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SALVATION FOR THE SINNER!

BY THE

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OF

PORTSMOUTH, V A.

“But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”—*Romans* v. 20.

NOTE. The expense of printing this little tract is defrayed, by a donation to the author, by the late ROBERT FORSYTH, of Co. F., 14th Reg. Louisiana Volunteers; who was executed near Camp Benjamin, in Norfolk county, Va., under sentence of a Regimental Court Martial, for an alleged high crime. The doctrines here taught are the same that were preached to him in his cell: and which resulted in his hopeful conversion to God.

DE The earnest reader will not fail, carefully, to search out, all the scriptures here quoted.

SALVATION FOR THE SINNER.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—Hear the words of one who would speak to you, in candor, and affection—of one, who would give you a Bible view of your *wretched condition, by nature*, and of the *glorious hope set before you in the gospel*.

You are a sinner! Ecces. vii. 20. Your sins are *very great*—much greater than you suppose. Jer. xvii. 9. You are in the very “gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity.” Acts viii. 23. You are without excuse; John xv. 22. and the wrath of God abideth upon you. John iii. 36.

The evidence of your sinful character appears in the fact, that you have wholly *neglected the one only, living and true God*. Ps. x. 4. You have neither feared, honored, nor revered Him. Ecces. viii. 13. Heb. xii. 28. It may be truly said of you, that you are “*without God in the world.*” Eph. ii. 12. God is not in all your thoughts. Ps. x. 4. You certainly do not “eat, drink, and do all things for the glory of God.” 1 Cor. x. 31. You do not love God “with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.” Mark xii. 30.

Neither have you had *any proper regard for your neighbor*. Matt. xxii. 39. You have not remembered, that all men are brethren; Isa. lviii. 7. and that it concerns you to be careful of the interest, and welfare of *others*, as well as of your own. Phil. ii. 4. You have not done “unto all men, as you would have them do unto you.” Matt. vii. 12. You have too often, in the spirit of the murderous Cain, enquired, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Gen. iv. 9:

You have, all your life, been thinking of your own temporal interest and pleasure. 1 Cor, x. 24. You have set

your affections on things on the earth; Coll. iii. 2. and the language of your heart has always been, "What shall I eat, and what shall I drink, and wherewithal shall I be clothed." Matt. vi. 31.

Have you not, also, at times, indulged in various hateful and malignant passions?—such as pride, vanity, jealousy, deceit, anger, malice, revenge. Rom. i. 29, &c., xi. 20, and 2 Tim. vi. 17. Have you not often been sadly deficient in gentleness, kindness, forbearance? Gal. v. 22. Eph. iv. 2. 32. Have you not *said* many hard things? Jude 15. Have you not *omitted* many known duties? Matt. xxv. 42–44. Have you not had ten thousand *evil thoughts*? Prov. xv, 26. Matt. ix. 4. To all this, *let conscience answer!*

Let me assure you my friend, that if there be any truth in the word of God, you are covered all over with the leprosy of sin. Luke v. 12. "From the sole of the foot, even unto the head," you are a disgusting mass of "wounds, bruises, and putrifying sores." Isa. i. 6. Such is the condition of *every* unregenerate man—wicked, and only wicked continually. Gen. vi. 5.—Jer. xvii. 9.

Alas! my poor sinful friend, how wretched is your condition? Prov. xiii. 15. Isa. xlvi. 23. Lost and undone! Luke xv. 24. Isa. vi. 5. In your present unrenewed state, it is impossible for you to be saved. Luke xiii. 3. God looks upon you as a vile, loathsome object. Prov. xiii. 5. Sin is that abominable thing which God hates. Jer. xlv. 4. He cannot regard it with the least degree of allowance. He will smite the finally impenitent with the sorest vengeance. Isa. xi. 4. The fires of Tophet shall kindle upon them; Isa. xxx. 33. and the smoke of their torment shall ascend, for ever, and ever. Rev. xiv. 11.

And is there no hope for one in such a case? Must such a poor wretch inevitably go down to death?

Thanks be to God, there is a way of escape! Obed. 17. **JESUS CHRIST, IS THE SINNER'S FRIEND.** Prov. xviii. 24. Matt. ii. 19. "The Lord hath laid upon him the iniquities of us all, He was wounded for our transgressions; by his stripes we are healed." Isa. liii. entire. The vilest sinner may be saved through the atonement of the crucified Redeemer. John iii. 15. Rom. v. 10. 11. He came into the world expressly to die, "the just, for the unjust." 1 Pet. iii. 18. "His blood cleanseth from *all* sin." 1 John i. 7.

He is "the way;" John xiv. 6. "the door;" John x. 9. "there is none other name, under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved," but the name of JESUS CHRIST! Acts iv. 12.

This, my friend, is the "great *Salvation!*" Isa. xii. 2. To *neglect* this salvation, is to be left without any possible way of "escape," Heb. ii. 3. To embrace it is to be saved. Prov. iv. 8.

It is true, indeed, that you deserve the curse of God; Gal. iii. 10. Jas. ii. 10. Ezra ix. 13. but the very sense you have of guilt, is an encouraging evidence of his good pleasure towards you. Luke xv. 19. 20. The Holy Spirit has thus convicted you of sin; John xvi. 8. 1 Cor. ii. 4. and, now, that you have no hope of good from yourself, or from any other creature source, you should be ready to fly, at once, to the fountain open for sin and uncleanness. Zach. xiii. 1.

"The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may you, tho' vile as he,
Wash all your sins away."

