

# "THE GREATEST POSSESSION"

A Sermon on John 3:16

Preached by

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*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)*

## INTRODUCTION

Do you have "THE GREATEST POSSESSION"? I would like you to think with me about this question. What do you believe is the greatest possession? Here are some of my thoughts about this.

**1. The greatest possession is not wealth.** Some people think it is. The Lord Jesus said in Mark 8:36:

*"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"*

The greatest possession cannot be wealth. There are many wealthy people who are going to lose their souls because they haven't put their genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2. The greatest possession is not success.** Remember in Luke 12:16-20, where it talks about a rich man's ground which brought forth plentifully. He built a barn, but it wasn't big enough. Then he built another barn to bestow his goods.

Then he said:

*"And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry."*

But God then said:

*"Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"*

So, you see, success is not the greatest possession either.

**3. The greatest possession is not family.** I'm not against wealth, possessions, or family. In Matthew 10:37 the Lord Jesus Christ said,

*"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."*

It is important to love the Lord Jesus Christ more than anything, even your family. Sometimes there is a choice to be made when our mother or father do not want to go along with the Saviour, and we do. The greatest possession is not family.

**4. The greatest possession is not possessions.** In Ecclesiastes 2:9-11, Solomon the King of Israel said, *"So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy, for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."*

Solomon had everything, he had it made, as they say. But he said that it was all vanity. So, you can see the greatest possession is not possessions.

**5. The greatest possession is not health.** I am not opposed to good health, but is that the greatest possession? Remember the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 12? He wanted to be healthy. When he was smitten with a thorn in the flesh, he prayed three times that this thorn might be removed. The Lord's reply was:

*"... My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."*

Paul then said,

*"Therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

The greatest possession is not health. Here was a man who had a "thorn in the flesh" which apparently affected his health. We do not know the malady. Possibly the reason we do not know the sickness is in order that we can insert our own health problem in that place, whatever it might be. 3 John 2 says:

*“I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”*

If our health is good, that is one thing, but the Apostle John is asking that their health might prosper as their soul prospers. If you would have that as a standard today in our United States of America, we would have some pretty sick bodies. Health is important, but it is not the greatest possession.

**6.The greatest possession is not a church.** This is true, even if it is a good solid church that stands firmly on the Words of God. It is not the greatest possession.

**7.The greatest possession is everlasting life.** There are just 25 words in the King James English Bible in John 3:16 (the Greek has 26 words). It is like God’s telegram from heaven.

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him; should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*

I would like to talk about ten things concerning this verse:

- 1.The SOURCE of our Salvation**
- 2.The SENTIMENT of our Salvation**
- 3.The SCOPE of our Salvation**
- 4.The SACRIFICE of our Salvation**
- 5.The SAVIOUR of our Salvation**
- 6.The SUMMONS of our Salvation**
- 7.The SIMPLICITY of our Salvation**
- 8.The SHELTER of our Salvation**
- 9.The SECURITY of our Salvation, and**
- 10.The SPLENDOR of our Salvation.**

**1.The SOURCE of our Salvation.** Let's take a look at the **Source** of our salvation. The first two words in John 3:16 say, *“For God.”* He is the **Source** of salvation. If we have it, nobody could have given us salvation but God. We couldn't have worked for it. We couldn't have prayed for it, or anything else. If God had not moved first, we never would have it. Look at Who He is.

**a.God is Omnipotent (all-powerful).** That is why He could provide our salvation. That's why he could be the **Source**. Jeremiah 32:17 says:

*“Ah Lord GOD behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.”*

He is an omnipotent God and the **Source** of our salvation which is the greatest possession.

**b. God Is Also Omniscient (all-knowing).** Psalm 139:2-4 says,

*“Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasseth my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.”*

This One Who is the Source of our greatest possession (everlasting life) knows everything about us. Hebrews 4:13 says:

*“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”*

Nobody in the world can do anything that can be hidden from the Lord. He is omnipotent and omniscient. He knows everything that happens..

**c. God Is Omnipresent (everywhere-present).** This is seen clearly in Psalm 139:7-10 which reads:

*“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there [that's north]: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there [that's south]. If I take the wings of the morning, [that's east], and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea [in Jerusalem that's west]; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”*

There is no escaping the omnipresent God, the **Source** of our salvation.

