

SAVE A SOUL FROM DEATH

Sunday Morning: February 29, 2004

Text: James 5:19-20 "Brethren, if any of **you** do **err** from **the truth**, and one convert him; 20.

Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall **save a soul from death** (a place), and shall hide a multitude of sins."

We've been studying about the fact that it does make a difference how you live. There's a lot of teaching today being taught that once you are saved, your past, present and future sins are all taken care of. Your past sins are taken care of when you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Your present sins are taken care of when you confess them and if you will not confess certain sins, you will deal with those sins at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Sin will not take you out of the family. Sin will keep you *from* the family – the pleasures of sin in your life might cause you to reject the fact that Jesus Christ died for your sins and you do not want to accept Him as your personal Savior and therefore not become a part of the family. But once you're in the family, sin will not kick you out. Once you're in the family, you're forever in the family of God. And the thing that I'm encouraged when I think about God explaining our salvation, He used the family to help us understand what it means to be saved. And all of us are part of a family. And all of us probably know people who have family members that are not very pleasant to be around and have absolutely rebelled against their families but you know what, that still doesn't make those children not part of the family. They might not be in fellowship but they still have the DNA in the veins. And when we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we have heavenly DNA in our veins. And we may be scolded and chastened of the Lord while we're here on the earth and that is to encourage us to confess our sins but one day we will stand in His presence and receive for the things done in our body whether they be good or evil and we need to know that. Because knowing that will affect the way we live. Knowing that will affect our values. Knowing that will help us with our priorities. And so this morning I want to deal with a couple of areas we've sort of touched on but I want to touch on it a little more. And I want to begin reading in James chapter five in verses nineteen and twenty

"**Brethren**, if any of **you** do **err** from **the truth**, and one convert him; 20. Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall **save a soul from death** (a place), and shall hide a multitude of sins."

This is talking to brethren. This is talking to saved people who are serious about their walk with the Lord. Not every child of God is a brother. Every child is part of the family but a brother is defined as one who is seeking to do the will of the Father. Now, we don't have time to cover all of that in this message this morning, but a brother is one who is seeking to do the will of the Father. A brother is one who is seeking to enter the Kingdom. And there's a difference between seeing the kingdom of God and entering the Kingdom of God. Right now, we're seeing all of these campaign speeches and all the hoopla about the election and so forth but what are these men doing? They're not interested in just seeing all this going on, they want to enter into the Presidency. They want to be the President. And that's what it means to be – to enter the kingdom. To enter the kingdom is to rule and reign with Christ. To see the Kingdom is to be a subject in the Kingdom. And those who are brethren, (or those who are seeking to do the will of the Father;) those who are doing the will of the Father are the ones who will rule and reign with Christ in His coming Kingdom.

THANATOS, A PLACE

Revelation 1:18 "I am he that liveth, . . . Amen; and have the **keys** of **hell** [Hades] and of **death** [thanatos]."

So death is a place. It's a place that has a door on it. And it's a place where people are put who err from the truth. And it's a place that you don't want to be. Now, I'm sure if you go down to the county jail, you will find what on the doors? Locks! And the reason you find locks on the county jail is because people don't want to be there. They want out. So **thanatos** is a place that you don't want to be and so therefore the Lord says 'I've got the keys to that place and I put you in there – you're not coming out until I'm ready for you to come out. So when it's talking about a brother who has erred from the truth and he will not come back, he's going to be put in a place called **thanatos** and it's a place he doesn't like to be. Now, we've been talking about those places here for the last few weeks. The scriptures talk about it as Outer Darkness. Being excluded from the wedding feast, being put in prison. In other words, if you have ought with your brother, you better agree with him while you're in the way with him, otherwise, He'll throw you in prison and you'll stay there until you have paid the uttermost farthing. That's what it says in Mathew. So **thanatos** is a place. In Revelation twenty verse fourteen, this just emphasizes the fact that death is a place and God's going to throw that place into the Lake of Fire

THANATOS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE

Revelation 20:14 "And **death** [thanatos] and **hell** [Hades] were cast into the lake of fire. . . ."

