

“Jesus Saves”
By Brother Parrish Lee
Sunday, August 3rd, 2014

You may be seated, saints. Giving honor to God, Who is the head of my life, and the lives of us, here today. Giving honor to that Savior, that Creator, that mighty, all-powerful, all-loving, all-kind, omnipotent, ever-present, always knowing how to forgive what we do, that God Who has never let us down. Giving honor to You, our Lord Jesus. Giving honor to all of those who have gone on before us, to those who the Word reports of what they did and those that the Word does not report what they did, those that were with them and laboring and helping that they might see that the Word of God might go forth. Giving honor to those who have gone before us in this ministry. From our founding pastor, he and his family, what they did, our general pastor, who holds the reigns now, and all those who have come after them, and their time of anointing and allowing God to use them, seeing ministry go forth. Lastly, but not leastly, of course, giving honor to all of y'all, who prepare your hearts and come before the Lord, and say, “God, this is what I choose to do on Sunday, that You might fill me, give to me that which I need. Take out of me that which I do not need, and put into me that which I do need, that I may be better.” Amen.

It's an honor and a privilege to be here today. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Parrish Lee. Andy Giebler, he and myself, we are the fellowship leaders up here. More accurately, we help lead the fellowship up here. We actually have a lot of leaders, here. Let's face it, God is moving in so many lives. If it were left up to just two people, we wouldn't be anywhere. The magnificence of God is moving all through all the lives that we touch. We have just come from the month of July, and that was the time of encouragement, and our prayer is as we go into the month of August, we will continue to be encouraged, we will continue to encourage others.

Our scripture for the month, this month being the month of sound doctrine:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

That is going to be our theme for the month: Sound Doctrine. But, our scripture for today:

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

If you could bow your heads for just a word of prayer. Lord, we thank You for Your goodness, and Your kindness, and Your mercy. Lord, You have daily loaded us with benefits, but, if You were to give us nothing else, we come to thank You just for being God of all that there is, for there truly is none like You. We esteem You, we extol You, and we worship You, Almighty God. Thank You for this wonderful time of praise and worship and fellowship this morning and we ask for a blessing and anointing and empowerment of the reading and the going-over of Your Word this morning, that it would do, as it says in the Book of Isaiah, that it would not return unto You void, but surely accomplish that to which You sent it. So, Lord, we do come, and we present ourselves to You. This we claim and pray in Jesus' name. And everyone said, amen. Amen.

The reason that we go over sound doctrine this much, is because some time ago, Andy Giebler and myself, we were talking with our general pastor, and we were talking about the needs of the

congregation. Our pastor said, “You know, I think you really need to talk about sound doctrine a couple of times a year. That it never leaves—that we all understand that we need to rehearse, to remind ourselves about sound doctrine.” He said, “This should enable everybody to be blessed and encouraged and ministered to, ministered to, helped effectively in their ministry and in their lives, because, once you have sound doctrine, it is a proper foundation for everything else that comes along. Our hope is that, not only that are we benefitted by it, but that the messages so, as it says, in that same book, 2 Timothy 3, at the end of verse 17, it says, “that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Speaking of benefitted by, we, of course, have taken out, in May we were able to take out time and we were able to focus on Women’s Day. We were able to, in June, we had a time where we had Men’s Day. In July we talked about encouragement; a time for encouraging ourselves and others. In August, at the end of this month, we are going to have Youth Sunday, and we want to make that a practice to do that every year. Them going to school, and preparing for the school year, and all the things that they are going to be battling, and coming upon them, that they would be able to handle everything in a Christian way. It wasn’t so long ago that many of us were—well, some of us, it was a while ago—but, we were youth ourselves. We’re beholding—many of us weren’t Christians then, but, if we were, it would have been tertiary to go through some of those things. I heard from some of the young people that it’s worse now—I was telling him about when I was coming up through, and he said it’s worse now than it was back then, and they expressed, “Hey, you know what? We’re going to be stronger, but we still need help; we still need prayer.” So, at the end of this month, we’re going to have youth Sunday. Next Sunday, we are taking out time to honor the sanctity of marriage. We’re going to have our married couples, this’ll be a time that they will be able to come up and pray and have themselves anointed—not so much for the family, that’s later on in the month—but, specifically on that union of marriage, and that is the focus. That is sound doctrine; I don’t need to repeat that, Andy covered that extremely well as an intro, I’m sure. So, I’m looking forward to that. That will go on into September, and September, of course, is going to be our time of sanctification, followed by October, and September and October we’re actually going to be going through the Book of Ephesians. The Book of Ephesians. We went through the Book of Galatians last year; this year we’re going through the Book of Ephesians.

