

THE PERSON THAT SAVES

By Pastor Art Watkins

Part 5

Ephesians 1:12-13 says: ***That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.***

When the Ephesians believed the Gospel, ***they trusted in Christ***. They not only believed the message of the Gospel, but they put their faith and trust in the one the message told them about. There is a difference between believing the *message* of the Gospel and *trusting* in Christ. Just believing the Gospel message will not save you, for it's not the message that saves, it's the person the gospel tells you about, who saves.

Salvation is not in creeds, confessionals, or catechisms, but in a **PERSON**. There are multitudes who can quote the creeds and confessionals of their church, but they are still lost because they have not fully trusted in Christ alone to save them. There are many who have gone through the catechism classes of their church, but they are as lost as an atheist who does not believe in God or Christ. Before I was saved I knew what the gospel was and I could quote the gospel verses such as 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. My wife memorized the creeds and confessionals of her church and went through all the catechism classes of her church, but was still lost.

I know a lady who has a bad son. He stays in trouble. A while back she enrolled him in catechism classes in her church thinking it would change him. He went through every class, but came out just as bad as ever. Salvation is not in knowledge, study, memorizing the catechism or quoting the confessional of a church. Salvation is in a person and you must have that person living in you to be saved.

1 John 5:11-13 says; ***And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.***

Those who have eternal life have it because they have the Son of God living in them. Salvation is not in creeds, confessions, quotations, or classes, but in the man Jesus Christ. You must be in him and he must be in you to be saved.

The question is: Do you have the Son? Are you in the Son and does the Son of God live in you? Only those who have the Son have life. When did you receive the Son? When did he take up residence in you? When did you pass from death to life? When did you come to an end to yourself and receive Christ as your Savior and Lord? When did you put all of your trust in Christ alone to save you? Remember, salvation is not in things, creeds, confessionals, or catechisms, but in a person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Be Sure Of Your Salvation

Do you know when you were born? Can you remember when you were married? If you can remember when these events happened in your life, can you remember a time in your life when you as a lost sinner trusted Christ alone to save you? When did you receive Christ as your savior? When did Christ save you from sin and hell? If you can't remember, then you could be still lost.

If salvation is the most important event in a person's life, how could a person be saved and not know a time when he or she got saved? I've never known a person who was truly saved who could not tell you *how* and *when* they got saved. If you can't point to a time in your life when you got saved, more than likely you're not. And if I were you, I would not rest until I got this matter settled.

Next: The People God Saves