

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION (GPS)

PREFACE

Please understand that the Bible is the only source upon which the contents of this book is based. For that reason, verses from the Bible are referenced to support material regarding both eternity past, eternity future and all the time between the two. In most cases the King James Version is used in the work for the Scripture references. Also, the material used in this work is a collection obtained from my studies at what is now Lee University, the internet, sermons that I have taught, and sermons that I have heard. In many cases, I do not remember the source from which I received the material. The intent for this material is to serve as a study guide for individual purposes or, perhaps, a Sunday School class or Bible School. It is to be understood that no other person besides Dr. Marvin Neill can claim this work which has been compiled for the sole purpose of helping interested people build the Kingdom of God. Dr. Neill will accept contributions if God should place a desire to give within the heart of the reader. Such a contribution can be made by mailing it to Dr. Marvin Neill, 205 Liberty Lane, Madison, Tennessee 37115. With that understood, we will begin our study.

If I ask you, “Do you have a Global Positioning System (GPS)?” You would know exactly what I am asking about whether you have one or not. We know that it gives directions from wherever an individual may be so that he or she can get to a desired destination. Well, I want you to know that God came up with His own GPS even before the foundation of the world. He devised a system that would give directions to mankind from wherever the individual may be to an eternal destination called Heaven. God’s GPS is better known as God’s Plan of Salvation.

This study will reveal to us how God has given us directions since the beginning of creation to help us through our global experience here on earth. It is my prayer that you will make certain that you are following His direction daily so that you can reach the desired end.

JER 29:11

11 FOR I KNOW THE THOUGHTS THAT I THINK TOWARD YOU, SAITH THE LORD, THOUGHTS OF PEACE, AND NOT OF EVIL, TO GIVE YOU AN EXPECTED END.

It must be understood that God did not give all of the Plan of Salvation (His GPS) at one time to mankind. It would have been more than man could have comprehended. So, God gave the Plan of Salvation (His GPS) a little at a time until the whole plan was completely revealed through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was like the sun which slowly progresses from a small ray of light showing forth at dawn and continuing to give more light as the sun gets higher in the sky.

As we progress with our study, you will see that God had a specific reason for creating the earth. He had several reasons for putting mankind on the earth. It is through the study of the Scriptures that we learn God's purposes for you and me. It must be understood that God has never, nor will He ever, force any person to carry out His will. Every individual is given a free-will by God. This is evidenced by a brief look at Adam, the first man. When God placed Adam in the garden, He gave Adam dominion over the earth and everything on it. He told Adam to subdue the earth. Adam specifically was told to guard the Garden of Eden and to make it productive. Instead, Adam chose not to do what God had said. He used his free-will to be disobedient. He sinned, giving to satan his dominion over the first and second heavens and over the whole earth.

Even Adam, himself, became subject to satan's control. Satan had become Adam's lord. This resulted in Adam becoming incapable of fulfilling his God-given reasons for being here on earth. It also meant that all future generations would inherit this inability to accomplish the will of God.

We will look in more detail at this situation as we proceed with this study. However, for the time being, let us look at the Scripture and see that God, in His infinite knowledge and wisdom, had already planned and implemented a remedy that would be sufficient in every way to get Adam and his descendants out of the hands of satan and back into a right relation with Almighty God. This would be made possible through a sacrificial offering of the Second Person of the God-Head, better known to us as Jesus.

MATT 28:18-20

18 AND JESUS CAME AND SPAKE UNTO THEM, SAYING, ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH.

19 GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST:

20 TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU: AND, LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD. AMEN.

These words were spoken by Jesus after He had been crucified, buried and resurrected. He was declaring that His mission here on earth had been successful. He, the Second Adam, had regained everything that the first Adam had lost. He continued by saying that He would accompany us as we spread the Word of His victory over satan. In fact, according to Jesus, with His Presence constantly with us, we are to once again have the original dominion over the earth that God wanted mankind to have all of the time. Also, we are to be able to subdue the earth as we teach others how to fulfill the will of God for their lives.

Mark expresses the same thought regarding our being able to evangelize the world, but he includes our preaching the message to more than just people. He says that we are to preach to every creature. It just so happens that satan is not a person. He is a creature. We are to preach God's message to him. When we do, he will flee because he cannot tolerate the Word of God.

For the people who receive the gospel message, they will be given supernatural powers. This will enhance their abilities to minister. For the ones, including satan, who do not receive the message, they will be damned.

MARK 16:15-18

15 AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.

16 HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED; BUT HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT SHALL BE DAMNED.

17 AND THESE SIGNS SHALL FOLLOW THEM THAT BELIEVE; IN MY NAME SHALL THEY CAST OUT DEVILS; THEY SHALL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES;

18 .THEY SHALL TAKE UP SERPENTS; AND IF THEY DRINK ANY DEADLY THING, IT SHALL NOT HURT THEM; THEY SHALL LAY HANDS ON THE SICK, AND THEY SHALL RECOVER.

Without any question, the plan of God is absolutely perfect. He is the One who formed man and knows the heart of man and why his heart fell prey to satan's devices. God knew that lost mankind would not be able to understand the necessity for his returning to the likeness of God. So, God before creation was begun, determined to reveal His Plan to mankind little bit by little bit. It would be done first of all by external sources that are perceived by mankind's five senses. Eventually, it would be written upon the hearts of those individuals who would allow this to happen.

Simply put, God has called us into a global ministry, but first we have to personally begin to move in the right direction. We must have God's Plan of Salvation (His GPS) in order to go down the correct road of life. It will direct us to the desired destination, that place that Jesus went away to prepare for us at the end of our journey.