

Audio Teaching Sermon    Message #28    The Process of Salvation

[ A    Intro – Pastor Jefferson    0:00 thru 1:27 ]

Hey everybody. Pastor Jefferson here again once more. I'd like to welcome you to **Message #28** of the audio teaching sermon series. Today we will resume our ongoing discussion of how God brought us the New Testament. In the last lesson we were discussing what Jesus told us regarding the small gate versus the wide gate. And, after reviewing the details of His sermon, we discovered that He was directing His comments toward the church and not humanity at large. Jesus was warning His disciples that they needed to make the effort to first find and then pass through the small gate leading to the constricted path. He told us that this small gate was the one which began at the path to leading to righteousness, or eternal life. Notice that the gate itself doesn't lead to righteousness. The gate is merely the access point to the path. In case you were unsure, Jesus was not talking solely about a physical **path**. No. He is talking about a spiritual one as well, which is defined as **'a course of action, a person's conduct and a process to be followed.'** Would you be interested to know that this definition of path involves each of a person's three elements?

[ B    Physically Exposed to His Word    1:27 thru 2:58 ]

Recall that every person is created in God's image with **3 parts**: Body, Mind and Soul. The **body** is our actual fleshly body and **'represents the physical things we do or perform.'** The **mind** is home to our intellectual awareness and **'represents what we truly believe and think.'** And our eternal **soul** **'represents our consciousness and our destiny.'** And just as with the words of Jesus in the last message, there are only two possibilities associated with that destiny. The narrow gate leading to eternal life and the broad highway which heads down to eternal damnation. Going back to the definition of a path, we see man's three elements included. The **first** we see is **"a course of action."** This reflects how we affect our discipleship training. We do physical things which lead us to Jesus. We get up in the morning and devote the first part of our day to listening to a message with our ears. We then look up and dissect Scripture with our hands. We read the assorted definitions we see with our eyes. We are physically connecting to Jesus using a defined way in order to be fully exposed to His Word, using our touch, our hearing and

our sight.

[ **C** Mentally Changes Our Conduct 2:58 thru 4:15 ]

The **second** part of the definition of path that we see is “**a change or alteration in our conduct or behavior.**” This is the part which affects our mind. Our mind reflects how we implement what we learned as a result of our physical behavior performed in discipleship training. Some folks confuse the word conduct with physical action. The word **conduct** is defined as ‘**the act of conducting ourselves, as to the direction and management of our behavior.**’ What we do is reflected in how we contemplate our actions based on what we actually believe. Think back to your elementary school report card. Recall the area where your behavior was graded? It was called “**conduct.**” As we grow and mature in Biblical and Godly knowledge, in conjunction with the teaching of Jesus and via the interpretation done by the Holy Spirit, our behavior changes to reflect our acceptance of that learning. This change in direction and management of our behavior—our conduct if you will—is controlled by our mind.

[ **D** Self-Awareness of Our Destiny 4:15 thru 5:26 ]

And lastly, the third part of the definition of the word path tells us that it “**involves a process to be followed.**” This part of the definition is the one which affects our **soul**; that eternal part of us which reflects our consciousness and our destiny. So, some of you are wondering, “*What is the process?*” Once again, it is simple to say, but tough to achieve. The word **consciousness** is ‘**the state of being conscious, having an awareness of one’s own existence.**’ To be conscious is simply to be self-aware. The process to be followed in our definition of path is to build an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. This means that we first come to possess a genuine belief in Jesus, and this is only possible after we truly come to know who He is. This is next followed by the establishment of a conviction or confidence in His ability to save or rescue us. We describe this part of the process as trust.

[ **E** The Process of Salvation 5:26 thru 7:08 ]

And finally, once Jesus is convinced that we are where He wants us to be in the relationship, He recommends us to His Heavenly Father. And then, it is God Almighty, our heavenly Father who completes the process which is to be followed and adopts us

permanently into His family. The result is the salvation of our soul. Our part in this process is we are to be made self-aware of the proper path and then remain on that path until the completion of our journey. According to the Apostle Paul, the exact moment of our adoption is unknown to us and so we must persevere onward until our life here on earth is done, doing so with our faith placed firmly in God’s hands, trusting that He truly has our eternal back. What I have just summarized here in **6 minutes** of this message, requires **8 lessons** in discipleship training 101 to fully impart all of the finer Biblical details associated with God’s salvation process. And we are not yet done. After man’s sin in the Garden, God the Father orchestrated a plan for His Son Jesus to become the physical sacrifice to effect humanity’s salvation. It would be via the spilling of the blood of Jesus on the cruel cross of calvary which would pay the price to purchase man’s freedom from the bondage brought on by our sin.

