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# Words of Truth

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## **“So Great Salvation”**

*By: Brian A. Yeager*

What does God owe you or I? Stop and ponder that question for a moment. Mankind, from the beginning, has proven to be a continual disappointment to God. Prior to the flood, God was sorry that he had made man on the earth. He was grieved at His heart (Genesis 6:6). The Lord has made statements such as this: *“O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea”* (Isaiah 48:18). Jesus wept over the disobedience of the people of Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-42). Jesus was angered by the hardness of the hearts of the disobedient (Mark 3:1-5). Mankind has caused God a lot of grief. So, why does God even consider opening Heaven to anyone?

We weren't created because God needed us. We were created to please Him (Revelation 4:11). The Psalmist asked: *“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him”* (Psalms 8:4)? Then a later Psalm asks: *“LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him”* (Psalms 144:3)! Such is restated in the New Testament (Hebrews 2:6).

Have you pondered the question, “what does God owe you or I?” Hopefully, you have concluded that He doesn't owe anyone anything. He is God. He is our Creator. We are His disappointment. Even in our complete obedience, we are still unprofitable servants (Luke 17:7-10). Yet, even though we could list thousands of reasons why God should not love us, He does. He loves all of humanity enough to sacrifice Jesus so that we can have the possibility of salvation (Titus 3:4). The opportunity of salvation was not earned by anyone (Ephesians 2:1-10). Yet, that hope was given to all (Titus 2:11-14). God's love for us has been proven (Romans 5:8, I John 3:16, and I John 4:9-10). Think on those things for a moment.

Jesus came in the flesh to deliver us from our sins (John 1:29, Hebrews 1:1-3, Hebrews 9:22-28, I Peter 1:18-19, and Revelation 1:5) and the bondage of the fear of death (Hebrews 2:9-18). We are underserving of such love, mercy, and grace. Yet, it is there for our taking. We haven't earned anything (II Timothy 1:9). Yet, salvation is offered as a reward unto those who choose to follow our Lord (II John 1:8 and Revelation 22:12). Do we appreciate that enough? That question takes thought. Therefore, to help us be thoughtful let's consider a biblical statement. That statement is “so great salvation”.

### **Considering “So Great Salvation”**

Consider this: *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was*

*stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will” (Hebrews 2:1-4)?*

The statement “so great salvation” is in a context that states, “we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard...”. In other words, we should pay much closer attention to the things we have learned of God. Solomon, being moved by the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:20-21), stated: “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh” (Proverbs 4:20-22). Seeing as how the word of God, in more places than these two contexts, tells us to think more about the truth we’re taught, we MUST. Such instructions infer that man can get to a point wherein we take in information, learn it, but do not really ponder it. Thus, people have been told to think on things various times through different statements throughout the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 4:39, Psalms 1:1-2, Psalms 119:59-60, Proverbs 4:25-26, Proverbs 6:6-9, Haggai 1:5, John 5:39, Ephesians 5:15-17, Philippians 4:8, James 4:5, etc.).

In the context of Hebrews 2:1-4, we are asked to consider how we could escape if we neglect so great salvation. That doesn’t take much thought. It is considerably clear in the Scriptures that you cannot escape the Judgment of the Lord (Romans 14:11-12, II Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 10:26-31, and Hebrews 12:25). We should ponder though, that the word translated “neglect” means: “to be careless of: - make light of, neglect, be negligent, not regard” (Strong’s # 272). Thus, it is a fact that man makes light of salvation. That is something to think hard on. Are we taking “so great salvation” lightly?

Without salvation, the sinner is faced with the consequence of eternity in the burning fire of Hell (Matthew 13:49-50, Mark 9:42-48, and Revelation 21:8). Eternal life and everlasting punishment are the two choices God has given you and I to make for our lives after this world perishes (Matthew 25:31-46). Let’s not take those choices lightly.

Now to the “great salvation”. There is nothing light about the matter. The cost of our salvation was the death of Christ (Matthew 20:28, John 10:1-18, Galatians 1:3-4, I Timothy 1:15, and I Peter 3:18). The realization of our salvation will be in the resurrection when we are taken into Heaven with our Father and our Savior Jesus Christ (John 5:28-29, I Corinthians 15:35-57, and I Thessalonians 4:13-18). When you think, ponder, consider those things; don’t do so lightly.

### **Conclusion**

As I conclude this brief study, I hope your mind is racing as is mine. We need to all take more time to consider our great salvation. We cannot just consider our salvation as a given. It is not! The righteous are barely saved (I Peter 4:17-19). Nor can we count our salvation as something minor, the cost was great (Hebrews 5:5-9). Let’s thankfully spend the appropriate time daily thinking on our great salvation and then act accordingly (I John 3:1-3)!