So when we say sound doctrine we are talking about foundational messages, messages that become an anchor to your soul. There are many messages that help you along the way, but there are certain things that are rock, that there’s no adjusting to this thing. There’s only one God; there’s no adjusting to the fact that there’s only one God. Jesus saves; there’s no adjusting that, that is a fact. Foundational messages are an anchor for our souls. Of course, we already went over how all scripture is given, and we’ve heard people say before that, “You know, that Bible, it’s an interesting book, but, like any other book, it was written by man.” The Bible answers that in the book of second Peter, where it says they were holy men; they spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:21) I’m not going to get into that this morning, that actually would be a very, very good subject for our Bible study teachers to be able to come and teach sometime.

Point 1: The Lord Jesus Is Able To Save

For this, I’m going to need some help. For this, I’m going to ask our brother Joseph, and our sister, Tennessee to come up. Yes, our wonderful young people; come on up. They’re actually going to do our headline reading for today.

From our Headlines today:

N. Korea threatens nuclear strike on White House

Seoul (APP) - A top-ranking North Korean military official has threatened a nuclear strike on the White House and Pentagon after accusing Washington of raising military tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The threat came from Hwang Pyong-So, director of the military's General Political Bureau, during a speech to a large military rally in Pyongyang Sunday on the anniversary of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

- **New York Times Backs Legalizing Pot**
- **Ford raises F-150 prices, dealers begin ordering 2015 models**
- **What Happens When a Harvard Engineer Gets Robbed?**
- **One dead after lightning strikes crowd at California beach**
- **TV Crew Claims They Were Attacked By Ghosts**
- **Japan schoolgirl arrested for murdering, dismembering classmate**

A 15-year-old Japanese schoolgirl was arrested Sunday on suspicion of murdering a classmate and dismembering her body, local media reported

- **Russia, German up diplomatic battle over Ukraine sanctions**
- **Want a Girlfriend 45+?**

No games. Just real women looking for a faithful guy.

- **Pakistan mob kills woman, girls over 'blasphemous' Facebook post**

A Pakistani mob killed a woman member of a religious sect and two of her granddaughters after a sect member was accused of posting blasphemous material on Facebook, police said Monday, the latest instance of growing violence against minorities.

- **Chicago aldermen arrested for DUI**
- **Sudanese woman sentenced to death for being Christian freed, en route to U. S ...**

Thank you, our young people. Amen. Give the Lord a praise. I couldn't do that justice.

So, here we are, 2014. What is the message for all of this scenario? Quite simply, Jesus saves.

