

# Salvation Is Of The Lord

Jonah 2:9



**Rock Hill Baptist Church**  
**605 Rock Hill Road**  
**Lexington, Tennessee 38351**

**Pastor David Buffaloe**  
**731-845-6104**  
**online at bibleteacher.org**

**FOCAL Read Together** **Jonah 2:9** **But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.**

The Bible says that “**Salvation is of the Lord**”. That's fine. But what is this thing called “**salvation**”? When you tell those unacquainted with the Bible that they “need to be saved”, most have no idea what you're talking about. Saved from what? Saved to what? There are many people who attend their local Church on a regular basis who cannot define salvation. Dear friends, if “**Salvation is of the Lord**” it would behoove us to know what it is.

One day a rich man came to Jesus and asked Him “How can I get into Heaven”? Jesus told him, “Give up all that you have, surrender your life to God, and come walk with Me” (**Luke 18:22**). When the rich man refused to do this Jesus replied “**it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God**” (**Luke 18:25**).

Salvation requires a commitment to God. It means surrendering your life to the Lord, and then following Him.

Does this mean that salvation is something done in your own power? No, for **salvation is of the Lord**. God calls to salvation. The Holy Spirit touched the heart of this rich man so that he came to Jesus. Jesus, in turn, told the rich man what he needed to do. “Surrender and follow Me”. Jesus Christ is **the Way**. He is the Way you must

travel if you will get to God. Jesus is **the Truth**. His Word has never given us a lie to follow. Jesus is **the Life**. We model our lives after Him. We follow Him in life, and trust Him beyond the gates of death. We are saved by surrendering to Him. We keep on being saved as we dedicate our lives to Him. **Salvation is of the Lord**. The rich man rejected both a future Heaven as well as a present Peace when he rejected Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. **“Salvation” means that we who believe are saved from a future hell as well as a present hell. “Salvation” means that God promises to be in our lives from the day we say “yes” to Jesus forever.**

Salvation is quite simply a *partnership* with God. That's not hard to understand. When we say a person is a “golfer” we expect that person to golf. When we say a person is a “soldier” then we expect that person to be involved in our nation's defense. When we say a person is a “fisherman” then we expect that person to surrender time and finances to fish. And a person who is called a “Christian” should be spending a great deal of their lives walking with God the Son. You who are “Christians” are called by God to *live your lives* for the Lord Who so loves you, and Who gave Himself for you.

The early Church understood the partnership of the Christian with God. Jesus said that we are to **let our light shine before the world (Matthew 5:16)**. Our lives should reflect the light of God the Holy Spirit Who lives in us. We should be telling others that there is a better way of life in Christ. **Salvation is of the Lord**. If you are saved by faith in Him then do something great. Go out

and *be like Him*. Follow Him, and **turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6)** by reaching out to those who know not Christ.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

## **1. The Love Of God Is Seen In His Plan of Salvation**

**FOCAL** Jonah 2:9 ... Salvation is of the LORD.

Who does God love? How far reaching is His love? When God told Jonah to go to Ninevah, saying:

**CONTEXT** Jonah 1:2 Arise, **go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.**

Jonah ran away. He decided that he would rather run away from God than go and talk to the Ninevites, these *pagans*, these undesirable people. But God was determined that His son and servant Jonah was going to witness to the Ninevites.

God loves everyone!

We have a tendency to – as Christians – huddle up and talk about God within our assemblies while remaining silent while outside of the local Church. This is what Jonah was doing, only more radically so.

When told to **go and tell** people that were different than

he was – perhaps people he racially hated – Jonah ran from God and got in trouble over it.

When we say **salvation is of the Lord** we are affirming all that God has to say about salvation. If you believe the Bible is true then you believe that we all – each and every one of us – come from the same root.

**We all came from Adam.** We all came from a **good and perfect root.** Man didn't climb out of goo, God didn't make man goo, but God made all things GOOD and made man VERY GOOD.

