



CHAPTER 3: OUR NEW NAME – THE SALVATIONIST

ONLY the name – the same old friend, neither altered in dress nor person, bringing the same message at the same intervals – only a more expressive appellation, and a more descriptive one, for in deed and truth has not our paper always been an exponent, advocate, and record of Salvation?

We are a Salvation people – this is our specialty – getting saved and keeping saved, and then getting somebody else saved, and then getting saved ourselves more and more, until full salvation on earth makes the heaven within, which is finally perfected by the full salvation without, on the other side the river.

We are not the only salvation people in the world. What a pity it would be if we were! There must be many more, both nigh at hand and far away, people who believe, as we believe, in the damnation of hell and the peril which unsaved men are hourly in of falling into it, and of the opportunity God gives of deliverance; and who, therefore, go about night and day, not necessarily in the way we do, but still they do go about in season and out of season, giving men little rest because they won't flee from the wrath to come, and who, when they do get a poor sinner saved, make great glee and rejoicing over him, and make him a Salvationist like themselves. Oh, yes, there are other fools and madmen in the world besides us, and in this we rejoice, wish them God speed with all our hearts; but we rejoice, also, that we are Salvationists ourselves.

WE BELIEVE IN SALVATION! We believe in the old-fashioned salvation. We have not developed and improved into Universalism, Unitarianism, or Nothingarianism, or any other form of infidelity, and we don't expect to. Ours is just the same salvation taught in the Bible, proclaimed by Prophets and Apostles, preached by Luther and Wesley and Whitefield, sealed by the blood of martyrs – the very same salvation which was purchased by the sufferings and agony and blood of the Son of God.

We believe the world needs it, and that this and this alone will set it right. We want no other nostrum – nothing new. We are on the track of the old apostles. You don't need to mix up any other ingredients with the heavenly remedy. Wound and kill with the old



sword, and pour in the old balsam, and you will see the old result – Salvation. The world needs it. The worst man that ever walked will go to heaven if he obtains it, and the best man that ever lived will go to hell if he misses it. Oh, publish it abroad!

There is a hell. A hell as dark and terrible as is the description given of it by the lips of Jesus Christ, the truthful. And into that hell men are departing hour by hour. While we write, men are going away into everlasting punishment. While we eat and drink, and sleep and work, and rest, men are going where the worm dieth not, and where the fire is not quenched. Can anything be done? Can they be stopped? Can drunkards, harlots, thieves, the outcasts of the Church and of society, be saved? In theory, many will answer, "Yes;" but in experience they confess they have no knowledge of such things.

Look again, perhaps the more appalling aspect of mankind is its bondage. How devils and devilish habits rule it, and oh, with what an iron yoke. Ask the drunkards, blasphemers, gamblers, thieves, harlots, money getters, pleasure seekers. Ask them one and all. Ask the question, "Can the power of these habits be broken? Can these fiends be expelled? Can those do good who have been accustomed all their lives to do evil?" Speak up! Press your question – "Can these poor captives be delivered? Saved from sinning, saved into holy living, and triumphant dying? Can they be saved now?" The desponding answer will be "Impossible!" Ask multitudes of professing Christians, and they will fear it is impossible. Ask the Salvationist, and the answer will be, from both theory and experience, that the vilest and worst can be saved to the uttermost, for all things are possible to him that believeth.

What is the use of a doctor who cannot cure, a life-boat that cannot rescue, an overseer who cannot relieve? And what would be the value of a Saviour who was not good and gracious, and strong enough to save the vilest and worst, and to save them as far as they need? But our Redeemer is mighty to save. Hold the standard high. Let us tell the world of the "blood and fire."

II. WE HAVE SALVATION. This paper is the mouthpiece of a people who boldly say so. In this respect with us, the trumpet gives no uncertain sound. Many there are who postpone all the certain, enjoyable, realisable part of religion to the next state – to the



coming hereafter. But we believe in salvation here and now; we believe in feeling, knowing, and partaking here on earth of the leaves of the tree of life, which are for the healing of the nations. Drinking of the river of the water of life which flows from the throne of God. Eating the flesh, and drinking the blood of the Son of God, and being healed, and changed, and blessed, and filled with the glory of God, and the peace and purity and power of salvation. We want it now! And we want to know we have it, while we struggle and suffer, and fight, and sacrifice, and die; we want the comforting, sustaining, girdling, upholding arms of Jehovah consciously around us, bearing us up, and making us feel glad and strong in the strength of the mighty God of Jacob. We need it and we have it.

There are think-so Christians, and there are hope-so Christians, and there are know-so Christians; thank God we belong to the know-so people – we know we are saved. And why not? Enoch had the testimony that he pleased God. Job knew that his Redeemer lived. John knew that he had passed from death unto life. Paul knew that when his earthly house was destroyed he had a building in the heavens. And we know in whom we have believed, and the Spirit answers to our faith, and testifies in our hearts that we are the children of God.

My brethren, if you have salvation you are sure of it. Not because at the corner of the street or from the stage of the theatre you have heard it preached. Not because you have read with your eyes, or heard read by others in that wonderful book, the wonderful story of the love of God to you. Not because you have seen with your eyes transformations of character wrought by the power of the Holy Ghost; changes as marvellous, as miraculous, as Divine, as any that ever took place in Apostolic or any other days.

These things may have led up to it. But these things, wonderful as they may be, have not power to make you sure of your part and lot in the matter of salvation. Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but God Himself, by His Spirit, has made this known.

III. OUR WORK IS SALVATION. We believe in salvation, and we have salvation. We are not mere sentimentalists or theory people; we publish what we have heard and seen



and handled and experienced of the word of life and the power of God. We aim at salvation. We want this and nothing short of this, and we want this right off. My brethren, my comrades, soul saving is our avocation, the great purpose and business of our lives. Let us seek first the kingdom, of God, let us be SALVATIONISTS indeed.

God being our helper, this paper shall answer to its name; early and late, whether men are pleased or angry, whether they will read and bless, or reject and curse, it shall know no purpose short of the rescue of a dying world, and no meaner message than the announcement of a present, free, and full Salvation.

And, my brethren, my comrades, you too bear a name, an honoured, sacred name, and you must answer in purpose and character to the name of the great Salvationist. You must have the self-sacrificing, soul-seeking spirit of Jesus Christ, or you are none of His. Then you, too, must be a Salvationist.

Look at this. Clear your vision. Halt, stand still as the new year draws nigh, and afresh and more fully apprehend and comprehend your calling. You are to be a worker together with God for the salvation of your fellow-men. Stop a bit. Don't hurry away. What is the business of your life? Not merely to save your soul – win the bread that perisheth not, and make yourself meet for Paradise? If it was so, if this were all; would it not be an ignoble and selfish lot for which to toil, and suffer, and pray, and die, and would it not be as unlike the Master's as could well be conceived of? No, you are to be a redeemer, a saviour, a copy of Jesus Christ Himself. So wake up all the powers of your being, my brothers, and consecrate every awakened power to the great end of saving them. BE A SALVATIONIST.

Rescue the perishing. There they are all around you everywhere, crowds upon crowds, multitudes. Be skillful. Improve yourself. Study your business.

Be self-sacrificing, Remember the Master. What you lose for His sake, and for the sake of the poor souls for whom He died, you shall find again. Stick to it. Having put your hand to the salvation plough, don't look behind you,



Oh for a brave year! We shall have one, and you will fight and drive the foe, and rescue the prey, and we will enter the record of the multitudes rescued and saved and sanctified and safely landed in glory in the pages of the Salvationist.