**d. God Is The Creator.** Genesis 1:1 says:

*“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”*

if you believe this first verse in the Bible, all things fall into place. Revelation 10:6 says,

*“And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.”*

**e. God Is A Supplier.** In James 1:17 he says:

*“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”*

He is a supplier of *“every good and perfect gift.”*

**f. God Is A Revealer.** He has revealed His Words in the traditional Textus Receptus Greek New Testament Words and in the Masoretic Hebrew Words that underlie the King James Bible. The King James Bible translated faithfully and accurately those Words into our English language. Proverbs 22:21 says:

*“That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?”*

God is interested in “certainty.” There is a tract written by a Plymouth Brethren man entitled, “*Safety, Certainty, and Enjoyment.*” God wants us to be certain of “*the Words of Truth.*” Why? That we might “*answer the Words of Truth to them that send unto thee.*”

The Lord Jesus Christ said, in Matthew 11:27:

*“All things are delivered unto me of my Father; and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”*

The Lord will reveal the Truth of the Words of God. In John 8:32 Jesus said:

*“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

God is the **Source** of our salvation as revealed in the Words of the Bible.

**2.The SENTIMENT of Salvation.** Let's take a look for a few minutes at the **sentiment** of our salvation “*so loved,*” “*God,*” the **Source**, “*so loved.*” This was the **sentiment** of our salvation. Love was the motivational **sentiment**. The **sentiment** wasn't hate. God could have sent His Son because He hated the Devil and sin (and He does); but it was love that sent the Saviour. I remember the song, “*Tell me the Story of Jesus,*” which was the theme song of Dr. M. R. DeHaan's original Radio Bible Class. I knew Dr. DeHaan and appreciated this beautiful song. Prior to Dr. DeHaan's salvation, he was a medical doctor and an alcoholic. When God saved him, He called him into the ministry. As a young man going to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, I attended Dr. DeHaan's Detroit Bible class every Friday night. We studied the book of Hebrews.

Ephesians 2:4 says:

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,”*

Love is a powerful motivation. Love will cause a mother to leave her place of safety to enter a burning building to save her child.

Love will cause a father to leave his place of safety to go out on thin ice in order to save his child. Love is a powerful motivator. 1

John 4:10 says:

*“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

God, is the **Source**. “*So loved*” is the **sentiment**.

**3.The SCOPE of Salvation.** “*The world*” is the **scope** of salvation. God was not narrow as many of us are. He was not provincial as many of us might think. His **scope** included the entire “*world.*” This includes sinners of all kinds. Isaiah 53:6 says, “*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*”

God's **scope** includes all of us. Mark 16:15 says:

*“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

The “*world*” is the **scope** of this salvation. When John the Baptist saw the Lord Jesus Christ coming he said, in John 1:29:

*“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*

God doesn't leave anybody out in His **scope**.

There are some who teach that a certain group called “*the elect*” are the only ones who can be saved. God loves every single sinner who has ever walked the face of this earth over the entire world. Romans 5:6 says:

*“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”*

The Lord Jesus Christ died for all the “*ungodly*” in the world. That is the scope of this great salvation.

In Romans 5:8 the Bible says:

*“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

In I John 2:1-2 it says:

*“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

This **scope** of the entire world is the reason why we have missionaries to go out into the whole world to preach the gospel.

**4.The SACRIFICE of Salvation.** The **Source**, “*For God,*” the **sentiment**, “*so loved,*” the **scope**, “*the world,*” the **sacrifice**, “*that He gave.*”

The Lord Jesus Christ left Heaven to be rejected and to shed his blood on the cross for the justification of those who genuinely trust Him. Romans 8:32 says:

*“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”*

Galatians 1:4 says:

*“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.”*

Galatians 2:20 says:

*“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

Galatians 4:4-5 says:

*“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were*

*under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."*

Ephesians 1:7 says:

*"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."*

1 Timothy 2:6 says:

*"Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."*

Titus 2:14 says:

*"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."*

God had prepared a **sacrifice** in the Person of His only begotten Son. The Lord Jesus Christ could not escape it, nor did He want to. In the garden of Gethsemane, a large crowd of men came after Him. Peter took his sword and cut off the high priest's servant's right ear (Luke 22:50). The Lord Jesus told Peter to put his sword back into its scabbard. If He had wished, He could have called on His Father to send "more than twelve legions of angels" to free Him (Matthew 26:51-53). This was not God's plan. His plan was for Jesus to be a **sacrifice** and give his life on behalf of the whole world and applicable to those who would genuinely receive and trust in Him.