Hades is a place. It's the grave. It's where the dead are. And death or **thanatos** is a place. And it will be taken and thrown into the Lake of fire. Why will it be thrown into the Lake of Fire? Well, first, I'm not so much interested in knowing it can burn up, the main thing is it's no longer needed. That place is no longer needed because there's nobody in it and there's no need to put anybody in it because this takes place **after** the millennium. In fact this takes place after the Great White Throne Judgment. And so there's no need for **thanatos**. Is there any need for the grave after the millennium? No, there will be nobody dying after the millennium; there will be no need for Hades or the grave. Now, First Corinthians tells us that **thanatos** is an enemy.

OUR LAST ENEMY

1 Corinthians 15:26 "The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death."

Death or **thanatos**. Now, a lot of people talk about death being an enemy. You know what? Death is not my enemy! Particularly if I know the fact that absent from the body means being what? Present with the Lord! Is that an enemy; is that something to fear? No, let me just assure you this, no one can take you home or be killed physically without God's permission. You know why? I'm God's property. You're God's property. Now, there's only one person that can interfere with that and sometimes the Lord doesn't allow it to work and that's if you're going to take your own life. You know, there are times when people tried to take their own life and it didn't work and God was gracious in letting that happen. But I'm just saying, we're God's property. No one's going to take you until God's ready for you to come home. So when we're talking about our last enemy is death, that's the last thing that's thrown into the Lake of Fire, that's the place that I don't want to go, and it's a place that's got a lock and key on it so I can't get out of it if I err from the truth. So what does that encourage me to do? It encourages me to stay in the book! Stay in the truth! And quit trying to figure out ways to get around it. That's what we're doing today. I don't know whether you've been listening on the interviews that are on TV about this Passion of Christ. I've never heard so much blasphemy against the New Testament where they've said it's loaded with myths. They don't know whether this is really

what happened to Jesus. You know, let me tell you, this book will stand beyond the time that they live here on the earth. And they'll find out very plainly their accusations are not correct. Now, what does death mean to me? Well, I want to read about Adam's position in the garden. This is looking in the Old Testament and drawing a picture or a type from the Old Testament to help us to appreciate what it means to experience **thanatos**.

ADAM'S POSITION OF DOMINION

Genesis 1:28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

Adam and Eve were given dominion over the earth. They were to subdue the earth. You know what that means to me? That Adam and Eve were in charge. They were in charge of all the fish, they were in charge of all the birds, they were in charge of all the animals, they were in charge of the garden – in fact they had taken the place of Satan who had been in charge of all the earth and ruined it. Now, in Genesis chapter two verses sixteen and seventeen, God gives them a warning

WARNING OF DEATH

Genesis 2:16-17 "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely **die** (thanatos, LXX)."

Now the word 'die' here in the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, this word here is **thanatos**. Now we know that when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, they didn't drop dead, did they? But they died! They experienced **thanatos** death. Now what does that mean? Well, what I think what that means we'll find in Genesis chapter three verse twenty-four

ADAM'S DEATH

Genesis 3:24 "So he **drove out the man**; and he placed at the east of the **garden of Eden** Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to **keep [guard] the way of the tree of life**."

You know what happened to Adam and Eve? They were locked out of the garden. Outside the Garden of Eden was not the place to be. You know what it meant to be outside the Garden of Eden? It means you had to plough a field; you had to work the land. In the garden you didn't have to do that. All he had to do was eat the fruit of the garden in chapter one. So what happened to Adam and Eve? They were demoted as far as their position of dominion over the earth. So when you're locked into **thanatos**, you know what? You're not ruling and reigning, you're not part of the kings and the lords, because Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords and if you're in **thanatos**, you're out of the loop! You're not in the loop, you're not part of the administration. You're down in Guantanamo, Cuba. You know, that's the point. **Thanatos** death is a place where you are restricted and you will not have honor and glory. Okay, let's continue

OVERCOMERS EAT OF THAT TREE

Revelation 2:7 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To **him that overcometh** will I give to eat of the **tree of life**, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Who gets to eat of the tree of life that Adam and Eve couldn't eat of? The overcomers! Those

who are victorious in their Christian life! When you're erring from the truth, you're not being victorious; you're being defeated because you are listening to the wrong messenger. Eve listened to the wrong messenger and when she partook of the fruit, she erred from the truth and both Adam and Eve suffered, I believe, **thanatos** death. Now of course, they all died within a thousand years, which is one day because one day with the Lord is a thousand years, a thousand years is one day. Well, no one ever lived beyond a thousand years. Methuselah lived the longest but he's the only one who got close to the end of a full day, prophetically speaking. Now what else will an overcomer enjoy?