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

"Well, Brother Parrish," some might say, "you know, that really was a nice message back when I first got saved, you know, that whole 'Jesus saves' type thing, but I am at a different place in my life today; I can't be touched by the same old message. I need something new and fresh." Somebody else might say, "That was fine some time ago, but I've got some powerful issues, and I need a powerful message." And someone else might say, "You know, that message, 'Jesus saves,' yeah, it's a nice message, but it's a nice message for all the goody two shoe people. It's a nice message for all them sanctified, sanctimonious people that never have any *real* problems. That is a message for them: Jesus saves." You might say, "I have real problems in my life, and I need real answers. I have, because of this economic downturn, I lost my job. O my job is being threatened; they cut my hours. My business don't have the business I used to." I was talking to my barber, and I wondered, "Man, there's not as full as it used to be." He said, "Well, the guys are wearing their hair in braids, and long dreadlocks, they're wearing these hairstyles where they don't go to a barber, and the other guys, they're shaving their head completely, so they don't need a barber either." That's why my barber says this whole thing has caused a downturn to him. Some people might say, "Well, my money don't go as far as it used to, because gas prices and every other price has gone up so much. My check has gone up, maybe a little bit, but the price of everything else has gone up more." Somebody else might say, "I got some real problems; I need some real kind of help with my children." Or, like you said, Brother Andy, "...with my marriage. I need real help. This 'Jesus saves' stuff just doesn't seem to go the distance." Jesus saves. Somebody else might say, "I'm sick," or, "I'm hurt. I'm really, really hurt. I'm hurt by people, I'm hurt in my body. I'm hurt." Somebody else might say, which is what I've heard so much lately, "I'm just confused. I don't have the assurance that I thought I would have by this time in my life. I'm just confused, and, frankly, I just don't know."

Our Lord and Savior told us something very, very profound, at the place of Lazarus' tomb. He knew Lazarus was dead without Him even being there. He knew he was sick, of course, but the Bible says that He knew he was dead without anybody telling Him. As He went there, to visit the tomb of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, of course, came out to meet Him. Martha said, "If You would have been here, my brother wouldn't have died. He turned to her and said, "I am the life and the resurrection, he that believe in me though he were dead yet shall he live." (John 11:25) And then He asked her a question, "Do you believe? Do you believe this? Do you believe that I am the life and the resurrection?" Though, it might be that your situation is unto death, though it looks like death is on its way, you shall live. You shall have victory in this situation, if you believe this. Do you believe this? And that, of course, is another study that it would be wonderful for our Bible study teachers to teach on sometime. But the truth of the whole matter is that Jesus does save. Those simple words: Jesus saves. "Oh, yeah, He'll save us." Not just your soul. And, as if saving your soul wasn't enough. Think of a situation that you could be in—I was talking to a brother; I've seen prayer after prayer after prayer not only in my life be answered, but I know we got some witnesses in the house today that prayer changes things in your life. God will answer prayer, yes. The message is, 'Jesus saves.' He will save you, I don't know—I had an opportunity; I talked to two brothers in the last, I'll say three weeks. One of them said that the housing market has nearly destroyed the value of his house; don't know what to do. I know we had prayer about it. Recently, he told me, just recently he told me, "Man, did God come through. Oh, they cut my taxes!" Tell me that's not a miracle. "And, somewhere along the line, they gave me a refund." Hallelujah for Jesus. You mean the city gave up some money? The government gave you some money back? Ain't nobody but God can do that! The other brother told me, "I'm looking for a job. I'm just

looking for a job. I'm looking for employment. Another brother prayed for him and with him; I was a witness; I joined in the prayer. It wasn't three days that the brother turned around and said, "Man, I got several job offers, I got to wonder which one I got to take." Because God comes through. The message is, 'Jesus saves.'" Yes, we are supposed to be witnesses of His glory and of His power.

If I could go through a little bit of history, right quick: There was the whole Children of Israel thing. I don't know if we have anyone of the Jewish faith, anyone of Jewish birth, today, but, if you are, this might be a little familiar, and, if you're not, this will be great education to go by.