[ **F** **Physical and Spiritual Required** **7:08 thru 8:30** ]

Each Person of the Holy Trinity plays a crucial part in our salvation. **Jesus** fulfilled the **physical part**. He became our physical sacrifice, paying off or fulfilling our sin debt. Something we alone could never do. He also was the One to bring us His Word—the Holy Bible. First, prior to His birth, He gave us the Old Testament. And following His death and resurrection, He brought the New Testament to the minds of His disciples. This is the physical document He uses to teach the physical element to our body. He is our divine instructor and teacher and coach. Then, there is the **Holy Spirit**, who fulfills the intellectual part which is of our **mind**. It is the Holy Spirit who is responsible for bringing to us the required comprehension and understanding of the words of Jesus into our minds. It is He who assists with the alteration of our thoughts and viewpoints over to the mind of Christ. As we observed in prior messages, the original disciples did not achieve salvation until *after* the arrival of the Holy Spirit on the **Day of Pentecost**.

[ **G** **Time Without God’s Word** **8:30 thru 10:14** ]

And so we know that it is our Heavenly Father who has final control over the destiny of our eternal soul. It was He who initiated the process in the beginning which was to be followed, and it is He who completes the process once the procedure has been satisfied. And this process is applicable only to those who are followers of Jesus, which are those persons who are considered part of the church. I know that some listening out there will

disagree with much or perhaps all of what I have just spoken. But, for those individuals, I want you just one question—*“How can a person make an informed decision, if they lack the information with which to make it?”* Over the course of these sermons, we made it clear that the Bible didn’t even exist for the first **2,500 years** of man’s existence. And even when Moses and the rest of the Hebrews finished writing the OT, how many folks apart from those in the immediate vicinity of the nation of Israel were even exposed to it? And even from that point, until the completion of the NT, required the passage of yet another **700 years**. The **printing press** wasn’t even invented until **1440** in Germany by Johannes Gutenberg; the same person who the **Gutenberg Bible** is named after. And that was only a tad less than **600 years** ago. And on his initial somewhat crude printing press, he could only manage to produce on average about three bibles per workday.

[ **H** Ordinances and Injunctions 10:14 thru 11:56 ]

So to believe that Jesus was speaking to the whole of humanity in His Sermon on the Mount places our sovereign God Almighty in a pretty terrible light. How can a God who is love, who sacrificed His only Son for the souls of mankind, act in such an unfair manner? The short answer is He cannot. Even the word of Jesus proves this point. Open your Bibles to **John 14:21**. And in the Greek it is **Jesus** speaking and He says, <sup>1</sup> *“The one having the commandments of Me <sup>2</sup> and keeping them, <sup>3</sup> he is the one loving Me; <sup>4</sup> and the one now loving Me, <sup>5</sup> will be loved by the Father of Me; <sup>6</sup> and I will love him <sup>7</sup> and will show Myself to him.”* Look now at **thought 1**. The word we see for **commandments** is **en-tol-LAS** and means **‘commands, ordinances or injunctions.’** Jesus is **not** talking here solely about the **10 commandments**. No, He is speaking of all the instructions contained with His word. An **ordinance** is **‘an authoritative rule, a decree or a command.’** An **injunction** is **‘a judicial process or order requiring the person or persons to whom it is directed to do a particular act or to refrain from doing a particular act.’** Remember our discussion on conduct? This is what Jesus is talking about.

