

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008

Stephen Grant

Reading: Matthew ch 27 v 41-43

The Lord Himself said very little during His suffering. Things were said in mockery, spite and hatred against Him.

“He saved others; himself he cannot save”

“He saved others” is a true statement; “Himself he cannot save” is false

What does saved mean? In what sense was it true? Is it still true?

To be saved is to be rescued or taken from danger. Miracles were done to restore lives. He saved people from disease, death, sorrow and destitution. He claimed to be a Saviour. He could reach people's spiritual needs. He could say, “Thy sins be forgiven” (Mark 2:9) or “Thy faith hath saved thee” (Luke 7:50)

He saved others.

There wasn't a single person who sought salvation and didn't receive it. Bartimaeus was saved, healed and had his life changed. Think also of Zacchaeus, the woman at the well and Nicodemus.

Defining characteristic of interaction with others - He saved people that others had no time for; those who were beyond hope were saved.

Salvation brought light into darkness. All beneficial. No self-promotion or payment required.

Men would almost do anything but believe what they could see. Did they not believe He had saved others?

The Lord Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead but people sought to kill the evidence of Lazarus who had been saved.

It's a good thing to believe the Lord Jesus Christ can save. That however in itself cannot save an individual. They did not want the same impact on their lives.

“Himself He cannot save” - This is not true.

The question was why would Someone who possesses all that power not save Himself from crucifixion?

The Lord was only 33 years old when He was put to death. They were trying to say He was powerless to save Himself, but it was His choice not to save Himself.

Who could go to bring Salvation to mankind?

The Son of God stepped forward. The One who is the Creator of all things “made Himself of no reputation”. He came and was born of a woman. God Himself born of a virgin, born without the legacy of sin. Born innocent and in the most humble of circumstances. The Lord was trained up as a carpenter probably by Joseph. “Great is the mystery of Godliness. God manifest in flesh” (1 Tim 3:16)

He prayed, “If Thou be willing remove this cup from me, nevertheless not My will but Thine be done” (Luke 22:42).

He had “set His face” to go to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51). As He moved among men bringing healing, teaching them. He was heading for the cross. He made this decision in complete fellowship with God. When they came for Him He stepped forward saying “Whom seek ye?” (John 18:4).

He would not save Himself. The reason was simple. In order to save others He chose not to save Himself. All that He saved us from He endured Himself. The wrath for sin was endured by Him. He went into death, out of death and ascended into heaven.

You cannot save yourself in this time or in eternity. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Not everyone gets saved. Sadly only a few. No one can save another being from their sins. The only one who can do that is in heaven: the Lord Jesus Christ.

You cannot save yourself - As soon as one passes from time to eternity they go to a place from where they cannot be saved: Gods judgment in hell.

Salvation is a great thing.

“God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4); “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim 1:15). God desires it for us. Christ came to deliver it to us. He saved others - That is true - but it is far better to be able to say - He saved me.