God made man perfect in the Garden of Eden. He made man – just as He made the angels – *sinless and yet able to choose*. When God looked at all He created *prior* to the creation of man we read that:

**Genesis 1:25 ... God saw that it was good.**

The Bible doesn't say that **God saw that it was goo**, as the evolutionists believe. No, creation was GOOD not GOO. And man didn't climb out of GOO, he was made out of the dust of the ground – and **was made very good**. We read:

**Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion... .. {31} And God saw everything that He had made, and, BEHOLD, it was very good.**

There was no sin in creation. Everything was not just

good, but *very good*. God made everything *just perfect, just right*. Then Satan came along and surprised God, upsetting the apple cart, and hurting God's feelings. Is that right? No, it's not. When God put perfect Adam and Eve in the midst of a perfect Garden they could not be *very good* – **and in the image of God** – if they had no free choice. Built into man is the ability to choose, to make decisions. This is why God put a *forbidden* tree in the midst of the Garden, and commanded Adam to leave it alone. But notice how God worded His command:

**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.**

God knows all things, so He knew Adam would fall *before* he was ever made. The fall was not a product of design failure. The fall was Adam's *free choice*. But God knew – and designed the Plan of Salvation **before the foundation of the world**.

Did you notice how God spoke to Adam? God didn't say “*if* you eat of this tree you shall surely die”, He said “***in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die***”. God knew that man – perfect as he was – given a choice would choose to follow Satan. God knew this *long* before He ever created man. The Bible tells us:

**Ephesians 1:4 According as {God} hath chosen us in {Christ} before the foundation of the world, that we**

**should be holy and without blame before him in love:**

God knew that Adam – once created – would deny Him. God knew this before He gather that dust together and shaped that perfect frame. God knew – and knowing still loved. As a matter of fact the Scripture tells us that **before the foundation of the world**, before God ever called light out of darkness, that Jesus Christ committed Himself to die for our sins. The Scripture tells us

**1 Peter 1:18-20 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; {19} But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: {20} Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,**

It was **foreordained before the foundation of the world that Jesus Christ would die for all**. This is the most amazing thing about God's love. He knew we would deny Him – and made a way to save us *nonetheless!*

Your redemption, dear Christian, was **planned from before the foundation of the world**. Before Adam ever sinned God determined to offer you salvation from your sin. Before Moses was ever a baby, floating down the Nile, God determined that He would give Himself for your sins. Before the angels were ever given life, before Satan ever revolted **God determined to send His Son**.

Before the first lie was ever uttered, before the first bite was ever taken, **Jesus Christ consented to come to earth and give Himself for our sins**. God Who is thrice holy, as both song and Scripture attest:

**“Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity”<sup>1</sup>**

Our God, Who alone knows **the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10)**, and from ancient times the things that are not yet determined that He would save His yet uncreated Creature Man. Yet God is holy – thrice holy – and sin cannot be overlooked. Thus the Plan of Salvation required that each member of the Trinity agree – before the foundation of the world – to take part in it. **Salvation is of the Lord**. The Father planned our salvation. God's eyes are so pure that He cannot look upon sin, as the prophet decreed:

**Habakkuk 1:13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: ...**

and yet man would sin. The Father decreed that the Son – sinless and undefiled – would suffer for our sins. The Scripture tells us:

**2 Corinthians 5:21 For {God the Father} hath made {Jesus} to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

<sup>1</sup> Song *Holy, Holy, Holy* by: Reginald Heber, 1826. Heber wrote this hymn for Trinity Sunday while he was Vicar of Hodnet, Shropshire, England. Music: Nicaea, John B. Dykes, in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

Perfect man would choose to sin, but Perfect God would make a covering for sin in Christ. **Christ Who was loved from before the Foundation of the world (John 17:24) would be sent to die for us.** His one time offering would be sufficient, for – unlike the Levitical priest – our Priest, Jesus Christ, would only have to offer Himself once for us. The Scripture says:

**Hebrews 9:24-28 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: {25} Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; {26} For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. {27} And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: {28} So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

Jesus **put away sin by the offering of Himself once – just one time.** Salvation is of the Lord. The Plan of Salvation is entirely of the Lord. Oh that I could speak directly into your hearts, Oh that God would take my stumbling words and give them worth. Dear friends,

**1 John 3:1 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.**

God knew you – and wanted to save you – **from the foundation of the world!** What great love is in the Plan of Salvation.

