

DAILY READING

WEEK 2 THE SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

WEEK 2 — DAY 5

Scripture Reading

Luke 19:9 And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house.

Acts 16:31 Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.

THE NEED OF YOUR WHOLE FAMILY TO BE SAVED

I. THE UNIT OF GOD'S SALVATION

1) “And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house” (Luke 19:9).

This word of the Lord Jesus was spoken to a great sinner, Zaccheus the tax collector, confirming that a family is the unit of God's salvation brought by the Lord. The Lord did not say that salvation had come to that person that day, but rather that salvation had come to that house. Undoubtedly, the Lord wanted Zaccheus's entire household to believe in Him and be saved. The Lord's word to Zaccheus was at once a suggestion and a notice to him!

2) “And leading them [the Apostles Paul and Silas] outside, he said, Sirs, what must I do that I may be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household” (Acts 16:30-31).

This is the dialogue between the Philippian jailer and the two apostles. The jailer asked what he himself should do to be saved; however, the apostles answered that not only he himself but also he and his household would be saved. This proves that in the heart of the apostles, sent by the Lord to preach His gospel, the Lord's salvation was for the individual, while its unit was the household. Again, the apostles' word to the jailer is both a suggestion and a notice that he should not only pay attention to his personal salvation, but also to that of his whole family!

II. CASES OF FAMILY SALVATION

A. In the Old Testament

1. The Whole House of Noah

1) “And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark” (Gen. 7:1); “In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark” (Gen. 7:13).

Here the Lord God charged Noah to enter into the ark with his entire house to escape destruction by the flood. This proves that God's desire is to take the family as the unit to

which He applies salvation. We are also told that Noah brought his whole house, his wife, his sons, and his daughters-in-law, into the ark according to God's desire and that, as a result, he and his entire family were delivered by God. Such is the pattern we should all follow today.

2. The Houses of Israel

1) "Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house: and if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor [also an entire family] next unto his house take it" (Exo. 12:3-4).

When God was about to strike the firstborn of the Egyptians, He instituted the Passover for the Israelites to save them from the judgment of the destruction of the firstborn. What God instructed them to take was not a lamb for each person but a lamb for a house. This also strongly proves that the unit of God's salvation is the family. Moreover, God charged that if a certain family was too small to eat a whole lamb, they should share one with their neighbor next door. Obviously, the neighbor was also counted as a family and not as an individual. This further proves that we should not only bring our own families to receive God's salvation, but we should also lead our neighboring families to share in God's rich and boundless salvation, which our family cannot exhaust.

3. The Whole House of Rahab the Harlot

1) "I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have showed you kindness, that ye will also show kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: and that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death" (Josh. 2:12-13). "And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein...And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had" (Josh. 6:24-25).

This is the story of how Rahab the harlot and her household were saved when Joshua led the Israelites to destroy Jericho. She was willing to receive the Israelite spies and begged them to save her and her entire house from destruction. Joshua then fulfilled her wish. This also confirms that the family is the unit of God's salvation.—*Life Lessons*, vol. 1, ch. 2.