

## So Great a Salvation

I've spent my whole life connected to athletics. My dad was a college football player and then a high school coach. I grew up watching Friday night football games from the press box listening to the coaches interact with the coaches and players on the sidelines. I played sports all year long: football, basketball, tennis, baseball and golf. Our children all played sports of all kinds. Lindy is playing college soccer now.

Over all of these years there is a long list of athletes who never lived up to their potential. Young men and women often squander great talent because of poor work ethic, devotion to party lifestyle, obsession with the opposite sex, bad attitude, etc. It is sad to see people with such potential fall short of their true ability.

In the same way most of us live far beneath our true potential. We don't understand or fully utilize the gift of salvation. Salvation from God is a far greater gift than most of us truly appreciate and activate. For too many salvation is something that happen to us when we die. In fact salvation means so much more.

### Hebrews 2:1-4

#### Salvation

- *Soteria* {*Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*}: denotes deliverance, preservation, and salvation. Salvation is used in NT of material and temporal deliverance from danger and apprehension, including national and personal (as from the sea, safety, health, prison, flood). It also means spiritual and eternal deliverance from the bondage of sin, which brings peace and harmony.
- {*Vine's*}: Salvation is used to sum up all the blessings bestowed by God on his children in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

#### Gospel Power

- **Romans 1:14-17**
  - Gospel = good news = Jesus paid it all (redemption)
  - Power = dunamis = explosive; ability & might; of that which manifests God's power; mighty works, miracles & mighty deeds; synonym = dominion: supreme authority
  - Book of Acts pattern in preaching the Gospel
    - Acts 2:22-24, 32-39
    - Acts 8:5-8
- **2 Corinthians 6:1-2**

**Paul's bold statement: 1 Thessalonians 1:5**

**Isaiah's prophecy: Isaiah 52:7-10**

**Minister salvation to God's people**

## So Great Salvation Study Guide

Many don't fully understand or fully utilize the gift of salvation. Salvation from God is a far greater gift than most of us truly appreciate and activate. For too many salvation is something that happen to us when we die. In fact salvation means so much more.

Read Hebrews 2:1-4

- What is your first thought when you hear the word "salvation?"
- The Greek word translated "salvation" in this verse is *soteria*, which denotes deliverance, preservation, and salvation. Salvation is used in New Testament of material and temporal deliverance from danger and apprehension, including national and personal (as from the sea, safety, health, prison, flood). It also means spiritual and eternal deliverance from the bondage of sin, which brings peace and harmony.
- Salvation is used to sum up all the blessings bestowed by God on his children in Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- What is a good definition for salvation?

Read Romans 1:14-17

- What is the Gospel?
- The Greek word for "power" is *dunamis*, meaning of that which manifests God's power, mighty works, miracles and mighty deeds.
- What should we expect when preaching the gospel?
- Read Acts 2:22-24, 32-39 and Acts 8:5-8: What happened in Acts when the gospel was preached?

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5

- What was Paul's expectation when preaching the gospel?
- Should we expect the same today? Why or why not?