

## SAVED BY GRACE ALONE

Since the Lord knows all things (John 16:30; 21:17; Psa. 147:5; Heb. 4:13; 1st John 3:20) He is never at a loss as to what you and I are doing or are going to do. How contrary is this truth to the popular notion that "Christ stands at the door of the heart of each of us knocking and pleading with us to "let Him in," not knowing which of us will and which of us won't! Now, if our heart had a door at which Christ was knocking, and if our eternal salvation was based upon our letting Him in, is it not clear that He would know who was going to open to Him and who was not? Since He is omnipotent (all-knowing) what could prevent Him from knowing this? And seeing He knows it, what sense would it make for Him to "stand knocking at the door of a person's heart" when He knew beforehand that they were not going to "let Him in". This would make no more sense than for you or me to stand at the door of someone's house trying to get them to open the door when we knew in advance that they were not going to let us in.

Not only this, but unsaved people are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1-5) and the Lord is perfectly aware of that fact. It would be totally beneath the dignity of an all-powerful, and all-knowing God to beg such "dead" sinners to "let Him into their heart". It would be just as nonsensical as if you or I were to knock at the door of a house where we knew beforehand all the inhabitants were physically dead and beg them to open the door. Such nonsense cannot be intelligently associated with the sovereign, omnipotent, and omniscient God of heaven and earth.

Our Lord very obviously works all things after the counsel of His own will (Eph. 1:11). This totally precludes any possibility that He would have established a system of eternal salvation that would have involved any failure, frustration, or disappointment. Untold millions of people have lived and died without ever hearing a gospel discourse. The same kind of numbers now living have never heard the truth preached. According to popular religion such people have never had any opportunity to make a decision regarding Christ one way or the other. What a tragedy it would be if this freewill monstrosity were true! Right out of the gate it would consign millions to eternal hellfire for no reason other than that they never heard a gospel sermon.

Some will argue that if a person never hears the gospel they will be saved on their ignorance. The obvious answer to that baseless position is that if it were true, what sense would it make to acquaint people with the gospel and run the risk of their rejecting it and being eternally lost when if they were left in their ignorance they would all be saved? A little serious thought should reveal the fallacy of the unscriptural notions of men with regard to how people are saved.

How thankful we should be that there is such a thing as a covenant of grace in which all God's people are embraced (Heb. 8:7-12)! It assures that all His elect will ultimately live with Him in Glory without the loss of one. Christ Himself has emphatically asserted that this is true (John 6:37). The law of God will, in His own time, be put into their mind and written in their heart, and He will be to them a God, and they shall be to Him a people (Heb. 8:10). How blest we are if we have the kind of faith that will embrace this truth and rejoice in it!

--Elder Ralph Harris