

www.primitivebaptist.net

Temporal Salvation Matthew 24:13

By Elder Keith Ellis

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."
Matthew 24:13

Endure to the end of what? Through twenty centuries? No. Rather the termination or completion of the age. Here a person either survived (was saved) by fleeing Jerusalem or he perished in the city and succumbed to death. Christ speaks of endurance and its rewards. Obviously Jesus is referring to faithfulness and obedient behavior in the face of persecution.

And what were they saved "from?" And what were they saved "to?" It is not eternal hell they are being saved from, but from persecution due to the turmoil and tribulation coming onto the Jews. They were saved to peace, safety, and extension of natural life. I do not believe eternal salvation is being considered in this text. This was a regional issue. Jesus actually tells them to flee Judea and run to the mountains. I do not think this is referring to you and I, but that generation who were eye witnesses of Jesus' ministry and their contemporaries. (See Matthew 24:16, Mark 13:14 and Luke 21:21). The salvation or deliverance here is of a timely nature, not eternal.

Further concerning these people Jesus said;

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Matthew 5:11-12

Let's consider the 'reward' spoken of here and the word 'saved' as used in verse thirteen of Matthew chapter twenty-four.

If men are persecuting you for Christ name sake, then you must be following Christ. If not then why would they persecute you? If you were walking in the world, the world would love you. If we are enduring persecution it will take plenty of good works on our part to remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus. Our Lord promises a great reward for endurance of persecution.

Heaven is the seat of God's authority. It is from heaven that all of Jesus' blessings flow to us.

A reward is payment for work or services rendered. Man is rewarded for his works in this life time, whether good or evil. So when Jesus promises a "reward in heaven" it has to be referring to the blessings of God in this life, as payment or earnest for faithful service. These blessings can come in many forms. The most common is deliverance from difficult temporal circumstances we often find ourselves in. The Christians who would endure the persecution of the unbelieving Jews of their day would be 'delivered' or 'saved' from death. And as we will see later, they would be given safe passage out of Jerusalem before its destruction.

We must, if we wish to be consistent with the doctrine of grace, rightly divide the word of truth. We know in the places the words "saved" or 'salvation' are used in conjunction with the works of men it cannot mean "eternal salvation." For we know eternal salvation was secured for us through the shed blood of The Lord Jesus Christ apart from any works whatsoever on our part.

The word 'saved' as it is used in verse thirteen of Matthew twenty-four is used in connection with works. The endurance they had to undergo constitutes work or conditions. Eternal salvation is by grace apart from the works of man. (See Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 9:11) Therefore the salvation under consideration in Matthew is temporal salvation or deliverance from timely circumstances.

Those who remained faithful to the teachings of their Lord through all the reviling's and persecutions, who manifested the good fruits of love, peace and joy, would prolong their days on the earth. Conversely, those who did not obey, would be devoured with the sword and their days on the earth were cut short.