



## **2023-5783 The Year of Retribution, Recompense, & Payback – The Power of the Gospel**

### **Resurrection Sunday Sermon – April 9, 2023 Bishop Steven A. Norman**

**1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 21. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ...21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.**

This is the season where we celebrate the Gospel, the salvation process that Jesus the Christ went through.

He lived a life that we couldn't live, died a horrible death that we deserved, was buried in a grave that wasn't His, and rose to victory to save the crown jewel of creation (Humanity) from Death, Hell, the Grave and Eternal Damnation in the Lake of Fire.

But He Didn't stop at His resurrection. We also want to acknowledge His descension and ascension.

*Jesus descended and led the captives to freedom.*

**Ephesians 4:8-10 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended" — what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)**

Who were the captives He led into heaven? Those who were in the bosom of Abraham. The Old Testament Saints who lived before the Death of Jesus.

**Example: Lazarus and the rich man. Luke 16:22-23 So it was that the beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and you are tormented.**

**Luke 16:26 "And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'**

Both could have been in the bosom of Abraham, but the rich man did not honor the covenant of Abraham through the law of Moses by giving what he was blessed with to help the lives of others.

Jesus is Lord~Assembly of Love  
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We are under a better covenant, but our covenant still has this same condition. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

*God's main way to show love is to give (John 3:16)!!!!*

When Jesus descended, He announced to them, (who were in Abraham's bosom) that He was the one that Moses and the prophets prophesied about in the Old Testament.

He gave them an opportunity to receive Him as the one they had heard about, and Jesus escorted them to the right hand of Majesty on High to Father God.

This is the purpose of the Gospel/Salvation Process.

Because everyone born is destined to exist throughout eternity somewhere. The question is where?

*Jesus went through the Salvation Process to save.*

**Luke 19:10 ...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."**

**John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:**

Father God is giving all who hear the Gospel the opportunity to become His children.

Those who don't heed the call and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, their final destination is written here.

**Revelation 20:12-15 I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. 14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. 15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

The only thing that can change "The Lake of Fire" from being one's final destination, is to believe the Gospel and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

This is why sharing the Gospel Jesus as Lord and Savior is so important.

*Salvation is more than just receiving a ticket to a destined place.*

The word Salvation/Saved means to be saved from. Example someone being saved from a burning building.

The Greek word is *Sozo (Verb) to be safe, delivered. To save, deliver, make whole, preserve safe from danger, loss, destruction. To rescue from peril, to protect, keep alive. It involves the preservation of life, either physical or spiritual.*

*Salvation Allows Jesus to be the Great I AM to us!!!*

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***Jesus came to manifest the Gospel/the Salvation Process to:***

To Fulfill the will of the Father:

**John 6:37-38 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

**Hebrews 10:7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come, In the volume of the book it is written of Me, To do Your will, O God.'"**

***To Save Sinners:***

**1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,**

**Psalms 51:5 For I was born a sinner yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.**

***To take away the toil of receiving salvation:***

**John 15 22 "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin."**

Once you get the understanding you need Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior there is no excuse for not receiving Him.

***To Destroy the Devil and His Works***

**1 John 3:8-9 [But] he who commits sin [who practices evildoing] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning. The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done]. 9 No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.**

***The Gospel/Salvation process destroys the work of the devil.***

From initial Salvation, Eternal Life.

Sanctification, maturing of the Soul.

Glorification of our natural bodies.

***To Preach the Gospel:***

It is the sharing of the Gospel, the anointed Word of God, that destroys the work of the enemy.

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**Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me.**

We are the body Christ. If the head is anointed, then the body is anointed as well. Because the anointing flows down from the head onto the body.