## **2. God Invites Finite Believers To Participate In His Infinite Plan of Salvation**

Jeremy Camp sings a beautiful song entitled **Wonderful Maker**. In the chorus he rightly sings:

**What a wonderful maker  
What a wonderful Savior  
How majestic Your whispers  
And how humble Your love  
With a strength like no other  
And the heart of a father  
How majestic Your whispers  
What a wonderful God.**

How wonderful our God is! Not only does He save us, but He invites us – no, He *expects us* – to aid Him in spreading His Gospel. He wants us to tell others about the Blood He shed on Calvary. He wanted Jonah – a literal believer, mind you – to go to the Ninevites. Jesus Christ said of Jonah that

**Luke 11:30 ... Jonah was a sign unto the Ninevites...**

Jonah was no fairytale, nor was he a figment of the imagination. Jesus Christ – our Lord and Savior – knew all about Jonah. He said of Jonah:

**Matthew 12:40** For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jonah was given an order to go and tell the Ninevites about God. But Jonah figured he knew better than God.

Rather than sponsor a revival Jonah ran – and ended up in a very undesirable place. The Bible tells us that God had him swallowed up by a big fish!

**CONTEXT** **Jonah 1:17** Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah needed to learn that “**Salvation is of the Lord**”. Dear friends, God loves everyone. The Bible tells us that:

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Jesus Christ did not die on Calvary so just a select few can be saved. God wants *no one to go to hell*. Dear friends, if you die and go to hell, you go there because you *kicked against God's every call*. You kicked against your conscience, you kicked against the preaching of the

local Church, you kicked against everything. I have had people ask me before, “**What of those who never heard of Christ? Will they go to Heaven or hell upon their deaths?**”. I'm sorry, I don't believe there's such a thing possible for someone to *have never heard*. God says:

**Proverbs 8:17** I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

God has written into the hearts of every man that He exists.

God is coded into our very DNA. God is coded into our consciences (see **Romans 2:14-15**). We all know, at heart, that there is but One God.

God the Holy Spirit had been working on the consciences of the Ninevites when He told Jonah ...

**Jonah 1:2** Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Jonah was not alone, and neither is the Christian. God tells each and every believer:

**John 16:8-11** And when {the Holy Spirit – the Comforter} is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: {9} Of sin, because they believe not on me; {10} Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; {11} Of judgment, because the prince

**of this world is judged.**

**Salvation is of the Lord.** Jonah didn't need to know all things. He didn't need to understand theology, nor did God require him to attend a seminary. God just needed Jonah to **go, to tell**, and to trust the results to Him. How did Jonah respond. We read:

**Jonah 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD...**

Ninevah was prepared by God the Holy Spirit to repent, and God had opened the door. Jonah just had to go and do as God told him to do. Instead Jonah tried to **run from the presence of the Lord**. What was God's response? Look at the context:

**Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.**

**God HAD PREPARED – past tense** - a great fish. Before disobeyed God knew he was going to disobey. Just as God knew that Adam was going to fall, He also knew that Jonah was going to run. Kind of messes with your mind, doesn't it. We as humans tend to think along linear lines. Time to us means something. Yet our God is outside of time. He willed that Jonah go, and Jonah was going to go – once God did a little *fishy* attitude adjustment on him.

Dear friends, if you are saved **God demands** that you tell others about this great salvation. **Salvation is of the**

**Lord.** There is no one that God cannot reach. The great evangelist **Dwight L. Moody** said:

**“Let us go to the Bible and see what that old Book teaches. Let us believe it, and go and act as if we believed it, too. Salvation is instantaneous. I admit that a man may be converted so that he cannot tell when he crossed the line between death and life, but I also believe a man may be a thief one moment and a saint the next. I believe a man may be as vile as hell itself one moment, and be saved the next.”<sup>2</sup>**

Praise God for the power of His Gospel! Praise God for those who – obeying God – tell others about Jesus! Praise God for the local Church that doesn't have to be swallowed up before it goes out and tells. Praise God for the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

### **3. You Are Alive So That You Can Follow Christ**

I've said before and I'll say it again – at the moment of salvation God *could have* taken you to Heaven. Why didn't He? Because you have something you need to do for Jesus. You need to *go and tell*.

