

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

LOVE WITH NO CONDITIONS

"He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him." Heb. 7:25.

CHRIST IS ABLE to save. Save from what? The text suggests an answer to the question: It suggests that the saved man is moving toward God; the man who is not saved is moving away from God. The ultimate in not being saved is separation from God; the ultimate in salvation is being united with God.

When the prodigal left home, he was not saved; he was headed the wrong way; when he turned toward his father's house, he was on the way of salvation.

There are many experiences that a man has when he is moving away from God. He is afflicted with a sense of guilt. There are all sorts of guilt; true guilt, false guilt, repressed guilt; guilt which is a feeling of inferiority; guilt which because you have not been true to yourself, guilt because you have not served well your fellow man, guilt because you have hurt God. The form that guilt takes depends much upon the nature of the person involved. When a man moves toward God, Christ lifts the burden of that guilt. Christ is able to lift the burden of guilt.



Movement away from God is movement toward darkness. Day by day, the lights go out. The candles of idealism sputter and fail. Men walk in the gloom of failure, futility, and frustration. All things begin to lose their luster. Life, itself, may become a dark alley. Jesus is able to save a man from the oncoming darkness of despair; even death. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He turns men to God by the attractive brilliance of his light.

IN MOVEMENT AWAY from God, love diminishes and finally disappears. To live in a loveless world is separation from God who is a God of love. Christ is able to restore love to a man's heart.

Lost is a word that Jesus used to describe separation from God. Some men are lost like sheep that have wandered from the fold. Some are lost like coins that have fallen into a dark corner. Some men are lost because they have deliberately left the house of light and love and joy.

Lost has been called the most tragic word in the English language. There are so many areas where men get lost--lost in pride, lost in ambition, lost in envy, lost in greed, lost in their own obstinacy. Christ is able to reclaim the lost.

These are but a few of the experiences that come to men who are moving away from God.

WHAT IS THIS GREAT salvation? It is much more than we have implied here. It is often known as relief from bearing a great burden. It is walking in the light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. It is to become a loving person by experience of the love of God. "We love because He first loved us." It is the prodigal's joy of living in the Father's house after his experience as a swineherd.

Jesus Christ is able to save to the uttermost. What does a man have to do? There are no conditions. Jesus Christ is able to save without any conditions. Christ is able to save because He is the love of God given to and coming to sinful man.

You do not have to know theology to accept the love of God through Jesus Christ. You do not have to agonize in repentance for your sins in order to receive this great salvation. You need not bring any merit of your own. You need bring no achievement, no accomplishment, no payment, no works, no service. Christ is able to save without these.

IS IT NOT necessary for men to forgive others their trespasses against them before God will

forgive them? Matt. 6:14-15. Will men who are moving away from God, children of darkness on the road of lovelessness, do this? I think not. This is the road they will take after they have turned, not before. Saved men will seek to forgive their brothers, not unsaved men.

Christ is able to save to the uttermost, without conditions.

THE REV. DONALD CLARK, the VOICE newspaper's "From the Pulpit" columnist, is undergoing treatment at the Veteran's Hospital in Sawtelle, California. Rev. Clark would appreciate a line of cheer from his VOICE readers who, we know, share our wish for the Reverend's speedy recovery.

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