OVERCOMERS RULE

Revelation 2:26-27 "And he that **overcometh**, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give **power over the nations**: 27. And he **shall rule them** with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: **even as I received of my Father.**"

Not only will he eat of the tree of life, but he will have power, he will have authority. Who has power and authority in a kingdom? A king or a lord! Did you know that Jesus Christ was an overcomer? The Lord Jesus Christ is an overcomer. Will he be a king and a lord? Well he will be the King of kings and the Lord of lords, absolutely! And so therefore Adam and Eve, they were not overcomers. They were overcome by the message of Satan. Now in Mathew chapter twelve there's another area of warning that we need to consider and that is the unpardonable sin. Now, a lot of people talk about the unpardonable sin is to reject Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Obviously if you reject Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. But this unpardonable sin is dealing with a different set of people. I believe the unpardonable sin is the sin really in the realm of those who know something about the Word of God. These are saved people that can do the unpardonable sin. Now let's look at it. In Mathew chapter twelve verses thirty-one and thirty-two and there are other places that refer to this

UNPARDONABLE SIN

Matthew 12:31-32 "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and **blasphemy** shall be forgiven unto men: but the **blasphemy against the Holy Ghost** shall **not be forgiven** unto men. 32. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it **shall be forgiven** him: but whosoever **speaketh against the Holy Ghost**, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world [age, church], neither in **the world to come** [present active participle, the one coming (the millennial age)]."

We are waiting for the millennial kingdom. We are waiting for the seven thousandth year, we're waiting for the age to come where rewards will be given and Jesus Christ will rule and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is not a King and a Lord today; he is our High Priest. He is interceding on our behalf. He will one day become a king and he will judge the earth. Here the warning is against those who speak against the Holy Ghost. They won't be forgiven in this age or the age to come; but after the age to come they will be and this cannot be a reference to lost people; because lost people will never come out of the Lake of Fire. So this is not dealing with the Lake of Fire. This is not dealing with lost people. This is dealing with speaking against what the Holy Spirit is talking about. Okay, let's look at that. What is his ministry?

HIS MINISTRY

John 14:26 "But the **Comforter** [exhorter], *which is the Holy Ghost*, whom the **Father** will send **in my name** (mysteries of the kingdom of God), he shall **teach you** all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

The word 'comforter' really means 'to exhort' and the Holy Spirit is one who is the **parakletes**. The one alongside, exhorting, encouraging us which is the Holy Ghost whom the Father will send in my name, which by the way is a unique reference to the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. We'll see that in just a moment; I've included those verses in my notes this morning. So the comforter or the exhorter is a teacher and He is a teacher of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God and He is the one, who teaches that to us, and He is the one who helps us remember those things and the warning is against teaching against this truth. Now in

HIS NAME

Revelation 19:13 "...his name is called The **Word of God**."

So we have a definition of the name of our Lord, it is called the Word of God. And in

THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 8:10-11 "And he said, Unto you it is given to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. *11*. Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God**."

This is the parable of the sower and the sower was out sowing seed and what seed was he sowing? He was sowing the mysteries of the kingdom of God. He was sowing the mysteries of the Kingdom of the Heavens. So I'm trying to help you to appreciate the fact that the Holy Spirit is teaching God's children the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven or the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. This is not the plan of salvation. The mysteries of the Kingdom of God have to do with ruling and reigning from the heavens. Now in John chapter sixteen verses twelve through fourteen, it says that he'll be teaching us things to come. So we're talking about future things.

SHOW YOU THINGS TO COME

John 16:12-14 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. *13*. Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, he will **guide** you into all **truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but **whatsoever he shall hear**, *that* shall he speak: and he will **show** you **things to come**. *14*. He shall glorify me: for **he shall receive of mine**, and shall show *it* unto you."

