

#31 Northside Natter

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Today, I'm taking a brief look at **Being Saved**.

There are still millions of people in the world who profess to love God. They find themselves a church to go to with the expectation that their efforts will lead to the coveted prize of eternal life. They are taught many things about God; some true, some false and most certainly with a lot of things lacking.

One Pentecostal church recently published a prayer for seekers of God to recite and quoted **Romans 10:13** *for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*. They went on to say: *If you have just prayed [recited their prayer] and are now following Jesus – well done! We encourage you to contact your local Christian church for ongoing fellowship and discipling.*

Is this church lying to seekers of the Truth about how to be saved? They quoted a scripture straight from the bible so they must be right – right? On another part of their page they quote *Acts 2:37-38* but don't spell out the scripture itself. There is no mention of the Holy Spirit or of water baptism, just repentance.

Can a person attending that church be blamed for continuing on with half-truth teachings? Everyone has an obligation to read and study the word of God and to compare what they are told with what the bible says is true. When salvation is the ultimate goal, how can it be left to chance?

Philippians 2:12

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, [and] not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Everyone is responsible for their own salvation. So why do people continue on in a church that overlooks scriptures of salvation? There are many varied reasons. Some stay because they blindly believe in the charismatic speaker in front of them each week. He's so good he can't be wrong – right? It doesn't matter how well-spoken, well-presented and eloquently delivered the words are. Are they the full truth, or do they pick and choose what they will accept and what they won't?

Jesus chose inelegant speaking fishermen and a tax collector to form his first church. Why? Because the focus of the message was God, not the man who delivered it. Jesus's purpose was to turn people back to the Father, not to follow a charismatic man. These simple apostles of the Christ had a powerful testimony that changed their lives and this is what made people look twice.

Some people stay with that church because they're too lazy to do anything else. They see some scriptures are overlooked, and may even understand the full gospel message, but they couldn't be bothered finding a church that preaches what they know is true. All their friends are there and they don't want to leave them behind. It's just easier to stay.

Being lazy with our salvation will see us on a very slippery slope to damnation. We want eternal life and no-one is going to get it and maintain it for us but us.

Some people just don't know any different and that's why they stay. No-one has told them the full gospel message. They are very easily led and naïve about Godly matters. They are not reading the word of God to find out what the bible says. They blindly follow the blind.

It's easy to see how needed we are in this world. We carry the full gospel message on our lips and must be ready to share it with anyone, anywhere, anytime. Sometimes, that's not always comfortable, yet it is our commission.

Being saved does not mean we are always saved. We know that when a person turns their back on God, the good they did previously is erased and it is the evil that they now do that is remembered against them. Unless, of course, they turn back to God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength and start again.

Being saved is a state we must maintain through prayer, study of God's word, being regularly instructed by ministers of the gospel, participating in prayer for others, and fellowship. Fellowship sounds unimportant but is completely the opposite.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Fellowship is vital to our walk as are all other areas of ministry. If we are troubled and not fellowshiping, how can we have the right word spoken at the right time that lifts us up from the mire?

Revelation 3:15-16

[to the church of Laodicea] *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

We consider ourselves to be in the Laodicean era. Chapter 3 of Revelation tells us that God's people consider themselves rich, increased with goods and have need of nothing. Because of this they barely do what is required of them. They don't even see how wretched, miserable, poor, blind or naked they really are.

They have become too comfortable in their Christianity. Do they read their bibles? Do they pray for others in need? Do they support their church when asked? Do they attend meetings regularly? Are they properly maintaining their salvation? The answer has to be no. They are doing just enough to keep themselves lukewarm in the Lord.

Revelation 3:15 onwards talks about the church in Laodicea which was not spirit-filled. Like many churches today, fail to tend to the basic salvation requirements.

Revelation 3:18

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed and [so] the shame of thy nakedness does not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve that thou mayest see.

How could it be that God's church has non-Spirit-filled people in it? It became so compromised that the basic requirements are now left unmet, or made optional. These

followers stand naked before the Lord, i.e. without the robe of white that comes from the infilling of the Holy Spirit. They have never had their faith tested which is the fiery trial of temptation during which all the dross is burned away. They have not entered into the everlasting covenant with the Lord. They don't have the gold tried in fire that makes one rich, nor the spirit, nor the eyes to see their own nakedness. What was the death and resurrection of Christ for!

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The churches who do not preach and practice the covenant experience in its fullness is lukewarm and will be spewed out. We must pray diligently that our church continues to do the right things. We must act diligently to properly maintain our walk. We must speak to those around us and tell them what the Lord expects of them is much more than what they are currently doing. We are obligated to raise our children to continue in our footsteps to the last and great day of the Lord.

We are prophets of God in a world of sinfulness, pride, corruption and many other abhorrent things. Prophets do not set their light under a bushel; they shine it from the highest peak and make certain they are seen and heard. Be the prophet you were called to be, brothers and sisters. There are many lost and forgotten in this world to save.