

The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.—Psalm cxix. 72.

## LEAP FROM THE WRECK!



1. **D**O YOU REALLY MEAN THAT I MAY BE AT ONCE SAVED FROM MY SINS?"

I do. The Word of God is my authority. "Salvation" is used in various senses. But to your question Scripture gives one answer. If you are anxious for salvation, there are no obstacles in the way of receiving, *just now*, pardon for sin, and power to overcome, but those you make for yourself. "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me," saith Christ, "and drink" (John vii. 37).

2. "But must I not repent first?"

If by repentance you mean—as the word in Scripture literally signifies—a "change of mind" I reply, "Yes." That is the very thing I am urging you to do now. For God "now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts xvii. 30). I urge you to repent now. This is a very solemn and important step. The Holy Ghost always preaches it as such. Repent and receive Jesus Christ as your Substitute and Saviour. You may do this at once. Let this

hour be the turning-point in your life. May the Holy Spirit so make it.

3. "I fear I cannot give up sin."

You have no power to do so until you receive Christ as your Saviour. You can have no strength in God until you have peace with God.

4. "But is it not said, 'Work out your own salvation?'"

True: but this refers *only to believers*. Beware of misapplying texts of Scripture. St. Paul, being absent, writes to obedient believers at Corinth, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do" (Philip. ii. 12, 13). He urges them to develop the grace they had already received. This every believer is called upon to do. Beware of confusing the work of Christ for you with the work of the Holy Spirit in you. When, therefore, Paul says, "Work out your own salvation," he refers to the development of the believer's inner spiritual life.

An illustration may help to make this clear. A magnificent clipper ship is crossing the ocean. During a dense fog she strikes on a sunken reef, and rapidly fills. The question, "What must we do to be saved?" confronts the captain and crew. How do they answer it? They promptly leap into the life-boat which the ship fortunately carries with her. They are now saved from perishing with the sinking ship. But they are out on the deep and dangerous sea, and there must now be many a strong pull at the oar before they reach the land. They have to keep the boat out of the trough of the sea. They pull hard, and work out their own salvation. But they are never independent of the lifeboat. It alone keeps them afloat. To lay hold of oars before leaping from the wreck would have been useless; but, safe in the lifeboat, they ply the oars vigorously, and at last reach the shore, and experience complete salvation from the sea and its perils.

Reader, leap from the wreck of self. Trust Jesus as your Saviour, Teacher, and Master.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy.

Psalm xvi. 11.