**5.The Saviour of Salvation.** The **Source**, "for God," the **sentiment**, "so loved," the **scope**, "the world," the **sacrifice**, "that he gave," the **Saviour**, "His only begotten Son."

**a.The Saviour's Person.** Let's take a look first at His Person, and then at His work. Isaiah 7:14 tells us that our **Saviour** was miraculously born of a virgin.

*"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*

Matthew 1:23 fulfills this:

*"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us."*

Luke 1:26-27 says:

*"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."*

The modernists and unbelievers deny the virgin birth of Christ, but the Scriptures clearly teach it. The **Saviour** was perfect God, as well as perfect Man. In Psalm 45:6 the Bible says:

*"Thy throne, O God is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right scepter."*

Though some do not believe it, I believe that Paul wrote Hebrews. In Hebrews 1:8, Paul wrote:

*"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God is for ever and ever: A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."*

This verse shows the Deity of our **Saviour**. I received a letter the other day where the gentlemen asked: "Why does the Messiah have to be God anyway?" The reason for this is because only God could be our **Saviour**. God is the **Saviour** of our salvation. Thomas found this out, did he not? He said that he would not believe until he felt the print of the nails in His hands and put his hand in His side. But when Thomas saw the Lord he said, "My Lord and my God." In John 20:29 the Lord said:

*"Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."*

This verse speaks about us who are living today and are born-again. We have never seen the Lord Jesus Christ, yet we believe. One day, if we are saved, our eyes shall behold Him and we shall see Him as He is. Philippians 2:5-8 says:

*"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

This **Saviour** as a Man was the perfect Son of God. There are some who deny this, and don't believe that He was the perfect Son of God. In Proverbs 30:4 the Bible says:

*"Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in a garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?"*

1 John 4:14 says:

*"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world."*

How can you send someone who wasn't there to send? Jesus was the Son of God from all eternity past. The eternal Sonship of Christ is taught in Scripture. The **Saviour** is sinless. In John 8:46 Jesus says:

*"Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"*

We see from this verse that Jesus is absolutely sinless. I Peter 2:22 says:

*"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."*

1 John 3:5 says:

*"He was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."*

We have a sinless **Saviour**; without a sinless **Saviour** we could not be saved. He could not have taken on His own body the sins of the whole world unless He were sinless. The **Saviour** is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. John 10:30 says:

*"I and my Father are one."*

Matthew 28:19 says:

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name [singular] of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."*

## b. The Saviour's Work.

**(1) The Saviour's Work As Creator.** The Saviour is the Creator of all things. John 1:3 says:

*"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."*

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator. It is hard to believe that He could be the Creator, but not God, as some think. Ephesians 3:9 says:

*"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."*

Those final three words, "by Jesus Christ," have been eliminated by the Gnostic Westcott and Hort Greek Critical Text. If you have an NIV, an NASV, an ESV, or another modern version in your hands, you don't have the Lord Jesus **Christ** as being the Creator.

Colossians 1:16 says:

*"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him."*

**(2) The Saviour's Work in Miracles.** The Saviour's miracles are part of His work. In Acts 2:22 the Bible says:

*"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know."*

Jesus performed countless miracles while on this earth. The blind were made to see, the lepers were cleansed, the lame were made to walk, the dead were raised.

**(3) The Saviour's Work in His Vicarious, Substitutionary Atonement.** This is a very important part of this great salvation. 1 Peter 2:24 says:

*"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."*

1 Corinthians 5:7 says:

*"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us [in our place]."*

When I went to high school and played football, we didn't have the same use of substitutes as we now have. Today, the entire defense or the entire offense can be substituted at one time. Most of us had to play offense and defense during the entire game if we were on the starting team.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our substitute. He is the **Saviour** who died in our place. Colossians 1:14 says:

*"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."*

**(4) The Saviour's Work in His Bodily Resurrection, Bodily Ascension, and Bodily Return.** Bishop

Westcott, one of the architects of the Gnostic Critical Text, for example, did not believe in the bodily resurrection, the bodily ascension, or the bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have written a book which proves this. It is entitled, *Bishop Westcott's Clever Denial of the Bodily Resurrection of Christ*. Yet, some people call Bishop Westcott a conservative. That is not my view of what a conservative is. The Lord Jesus did rise bodily. Matthew 28:6 says:

*"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."*

Acts 1:9 speaks of His bodily ascension:

*"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."*

Acts 1:10-11 speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ's bodily return:

*"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."*

**6. The SUMMONS of Salvation.** Now let's take a look at the **summons** of salvation. Remember, the Source is "God," the **sentiment** "so loved," the **scope**, "the world," the **sacrifice** "that He gave," the **Saviour** "His Only Begotten Son," the **summons** of our salvation, "that whosoever."

I hope that this isn't on your **summons** to court to pay a million dollars in court to someone. That is what a **summons** is, an invitation to go somewhere and do something. "Whosoever" includes everyone who ever lived. Isaiah 53:6 says:

*"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."*

Matthew 11:28 says:

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

The **summons** is for all—"whosoever." John 1:29 says:

*"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."*

This isn't universalism. I don't believe that. Acts 16:31 says:

*"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."*

Romans 5:6 says:

*"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."*

Hebrews 2:9 says:

*"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by*

*the grace of God should taste death for every man."*

This includes the whole human race. 2 Peter 3:9 says:

*"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

1 John 2:1-2 says:

*"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world."*

Revelation 22:17 says:

*"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."*

This is the **summons**, "come"! If you don't have the Lord Jesus Christ as your **Saviour**, "come" to Him.

**7.The SIMPLICITY of Salvation.** Let's take a look at the **simplicity** of Salvation. Remember the **Source**, "For God," the **sentiment** "so loved," the **scope** "the world," the **sacrifice** "that He gave," the **Saviour** "His only begotten Son," the **summons** "that whosoever," the **simplicity** of our salvation "believeth In Him." Repentance is included in belief according to Acts 20:21:

*"Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."*

James 2:19 warns of false belief:

*"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."*

This belief must be genuine. John 3:18 says:

*"He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*

This does not mean that a person is condemned already because he is not one of the elect. It means he is condemned because he has not believed. God places a penalty on those who do not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. This means that He has given the ability to believe to all the people of this world. If you don't believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you are condemned already. John 3:36 says:

*"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

John 6:47 says:

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."*

The false Gnostic Critical Greek text of Westcott and Hort and others take out those two words, "on me" from John 6:47. Their text just says "whoever believes has everlasting life." There is a whole lot of difference in just believing and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:16 says:

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

These new versions (New International Version, New American Standard Version, English Standard Version, the New King James Version in the footnotes) and many more, also take out the words, "of Christ" in this verse. Romans 4:5 says:

*"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."*

Romans 5:1 says:

*"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Ephesians 2:8 says:

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."*

**8.The SHELTER of Salvation.** The 8th part of this verse is the **shelter** of our salvation. The **Source** "For God," the **sentiment** "so loved," the **scope** "the world," the **sacrifice** "that He gave," the **Saviour** "His only begotten Son," the **summons** "that whosoever," the **simplicity** "believeth in Him," the **shelter** "should not perish," What a **shelter** that is. Hell is real. It is an eternal perishing in a lake of fire. It is a literal place of torture if you do not have a **shelter** in the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 13:42 Jesus said:

*"And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

The Lord Jesus believed in eternal and literal fire in Hell. In Matthew 18:8 Jesus said:

*"Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire."*

"Should not perish," is the **shelter** of our salvation. In Matthew 25:41 Jesus said:

*"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*

Hell was prepared "for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41), not for people. If we refuse to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our **Saviour**, we end up in the fires of Hell. In Mark 9:44 Jesus said:

*"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."*

These new versions do not even have Mark 9:44 in them, but the Lord Jesus Christ said this. 2 Thessalonians 1:8 says:

*"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Hebrews 12:29 says:

*“For our God is consuming fire.”*

Revelation 14:10 says:

*“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.”*

We are **sheltered** from this in Jesus Christ. Revelation 19:20 says:

*“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*

Billy Graham and many the New Evangelicals do not believe that there is literal fire in Hell, but the Lord Jesus taught that there definitely was fire in Hell. Revelation 20:10 says:

*“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”*

This is a terrible thing. In our salvation God has provided a **shelter** from this. Revelation 20:14 says:

*“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”*

Revelation 20:15 says:

*“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

Revelation 21:8 says:

*“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”*

**9. The SECURITY of Salvation.** Let's take a look at the ninth “S”. The **security** of our salvation. The **Source** “for God,” the **sentiment** “so loved,” the **scope** “the world,” the **sacrifice** “that He gave,” the **Saviour** “His only begotten Son,” the **summons** “that whosoever,” the **simplicity** “believeth in Him,” the **shelter** “should not perish,” the **security** “but have,”

In John 3:15 Jesus said:

*“That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have [that is present tense, right now] eternal life.”*

John 3:36 says:

*“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

In John 5:24 Jesus said:

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

John 10:27-28 says:

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”*

This is the **security** of our salvation. Colossians 1:13-14 says:

*“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”*

This **security** of our salvation is in the present tense. People are wondering what they will have when they retire or when they get Social Security. You don't know what you will have. In this life, nothing is secure. The Lord Jesus Christ says that, if we are saved, right now we have eternal life. We don't have to wait for it. We have it right now.

**10. The SPLENDOR of Salvation.** The final “S”. The **Source** of our salvation “for God,” the **sentiment** “so loved,” the **scope** “the world,” the **sacrifice** “that He gave,” the **Saviour** “His only begotten Son,” the **summons** “that whosoever,” the **simplicity** “believeth in Him,” the **shelter** “should not perish,” the **security** “but have,” the **splendor** of our salvation “everlasting life.”

There are at least **22 facts** about Heaven and the **splendor** of our salvation. In 1985, I had cancer of the lymph gland (Hodgkin's disease). I was preparing to go home to be with the Lord Jesus Christ, “which is far better” (Philippians 1:23). The Lord spared my life and for the years since 1985, I have been free of cancer, and have continued to work for the Lord. I want to continue to serve the Lord as long as He gives me life and strength. These **22 facts** about Heaven are dear to me because of what I have been through. In

John 14:1-4 the Lord said:

*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”*

**#1 There are many mansions.** There is plenty of room for you and for me.

**#2 Heaven is personal.** The Lord Jesus Christ is preparing a place for those of us who have trusted in him.

**#3 Heaven is where the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is (the Lamb of God).** 1 John 3:1-2 says:

*“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*

**#4 We shall be like Him with all of His perfection and like His resurrected body.**

Philippians 3:21 says:

*“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”*

1 John 3:2 says:

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*

**#5 The tabernacle of God is with men and we will dwell with God and He will dwell with us.** In Revelation 21:3 the Bible says:

*“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”*

This is the **Splendor** of our Salvation.

**#6 We will be a special people, His people.**

**#7 God will be with us and we will not be alone.** Those in Hell will be all by themselves without God, but those of us who are saved, will be with our God and **Saviour** and all of those He saved.

**#8 God will still be our God, even in glory.**

**#9 God shall wipe away our tears from our eyes.** In Revelation 21:4 the Bible says:

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*

**#10 There will be no more sorrow.** (Revelation 21:4)

**#11 There will be no more death.** (Revelation 21:4)

**#12 There will be no more crying.** (Revelation 21:4)

**#13 There will be no more pain.** (Revelation 21:4)

**#14 The former things will pass away.** (Revelation 21:4)

**#15 There will be no more curse.** Revelation 22:3 says:

*“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him.”*

**#16 We will be around God's throne.**

**#17 We shall serve Him.** If you wonder what you will do in heaven; you will be serving Him.

**#18 We shall see His face.** Even the blind of this world will see His face.

**#19 His name will be in our foreheads.**

**#20 There will be no night in Heaven.**

**#21 We have no need for a light or a candle because the Lord is the Light.**

**#22 We shall reign forever and ever.** This is the **Splendor** of God's Salvation.

**Here is John 3:16 described in summary form:**

**For God**--the greatest lover

**So loved**-- the greatest degree

**The world**-- the greatest company of people

**That He gave**--the greatest act

**His only begotten Son**--the greatest gift



**That whosoever**--the greatest invitation

**Believeth**--the greatest simplicity

**In Him**--the greatest Person

**Should not perish**--the greatest deliverance

**But**--the greatest difference

**Have**--the greatest certainty

**Everlasting life**--the greatest possession.

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