Everyone in this room today is alive so that you can follow Jesus. You can either *follow His command to believe in Him, or you can follow His command to go and tell.*

This is illustrated by Jonah's words. He said:

**FOCAL** **Jonah 2:9** **But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.**

Jonah spoke these words out of the belly of a great fish. Now think about that for a minute. I've heard of people being eaten by fish. I heard of a young girl not too long ago that was attacked by a shark and lived. But look what it says of Jonah:

**Jonah 2:1** **Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God OUT OF the fish's belly,**

That says a lot to me. First of all it says that **Jonah was the most stubborn believer I've ever heard of**. When we end chapter one we see that **Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights**. Only after that time passed do we see that **THEN Jonah prayed unto the Lord**. If I was thrown overboard by my friends and saw a giant fish swimming toward me with its mouth open I'd be praying then! Jonah laid – probably in pitch black and awful smell – for *three days and three night before he prayed*. But think on this also: **Jonah didn't die**. Jonah's in the stomach of a fish – a place so bad that he says:

**Jonah 2:2** **And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.**

This is a nasty place! And yet Jonah, hard head that he is, took *three days and three nights* to repent.

And yet God kept him alive.

The belly of *anything* is filled with gastric juices – acids – all designed to digest food. Jonah is in this dark place, nasty, and yet is not consumed by the acids of the fish's stomach.

Jonah says in his prayer:

**Jonah 2:5-7** **The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. {6} I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me forever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. {7} When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.**

What a picture of misery. Dear One, if your life is miserable could it be because you have rejected the direction of God in your life? God saved you because He loves you. Like Jonah He now wants you to go and tell others about Jesus.

I have said before – and say again – that salvation is complete in God. **Salvation is of the Lord**. There is nothing we can do to add to it or take away from it. And yet the Lord, just as He did with Jonah, leaves us on this earth so we can share the Gospel of Christ with others. Before Jesus **you were the servants of sin**. Now that you have believed on Him unto salvation:

**Romans 6:18** Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

**Romans 6:4-6** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: {6} Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

You were not saved so you could wallow in sin. You were saved so that you could *live your lives as unto God*. **Salvation is of the Lord**. He loved you, He saved you, and now He calls you to tell others about Him. When you were:

**Ephesians 2:12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

God reached out to you through another brother or another sister in Christ. Someone told you of Jesus, and you were born again. Someone trusted that **salvation is of the Lord** and, putting aside racism and unwarranted hatred, reached out to you. You were not worthy, but He saved you. Tell others – tell others. When Jonah prayed: he said “**I will sacrifice unto Thee with the voice of thanksgiving**”. I will praise you Lord, and do as You

require. “**I will pay that which I have vowed**”. I will serve You, dear Lord, by being obedient to tell others of You. I will tell others of Jesus, for

**Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

And I will trust the Lord that **salvation is of the Lord**. God's Word is able to overcome man's sin.

### **Conclusion**

**ILLUSTRATE** A little boy was visiting his grandparent's house and was lying on the floor playing with his toys. In the front room there was a large old Grandfather clock. As the clock began to chime the noon hour the little boy – like he always did – counted the ringing of the chimes. The old clock, however, malfunctioned. It chimed 12 times then, 13 – 14 – 15 – 16, and then stopped. The little boy ran and told his grandma, “Grandma, grandma – it's later than it's ever been before!”<sup>3</sup>

That's true for every one in this room today. “It's later than it's ever been before”. Are you prepared to meet your Maker?

**FOCAL** **Jonah 2:9-10 ... Salvation is of the LORD.** {10} **And the LORD spoke unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.**

If **salvation is of the Lord** then the opposite of that would naturally be **condemnation is of man**. If any among you today have not called upon Jesus Christ *alone* for salvation then it is certain that you are yet dead in your sins. Jesus clearly said:

**John 14:6 ... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

I have had a number of people tell me “**I’ll get myself straight, then I’ll come to Church**”. That’s a fool’s statement, dear friend. Salvation is of the Lord. If you leave this life without Jesus then you will be *forever condemned*. You will have destroyed yourself, making suicide of your own soul. Don’t do it!

There are perhaps 150 people in this place today. That means that there will be at least 150 people who will no excuse on Judgment Day. Jonah was not brought into the light of day until he professed **salvation is of the Lord**.

You will not inherit the Kingdom of God if you do not – as Ninevah did – repent and turn unto the Lord Jesus Christ by faith.



Rock Hill Baptist Church  
605 Rock Hill Road  
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED