

“And As Moses Lifted Up”

No. 62

Introduction.

- I. Read or quote John 3:14-16.
- II. Jesus begins our text by talking about the serpent in the wilderness. Jesus is referring back to Numbers 21.

I. **Serpent In The Wilderness** (Num. 21:1-9). Relate account.

- A. Only those who had enough faith to look on the serpent of brass lived. It was absolutely necessary to look on this serpent to live. Some might have thought it was non-sense, utter foolishness. How can looking on a brazen serpent save us? This is absurd.
- B. Everyone who refused died of snake bites.

II. “**The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up**”

- A. Jesus said, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.” Jesus teaches it was likewise absolutely necessary that He, the son of man, be lifted up. It was not optional. There was no other way to save man. All of the **animal sacrifices** in the world could not save man. (Heb. 10:4). All of the **money and gold and diamonds and silver** in the world could not atone for sins. All of the miraculous and benevolent acts of Jesus could not save man. Not even the pre-cross blood of Jesus could atone for sins. Jesus shed plenty of blood before the cross. He bled when they drove the crown of thorns into His head. He bled when laid open His back by the scourging. He shed even more blood as He was compelled to bear His own cross to Golgotha. Yes, Jesus shed much blood before the cross. But this blood this not save us. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and it was by His blood He shed in His death that we saved.

B. To be our Savior Jesus had to do **three things**.

1. First, He had to become **identified with us by becoming flesh**. This He did. (Jn. 1:14).
2. Second, He had to **live a perfect life**.
 - a. One sin would have disqualified Him from being our Savior.
 - b. But He lived a perfect life. (1 Pet. 2:22).
3. Third, He had to **die for our sins**. (Isa. 53:4-6).

III. “**Whom Will Christ Save?**”

- A. Some ask “Whom will Christ save?” Jesus answers by saying that He would die for “whoever believes in Him.”

B. **What does it mean to believe in Him?**

1. We must believe that Christ is a real, not a fictitious, Person.
 - a. We must believe that He came to this earth in a fleshly form.
 - b. The Bible tells us that the one who denies Christ having come in the flesh is “the deceiver and the antichrist. (2 Jn. 7).

c. We must believe, however, that He was more than a mere man.

2. We must also believe that Jesus was the “only begotten, the one and only, the special, the unique Son of God. (Jn. 8:24; Matt. 3:17; 16:16; Jn. 20:30-31).

C. Yes, belief in Christ means we believe in the humanity and Deity of Christ, but it includes more. (Matt. 8:29-32).

1. The demons believe in the humanity of Christ and they knew He was the Son of God, but they were lost.

2. Men today who accept the humanity of Christ and accept the Deity of Christ have a faith like the demons.

D. The faith that saves means we must make Christ the Lord of our life, not just someone we acknowledge.

1. We must do the things He ask us to do. (Jn. 3:36; Lk. 6:46; Jn. 14:15).

2. On one occasion Matthew records these words. (Matt. 12:46-50).

46. While he was yet speaking to the multitudes, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, seeking to speak to him. 47. And one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, seeking to speak to thee. 48. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49. And he stretched forth his hand towards his disciples, and said, Behold, my mother and my brethren! 50. For whosoever shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.

3. There can be no question that believing in Jesus means acknowledging His Sonship, but it means much more.

4. We must obey Jesus, that is, we must do the will of God to be saved. (Heb. 5:9).

E. It is significant to add that **we do not earn salvation by obeying Jesus.**

1. Those in the wilderness did not believe they had earned salvation by looking on the serpent of bronze.

2. Neither do we earn salvation by doing what God and Christ ask us to do. (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:5).

IV. **God’s Love**

A. In anticipation of the cross, Jesus speaks of the immense love of God. (Jn. 3:16a).

B. I have a very **close relationship to my 5 year old grandson.** We often speak of the love we have for one another. I sometimes say, “I love you with all my heart.” He often says then or at other times, “Pa, Pa, I love you all the way to heaven and back.” This is his way of expressing his great love for me.

C. But God loves us more than that. God loved us so much that He gave His precious Son to die a horrible, shameful death on the cross that we might live and have eternal life. (Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 4:10).

D. Because of what Jesus did we can make Isaiah 53 very personal. “He was wounded for my transgressions. He was bruised for my iniquities. With His stripes I am healed.”

V. **“Whosoever”**

A. One of the sweetest words in this text is the word “whosoever.”

1. God gave His Son for all men.

2. Human beings would have excluded some or many from salvation. Some would exclude men because of their race, or wealth, or education, or appearance or for a hundred other reasons.

B. But not God (Acts 10:34, 35; 1 Tim. 2:4).

Conclusion.

I. God wants each of us to be saved. He does not want even one of us to perish.

II. **If we do perish, it is not God's will** who sent His Son to redeem us. If we do perish, It is **not the will of Christ** who died for us. If we do perish it is **not the will of the Holy Spirit** who invites us to come to Christ. If we do perish, it is **not the will of the angels** who rejoice when even one of us repents and turns to God. If we do perish, it is **not the will of the church** who also invites us to come. All want us to enjoy eternity in heaven. All want us to escape the miseries of the eternal hell.

III. The choice is yours.

A. Decide today to accept God's love and come to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Turn from your sins today. Confess Christ as the Son of God and your Savior and surrender your life to Him. Be baptized for the remission of your sins and to put on the likeness of Christ. You will never regret living for the One who was lifted up on the cross for you.

B. Come as we stand and sing.