

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

January 10, 2016

Now Is the Day of Salvation

by Frank Himmel

Isaiah 49 is one of the Messianic prophet's "servant" passages, foretelling what the Christ would be and do. Verse 7 indicates that He would be despised and abhorred by the very people He came to help, yet the time would come when kings and princes would bow to Him. God promised Him, "In a favorable time I have answered You, and in a day of salvation I have helped You" (v. 8).

Paul quoted this promise and added, "Behold, now is 'the acceptable time,' behold, now is 'the day of salvation'" (2 Cor. 6:2). Primarily, his point was that the salvation which the world had so long sought was now available in Jesus; the day of salvation had come. Nevertheless, a more immediate application is also implied. It is true of anyone at any time that today, the present day, is the day of salvation. It is the one in which the Lord is inviting you to come to Him. It is the only one of which you are assured.

There was a sense of urgency about salvation among the people the apostles taught. 3,000 obeyed the gospel on the day of Pentecost, the first day it was preached (Acts 2:41). The same day he learned about Jesus, the Ethiopian asked if he could be baptized

(Acts 8:35-18). The Philippian jailer was baptized "the same hour of the night" he heard and believed (Acts 16:33).

Nowadays it is not uncommon for people to respond more slowly. Why is that? Part of the problem may be our preaching. "Hellfire and brimstone" sermons are out of style, and it could be that folks just don't sense the danger they are in. The truth is, a good many modern preachers deny there is such a thing as eternal punishment. Couple that with an imbalanced view of God – so much emphasis on His love and grace that His wrath and severity are dismissed (see Romans 22) – and the result is a relatively nonchalant disposition toward salvation.

The prevalence of error also slows things down. People have been indoctrinated in so much false teaching that it takes time to undo all of that, time for them to realize that long-held beliefs are fictitious.

Friend, do you realize that until you put your faith in Jesus, turn from a life of sin to one of obedience to Him, confess your faith before men, and are baptized into Christ for forgiveness of sins, you are headed for eternal punishment? Do you understand that if you die in your state, or if Jesus were to come today, there will be no second chance? "Now is the day of salvation." Be saved today!



Our Daily Bread

by Frank Himmel

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Give us each day our daily bread” (Luke 11:3; Matthew 6:11). Consider some things this simple expression entails.

We are dependent on God for our provisions. The Bible teaches us to work to provide for ourselves: “attend to your own business and work with your hands . . . so that you will . . . not be in any need” (1 Thessalonians 4:11b-12). “If anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either” (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Nevertheless, the proceeds of our work are a gift from God. Our bread is “given.” God is the giver. Moses urged ancient Israel to “remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18).



We need to be satisfied with a reasonable portion. The word rendered *daily* in our text is somewhat obscure in derivation and meaning. Some think the primary idea is necessity. Others say it means “tomorrow,” hence enough to sustain us until tomorrow. Either way, the prayer is for a sufficient amount to sustain us, not a lavish portion for selfish consumption. A prayer for daily bread is a prayer for contentment. “Give me neither poverty or riches; feed me with the food that is my portion, that I not be full and deny You and say,

‘Who is the Lord?’ Or that I not be in want and steal and profane the name of my God” (Proverbs 30:8b-9). “Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have” (Hebrews 13:5a).

We must pray regularly. Asking God for a daily provision implies asking Him each day; and along with that asking, we need to include abundant thanksgiving for all that He provides. Who among us does not enjoy far more than a minimal necessary portion! “Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

We need all of God’s “bread.” Surely when we think of bread from God, Deuteronomy 8:3 comes to mind: “He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.” The Israelites needed physical bread in the wilderness, but just as surely they needed spiritual food, too. So do we. We make time to eat every day. Let’s also make time for some spiritual nutrition. “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal” (John 6:27).

“Give us each day our daily bread.”

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Greg Winget	Chris Brooks	Chad Brock
SONG LEADER	Paul Richmond	Greg Winget	Albert Lee Harrison
OPENING PRAYER	Steven Turner	Albert Lee Harrison	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Howard Moore	Howard Moore	
CUP	Rawland Daniel	Rawland Daniel	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Kerry Gray		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Jason Chandler
CLOSING PRAYER	Jason Chandler	Justin Candella	Hunter Lee