

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture reading and text: **1Peter 2:1-10**.
- B. Thank-yous, appreciations, and farewell's.
- C. We trust that this meeting has been beneficial to you and that you have a greater understanding of what the church is, and how important it is that each Christian serve in it.
- D. Tonight we want to close this meeting with a look at salvation, and this coming because we are people who have received the mercy of God, so that we might be saved.
- E. We shall look at three main areas:
 - 1. Man's situation (in sin) and his need for mercy.
 - 2. God choice to extend mercy.
 - 3. How our salvation is by mercy.

I. MAN NEEDS THE MERCY OF GOD TO BE SAVED FROM SIN.

- A. It should come as no surprise that all of mankind is lost in sin (Rom. 3:10,23).
- B. Mankind's condition in sin is not a pretty picture;
 - 1. Constantly dead in sin (Eph. 2:1).
 - 2. This sin is made up of two things;
 - a. Trespasses (a violation of the law).
 - b. Sins (which literally means to miss the mark).
It is the failing to live up to our expectations (Mt. 25:14-30).
 - 3. Walking according to the course of the world (Eph. 2:2).
 - 4. According to the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2).
 - 5. Walking in the lusts of the flesh, indulging in desires of the flesh and the mind, destined for God's wrath as are sinners (Eph. 2:3).
- C. If we were to ask the question, "At the judgment do we want justice or mercy?" our answer has to be "mercy" because if we were given justice the wrath of God would destroy us eternally (2Th. 1:6-9).
- D. Paul further draws this picture with the Gentiles (before Jesus) and said they were separate from Christ, strangers to the covenant, and worst of all had no hope without God (Eph. 2:12).

II. GOD CHOSE TO EXTEND HIS GREAT MERCY TOWARDS SINFUL MAN.

- A. The two most powerful in all of scripture, maybe, are found at the beginning of Eph. 2:4, "But God."
- B. Prompted by His great love for mankind God extended His mercy. which gives us a good, working definition of mercy, loved aimed at someone. The standing challenge to name one things God has done that has not been in man's best interest.
- C. W.E. Vine says that mercy is an outward manifestation of pity that assumes need on the one whom receives it. I think he's right (Rom. 5:6-8).
- D. God extends His mercy and grace to the elect (chosen) who are the true Israel of God. This helps to explain that God may extend mercy to those He desires and not extend mercy to those He doesn't desires (Rom. 11:7; 9:14-18).
- E. Two other important lessons to be learned about God and His mercy are:
 - 1. Mercy is something done for someone, not just something felt (Lk. 10:30-37; esp. v37).
Most of us have pity, but it needs to become mercy.
 - 2. There should be no limits placed on whom mercy is shown (Lk. 10:29).
The lawyer wanted to put limits on his love, knowing who was his neighbor and who wasn't.
- F. God's mercy acted in our behalf in sending Christ to us, and then allowing us to be raised together with Him in baptism.

III. **SAVED, NOT BY DEEDS DONE, BUT BY MERCY.**

- A. Scripture text: Titus 3:5-7.
- B. The ASV translates "washing" as "laver" and this adds a powerful meaning to what Paul is saying here. The parallel is undeniable in that just as the OT priest had to wash in the great bronze laver which stood at the entrance to the Jewish temple before he could perform priestly duties in the sanctuary, the NT priest of God must also wash in so that he can perform his priestly duties.
- C. The OT laver used by the priests is the type of the NT baptism.
- D. This text says that priests of God are washed so that they may perform their duties as priests in the temple. NT priests are washed in baptism so they may serve in God's temple today, which is the church.
- E. Titus 3:5 is unmistakably baptism due to the reference made to the renewing by the Holy Spirit (Ac. 2:38; 5:32; Jn. 3:3-5).
- F. After being baptized we are saved by grace (grace and faith, see Eph. 2:8,9) and become heirs with Christ to the hope of eternal life (Gal. 3:29; Rom. 8:17).
- G. God has intervened in our behalf by showing His great mercy, which allows us to be saved.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We must now bring this series of gospel meetings to a close.
- B. Our aim was to look at the wonderfulness of the church, all of the great blessings, the privileges known, and responsibilities which are ours, and the manifold wisdom of God which has brought it all to be.
- C. Again, when you read 1Peter 2:9-10, may you have a deeper understanding of what it means to be:
 - 1. A chosen race.
 - 2. A royal priesthood.
 - 3. A holy nation.
 - 4. A people for God's own possession.
 - 5. The people of God.
 - 6. People who have received mercy.
- D. We close with 1Peter 2:4, asking that you would come to Him, the living and choice stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God. Come to Jesus Christ.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.