

Advent Devotions - Jesus, Our Savior

☐ Monday - A Great Savior for Great Sinners.

Jesus said, "I have not come to call the [self] righteous but sinners to repentance" (Lk. 5:32). A self-righteous man has no need for a savior; he thinks he has earned eternal life by his outwardly moral behavior. All of those who belong to the multitude of man-made religions follow this general pattern. On the other hand, the Christian is one who knows he is a sinner and Christ his Savior. Yet, even within Christianity, only the one who understands just how great a sinner he or she is knows how great a Savior Christ truly must be. The apostle Paul said, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all" (1 Tim. 1:15). You cannot know the greatness of salvation until you understand the enormity of your sins. Jesus is a great Savior who came to atone for the great transgressions of great rebels. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Heb. 2:3). Read Matthew 9:10-13; Luke 7:36-48

☐ Tuesday - One Savior from Sin.

Firemen save people from fires, doctors save people from sickness, and the Coast Guard can save people lost at sea, but there is only One born who can save a man from his sins: "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins" (Mt. 1:21). "I, even I, am the Lord; and there is no Savior besides Me" (Isa. 43:11). "There is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except Me" (Isa 45:21). "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Read John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5

☐ Wednesday - Salvation is a Gift.

This Christmas when you give gifts to one another, remember the greatest gift ever given, bought at the most expensive price ever paid: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16). Read Isaiah 9:6-7; Romans 3:21-26; James 1:17

☐ Thursday - The Past, Present & Future Effects of Salvation.

Jesus does more than save from the eternal penalty of sin; He also delivers us from the present power of sin: "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14). This is the present effect of salvation: deliverance from the love of sin, rescue from the habit of sin, setting free from the desire of sin. Yes, Jesus keeps on saving. Read Ephesians 4:22-24, 5:8-21; Colossians 3:8-15

☐ Friday - Saved for Fellowship.

Christian, Christ did not save you simply to relieve you of your sins. No, that is only the means to a much greater end. The ultimate purpose of salvation is fellowship with God. This Christmas savor this thought: God sent His Son into the world to die for my sins so that I might enjoy eternal fellowship with the Almighty! Yes Christian, you have been created and recreated, born and then born-again, for the purpose of holy communion with the Living God. Read 1 John 1:5-10

☐ Saturday - It is Finished!

"Man's way of salvation is, 'Do do, do.' God's way of salvation is, 'Done, done, done!' You have but to rely by faith on the atonement which Christ accomplished on the cross" (Spurgeon). That is as true today as the day you accepted Christ. The Christian life from beginning to end is trusting in Christ's completed work of salvation. Paul said to the Galatians, "Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?" (Gal 3:3). Read John 19:30; Rom. 10:4