The Captivity Of Israel

Somewhere around 2050 years before the birth of Christ, they call it 'BCE,' somewhere around there was the time of Abraham. Somewhere around 1500 BCE, before the birth of Christ, there was that time of being delivered from Egypt. Somewhere around 1011-years before the birth of Christ, there was the time of David the king, and all the things that came through there. Somewhere around 970-960 BCE there was the first Temple built by Solomon. Somewhere around 928 BC, there was the Kingdom of Israel divided, torn apart. Somewhere around 740-720 years before the birth of the Lord, there was Israel going into captivity. Captivity by the Assyrians, by the Babylonians, by the Persians, by the Medes... Somewhere around the year 537 Before Christ, the Second Temple was built. They rebuilt the Temple, and we know this from the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Somewhere around 6 B.C. to 1 B.C. was the birth of our Lord and Savior. Just chronicling a little bit of the Jews, and this is leading up to something. Then, fast-forward, somewhere around 1939 years after the birth of our Lord, or they call it the Current Era, or A.D. there was the Holocaust. Then of course, in 1945, the Holocaust ended because of WWII. Then, 1948, we know that to be the exact date because 1948 Israel is once again a nation. That's a lot of captivity. So, what was the message for all those things that they were going through? The message is that Jesus saves.

So here it is: 4000 years of their history. The death, burial and resurrection. So, if you died before the Lord's resurrection, you died in hope. You had the promise that He was going to get you. If you died after His resurrection, then, hallelujah, all you know then is that Jesus saves.

Well, what about the Gentiles? We talked all that about the Jews, what about the Gentiles? Pick a time. Pick a time. Go to the Iron age, go to the bronze age, or the brass or the copper age, go to the Revolutionary War, or the French Revolution, or go to the renaissance, go to the reformation, go to the middle ages, go to the dark ages, go to any point in time, and the message is the same: Jesus saves. If it was before the death, burial, and resurrection, you had a hope. You had a promise that He was going to get you. If it was after, it was the same message it is today: Jesus saves.

John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

Yes, our Lord has come to give us life, and He's come to give us life that we may have it more abundantly. I don't know anybody who can talk about who can talk about their life before, and their life after—who *really* got saved, who really stayed saved—I don't know anybody who can say, or who has said, "You know, I had it better in the world, than I do in Jesus." I don't know anybody—I've known people that have maybe left the Lord, and gone back to the world, and they say, "Man, I wish I had never made the step, because now I can't get back into it. My life has been in shambles." But, even then, it's the same message: Jesus saves. He has come to bring that life that we could have it more abundantly. Abundantly where? abundantly in my heart; abundantly in my mind; abundantly in my family, just yielded over to Him; abundantly on my job; abundantly when I walk across the street; abundantly when I meet a stranger; abundantly for a brother or a sister; abundantly in my worship;

abundantly when I read His Word. He has come that we might have it more abundantly. Thank You, Lord.

Point 2: The Lord Isn't Leaving Anybody Out

We're going to go through three scriptures very quickly. So, what about those people who didn't know—I've heard people say, "Well, what about people all over the world before Jesus came that weren't Jews, and didn't know about it? How could they be saved?"

Romans 2:14 *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

That is the Word. The Lord isn't leaving anybody out. He puts a conviction in our life to do what's right.

Yes, this is New Testament, but it's after the death, burial, and resurrection:

Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

Grace has appeared to everybody; young and old, this grace got everybody covered. "Well, I made a mistake." You're covered. "Well, I didn't really get into it like I should." You're covered. "Well, I feel like I've been lifted up and God's been giving me more and more." You're covered. "I'm going to have fellowship. I don't know what's going on; I'm going to meet a brother. I just hope God does something." You're covered. "Well, you know, I haven't been able to do this or do that for so long, and I wonder what would happen if I just took the opportunity to get back into it." You're covered. You're covered. Whatever the situation is, the grace of God that brings salvation has got you covered. It has appeared, so it comes on us, all we have to do is reach for it, because it has appeared to all men. Lastly, if you don't know how covered you are:

Jeremiah 31:3 *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

Somebody ever do something for you, and you could tell that they had the wrong motive? They were just trying to get something; in their mind, they figured, "If I give you this, then you owe me that." Somebody ever do something for you, and you find out later, "Hey, you know what? that was kind of underhanded. You led me astray the whole time. You bamboozled me. I was led astray. I was hoodwinked." Or, anybody ever do something halfway? Halfway for you. They know you've got a need, and they know you're struggling, and they give you half of what you need, and, "Now you're on your own." Our Lord has got that covered, He said that you don't have to worry about that with Him. That might be in this life, but that is not in God's life. He says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." You know, when I was in school I learned something. We read this book—I wasn't much for reading all them kooky books they had when I was in school—but this book talked about this guy and this girl, and how this guy really loved this girl... He was an older guy; she was a younger girl. He loved her, and then she found somebody that she loved more, and he was happy that she found somebody that she could love more than him. I thought that was kind of kooky. Hey, if you're going to be in love, it's all about ME! The teacher was trying to say, she said, "Well, there is a selfish love, and then there is a selfless love. A love that yourself doesn't have to be intertwined, that you see the betterment of the person that you love. You're doing it for them, not so that you can get something from them." I

thought that was interesting; it didn't land for years. I thought, "I don't know what this selfless love is; I don't even know nobody that's got that kind of love. But, okay, I'll tuck it away, and, maybe when I'm older it will come to me." Yes, when I got older, I heard about this selfless love; this One who so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son that, whosoever would believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Yeah, I heard about, I learned about the true, selfless love, that, from the very beginning, He sent us a promise to have us come back to Him. Selfless love; the true selfless love.

Point 3 : God Is Looking To Save Us

Revelation 3:20-22 *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

So, the Lord stands at the door and He knocks, He says. He doesn't try to barge in; He doesn't come in without permission, or without invitation. Stands at the door and knocks, and, you know, it would be easy to say, "Oh, well, you know, I was born again." For me, it was back in 1983. "I was born again years ago. Yes, I remember when God stood at the door, and He knocked on the door to my heart." But the story doesn't end there. He didn't just knock on my door in 1983, for, surely He had been knocking for years before, before I opened the door, but He knocked on the door this morning. "Parrish, if you'll open up the door, I'll come in, and we'll sup together." He knocked on my door last night: "Parrish, if you'll open up the door, I'll come in, and we'll sup together." He knocked on my door yesterday at men's fellowship. He knocked at our door all last week. Was it in the morning? was it in the afternoon? Was it in the evening? Was it in the nighttime? Yes! Yes! It was in the morning when he knocked, and He knocked in the afternoon; He knocked at some real inconvenient times, that He would just give a blessing. You ever get a blessing that wasn't planned? God just hit you with a thought, or He hit you with a touch of His Spirit, just to let you know, "Oh, son or daughter, I love you! I love you!" Or, just giving you an understanding that you didn't have before, when you might have been at the gas station, or on the phone, or ding whatever. God just comes in—even in the inconvenient times—He wants you to have it. He stands at the door and knocks, yes, all day, throughout the day, so that we can open up and we can sup, so He can give to us, He can feed us at His table, because Jesus is in the saving business, and He's looking to save us. Our Lord doesn't leave anybody out; not before, not during, not after, because that grace that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. That God of the angels, that God of all creation, of the universe, even, treats us so special that He says, "It's you that I want to sustain. It's you that I want in this situation—I don't want you *not* to go through it." I'm not praying that He would keep you out of it, but that He would keep you from the evil, that He would give you the victory in the middle. Then you can say, not, 'God kept me *from* that one,' but, "God kept me *in* that one. Not just *around* the valley, but *in* the valley. Yeah, *through* the valley, God kept me." I don't know about a God that can't—"you know, I'm kind of"—what do you call it when you're kind of halfway in and halfway out?—agnostic. "I'm not atheist, I'm agnostic. I'm just kind of doubting this whole God thing." I'll say, "You're not agnostic; you're rebellious! All you have to do is just give God a chance. Just give Him a chance, because He is standing at the door and knocking, and that is without reservation." Yes, He'll be knocking throughout the day today, to give you according to the great blessings that He has for each and every one of us. Yes, saints of God, Jesus saves. Back to that one in Jeremiah; closing with this Scripture:

Jeremiah 31:3 *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: [His love ain't about to run out on us.] therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

I have called thee, and I am pulling you to Me. The fact of the matter is, in 2014, Jesus saves. Amen.

