to the world, the flesh, and the devil when in the Death-boat of Sin, are now broken.

Healing. All sorts of physical diseases were contracted in the Rivers of Sin. In response to the prayer of faith, these may be healed, and the body greatly strengthened through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. A new body, free from all disease and all infirmity, even like the body of Jesus Himself, is promised in the future, when "He shall change these vile bodies, and make them like His own most glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself."

Full Salvation. The diseases of soul which were contracted in the River are all checked at once, and the believer is given a valuable home up on the Plains of Regeneration; but a complete eradication of sin from the soul is effected only through the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, which transfers the soul to Holiness Heights, where it lives in joyful spiritual activity, health, and plenty, until it passes into Heaven. This wonderful change is wrought through the Blood of Jesus, and fully sanctifies the soul, healing its every disease, and making it every whit whole. Not freeing it from infirmities, nor destroying its freedom, nor exempting from temptation, but eliminating everything which mars its communion with God, utterly destroying the "old man" of carnality, and thrilling with holy zeal and freedom. This complete cure of the soul is received through faith in Jesus, dependence upon the healing Blood, and complete abandonment to His sweet will in everything, no matter how much self or others may be opposed. Without it there will be a tendency on the part of the soul to return to former bondage, and take occasional trips upon the Rivers of Sin. This cure removes that inclination. This experience gives one the right to reside on Holiness Heights, where there is "select company," "celestial music, grapes of Eshcol," "honey out of the rock," bread without scarceness," and all the fruits of Canaan. The ascent which leads there has several steps. The name of one is Hunger for Holiness; the next, Determination to Have It; the third, Absolute Abandonment to the Will of God; the fourth, Appropriating Faith. The steps are carpeted with texts, among which are the following:

"Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus." -- Rom. vi, 11.

"Ye shall be holy; for I am holy." -- 1 Peter I, 16.

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication." -- 1 Thess. iv, 3.

"If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanseth us from all sin." -- 1 John I, 7.

"Be filled with the Spirit." -- Eph. v, 18.

All who have reached the Plains of Regeneration should ascend these steps at once, as their usefulness, safety, and enjoyment, as well as the command of their Savior, require it.

Victory. Another gift which Salvation brings is Victory. What a transformation from Satan's victims to Christ's victors! Yet this, through Him, all may have. For He has purchased for all, through His Blood, complete victory over every foe; victory over our sins and sin; over the world, the flesh, and the devil; over wicked men and evil spirits; over the grave, and death, and hell. Complete victory, blood-bought victory, eternal victory. Then, which shall we be -- Satan's victims, decoyed by his wiles, trapped by his cunning, stupefied by his pleasures, stultified by his spirit, to the grief of saints and the delight of demons, drifting down the River of Death to shame and everlasting contempt; -- or trophies of saving grace, rescued through Jesus' Blood, by His almighty power, clad with celestial armor, strengthened with all might by His Spirit in the innerman, and sweeping on from victory to victory forever and forever? May you, reader, quickly walk in this light!

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