

# An Uttermost Salvation

(Continued from Page One)

salvation that awaits us on our entry into eternity, be it through the gate of physical decease or the coming again of the Lord Jesus.

As a moment-by-moment experience, or a life lived, salvation implies discipleship. Now the Bible also teaches that soon after one's conversion (or new birth) the new convert becomes conscious—the Holy Spirit leading—of the presence of carnality still within the citadel of his heart. In the language of Bunyan's allegory, "The Holy War," he realizes that Prince Emmanuel has not been in full control of the city of Man soul, and that Diabolus still has his abode within. In a limited and kept under position maybe, nevertheless truly there. Secretly the new convert sighs for deliverance.

"No one professing to be a Christian at all could possibly have had a more doubting, sinning, and wandering heart history than mine has been these many years," said Frances Ridley Havergal. I know it is asking a lot to expect you to accept that confession as Miss Havergal's, but it is. And in her case it was not until she was 37 years of age, and 22 years after her conversion, that she finally experienced the greater deliverance that she panted for when she sighed, "Oh that He would indeed purify me, at any cost, and make me white."

Then there was Charles H. Spurgeon, Baptist preacher of London, England. Only a few weeks after his own conversion to Christ he put on record this sad confession: "My heart seems to lust after the flesh pots of Egypt, and that, after eating heavenly manna." "Help, and forgive me, O my Saviour," he cried.

The literature of sanctity is crammed full with such confessions. Each of them, in not so many words, makes Paul's admission his own, "Wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" When obedient to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, the earnest seeker after God's best soon comes to the place where he sees that through the work of Christ on the cross, and the works of the Holy Spirit in the heart, there is provided for him a perfect deliverance from the incubus of inbred sin. Christ "is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (his work in regeneration), "and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (which is sanctification). Having been made clean, the Bible now says that we can be kept clean, for "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light ... the blood of Jesus Christ ... cleanseth (keeps on cleansing, present continuous tense) us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

The author of Hebrews declares the possibility of our being made perfect in everything to do God's will. This being made perfect, this blessing of heart purity, this instantaneous inner cleansing, this blessing of sanctification or perfect love—this, we maintain, is the core of what our text means when it says the penitent believer can be saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25).

God can take hold of the believing and seeking soul, cleanse it from the virus and remains of the carnal mind, and do it instantaneously. Leprosy is a perfect type of inbred sin. Naaman was cured instantaneously, the moment he emerged from the Jordan water on his seventh dip. And of the leper, who was cured in the New Testament day, the Word says the Saviour said to him, "I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." Mark and Luke describe the same miracle thus: "Immediately the leprosy departed." Two ways of saying the same thing, Matthew being in line with John's cleanseth us from all unrighteousness, and Mark and Luke in tally with Paul's word in Romans that the body of sin may be done away.

The tenses in the Greek grammar confirm all this. There is what is known as an aorist tense, that describes an action performed instantaneously. So does the Saviour's blood "cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Having been made clean, the believer now needs to be kept clean. The Greek present, continuous tense illustrates that, for "if we walk in the light ... the blood ... cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Luke 13:10-13 tells of a crooked woman who was made straight. "Woman," said the Lord Jesus, "thou art loosed from thine infirmity." The word "loosed" is from the same Greek root as "destroy" in 1 John 3:8, where it says that Christ came to "destroy" the works of the devil. Luke then says that Jesus "laid his hands on her: and immediately (the same word again, not it!) she was made straight." The phrase "made straight" in the original Greek is the same as "save ... to the uttermost" in Hebrews 7:25.

An uttermost salvation, embracing pardon for past transgression, regeneration, the cleansing of the heart from inbred sin, and the fullness of the Holy Spirit, for when God cleanses a heart from all sin, at the same moment, he baptizes it and fills it with his blessed Spirit.

Now this being filled with the Spirit is not an optional matter, nor something we can please ourselves about. It is a command from God. "Be filled with the Spirit," he says, in Ephesians 5:18. Our implicit obedience is demanded.

John Lawley sighed for this deliverance from indwelling sin. He had heard James Dowdle speak of the changing of Jacob's character, and heard him sing, "None of self and all of Thee." Lawley could not really say that of himself. But he wanted to, at any rate. With his friend, Ted Irons, he remained behind in the chapel after the meeting in question. Dowdle came down to them, and finding them on their knees asked, "What seek ye?" "Full deliverance, and we won't leave this hall till we get it," Lawley replied. "God is not very far away," Dowdle said to them. "It is His will to cleanse you. Surrender yourself entirely. Stretch out the hand of faith, believe, and accept," he added. And they did. And when, in later years, as an evangelist himself, Johnnie Lawley wanted to write some words in memory of that night, he wrote:

God's great, free, full salvation  
Is offered here and now:  
Complete, blood-bought redemption  
Can be obtained by you.

Reach out faith's hand, now claiming;  
The cleansing blood will flow,  
Look up, just now believing,  
His fullness you shall know.

An uttermost salvation. A fountain full and free, exhaustless, pure, and ever flowing. Wondrous grace of Jesus!

## GIFTS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

(Continued from Page 5)

Arthurette .....	28.18
Plaster Rock .....	26.00
Gordonsville .....	35.00
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Port Maitland .....	100.00
Mrs. Manning Mullen .....	20.00
Mr. Reginald Justason .....	40.00
Blacks Harbour .....	60.00
Estate of late Mrs. Fred Hayes .....	100.00
Mrs. Howard Cox .....	50.00
Salem .....	75.00
St. John .....	108.00
Killams Mills .....	25.00
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