[ **I** Must Have His Word in Hand 11:56 thru 13:36 ]

The word we see in **thought 1** for **having** is **EH-khon** and means **‘to have, to hold in the hand or to possess.’** It is used throughout the New Testament to denote possession—whether it be physical possession or having a particular status—such as faith. Clearly here, Jesus is stating that knowledge of His ordinances and edicts contained within His word

must be held and known by those who He is speaking about. This is impossible to apply to those who have no knowledge of Christ or His Word. In **thought 2** we see the word for **keeping** is [6] *ter-RON* and means *'to keep, to guard, or to observe.'* The word brings the idea of keeping guard over something. The disciple who possesses the commandments of Christ is also the one who is told to observe and to zealously watch over them. Remember, the time after the resurrection of Jesus saw a society hostile to the teachings of Christ. They were commanded to maintain and preserve the word of God—not just in word, but in their conduct as well. **Thought 3** says that those who possess and follows Jesus' commands is the one who loves Him. The word for **love** is *ah-gap-ON* and refers to *'a sacrificial type of love, characterized by a commitment to others, regardless of personal cost or reciprocation.'*

[ **J** Will Be Loved 13:36 thru 15:13 ]

**Thought 4** says that the disciple who is found loving Jesus—I want you to notice the present tense here indicating an ongoing action—is the one who **thought 5** says *"will be loved by God the Father."* The word we see for **will be loved** is [1] *ah-gah-PEH-theseh-tie* and its one-time use means it is *'a special love that only God the Father can have towards these exceptional persons who have come to love His Son.'* In turn, Jesus tells us in **thought 6** that He too will love these persons as well. The word we find for **will love** here is [1] *ah-gah-PEH-so* and it means the love Jesus has for His true followers is also *'a love reserved for just such disciples,'* by its use of being seen just this one time. The end result is that Jesus then will show Himself to them. The word we find for **will show** is [1] *em-phan-IS-so* and means *'to make manifest.'* The word **manifest** means *'to prove by putting beyond doubt or question.'* When you are a fully fledged disciple, you will have zero doubt regarding who Jesus is as He will fully reveal himself to you to the point of erasing 100% of any doubt that you might have. Even the disciple Thomas came to have his heavy weight of doubt removed.

[ **K** Love With All Three Parts 15:13 thru 16:59 ]

We are each made in God's image, a total of three parts. And God commands us in **Deuteronomy 6:5** to love Him with all three, when He says, <sup>1</sup> *"And you shall love Yahweh your God* <sup>2</sup> *with all your heart,* <sup>3</sup> *and with all your soul,* <sup>4</sup> *and with all your strength."* The word we see for **strength** is [1] *meh-ODE-de-kah*. This Hebrew word is

used just this once and means **'exceedingly, vehemently and totally.'** This word means essentially we are to love God with the whole of our strength, and with all of the might we can muster. The root of this word means **'force.'** **Force** is defined as **'the physical power or strength possessed by a human being.'** We create force by using our physical body. Thus, we are to use all the strength that we can marshal with our body in our effort to love God. He does not expect us to spend our every waking minute to be involved with discipleship training. No, He just expects that we give to Him our very best. The requirement in the OT for bringing the sacrifice to the Temple was to bring the very best ten percent of the **flock** or **crop** to the altar. If we work on our job say an average of 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, ten percent of that equates to 34 minutes per day, when spread over 7 days. That is the minimum amount of time one should spend on discipleship training—exactly what we advocate here at DWJD Ministries.

[ **Z** **Some Final Thoughts** **16:59 thru 18:46** ]

Listen carefully, my friends. What you hear coming from the pulpit each week out of the average church is a sermon on how you are to behave as a Christian. And you have heard me describe this form of preaching as nothing more than **"humanistic garbage."** The reason is that our focus is to be on God's word, seeking instruction from Jesus and what He has to teach us. Jesus will be the One to tell us what He wants us to do, and He will do it directly. And when we hear and heed His message, only then will our conduct begin to reflect His instructions. By skipping the part where we need to go before Jesus first, the modern-day preachers are no better than the old time Pharisees from back in Jesus' day. Jesus condemned their work in **Luke 11:46** where He said, <sup>1</sup> *"Also to you scribes,* <sup>2</sup> *woe to you!* <sup>3</sup> *For you burden the people* <sup>4</sup> *with burdens heavy to bear,* <sup>5</sup> *and you yourselves will not touch those burdens* <sup>6</sup> *with even a finger."* In the next message, I will be spending time breaking this verse down, as well as discussing other words Jesus used to reveal such hypocrites standing in the pulpits. He calls them false preachers. I urge you to consider the words of this message very carefully. Well, that's all the time I have for this message, I look forward seeing you next time. **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God's Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**