The Power and Problems of Studying Salvation

Introduction

* Since everyone must die, everyone must be very concerned about studying salvation
* There are many different “steps of salvation” from both cults and conservatives!

The Power of Studying Salvation

It Affects Our Eternity

* There are a lot of silly things that take our time
* With eternity in heaven or hell on the line, why not make time to study this issue?
* Verses: John 6:27, Matt. 25:46

It Affects Our Enjoyment

* Studying salvation gives assurance, and so joy and peace (Gal. 5:1)
* Studying salvation gives the base necessary for a godly life (2 Pet. 1:8-9)

It Affects Our Effectiveness

* We need to preach the gospel (Matt. 16:15)
* We need to respond to people who think they know the Bible (Jude 3)
* We need to be careful with people who trust us implicitly, like children (Luke 17:2)

The Power of Studying Salvation

The Problem of Sin

* Instead of being lazy, we should be diligent (Acts 17:11, 2 Tim. 2:15, Ezra 7:10, Prov. 4:7)
* Instead of fearing man (1 John 5:19), we should fear God (John 5:44, Gal. 1:10)
* Instead of being proud, we should be humble (James 1:21)
* Illustration: Martin Luther 🡪 “My conscience is taken captive by the word of God. Here I take my stand. I can do no other.”

The Problem of Sects

* There are so many groups out there – we need to “test all things” (1 Thess. 5:21)
* Everyone has tradition – we cannot “nullify the word of God with our tradition” (Matt. 15:6)

The Problem of Satan

* Satan opposes gospel work and tries to confuse the message (2 Cor. 4:4, Luke 8:12, Rev. 12:9)
* When discouraged or distracted, know that a spiritual battle is going on and fight (1 John 2:14)