Go then, my poor burdened friend, to JESUS CHRIST. Matt xi. 28. The promises of the gospel are all yea, and Amen; 2 Cor. i. 20. and they are intended for you as much as for any other sinner of the race. 1 John ii. 2. The kind and loving Savior calls to you this moment, as though he had spoken to you individually, and by name. Isa. lv. 1. He says, "*Him* that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." John vi. 37. The language is copious—taking in every case; meaning every body—high, low, rich, poor, bond, free, the most vile, the most abandoned, the most hell-deserving. Isa. i. 18. Jesus will not falsify his word. Heb. xiii. 8. He will send *no man* empty away, who looks to Him. Isa. xlv. 19. And remember, it is only *look*, and live. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none beside me." Isa. xlv. 22. "*Whosoever* will, let him take the water of life *freely*." Rev. xxii. 17.

Are you still *hesitating*? 1 Kings xviii. 21. Do you feel that this news is indeed, too good to be true? Isa. lxi. 1. 2. 3. Or do you linger, after all, from ignorance of what is

to be done? Isa. xxix. 18. and xlii. 16. It is simply to *go to Jesus*; John vii. 37. feeling your need of Him; Matt. xx. 30. go asking the forgiveness of sins, for His own sake; Ps. xxv. 11. 1 John ii. 12. go pleading no excuse for your great guilt; Ps. cxxx. 3. Luke, xv. 18. with no price in your hand; Prov. xvii. 16. Isa. lv. 1. with all your sins upon you; John viii. 11. prostrating yourself at the very foot of the cross; Col. i. 20. 21. 22. 1 Cor. i. 18. in deep penitent self-abasement; Ps. li. and with full and unreserved confession of every sin. 1 John i. 9.

Go *believing*—Heb. xi. 6, believing that he is *able* to save; Heb. vii. 25. that he is *willing* to save; 2 Pet. iii. 9. that he *will* indeed save *you*. Luke vii. 50. Venture thus *wholly* upon Him; 2 Tim. i. 12. trusting in his strong arm; Luke i. 51. the truthfulness of his word, Titus i. 2. and his earnest desire to redeem and sanctify you. Ezek. xxxiii. 11. 1 Cor. vi. 11. Cling to him thus, by a true and living faith; and you will find him “an anchor to the soul, both sure and stedfast.” Heb. vi. 19. “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!*” Acts xvi. 31. You shall be saved by your faith—as the *title to an inheritance*—the sign manual of Jehovah—not as a meritorious *GROUND* of acceptance; for this faith is itself, the beginning of eternal life. “He that hath the Son, *hath life*!” 1 John v. 12. “he that believeth on the Son *hath* everlasting life.” John iii. 36. “For by *grace* are ye saved, through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is *hte gift* of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Eph. ii. 8, 9. And, thus it is that *Jesus Christ* becomes the end of the law, for righteousness, *unto every one that believeth!*” Rom. x. 4.

And now, my friend, are you willing to receive this *free gift*? John v. 6. It is with *you* to say whether you will accept it, or not. Heb. iii. 7. 8. He *waits* to be gracious:—Song of Sol. v. 2. “Come unto *me*,” says this dear Savior, “and I will give you rest.” Matt. xi. 28. If you are lost it will be your own fault. John v. 40. O, sinner, destroy not thyself! Hosea xiii 9. Do you ask, “How shall I know when Christ has accepted me?” If you have accepted Christ, then He has accepted you. Decide for yourself, sensibly, rationally, whether *you* have accepted the only terms of salvation offered in the word of God. 1 Peter iii. 15. “*Prove* your own selves: know ye not your own selves,

how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be *reprobates?*—
 2 Cor. xiii. 5. that is, unless ye *fail to stand the test*. If
 Christ be in you, He is “the hope of glory.” Col. i. 27.
 “*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.*
 1 John v. 1. Can you say? “My beloved is mine”—then
 may you, also, say, “I am his.” Song of Sol. ii. 16.
 This is the witness of the Spirit; Rom. viii. 16. “He that
believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he
that believeth not hath made him a liar, because he believ-
eth not the record, that God gave of his Son.” 1 John v.
 10. And now what more can you desire? Is not this
 the voice of God to your soul? Be of good cheer, thy sins
 are forgiven thee! Matt. ix. 2.

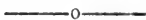
My poor trembling, doubting friend, *Come to Jesus!*—
 just as you are, guilty, wretched, and undone. He says
 he will save you if you can but *trust* him. “Let the wick-
 ed forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
 and *let him return unto the LORD, and he have mercy upon*
him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”
 Isa. lv. 7.

“O, what amazing words of grace
 Are in the gospel found!
 Suited to every sinner’s case,
 Who hears the joyful sound.

Come, then, with all your wants and wounds—
 Your every burden bring;
 Here love, unchanging love abounds,
 A deep celestial spring.”

God’s “grace is sufficient for you,” 2 Cor. xii. 9.
 “Seek” Him, then, “while He may be found: call ye up-
 on Him, while He is near.” Isa. lv. 6:

I WILL COME TO JESUS.



Just as I am, without one plea
 But that thy blood was shed for me,
 And that thou bidst me come to thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, and waiting now
 To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 To thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am—poor, wretched, blind—
 Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
 Yea, all I need, in thee to find.
 O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am—though tossed about
 With many a conflict, many a doubt,
 Fightings within and fears without,
 O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
 Because thy promise I believe:
 O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am: thy love unknown
 Has broken every barrier down;
 Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come.

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