I think it's really neat. The Holy Spirit is listening to whom? To God the Father! And God the Father says, "I want you to tell him something down there" And the Holy Spirit will, if we are what? In the Word! If we're watching TV, I'm going to tell you right now, it's hard for the Holy Spirit to teach you a thing! Well, there might be something on TV, there are Christians on TV and something like that but you understand what I'm saying. If we're distracted with the things of this world, the flesh, the devil, the cares of this life or the deceitfulness of riches, we're wanting to party all the time and get drunk, let me tell you, you cannot be taught by the Holy Spirit and if you're bombed or zonked, he sure has a hard time bringing in things to remembrance! Anyway, let's go on, notice that he will show you things to come. What things are coming in the life of a child of God? Reward, honor and glory; judgment if we misbehave. Those are the things that are coming. The Judgment Seat of Christ where we will receive for the things done in our body whether they be good or bad. Our work will be judged. If they are wood, hay and stubble, they'll burn. If they're gold and silver and precious stones, they will last and we will be rewarded. And He shall glorify me, it says in verse fourteen, and he shall receive of mine and show it unto you. I think 'receiving of mine' has to do with a reference to his inheritance. He is showing us the inheritance that he will have in the coming kingdom and that inheritance has to do with ruling and reigning. Ruling the nations. Hebrews chapter nine tells

us what the Lord is doing today for us

GOOD THINGS TO COME

Hebrews 9:11 "But **Christ** being come an **high priest** of **good things to come**, . . ."

Jesus Christ is our interceder. He is the One we confess our sins to, he is the one we've got to get grace from. He is the One that provides us the strength to live a life pleasing to him. In fact, he gives us the strength to serve him in Hebrews chapter nine verses fourteen and fifteen.

INHERITANCE

Hebrews 9:14-15 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal** [age] **Spirit** (spirit of this age) offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience **from dead works to serve** the living God? 15. And for this cause he is the **mediator** of the **new testament**, that . . ., they which are **called might** receive **the promise** of **eternal** [agelasting] **inheritance**."

Actually 'eternal' here is also the word 'age'. And it's the spirit if the age and not a particular reference to the Holy Spirit because the spirit is for eternity and there is no word for eternity in the Greek language. It's unfortunate the way the translators of the Bible, they have done us a disservice in the way that they translated the word, 'age' but anyway. "The spirit of the age" - well what is this spirit of this age? It has to do with seeking the Lord as our High Priest for grace and strength and wisdom and leadership in our life. And so the spirit of this age is now to what? Bear fruit! The spirit of this age is to serve him acceptably with reverence and godly fear, Hebrews chapter twelve and verse twenty-eight. And the reason we want to do that is because he is a consuming fire. He will burn the wood, hay and stubble.

THE PROMISE

1 John 2:25 "And this is **the promise** that he hath promised us, *even* eternal [agelasting] life."

It's talking about our inheritance in the coming kingdom and the promise by the way, is age-lasting life or life in the kingdom age. And again I want to emphasize the fact that Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

JACOB'S INHERITANCE

Hebrews 11:20 "By faith **Isaac blessed Jacob** (with the birthright) and **Esau** concerning **things to come**."

Well, what was the blessing of Isaac on Jacob and Esau? Well, he gave Jacob the first-born's blessing, the birthright. Esau despised his birthright and he was rejected. You know where Esau's going to spend the Millennium? In death! Will the door be locked? You better believe it will be. He'll be in a place that he doesn't want to be. Now, this is interesting and I know that I need to close and I think we can do this. All we need to do is read Numbers chapter twelve, one through fifteen. This is where Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses. This is in parallel to what were talking about. Speaking against the Holy Ghost. Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses. Same serious sin.

AS ONE DEAD THROUGH DAY SEVEN

Numbers 12:1-15 "And **Miriam** and **Aaron spake against Moses** because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2. And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard *it*. 3. (Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.) 4. And the LORD **spake suddenly unto Moses**, and unto **Aaron**, and unto **Miriam**, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three

came out. 5. And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. 6. And he said, Hear now my words: **If there be a prophet among you**, / the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, *and* will speak unto him in a dream. 7. **My servant Moses is not so**, who *is* faithful **in all mine house**. 8. With him will I **speak mouth to mouth**, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were **ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?** 9. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed. 10. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, **Miriam became leprous, white as snow**: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, *she was* leprous. 11. And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. 12. Let her not be **as one dead** (thanatos, LXX), of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. 13. And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, **Heal her** now, O God, I beseech thee. 14. And the LORD said unto Moses, If her **father** had but **spit in her face**, should she not be **ashamed seven days?** (punishment of a father and not a judge) let her be **shut out from the camp seven days**, and after that **let her be received in again**. 15. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in *again*."

