

**Resurrection Sunday**  
**Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

***Hebrews 2.1-3: Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?***

**.3: 'great salvation'.**

**My grandfather's salvation from German troops in World War 2 was pretty incredible.** But this salvation is of far greater weight and significance. It is so great that even angels long to look into it! (1 Peter 1.12). **It's great for a few reasons:**

**1. The complexity of the problem: Who can save us from God?!**

It sure is an incredible story of redemption! The great problem of our rescue – how could it be? It would have to be that only someone who couldn't legitimately face the wrath could take our place, but then everyone was under God's wrath! So who could take our place?

That the one we are rescued from is the one we are rescued by! Because if God winks at sin, it ultimately destroys his value and glory (he cannot do it besides). Because God's wrath has to be satisfied (propitiated), otherwise justice on the earth falls apart.

The wrath of God satisfied, the love of God proved the justice of God upheld the glory of God is full display.

**2. The incredible value of the price that was paid**

**3. The great irony of the victory – salvation in death!**

**4. The result of it: It enables us to glorify God by enjoying Him.**

It doesn't just rescue us like a cancer patient or someone who is left to suffer for a few remaining years... it's a complete and utter rescue, leaving us in a better state that we've ever know.

It brings us into the presence of Jesus, where we know Him and love Him!

Where God's glory and our joy collide! **God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.**

**.1: 'Therefore':** What's the therefore there for? God has spoken through Jesus. And who is Jesus? The Heir of the world, creator of the world, radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power, and the purifier of our sins, and far superior to all others!

Jesus is King, He's building His Kingdom, we should do the same.

**.1: 'pay closer attention':** This is like Paul writing in 1 Cor 15 'remind you brothers' and 'that is why I am eager to preach the gospel to you who are at Rome too'.

***"The truth of the gospel is the principle article of all Christian doctrine . . . Most necessary is it that we know this article well, teach it to others and beat it into their heads continually."*** Martin Luther

Paul says in Gal 6.14: 'Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world'.

And with regard to others, he makes it the most important thing about them too: 'And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified'.

The most important thing about any person is their response to the cross of Christ.

It's like the laws in the Old Testament. Right them on your forehead, on your hand, on your doorframe, gate.

**.1: 'drift away':** He is saying that we must pay more careful attention so that we do not drift away.

### **Kevin and Christmas**

**It's not as if he is saying, Don't neglect your spinach. He is saying don't neglect your salvation. So it's as if he said, Don't neglect your cancer-healing therapy.**

Only what is it really—this great salvation? What he's really saying is: Don't neglect being loved by God. Don't neglect being forgiven and accepted and protected and strengthened and guided by Almighty God. Don't neglect the sacrifice of Christ's life on the cross.

**We have the tendency to drift away.** It's a subtle thing and we drift away so slowly. This is also brought out in the word that he uses 'neglect'. He doesn't use the word reject. He says that we can neglect it. Meaning, that other things become more important and defining to us that this salvation.

**Drifting results in neglect.** This is the same word used in 1 Tim 4.14 when Paul urges Timothy not to neglect the gift that was given to him. He is saying, it's something that you have, but you can neglect it. And this is so true of our Christian life and experience.

**.2: 'reliable':**

**Isaiah 55.10-11:** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**Joseph:** God gives him a dream and his brothers say 'will you rule over us?' When he was thrown into prison it didn't look too good! When he was accused of raping Potiphar's wife it didn't look too good.. sitting in prison! But then!

**Jeremiah buys a field,** Jeremiah 32, Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah was locked up in the court of the guard for prophesying God's words to the King! And God speaks to Him and says that someone will come to Him and offer him a piece of worthless land and He is to buy it! He bought the land from his cousin, paid the full price, gets witnesses, takes the deed of purchase, sealed them up for they will last a long time. And he said 'Houses and fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land'.

It's like buying AIG shares at their value 1 year ago.

**Jesus** began to teach them that he must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. And then he does die, and the disciples scatter, forgetting his word, failing to believe that His word is reliable! And at the end of Luke as Jesus is walking alongside two disciples, downcast, he asks them what the matter is and they say: 'Are you the only visitors to Jerusalem that does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' What things, Jesus said. And they said to him, concerning Jesus, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel".

Jesus answers: O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! It was right there in the prophets, and they had failed to see it! **If you are to lay your life down for Jesus, entrust your life into His hand, you must know His word is reliable!**

.3: **'escape'** What would we escape? For those who don't know Christ, the danger is hell. But he is writing to Christians too! So what would they escape? Not hell, as we have already escaped hell! 'We' the saved, our names are written in the lambs book of life.

Escape a wasted life. When we neglect the awesome salvation. It reorders our whole lives. We escape wasting our lives on trivial pleasures and pursuits! We are told to seek first the Kingdom, His Kingdom. Our lives should revolve around His purposes and plans. When we go our own way, we ruin our lives!

The bible says that there will be some who are saved as those 'through the flames'. Everything of your life and efforts will be burned up. You built your life on the wrong thing. You will be saved, but as one just escaping the flames. (1 Cor 3.12-15).

**Eph 4.1:** I therefore, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called'.

**Romans 12.1:** 'I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship'.

What does it look like to live a life worthy? **A life devoted to the purposes of God.** You find out what pleases the Lord, you do it!

Our lives cannot be the same! It changes your work ethic, your marriage, the way you parent your kids, what you devote your free time to, how you spend your money, the jokes you laugh at,

#### **Practical application:**

1. Read your bible – reading plans coming
2. See you life as one small part in the context of God's story.
3. Live your life for the glory of God!
4. Delight yourself in the person of Jesus
5. Read CJ Mahaney – the cross centered life
6. Worship God with every waking minute!

I charge you this morning church, to live a life worthy of the calling you have received! I encourage you to go home, and make a list of all the different aspects of your life, marriage, kids, job, future plans, dreams, holidays, budgets, free time, etc. And consider it in the light of this great salvation we have received.