“Christ Jesus Came ... to Save Sinners”

Intro: We are most blessed today as in our continued study of I Timothy we have the Apostle Paul’s personal testimony concerning his salvation. In this study it is our prayer that each of us, as Paul, will come to consider the greatness of our own ___________________ salvation, and as a result come to worship our ____________ even more, in a greater measure of spirit and truth.

I. Paul blessed Christ Jesus the Lord for His ________________________.
   
   A. Paul listed three reasons for which he ____________________________.
      
      1. By grace Christ ___________________________ Paul unto salvation and good works.
      2. By grace ______________ strengthened and thus considered Paul ___________ to Himself.
      3. By grace Christ _______ Paul _________ service.

   B. Paul listed three reasons for which he was particularly _______________ at the ___________________ of Christ.
      
      1. Paul was a blasphemer who personally ________________________________ Christ Jesus, the Son of God.
      2. Paul was a persecutor who personally sought to severely _______________ believers for their ___________ in Christ, pursuing them relentlessly.
      3. Paul was a violent aggressor who sought to bring ________________, humiliating suffering upon those who named the name of Christ, thinking it his spiritual duty which he _______________ fulfilled.

   C. Paul was saved because _______________ ________________ him!
      
      1. Of sovereign mercy Christ sweeps over us, even in our fallen state, with a _______________—natural abundance of sovereign ________________.
      2. Of sovereign mercy _______________ ________________ us faith in Christ. It is not a faith that barely saves but it is an abundant ___________ that fully saves.
      3. Of sovereign mercy we who trust in _______________ come into the agape of Christ on account that He first _______________ ____. It is only because He agapes us perfectly that we agape Him in return.

D. There is a statement that is trust ______________________ and ___________ deserving of full acceptance. Believing it will affect you and not believing it will affect you. Here there is no middle ground: not believing will affect you most negatively and believing it will ___________________ __________________ most positively.
      
      1. The statement is: “_________________ Jesus came into the world to __________ sinners”.
         
         a. To refuse this truth is to die in your sin while to receive it with __________ in _____________ is to live forevermore!
2. When we come to the __________ ______ we won't see everybody else's sin but our own, and seeing our sin as it is, so large and heinous (as if it's magnified but it's not, it's really that large and heinous), we will be like Isaiah crying, "I am ruined! I am a man of unclean lips!" Standing alone before God, with no other in view but God alone, as one sees themselves they will say, "________ the __________ __________. God be merciful to me the sinner!" And there they will find the mercy of Christ already extended, flowing freely with grace, faith and love. The salvation of the Lord is great!

Closing: How great is your salvation, dear soul? How much have you been forgiven? What depth of sinful ruin has ________ rescued you out of? What sin has been prevented because He saved you? What despair and emptiness of soul did He save you from, and what comfort and fulness does He bring you to?

Think of the great sin from which He ________ ______, and how by His divine grace, which you didn't deserve, He showed you mercy, granting you faith and love in Christ Jesus, and that He did despite us, despite our sin. His grace is greater than our sin.

Consider that it was Christ Jesus of His own ________________ who personally strengthened you, considered ________ faithful, called you to salvation and the service which God prepared beforehand, that you should walk in it!

Thanks be to God, for Christ Jesus our Lord came into the world to save sinners like you and me. Our salvation is __________ - let us __________ our great Savior!

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

O safe and happy shelter, O refuge tried and sweet,
O tryng place where Heaven's love and Heaven's justice meet!
As to the holy patriarch that wondrous dream was given,
So seems my Savior's cross to me, a ladder up to heaven.

There lies beneath its shadow but on the further side
The darkness of an awful grave that gapes both deep and wide
And there between us stands the cross two arms outstretched to save
A watchman set to guard the way from that eternal grave.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess;
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by to know no gain or loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

Elizabeth Cecelia Douglas Clephane, publickly known by the nickname "Sunbeam"
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Heritage Christian Fellowship - 11104 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
505.323.0557 – www.heritageabq.org