So he had married an Ethiopian woman. Unto Moses, unto Aaron and unto Miriam, I like that! I mean there was no question about whom He wanted to speak. And you know what this is telling me? God was listening. Moses didn't have to go tattle on Aaron and Miriam. God was listening. God heard what they had to say. And he didn't like it one bit and He yanked them. You ever remember being in class and the teacher come over to you, 'you get yourself down to the principal's office right now?' That's what I relate to what God is saying. Now you three, you get up to the Tabernacle, now! That's how God handled the situation. He wasn't messing around with them, okay. Now, there were prophets in those days, but the Lord spoke to them in visions and in dreams, but He didn't do that with Moses. The Holy Spirit is the same way, he doesn't have dreams and he doesn't have visions, he is part of the Godhead and so therefore He gets his information directly from the Father. And isn't that interesting, Moses is in the House of the Lord. Aaron and Miriam knew that God spoke to Moses one on one, face to face. He didn't see him personally, but he did see his form, and Miriam and Aaron didn't ever see that. And 'He departed'; in other words he had said all he wanted to say and he left. But one thing happened, and, behold, Miriam *became* leprous, *white* as snow. You know what I was thinking when I was reading this? She looked like a mime. You ever seen those painted white? I just wondered if Miriam was that white. It says, 'white as snow'. All you got to do is look outside and you can see what color Miriam was – she looked just like that snow outside that window right out there. Well, probably whiter than that, it's kind of gotten dirty but this time of the season. But anyway, Aaron said, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Isn't it amazing once you get caught and you are suffering judgment and then you repent? Why didn't you repent before it all got started? Verse twelve; you see the word 'dead', that's **thanatos**. Don't let her be locked up in the place and I think that this is justifiable because this is basically what happened. I don't think that a baby's flesh is half consumed when he comes out of the mother's womb but it looks like it is. That's the only way I could see what he was saying there. When you see a little baby, it looks all wrinkled and it's not filled out like you know, after a while. Anyway, let's continue. And the Lord spoke unto Moses, not unto Aaron and Miriam. He's talking to Moses now. By the

way, this punishment of being a leper was not from a judge - it was from a father. The Father judged Miriam; because he talks about that. 'Seven days' now that is significant. If she was set out of the camp seven days, does that mean she was not let in until after the millennium? Sure does! Seven days. The seventh day is the millennial day and Miriam wasn't allowed back in to the camp until after the millennium. Why? Because she blasphemed Moses! Just like if we blasphemed the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, we will not be let back into the camp until AFTER the millennium. Now, I'll show you what I mean, first of all let me show you what it means to be spit in the face. Job refers to that

SPIT UPON

Job 30:10 "They **abhor me**, they **flee far from me**, and spare not to **spit in my face**."

I don't know if the Lord particularly liked Aaron and Miriam because he refers to them as being spit in her face. Now, let's continue in this little quote, when does the eighth day begin, when is the seventh day up?

THE EIGHTH DAY

Revelation 21:1-2 "And I saw a **new heaven** and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

You know when this takes place? After the Great White Throne Judgment! You know what day this is? It's the eighth day. The seventh day is over. It was on the eighth day that Miriam was allowed to come back into the camp and we see that in verse four (Revelation twenty-one) – 'and God shall wipe away all tears

RESTORED TO THE CAMP

Revelation 21:4 "And God shall **wipe away all tears** from their eyes; and there shall be **no more [the] death [thanatos]**, neither **sorrow**, nor **crying**, neither shall there be any more **pain: for the former things are passed away**."

It's over! Where is **thanatos**? Why, it was thrown into the Lake of Fire. Who was the last enemy? **Thanatos**! In the Lake of Fire and it says there will neither be sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. You think Miriam was celebrating her days outside the camp? I don't think so! Neither will we, if we don't behave ourselves in walking with Lord. It does pay to serve the Lord and to walk with the Lord and I just trust that the Lord will bless the message to each of our hearts and encourage us to live a life pleasing to Him.

Father, we just thank you for your Word. We thank you Lord, for the pictures that you show us. We pray Lord; you will help us to be careful with what we say. We know that, Lord, you've told us* 'As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as you have spoken in my ears, so will I do unto you.' You said that to Moses when the children of Israel were complaining about dieing in the wilderness and that's what happened. Help us Lord, to be careful about what we say, help us, Lord our desire is to please you and to walk in a way that will be pleasing to You and we do ask you, Lord to bless the message to each of our hearts. In Jesus Christ' name we pray, amen.